

ties which prevailed a few years ago. In the second place, low prizes have destroyed the attractiveness of the English markets, so far as foreigners and the colonists are concerned. However, as already observed, through the severe winter and the decreased imports, the prices of mutton are gradually on the increase.

An agitation is going on to prevent the sale of spurious butter, which has been largely imported of late years. A Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons dealing with the subject. If passed it will not prevent the spurious article being sold as butter, but it will prohibit the use of the term "butterine," leaving the makers to employ any other name they may choose. It also provides that every package containing the article shall bear its name, whatever that may be, branded in large letters. It will require all butterine factories in the United Kingdom to be registered, and returns made of the quantities manufactured. Mr. James Howard, of agricultural fame, suggests that butterine should be colored by some innocuous pigment, so as to effectually distinguish it, and so provide a safeguard for the public, which appears to be necessary.

As I write (April 10) there is strong evidence that winter is disinclined to take its departure. The snow is falling fast, the ground is covered with it, and one might say that Onseley's description of winter is to be seen in fact in these days that are understood to herald spring weather—

The snow is on the mountain,  
The frost is on the vale,  
The ice hangs o'er the fountain,  
The storm rides on the gale.

The Queen will open the India and Colonial Exhibition in London, on the 4th of May. A week afterwards Her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Prince Henry of Battenburg, will journey to Liverpool to open the Shipperies Exhibition. The Queen, who has not visited the city since 1851, will be the guest of the corporation, and will remain for two days. Great preparations for decorations and illuminations are in progress, and on the 11th of May, Liverpool will be the great attraction for the people of the great manufacturing centres of the north of England.

#### Safe Feeding for Cows.

A medium condition between fat and lean is the most desirable in which to keep cows, whether breeding or milking, says Prof. Arnold in N. Y. Tribune. In such a condition they are safer from attacks of parturial fever not only, but from every other disease, and in such a condition a cow will turn more of her food into milk than when fat, or growing fat, and more than when she is so thin that the demands for nourishment will stimulate assimilation instead of producing milk. In a herd kept so high that parturial fever is common, my advice would be to let the doctors keep their drugs and take off 25 per cent of the rations, and see to it that the constituents of the food given are properly balanced in respect to nourishing and heat producing qualities. Strong feed, like pea meal, cottonseed and linseed meal, are too rich to be fed very liberally for some weeks previous to parturition, nor is it safe to indulge much in such heating food as corn meal.

Hay and straw, with the waste of flouring mills and roots, are more suitable, and these only

in quantities necessary for support without having the animals gain or lose in condition. It is as important to avoid food too poor as that which is too rich. To maintain the highest degree of health, always a point of great importance in all breeding animals as well as in cows, it is not advisable to indulge much in such food as dead ripe straw, hay which had the goodness washed out of it by rain while curing, brewers' grains or glucose meal, and the like, which have had all their soluble mineral constituents soaked out of them by long steeping, or food of any kind in a state of fermentation or which has been fermented. Sound food in moderation, with convenient access to good water, with reasonable care, will save from loss of cattle and doctor's bills.

#### Shying.

This trick or vice is generally the effect of nervous timidity, resulting from an excitable temperament. It is aggravated by improper handling, says the Farmers' Gazette. To punish a horse for shying introduces a new cause of fear. The horse will be more alarmed and show more tokens of fear at the prospect of a whipping than at the imaginary object of danger in the road. Hence one bad habit is confirmed by the introduction of another. It is impossible to whip terror out of a horse or pound courage into one. Kindness and gentle persuasion are the best weapons to correct the pernicious habit of shying. The less fear exhibited by the driver, and the less notice taken of the shying by using harsh means, the sooner it will be given up. A careful, experienced horseman can generally detect an object likely to cause a nervous horse to shy, and by word or touch will encourage him to pass it unnoticed. When this fails, give him time to look at the object of his fear; pat him and coax him up to it, then take him past it two or three times, till he takes no notice of it.

When defective sight is the cause of this bad habit it is incurable, and if the eyesight is failing, the horse for ordinary driving and riding will be perfectly useless. A mare we knew that had gone quietly in harness for two or three years, suddenly took to jumping the white stone crossings of an ordinary macadamised street as if they were water brooks. In three months she was stone blind.

Mr. C. S. Read says he "found pedigree females less fruitful and worse milkers than good selected sorts of the same breed." This opinion is endorsed by the experience of dairy farmers in the west of England; also by milking trials at dairy shows where unpedigreed Shorthorns carried all before them. So says the Agricultural Gazette.

The U. S. Congress has passed a stringent law compelling all manufacturers and dealers in imitation butter to put up notices of such manufacture or sale, and heavy penalties are imposed upon the violators of the law. The business is placed under the inspection of the Inland Revenue Department.

A live stock authority in the Scottish Agricultural Gazette says: "Fairly bred cattle are better milkers than the purer bred cattle, and in too many cases high pedigree has been considered of more importance than their qualification as producers of milk."

## The Dairy.

### The Special Purpose Cow.

Mr. O. C. Gregg, writing to Hoard's Dairyman in favor of breeding cows specially for dairy uses, sums up his argument as follows:

1. Dairy cows are wanting at every point that makes a cow valuable for beef. This is a statement made upon their anatomy or structure. They are sans round, sans sirloin, sans everything where the valuable feed is found. It does not answer me to say that I have a cow that will make ten pounds of butter per week, and will make when fat so many pounds of meat for the butcher; for such cows are so rare that they are almost phenomenal, and again in the nature of the case they would if, better or butter bred, make more butter and less beef, so that the claim of gain in beef is a confessed loss of butter.

2. Continued feeding and handling for milk tends to destroy by inaction the aptitude to lay on flesh in advanced life. This is true by the law of habits.

3. If butter is worth making at all, it is not only worth making well, but the cow should be fed and bred for all that is in her, as the burden of dairy, not feed expense, is upon her.

4. The dairy market to-day offers paying prices for fine quality in the produce. Does it not seem like folly to discount quality of butter in ignoring the butter breeds by seeking for additional cow beef in these days of ranch cattle and beef depression.

5. The dairy market indicates to-day that we are on the eve of cheaper butter. Cheap bread has come and cheaper butter is coming. How can we make cheaper butter and life (live)? We must face the market. There is one way in which we can make honest butter cheaper and that is by making more butter per cow. We must have more ten and twelve pound cows and less seven pounds cows and blanks. We must breed cows as men are breeding horses, viz., "to get there." The rapid advance in dairy breeding is an open door out of our present difficulty. Bear in mind, however, that "he who enters here," must "leave all hope" of beef "behind." This quotation as applied, is over the door of the dairy heaven here below. I quote the good book to our beef burdened friends. "Whersfore laying aside every weight" (of beef) "let us run with patience this race" (of dairy breeding) now "before us."

6. The argument often urged that we should diversify in this matter of dairy work by having a little butter, some cow beef and a few steers, is lame, for the following reasons: Mere diversity pays nothing. If I have so much less butter because of more beef that I have less dollars, then diversity has cost me something. It is a luxury and not an economy. Such diversifiers are "seeking after the inevitable," and carried to its legitimate results would so attach dairy expense to a beef cow that they would never be able to "pay cash." Again, substitute the growing and training of fine cows for steers, and you have a natural and paying diversity.

7. My experience confirms all that I have written, and I will now add a few lines of summed up experience.

An old dairy cow is a fraud to fatten.