

off and applied to plants. Water in which pieces of horns and hoofs have been soaked is an excellent manure for plants that require forcing. It stimulates the growth of tomatoes, rose bushes and house plants very rapidly, and emits no offensive odours. A vast amount of fertilizing material is wasted in towns that farmers could obtain the benefit of with very little trouble.—*Chicago Times.*

OVERSTOCKING LAND.

The overstocking of land is one of the surest and quickest ways of ruining pastures. It is an every-day thing with many farmers, who cannot be made to believe that they are getting the full benefit of a pasture unless the grass is eaten off a little faster than it has time to grow; consequently, all who put this method in practice always have bare pastures and poor cattle.

MILK-PRODUCING FOOD.

Millet and Hungarian Grass, as they are severally called, though all of one species of forage, are rapidly coming into favour as a milk-producing food, most timely in their application. They may be sowed at any time, from early spring to July, as wanted for either soiling or hay. Cut in their *early bloom*, mind you, for if left to full seeding, the stalks are woody, and lose half their succulence and virtue. Within the last day or two, in driving along the outskirts of our city, where several herds of milk cows are kept, I find that their owners are cutting it daily to feed their cows upon. As cows or other animals are not allowed to run at large, they are confined to small paddocks and stables, and it is the best green forage to give them. Three weeks or a month ago the millet was just visible on the ground, and now, so rapid has been its growth, a full crop covers the surface. Three pecks to a bushel of seed are given to the acre in sowing. Aside from a soiling crop, seasonably cut and cured for hay, no better milk-producing grass can be used; but being an annual, the plough and harrow must come in play to make it. On good land it yields a heavy growth, equal to either of the other grasses mentioned.—*L. F. Allen, in Country Gentleman.*

CLOVER PREACHING.

For nearly a third of a century we have been preaching to farmers the importance of the clover crop, of its advantages for pasture, resisting the drouth better than the grasses, making the most nutritive hay, producing a good paying crop in the seed, being the second crop for the same year, and yet, with all its value for all these purposes, "the half has not yet been told," for its value in enriching the soil upon which it has been sown transcends in importance its value for any other purpose. Seeding a field to clover will do more good than a covering of manure. To restore worn-out land nothing equals clover. This is the universal experience of farmers. Hence we say to farmers, sow all the land you can to clover. Nothing will pay you better. Nothing will so well keep your farm in heart, in vigour, in productiveness. Nothing will give you better pasturage in the hot summer, and nothing will give you more fattening hay. The mainstay of the farm is the clover field, and every field on the farm should be seeded to clover in a proper system of rotation.—*Coleman's Rural World.*

MR. DONALD, of Kingsport, New York, raised nine hundred bushels of turnips this year from seven-eighths of an acre of land. Mr. Donald is an enterprising farmer, and evidently understands turnip growing.

THE DAIRY.

DON'T LET THE COWS GO DRY.

A long, even season of milk is absolutely necessary to be a profitable one. There is nothing that the dairyman needs more exhortation upon than that of giving a full ration to his herd at all times during the milking season. There is less excuse for feeding a good milch cow stingily than any other farm animal. She does not ask any credit; she makes prompt daily payment; and her product is a cash article. If he has not the food at hand, prudence and good judgment, as well as humanity, require him to furnish her full rations at all times, without regard to a favourable or unfavourable season. We always counsel dairymen to make an earnest effort to produce all the food for their herds upon their own farms, but the first principle of profitable dairying requires that they give abundant food to keep up an even flow of milk, whether they produce or purchase the food.—*Live Stock Journal.*

THE GUERNSEY COW.

We are glad to see the increasing interest taken in Guernsey cattle in this country. The usefulness and the popularity of the Jerseys are assured. The more general introduction of the Guernsey will not harm the Jerseys, and the former, we fully believe, will give good satisfaction. The average size is greater, probably from 20 to 25 per cent. greater; and this will be in favour of the breed with many dairy farmers. A good many Guernsey cows, as seen on their native island, have sufficient size and such form as make them very fair animals for the butcher when well fattened. The two breeds are so nearly allied in characteristics that, were it not for herd book restrictions, good results might come in many cases by crosses between them. We can commend the Guernsey to those who, while liking the Jerseys, have looked for greater size and a somewhat larger flow of milk. The general verdict is that the milk of the Guernsey is at least equally rich with that of the Jersey. The butter is even more highly coloured.

We count it fortunate that, as yet, it has not been insisted on that Guernseys shall be solid coloured, or even that the nose shall be black; and we hope American breeders will look more to dairy qualities than to such unimportant points.—*The Breeder's Gazette.*

BUTTER COWS.

We have been very much interested in perusing the Appendix to a Catalogue of the Crystal Spring Herd of Jerseys, recently issued by J. H. Walker, Esq., Worcester, Mass., in which the comparative value of good and poor butter cows is exhaustively discussed, and many facts hitherto overlooked are brought prominently into notice. Mr. Walker states that his own herd, "taking every animal in it then in milk—28 in number—at a fair average of their performance (their average being six months after calving), made 804 lbs. of butter the week ending August 26th, 1881. Of every cow then in milk, 23 had grass only, and had had nothing but grass for months previously; the other five each had three quarts of corn meal a day." This butter question is one that interests everybody. The transformation of grain and grass into beef is not the only purpose of the bovine race. Which are the best butter makers, which the best beef producers, and which the best, under all circumstances, for both purposes combined, are questions of vital importance to farmers; and whether it is best to breed for a combination of both qualities in the same animal,

or to seek for especial excellence in the one to the neglect of the other, are points that may be discussed. For the general farmer there can be but one answer to this latter question: the combined machine is the one best adapted to his circumstances, but this is not, by any means, all that is involved in the question.—*The Breeder's Gazette.*

THE ART OF BUTTER MAKING.

In a recent lecture on the art of butter-making, the noted Dr. Voelcker remarked:—"It has been said, with a good deal of truth, that by overmanuring pasture land we reduce the fine quality of the butter made from the milk of cows fed upon such pasture. My belief is, that the finest quality of butter is produced from pasture which contains a great variety of herbs, some of which might even be ranked as weeds. . . .

"The question is, can ordinary pasture produce first-quality butter? and to that question I answer, 'Decidedly, if you take proper precautions to prevent the cream turning sour before it is churned.' This sourness, let me repeat, is the great hindrance in making high-class butter. Many persons deem this a small matter, and unconsciously allow the cream to get somewhat sour before making butter; but if you desire to produce good, sweet, keeping butter, you must churn cream as sweet as possible. This, you will be inclined to say, is an extremely simple matter; and I am almost ashamed to speak of such simple matters in the presence of so many experienced persons; but my experience is that simple things are the most difficult to make people learn. With most of us there is a peculiar tendency to aim after some big thing and to neglect the little thing, notwithstanding that it is on the latter that so much of our daily comfort depends. . . .

"If you pour off the butter-milk as soon as the butter comes, you will have butter much more free from the cheesy or curdy envelope which originally encased it in the creamy globule. And you will never make first-rate butter unless you preserve a regular temperature in churning. The temperature should never rise above 60 degrees—it should be rather below than otherwise. I am no advocate of all these beautiful air churns and complicated contrivances. You do not want them. In a good churn you simply require an implement which enables you to churn sufficiently without over-doing it."

HOW TO TELL GOOD BUTTER.

When butter is properly churned, both as to the time and temperature, it becomes firm with very little working, and it is tenacious; but its most desirable state is waxy, when it is easily moulded into any shape, and may be drawn out a considerable length without breaking. It is then styled gilt-edged. It is only in this state that butter possesses that rich nutty flavour and smell, and shows up a rich, golden yellow colour, which imparts so high a degree of pleasure in eating it, and which increases its value manifold. It is not always necessary, when it smells sweet, to taste butter in judging it. The smooth, unctuous feeling in rubbing a little between the finger and thumb expresses at once its rich quality; the nutty smell and rich aroma indicates a similar taste; and the bright, golden, glistening, cream-coloured surface shows its height of cleanliness. It may be necessary at times to use the trier, or even use it until you become an expert in testing by taste, smell, and rubbing.—*Exchange.*

By running back through a few volumes of our agricultural exchanges we might fill columns with accounts of death or hair-breadth escapes from vicious bulls.—*N. E. Farmer.*