

Quebec had one hundred and thirteen exhibits of cheese of 1893, and took one hundred and five awards; four lots scored ninety-nine and a half points out of a possible hundred points for perfection. No cheese scored higher than these.

Quebec had forty-five exhibits of cheese of 1892, and won forty-two awards. This demonstrates both excellence and keeping qualities.

The Mammoth Cheese, weighing 22,000 pounds was tested by the judges and pronounced perfectly sound, of clean sweet flavour, and solid body. It was scored at 95 points out of a possible 100 for perfection, after being exposed to the heat of summer in a glass-roofed building. They recommend a medal for the big cheese to be awarded to the Dominion Dairy Commissioner.

Chicago, 19th Oct. 1893.

have been born and bred. Aphides upon roses in gardens near the nesting-places of many sparrows are never touched by these birds.

Miss Ormrod also "for the prosecution" says:—

Speaking now just of my own observations (a few among many), I have seen a field of corn left un-reaped solely on account of the damage from sparrows, which I saw rising in thick clouds from the ruined crop; and I can speak also from personal knowledge of the martins (truly insectivorous birds, being driven away by the sparrows where I had no power to protect them.

And again:—

I have also in my care, as a most excellent collection for reference, a large number of bottles containing the contents of many of the sparrows shot by the late Colonel Russell, of Stubbers,

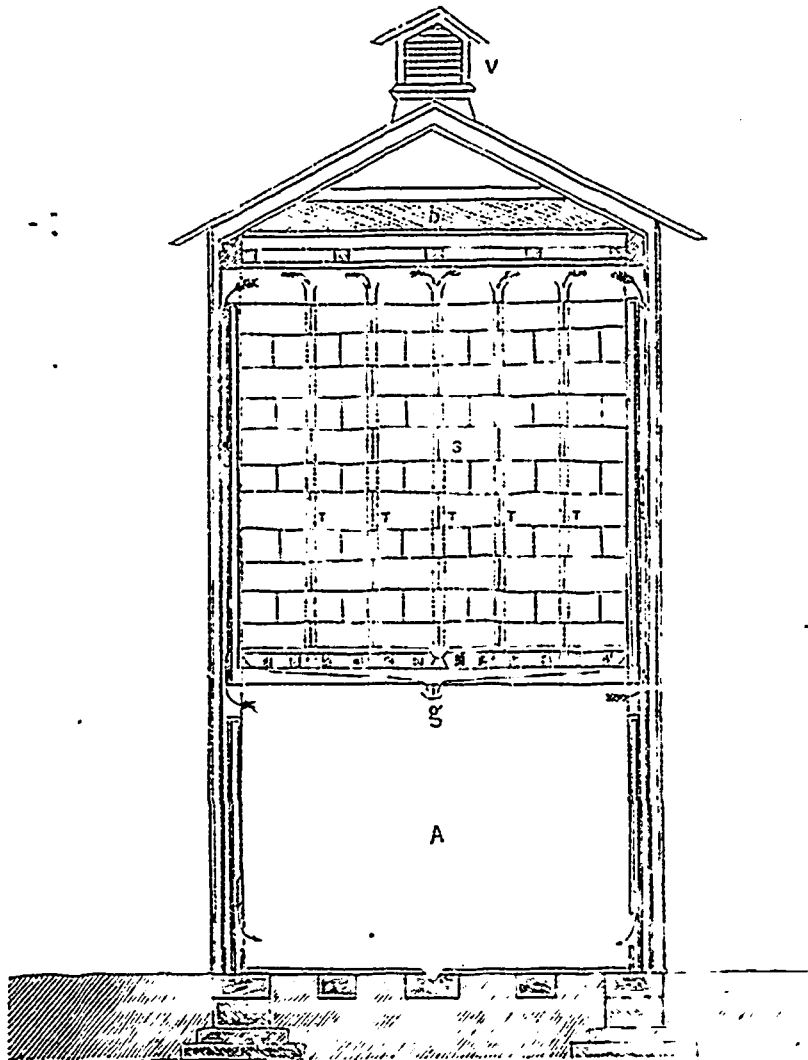
much. Mr. J. H. Gurney sums up with ability, adducing a "table of diet," compiled from 755 dissections, which proves beyond doubt that the sparrow's customary food from January to December is corn. Nevertheless, he concludes:—

All that can be said is that the matter is not settled yet. That the sparrow does more harm than good under ordinary circumstances is proved; but it is not clear that in the case of the exceptional abundance of some noxious insect, or some noxious weed, it might not be of great service. Upset the balance of Nature by exterminating sparrows, and you may pay an unknown penalty. With this in view, it may be wise indeed for the Norwick Chamber of Agriculture to recommend their being kept within bounds, but never that they should be entirely exterminated. (*Eng. Ag. Gaz.*)

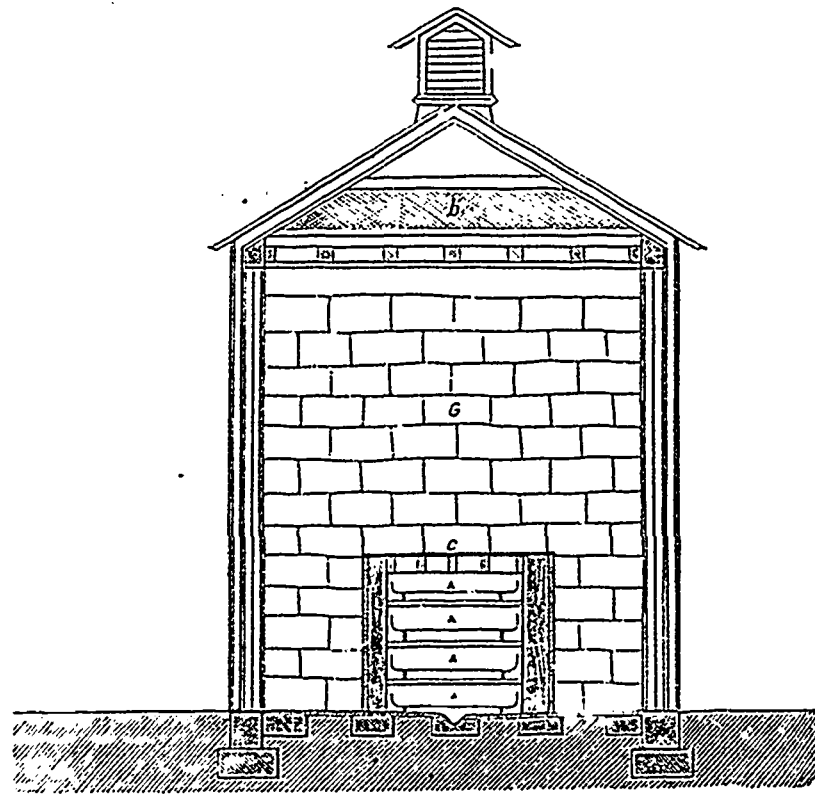
shall gladly hail the removal of horns by breeding them off, and we believe dehorning will greatly hasten that result.

(*Vt. Watchman.*)

**GYPSUM IN STABLES.**—Müntz, one of the great agricultural authorities in Germany, does not find satisfactory results from the use of gypsum (plaster) as a means of fixing ammonia in stables. We have before this expressed our own opinion to the same effect, in which we are supported by the authority of the well known Phillip Pusey, President of the English Royal Agricultural Society, one of the most distinguished *agronomes* of his day (1850) and of Girdwood, a more modern practical man as well as an able chemist. Our position is that two substances in prac-



A. Cold chamber.—G. Corded ice.—t. Refrigerating pipes.  
C. Condenser.—g. Gutter.—V. Ventilator.—b. Sawdust.



G. Ice-house.—b. Sawdust.—a. Drawers on rollers for cooling butter.

**Ornithology.**

**THE SPARROW.**

The house sparrow, as we anticipated, is condemned as a hopeless rogue and vagabond. Mr. Charles Whitehead testifies against him as a thief of corn, a destroyer of fruit, of peas, young lettuces, cabbages, and other tender green vegetables.

Colonel Russell relates that he once examined, in Essex, the stomachs of forty-seven nestling sparrows, and only found the remains of six small insects in the entire lot, their crops in most cases, being filled with green peas and greens. That sparrows have no appreciable effect upon aphides is proved over and over again by the fact that these insects have swarmed upon plum, damson, and other trees close to where hundreds of sparrows

Essex, to whom we are indebted for careful watch and record of observations of sparrow life for fifteen years or more. The large proportion of wheat grains in these bottles is to be seen at a glance.

The late Rev. F. O. Morris and the Rev. Theodore Wood take up the cudgels on behalf of the sparrow, but cannot make out a good case for him, though they make the most of the exaggerated charges brought by the prosecuting counsel. The best point they make is that the defendant is essentially a home lover, never travelling far from his nest in search of food, and therefore commits depredations only on those portions of the wheat and barley field close to human habitations. Mr. Wood, with ingenuity that does credit to his legal acumen, also suggests that the corn in the sparrow's crop may have been honestly obtained by patient investigation of horse droppings, etc., but in doing this he asks us to believe too

much. We have known some emotional people who would almost go off in a fit of hysterics at the idea of dehorning a cow, and yet would let the same cow shiver all winter in a cold stable, rather than put themselves to the trouble of boarding up the cracks. And the very same class of people will cry out with violent emotion at the idea of keeping a sheep killing dog tied up, "when the poor thing wants to run out, and it is entitled to his liberty as much as anybody." And you can't get them to look any farther, or to take in the idea that this dog will surely use his "liberty" to harass and slay their neighbor's sheep. They will pat him, and pet him, even when he slinks home with his teeth full of wool. We have never got one of this class to say a word, or hear a word, about the very much more severe surgical operations than dehorning, constantly practiced on other domestic animals, with no better reason than exists for that operation. At the same time we

tically a dry state can exert hardly any effect upon each other. Mr. Warrington, one of the leading agricultural chemists of England, says that he "has found gypsum very effective in the laboratory for preventing the loss of ammonia from urine." Just so: *urine is a liquid.*

**AN ICEHOUSE.**

(*Illustrated.*)

The accompanying sketches are taken from a book on dairying by Mr. F. MacCarthy. In describing them, he says: "In these icehouses, I advise the owner to make a small open space in the middle of the ice, to be fitted up with drawers of zinc or tin, to hold the butter." This refers to the smaller figure.