

ground, which is not always convenient; for instance, in hoeing corn after it is up a foot or so in height the work should be shallow, as, although mangels, swedes, etc., do not suffer by having their rootlets cut off, for each rootlet cut off, nature will provide two or more, corn, which is wanted to ripen its seed, should be allowed to retain them untouched.

We hope Mr. Vilas, of East-Farnham, will not of this very well constructed little implement.

*Science and fiction.*—Mr. Alfred R. Russell, the celebrated man of science, like the equally celebrated Watts, the inventor of the steam-engine, is by no means a contemner of fiction. He takes plenty of recreation, is a great grower of orchids, plays at chess, and thoroughly appreciates the higher style of music, very unlike his famous friend Darwin who was a continuous worker at his one great subject, which Mr. Wallace is not; for, as he remarked to an "interviewer" lately: I should not be happy without some work, but I vary it with gardening, walking, or novel-reading. Even when in the midst of writing a book, I never cease to read light literature." What Watts and Wallace did not despise, no man need be ashamed of cherishing with a warm affection.

We were led to the above remarks by a passage in a letter from one of the English correspondents of the New-York papers, stating that: "All London is talking of Thackeray, as it is the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of "Vanity Fair." Our readers may or may not be admirers of the great novelist, but in our opinion, *valeat quantum*, "Esmond," a tale of Queen's Anne's time, is the greatest romance ever written, not excepting Fielding's "Tom Jones," "Waverley," or "The Antiquary," and any one who will imbue his mind with the moral teachings of the amiable author, will never repent taking our advice not only to read, but to study and weigh every word he ever wrote.

*Rearing calves.*—Below will be found an article from "Hoard" on the waste of skim-milk. Many years ago, in or about 1850, we tried the effect of unlimited skim-milk on a half-bred shorthorn steer. He took, on an average 16 quarts imperial a day, and at 20 months old we sent him to Smithfield (London) market.

Such a lot of bone we never saw in a skin of the same size, and we were not surprised when our salesman's note came, to find that he had gone to the "Sausage-makers."

We always used crushed flaxseed for our calves, small hand-mills being easily had in England for just cracking the grain. We mentioned this in the first volume of the Journal, 1879, and are happy to hear that these mills are still in vogue. Here, of course, the seed has to be mixed with other grain, if it is sent to the mill, lest the oil should clog the stones.—Ed.

#### HOW SKIM-MILK IS WASTED

A very thoughtful article on this question appeared in the *Creamery Gazette* recently, written by the editor, Henry Wallace. He enumerates several of the ways in which skim milk is lessened in value and sometimes rendered practically worthless. It is too bad that many farmers, who keep cows and who greatly need all the profit the business can bring them, should have some ideas as they do about the value of skim milk, and the proper way to handle it.

Mr. Wallace rightly says that sweet skim milk, as a food to the farmer, with corn in the crib to balance it, is worth more, pound for pound, than the cream which has been taken out of it. To support this statement, he says:

We say "is worth more," for the cream is largely a carbohydrate, and he has an abundance of that on the farm in the shape of corn, timothy hay, and straw. He is short of albuminoids, unless he is rich in clover hay and clover pasture. Hence, the skim milk is actually worth more to him for growing stock than the cream itself, provided, of course, he knows how to use it.

He enumerates the leading causes for the waste of skim milk as follows, all of which have been repeatedly commented upon before in the *Dairyman*:

1. By getting it back from the creamery sour.
2. Improper methods of feeding on the farm. It is folly to feed it to the calf alone, on the theory that the poorer the feed you give a calf the more you must give of it. The milk of a good cow should furnish enough skim milk for two calves.
3. Feeding it without balancing. Do not try to balance up skim milk with oil meal. It can not be done, for oil meal itself has about the same nutritive ratio as skim milk, and it will not balance it. Flax seed meal will, but oil meal will not. The cheapest and best thing with which to balance skim milk is corn meal, until the calf is a