

MENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF FARMERS. Professor Meacham, in his address before the Addison County (Vt.) Ag. Society, observes: "In making provision for your family, you should provide something to *read*, as well as something to *eat*. You have little reason for congratulation in improving land and stock, if the mind about you is going to waste. Every farmer has more time in the year for gaining general knowledge than a professional man in the active pursuit of his profession. But it does not depend on time so much as inclination. Webster says that 'even in matters of taste and literature, the advantages of a man of leisure are apt to be over rated. If there exists adequate means of education, and the love of learning be excited, that love will find the way to the object of desire through the crowd and pressure of the most busy society.'"

RUST IN WHEAT.—The Maine Farmer doubts that fungi are the cause of rust in wheat. He thinks the epidermis bursts, the sap runs out, and the seeds of the fungi then lodge in it and grow. The use of a powerful achromatic microscope would convince him that this opinion is error; for by it the clear, distinct, and regularly formed fungus plants are not only seen, but their thickly crowded, rounded heads are most clearly discovered through the transparent coat, while it is swelling upward from the pressure of their growth, and before it has burst open.

TIMOTHY AFTER BARLEY.—A correspondent of the Genesee Farmer sowed timothy seed with spring wheat and with barley, both alike, with the same quality of seed. A fine growth of timothy, unmixed with other grass, followed the barley; while after the wheat it was mixed with small clover and red top. The crop of grass on the former was good—the latter poor—the treatment being precisely alike. Hence it is inferred that barley is less exhausting for timothy, and better adapted to precede it in a good rotation crop.—ib.

CHASS & WHEAT ON THE SAME HEAD.—Much was said and published this season, of a head of wheat, found in Ohio, which had "seven perfect grains of chass growing out of it." M. B. Bateham of the Ohio Cultivator, after some exertion, procured the identical head, when, on very close inspection, the chass spikelet was found to have *no connexion* with the wheat head, but was merely hooked in by its thread-like stem, between the chaff and the stem of the wheat head—probably caught there accidentally in harvesting. Some of the papers, in their eagerness for facts in favor of transmutation, have published the account of the wonderful head, on friend Bateham's authority, without any allusion to the *denouement*.—ib.

DOCKING LAMBS.—Never hold the lamb by the tail, as is often done, while the operation is performed. For the skin being drawn back, when it recovers its natural place, leaves the bony stump bare. But push the skin towards the rump, and returning it will cover the wound.—ib.

VINEGAR.—A correspondent in the Ohio Cultivator asks how to transform old cider into vinegar? Make it run through a barrel of clean wood shavings by a small stream trickling over a large surface. Cider, or whiskey diluted, can be made into good vinegar in 48 hours.

GOOD BLACK INK.—½ lb. of nut-galls; 3 oz. of gum arabic; 3 oz. copperas. Soak the nut-galls in 3 pints of rain-water; the gum arabic in half a pint of warm rain-water; the copperas in another half-pint; let them stand separately 48 hours, and then mix them, and the ink is made. This is the recipe of Prof. WEBSTER, of Harvard University.—[Albany Cultivator.]

TO Mend IRON POTS.—To repair cracks, &c., in iron pots or pans, mix some finely sifted lime with well-beaten whites of eggs, till reduced to a paste; then add some iron file dust, apply the composition to the injured part, and it will soon become hard and fit for use.—[Ex.

TO MAKE GOOD BUTTER IN WINTER.—We often hear the complaint that winter butter is poor. Ours (says a correspondent of the Boston Cultivator) was so for several seasons. It was very slow in coming, and frothy, white, and sometimes bitter; while butter made from the same kind of milk in the warm season was good. I devised many plans for improvement, such as throwing in salt, warm milk, scalding cream, &c.; but to no purpose. At length I scalded my milk when brought from the cow, afterwards setting it either in a cold or warm place as most convenient. I mean I communicated sufficient heat to my milk to destroy the effect which frosty feed in autumn or dry feed in winter had upon it. Since which time we have made (with fifteen minutes churning) butter, sweeter, and more yellow butter than we ever made in summer—and sometimes from frozen cream gradually warmed. And were it not that the increase of manufactures, the pursuit of fashion, and other causes combined, render helping hands in the dairy room now-a-days very scarce, I should be at the trouble of scalding my milk before setting it, during the summer, as well as in the winter, for surely, butter made in this way possesses a delicate richness and dryness which can not be found in any other.—[Gen. Farmer.]

BROWSE FOR SHEEP.—Browse of various kinds is good for sheep in winter. They are fond of it, as it affords a change, being a green food. The browse of oak, and other powerful astringents should be avoided. The browse of evergreens is used, not only as a wholesome food, but for its medical qualities, particularly pine and hemlock. And in some cases it is used to considerable extent as a substitute for other fodder. Pine and hemlock are best, but spruce and fir are also good.

Some farmers have nearly supported their sheep on browse for months, when hay was scarce. J. Whitman of Turner, Maine, has used pine and hemlock for his sheep for more than forty years and he has known no injury from them, but a benefit and a saving of hay.—He says that hemlock does not injure sheep with lambs. He prefers pine and hemlock boughs to spruce and fir.—[Cole's Veterinarian.]

ANIMAL FOOD FOR SWINE.—There cannot be any doubt but these are highly fattening in their nature and also that swine being somewhat allied to the carnivora, will greedily devour them; but the question is, do they not make the flesh strong and rank, to inflame the blood, to create in the animals a longing for more of such food, and thus lead them to destroy fowls, rabbits, ducks, and even the litters of their companions? Many will give blood, entrails, scraps of refuse meat, horse flesh, and such like to swine, but we should decidedly discourage such practices; the nearest approach to animal food we would admit, should be potato-liquor and dairy refuse. Animal food is bad for every kind of swine, and tends to make them savage and feverish, and often lays the foundation of serious inflammation in the intestines.—[Youatt on the Pig.]

BITE OF A MAD-DOG.—To prevent all danger of this terrible disease, cauterize the wound thoroughly with lunar caustic, introducing it most effectually to every part of the wound, and enlarging the wound if necessary. An eschar is soon formed, which sloughs away, carrying off the poison, which never immediately penetrates the system. A second application ensures more complete safety. The celebrated author of Youatt on the Dog, was many times bitten in his life, but always cured himself in this way.

PREPARING FOR WHEAT.—Recent experiments indicate, that instead of plowing three times for wheat, as is usual with summer fallows, it is much better to plow but once; provided the work is done in the best manner, that is, very deep, and with very narrow slices. The time when this work is done is not essential; the cultivator is used solely for clearing the weeds and covering the seed. The success has been complete; but it may not be so well adapted to clays.—[Albany Cultivator.]

European Agricultural News.

The subject of *tenant right*, is attracting a large share of public attention in England at the present time.

We observe by our English files, that some of the Agricultural Societies in that country are about to cease to exist, from the absence of a sufficient public interest therein. This discouraging feature, however, we are glad to say, marks rather the exception to the general bent of public feeling on the subject than the rule.

RICE AND TURNIPS—A SCOTCH DISH.—Use Swedish in preference to garden turnips, cut into pieces the size of potatoes, boiled two or three hours, the water well pressed out, then mixed with an equal quantity of rice, which has been thoroughly boiled in the mean time. Add a little butter, gravy dripping, or lard, salt and pepper to taste. "We have tried the above, it has been partaken of by many friends, and a unanimous verdict pronounces it a most agreeable substitute for potatoes, than which it is far cheaper, and far more nutritious and wholesome. It is proposed to name the dish 'rice-turnips,' to indicate the union of which it consists. The usual turnip of the kitchen garden, with its vulgar butter taste, is not to be compared with the Swedish, or field turnip for this dish.

RICE TO BREAKFAST.—With cold meat, chop, ham, bacon, or fish, &c. For each individual allow one small dessert spoonful of rice washed in cold water; boil in a second water, cold at first till fifteen minutes; strain it, and serve it in a covered dish. This will be found to be a treat, and at the cost of less than a penny for a dozen people.—[From the pamphlet entitled "Rice, as a cheap and wholesome food for all classes."

TO DESTROY COCKROACHS.—The thin outside mud of cucumbers scattered about the floors of apartments infested with cockroaches will exterminate them. The remedy is simple, and worth a trial.

LATE SALE OF SHORT-HORNS AT RIEV.—The high prices at which the six young bulls, the only short-horned stock offered, were disposed of, affords a convincing proof of the high estimation in which Mr. Torr's herd is held among breeders of eminence. It must be highly gratifying to the numerous friends of that gentleman to learn, that his indefatigable efforts as an improver of that deservedly popular breed of animals have been appreciated and acknowledged in a manner so unequivocal as was indicated by the following list of purchasers and prices:—

Lot.	Name.	Months old.	Purchaser.	Price.
1	Davies	10	Mr. Lister	26 gs.
2	Coleman	9	Lord Galtbrage	15 gs.
3	Royal Tat	9	Marquis of Downshire	35 gs.
4	Lotist	8	Mr. Row	31 gs.
5	P. Chas.	8	Bought in	29 gs.
6	Duke Children.	8	Mr. Mason	20 gs.

CONSUMPTION OF BREAD.—Estimating that there are twenty-four millions of bread consumers in Great Britain and Ireland (leaving out the four millions of potato eaters), and allowing each person one and a half loaves per week, it is thirty-six millions of loaves. Admitting that each quarter of wheat makes 136 loaves of bread it requires 268,656 quarters of wheat per week. To this add 10 per cent. for flour used in other articles, and it gives 295,521 qrs. as the weekly consumption of wheat, or 15,367,092 qrs. annually. London and its suburbs, with its two millions of population, consume three million of loaves weekly, and with flour require 24,626 qrs. of wheat. A quarter of wheat will give 50 lb. of flour per bushel; the quality which makes best second bread, yields 40 lb. of flour, and that quantity of flour will make 134 quarter loaves. A quarter of wheat ground into flour, and taking out only the rough bran—say about 5 lb. to the bushel, will yield 55 lb. per bushel of such flour, and that will make 141 loaves the quarter. A quarter of wheat, ground down into rough meal, without taking any bran, will give 62 lb. or 63 lb. of meal, and that will make about 166 loaves of healthy good brown bread.

ECONOMY OF MANURES IN TOWNS.—A great deal of manure is now collected in Manchester in tanks and made applicable to the cultivation of land in the neighbourhood of that place. The meadows on the banks of the navigable rivers, the Irwell and the Mersey, have been materially improved by the application of this liquid, instead of its being suffered to flow from the sewers, manufactories, and dwelling-houses of the town into the river and defile its streams.

APPLES IN FRANCE.—From Normandy and Picardy, the great apple countries, the intelligence is that the crops of apples are extraordinary great; so much so, that there are not sufficient people to gather them, whilst in a great number of cases the trees have broken down beneath their weight.

REARING OF POULTRY.—At the St. Alban's Agricultural Society, Mr. Bailey, who went from London to act as judge of poultry, said he believed that in farming as well as in other businesses, success was made up out of a variety of small items, and he did not see why poultry should not be made one of those items. (Hear.) A man had a bet that he would make a hen produce more than a ewe, and he won the wager. The same had been tried since in Hampshire, and the bet won by the hen. In Aylesbury they took every year £15,000 for young ducks, and in many parts of Norfolk and Cambridge the farmers came up with their turkeys to London; they looked to them to pay their rent. He himself took £21,000 for poultry during the last nine years, and his father and himself had taken no less than £200,000. He might also mention that he had paid £30,000 for wages during the last nine years for rearing poultry, which fully realised the money expended on them.

Civil and Social Department

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

We have often thought of noticing these institutions, and of going into an explanation of the principles on which they profess to be established. But we first wished to understand them ourselves, and in the next place, we were anxious to see what countenance they received from the public; and whether they were likely to last. From the success which has attended their operations in other countries, and from the fact that an Act of Parliament has been passed to regulate and legalize their proceedings here, there is no doubt that while from 40 to 43 per cent. premium or bonus is readily given for their loans, these societies offer a perfectly safe and a very profitable mode of investment. Any one who has a small income above his necessary expenditure, can hardly do better than lay it out in the monthly payment of shares in the Building Society. At the end of about eight years, with the present rate of premiums, they will receive nearly double the amount of money which they have paid in, and thus with little annoyance or trouble, and without, comparatively, any risk. But as to the borrower we cannot say the advantages they hold out to him are very attractive. If a man went to a friend to borrow £100, and was told he should have it, if he would agree to accept £60, instead of £100, and would give a mortgage upon his farm for £100, to be paid in monthly payments, extending over the period of eight years, but paying interest upon the sum of £100, during the whole period, he would not consider that he was receiving a great favor. By taking shares in the Building Society he, in some measure, compensates the enormous loss he would otherwise sustain. Still, under the most favourable view he will have paid nearly £100 in shares and interest, for £60, which £60 he has not the use and benefit of for the 8 years, because he immediately begins to pay it back. At the end of six years he has none of the £60 in his possession, for he will have paid more than that amount to the Treasurer of the Building Society. Many persons have been unable to see how these Societies could yield so much profit to the share-holder, and still not oppress the borrower. As if money could be increased by changing it from one pocket to another, or by mere financial operations. The secret of the thing lies here: every borrower as soon as he takes out his money begins to pay it back, but he pays interest on the whole sum borrowed up to the last moment, i. e. the society is receiving interest upon a sum of money which it has in its own coffers. In this way the £ which was paid for the first share may, after the society has been in operation 4 or 5 years, have been loaned to fifty different persons, and be drawing interest from them all, and continue to do so till the society expires, at which time there may be a hundred persons paying interest in respect of it. Add to this the premiums, fines &c. and there is no cause for wonder that the society should find itself able at the end of 8 years or so to pay the holder of each share £100, he (if not a borrower) having paid to the society not more than £52 or £53.

If there were no usury laws there would be little need of such institutions. We shall on a future occasion go more fully into this subject, comparing the arguments we adduced in Nos. 4 and 5 of this journal, in proof of the absurdity, injustice, and unmitigated evil of these restrictive laws, which drive the poor man into every snare and complication of finance that money dealers can invent to evade their operation, and finally leave him after a life of anxiety and toil stuck fast in such a Slough of Despond as no poor Christian can ever in a christian manner escape from.

HOW DISTRICT BUILDING SOCIETY.—This Society is progressing, and the success which has attended its operations, is marked by an announcement of a meeting on the 12th inst., for a sale of funds. There are now three Building Societies in this city, in active operation, lending funds monthly, by public competition among their members, and conferring corresponding benefits