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Notes by the Way.

FOOD AND MILK.—As far as we can see by the reports in the agricultural papers of the States, the practical American farmer is beginning to take the same views of the question. Can the fat in milk be increased by judicious feeding? as is taken by the practical English farmer, who, from long experience, has never had the slightest doubt about the matter.

A correspondent of "Hoard's Dairyman," who had been trying the effect of a very excellent fodder, oats and pease—a pity he did not add a few tares to the mixtures—which he ensiled, states that he fed 30 cows for 47 consecutive days on the silage, and found that their yield was 50 lbs. less milk, but the production of butter increased 13 lbs. He then fed sweet-corn on pasture, and the cows gained 30 lbs. on milk, but shrunk 15 lbs. on butter. The farmer very sensibly adds to this statement: I intend to try oats and pease again; wherein our Sorrel friends will heartily agree with him. In 1886, Senator Guévromont, sowed 5 arpents of our favorite mixture: 2 bushels of oats, 1 bushel of pease, and 1 bushel of tares, or vetches, and his son M. Pierre Guévromont told me he had never had such a flow of rich milk from his herd of 24 cows in his experience.

The mixed grain and pulse should be drilled in pretty deeply; or sown on the well-harrowed surface and dragged in with the scarifier, spring-tooth-harrow, or deposited with the now almost universal sowing machine, the teeth of which should be allowed full freedom, so that the seed may be buried at least 2½ inches deep. In all cases, harrow well before sowing, as well as after. A small dose of rapeseed, say, 3 lbs. to the acre, after the whole is finished, will bring a "bottom" to the fodder that the sheep will be glad of after the crop is mown.

And on this subject, of FAT IN MILK, we are glad to see people—practical people—speaking out. Says another contributor to an exchange:

"These alleged dairy experts who are taking such pains to impress upon their hearers that food has nothing to do with the quality of milk, are inculcating an erroneous doctrine that will work serious mischief if acted upon. Said a milkman to the writer recently:—'Within a day or so after I begin to feed my cows certain watery foods, my customers begin to complain about the quality of the milk, and some have actually charged me with watering it.' No greater nonsense was ever talked than that food does not influence the quality of milk."

Which strongly reminds us of what a London dairyman once said to us, some 45 years ago: Lord bless you, Sir; we don't want no pump, as the papers say we do. Give me plenty of mangels and brewers' grains, and I don't need to put no water into my milk

FERMENTS.—The teachers of scientific dairying lay great stress upon the injury done to cheese by the introduction into the milk of a number of ferments that are not the ordinary lactic ferment. Men, we know, do not always wash their hands before milking, and, not infrequently, dip their fingers into the milk, thus introducing extraneous matters into the final product, the effects of which not

all the skill of the cheese-maker can subsequently invalidate.

Our Gloucestershire farmers always milk their cows in the pastures, when cheese making is going on, so one great cause of injury is obviated, namely the foulness of the atmosphere of the cow-house; and, the men always take water with them to wash their hands before milking; these two points are in favour of the cheese made in the Vale of Berkeley keeping so well, at it does.

THE DISC-CHURN.—Rapidly of bringing butter has up to the present been generally looked upon as anything but favourable to the production of a good sample. Forty five or fifty minutes is about the time preferred for churning. But the new disc churn appears to have altogether upset the old ideas on this subject. At the opening of the dairy-classes at Gargrave, Yorkshire, England, Miss Philips, the instructress of the Yorkshire College, from 4 quarts of cream produced 4½ lbs. of butter in 10½ minutes. The butter was considered, by competent judges, to be of the very best quality, both as to flavour and texture; as regards proportion of butter to cream, that is rather difficult to decide upon, no account being given in the report we have seen as to the thickness or thinness of the cream; but our old computation in England used to be that 25 lbs. of milk ought to give 1 quart of cream, which ought to produce 1 lb. of butter. So the new churn cannot but be a very useful invention.

LESSONS FROM THE FAIR.—Without harping too long on the lesson to be derived from the poor yield of the shorthorn cows selected for competition at Chicago, there is one most important lesson to be gleaned from the contest: Don't keep inferior milkers. The cows were, we may safely assume, all carefully selected ones, and yet the best cow gave nearly seven times as much return as the worst cow!

THE PRICE OF PORK.—Few things strike a foreigner's mind on this continent more than the way in which farmers persist in changing their course of cropping and the rearing of different classes of cattle as the market may be more or less favourable to any particular product. Monsieur M. Dombasle's advice, "keep your eye always on the market," is a very sensible counsel, but we do not take it he intends thereby to recommend farmers to dodge about and change the crops grown or the stock bred every four or five years. Systems, in farming as well as in philosophy, should not be given up in a hurry when once established. And, yet, what do we too often see? To day, wool is high; every one immediately rushes into sheep-breeding. To-morrow, there is a sudden rise in the price of pork at Chicago; every one rushes into pig-breeding. Why not follow the old custom prevalent in the mother-country of producing a certain number of acres every year of each of the crops best suited to the soil and climate we work upon and in, and rear and feed so many of each kind of stock as we usually find our farm capable of supporting: In this way, we should always have something to sell that is really in demand, for as Dr Hoskins very sensibly remarks, in the Vermont Watchman:

When hogs are high in the Chicago market, everybody raises hogs until

there are more hogs in the country than the pork eaters of the world want and prices decline; then production wanes for a time and prices advance. Those who go with the tide without studying conditions are usually overstocked when prices are down and have nothing to sell when prices are up.

DEEP OR SHALLOW?—Many writers in the agricultural papers in the States seem to be in favour of shallow horse-hoeing for corn. In the earlier stages of the growth of this plant, before the rootlets attain much length, our opinion is that the deeper the horse-hoe goes the better; and it is pretty clear that when the plant has sent out its roots into the intervals between the rows, it would injudicious to disturb their hold on the soil, not that the yield of the crop would be thereby diminished, for if a root is cut in two, nature will soon supply its place by one or more successors; but because, in this climate, the first thing to be considered is early maturity, and this would be delayed by the process of its sending forth new roots to supply the defect of those cut off by the hoe.

Therefore, we say: horse-hoe deeply at first, as the best means of mixing the soil and presenting fresh particles of it to the air; but horse-hoe lightly towards the end of the cultivating season, to allow the plant to ripen before there is any danger of frost.

EARTHING UP.—People fancy earthing up corn prevents it from being laid. Herein, we differ entirely from those who hold that opinion. The finest crop of corn we saw this year—at St. Anne de Bellevue—was most carefully earthed up; but, after the grain was fully formed, a storm of wind and rain laid the whole field flat on its back.

Now, we contend that the earthing up any plant has a tendency to confine its roots to a narrower range than they ought to have; and that the resistant power they would otherwise possess of defeating the purposes of any storm, is thereby lessened. Instead of the fibres finding 3 feet of range, they are shut up in, at most, about 15 inches, and that narrow space, if dung has been applied, as it usually is, in the drills, is the loosest part of the whole, and therefore the least fitted to afford firm foothold.

Wherefore, we do not advise farmers to earth-up corn.

AND POTATOES, TOO, why earth them up? To keep the air and sun from turning them green, we should say, but certainly not for the purpose of increasing the yield. Many years ago, an experiment was tried, in Scotland to settle the question whether earthing up this crop did or did not increase it. Three plots of an acre each were taken, as nearly as possible of the same quality, and treated to the same cultivation up to the time of finishing the horse- and hand-hoeing. The plot No. 1 was earthed up as usual, that is, very high; No. 2 was earthed up slightly, with a flat, not a peaked top; No. 3 was not earthed up at all. The three plots, at harvest time stood as follows:

Not earthed up.....the best yield; Moderately earthed up.....the next best; Earthed up as usual.....the worst of all.

I have not the figures by me, but they are to be found in Stephen's