

author "A B C of strawberry culture," for farmers, village people and small growers. A book for beginners" (Published by A. J. Root, Medina, Ohio, by mail 40 cents). Few writers are more concise, thorough and fascinating than Mr. Terry, one of the most practical agriculturists in the States. Mr. Terry's excellent practice is always and surely based on true science, at least such seems to be his constant aim. May he write many such valuable little books, on agriculture, as we have just perused with such pleasure, on strawberry culture.

ED. A. BARNARD.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Export-sheep.—I think we must really make some exertions tending to an alteration in our breeds of sheep. I see by the market reports that in London there is a difference of three and a-half cents a pound between the best English and the best Canadian sheep: the former are worth 17½ cents, and the latter, 14 cents, a pound, equal to about \$3.00 a head on the average sheep. And so it will be until we get rid of the white-faced, long wool breeds. No first-rate butcher will look at a Cotswold or Leicester wether; ewes, unless they are "maiden ewes," they absolutely reject, and nothing but Downs, or, at any rate, Down crosses, will suit their trade: and even they must be wethers. As for rams, even though they be lambs, they never touch them. All such inferior animals go to the manufacturing towns, or to the lower class butchers of Whitechapel and other baser districts of London, and of course fetch but unsatisfactory prices. Our export sheep must, to pay our dealers, be of a certain size, or else freight charges will be heavier; and yet, to suit the trade, they must not be too large. A Hampshire-down of about 20 lbs the quarter, is the every thing we want, and that can be secured, from properly selected parents, at 16 months old. The growth of these sheep during the first six months of their life is something positively marvellous. So quickly do the lambs grow, that in April they begin to approach their mothers in size, and by the middle of August they not infrequently are sold to the butcher at from \$15 to \$17 a head. The last time wether-lambs were sent from the Downton College-farm to Britford fair, Mr. Wareham, butcher, of Bournemouth, paid 73 shillings—\$18 a head for the whole lot! This was on the 12th August, 1882; since which date no lambs of this flock have been castrated, as they are disposed of, as ram-lambs, at the same age, and after no greater expenditure than was previously lavished on the wether-lambs, at from \$25 to \$100 each.

The annexed reports of sales and lettings of the ram-lambs of this breed are worth our attention:

The annual sale and letting of the Winterbourne Stoke lambs, belonging to Messrs. C. and T. Coles, took place at the home farm on Friday last, Messrs. Waters and Rawlence being the auctioneers. Five lambs were first let at from 10 gs. to 26 gs., or an average of £19 10s. 6d., Mr. Dibben hiring No. 2 at 26 gs., Mr. Dredge No. 5 at 23 gs., Mr. S. J. Taunton No. 3 at 18 gs., Mr. R. E. Coles No. 1 at 16 gs., and Mr. M. Wallis No. 4 at 10 gs. The majority of the ninety ram lambs offered for sale were disposed of at prices ranging from 5 gs. to 30 gs., Mr. J. Dean giving the top figure, the other buyers being Mr. Besent (for Lord Ashborton) at 11 gs., 10½ gs., 9½ gs., &c.; Mr. R. E. Coles at 12 gs. and 11 gs.; Mr. E. J. Bennett at 11 gs. and 9½ gs.; Mr. E. O. Pinckney at 17 gs. and 11½ gs.; Mr. C. Noley at 13½ gs. and 8 gs.; and Mr. C. Waters at 14 gs. Six shearing rams sold at from 5½ gs. to 7½ gs., the average of those let and sold being £3 5s.

Mr. W. C. Young's ram lambs and rams from his highly-

bred Hampshire Down flock at Stratford sub-Castle were let and sold by auction by Messrs. Waters and Rawlence at Salisbury on Monday. Owing to the wet weather the attendance was less than usual, and the sheep did not show off to so much advantage as they otherwise would have done, but still there were all those good points about them which are so much prized by those breeders who value early maturity, producing wonderfully heavy flesh and wool. Six ram lambs averaged £12 12s., the highest prices, 22 gs. and 20 gs., being given by Mr. Dibben and Mr. C. Waters respectively. Seventy-one lambs were sold out from 5 gs. to 16½ gs., Mr. J. R. Taunton giving the latter figure, among the other buyers being Mr. Mattick (for Mr. Henry Harris) at 10½ gs., Mr. S. J. Taunton at 13 gs.

Crops in England.—The first lot of wheat from the crop of 1890 was sold on the Mark Lane, London, market on the 8th August.

Though the heavy storms of July laid a great deal of the very luxuriant crops of wheat in many districts, they did not do the damage that was expected; in fact, very little hand-reaping—a very expensive job—will be required, as there are very few places where the machine cannot do the work. On the whole the crop seems to be likely to turn out quite an average yield. When an English tenant-farmer returns his crop as an average one, you may be pretty certain he does not over state it!

District.	About ordinary yield. Qrs.	Harvest Promise.
Northern Counties.....	1,000,000	} Full crop.
Eastern Counties.....	3,500,000	
Home & Southern Counties.....	2,000,000	} More or less under an average.
Western Counties & Wales.....	1,250,000	
Midlands.....	1,750,000	

So far as the Midlands are concerned this estimate is not borne out by the review of the situation given us by Mr. Gilbert Murray, of Elvaston, Derby, and we think that this district should be put among those which promise to yield full crops. In that case we may say that full crops are expected over an area which on the average produces 6,250,000 qrs., and poor or under-average crops over an area which gives us 3,250,000 qrs. We are inclined to think that this will be somewhere about the mark; but, of course, everything depends on the weather. A continuance of the splendid weather of yesterday might give us a wheat harvest of very nearly an average.

So, you see, I had some reason, when I wrote last on this subject, to say that I would rather wait a while before I accepted the statement made in the United-States' newspapers: that the English wheat-crop was an utter failure. The weather in England during the in-gathering month of August has been a good deal broken, but, on the whole, not unfavourable for the harvest.

A good deal of disease in Ireland among the potatoes, but, here again, we must not jump at conclusions. Speculation and politics may have a good deal to say about the matter. In England, the disease has made its appearance in many districts, but the crop is a very heavy one, and will bear some discounting. Oats, barley, beans, and pease, are good all over the country.

Hay was not a large crop originally, and a good deal of it was "badly got" or "partly spoilt." Turnips, mangels, and other root-crops are very good, and as straw is superabundant—both of oats and barley—there will be lots of cattle-food in spite of the inferiority of the hay-crop.