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RURAL NOTES.

THE best way of ripening a cheese room is by hot water pipes laid around the walls. By this means the warmth of the room is sustained in all parts alike; whereas, if a stove is used, some of the cheese will be too warm, and the rest too cold.

THERE are some portions of Ontario this year, and notably the western counties, in which very little rain fell throughout August and September. The ground was hard and unworkable, and consequently we may expect to hear of a decrease in the area of fall wheat.

THERE is much need of more experiments to find better remedies for injurious insects. Success in the discovery of such remedies that shall be at once good, cheap and safe will tend to make science popular, and endowments for research much easier and more frequent than ever before.

It is true beyond any doubt, that underdrainage mitigates the effects of a dry season. A drained soil is always loose and porous, and no matter how little the rainfall it seldom bakes hard. The reason is that the air circulates freely through it, as temperature and atmospheric pressure vary, and thus it readily absorbs the dews and moisture which are never entirely absent from the earth's surface in the night season.

DRAINING is work that can be taken up or laid down and finished piecemeal, providing one goes the right way about it. And the right way is to begin at the outlet, making the drain as deep as the lay of the land allows, so as to secure a good fall. It may be finished in sections of fifty or a hundred feet, providing that care is taken to make the inlet safe, and that a record of levels and measurements is kept. In this way the work may be carried on as opportunity is given.

It is a grievous disappointment to the farmer to find that the late ripening crops, which he hoped would make up for him the loss on his wheat, have been blasted by an untimely frost. But such are the fortunes of men who till the soil, and nothing remains but to begin afresh. Every day of the fall that can be spared for such work should be employed in getting the land ready for next year's crops. The land ploughed now will be all the mellowed when the frosts of winter are over.

THERE are complaints of the prevalence of rot in potatoes this year. Wherever it has appeared great care requires to be taken in storing the crop. A dry cellar is the best place, provided that it is well ventilated. It is also advisable, if there is any appearance of rot, to sprinkle the

potatoes with dry, air-slaked lime. This speedily arrests the disease, and will generally keep the potatoes safe and healthy throughout the winter. Cut straw, scattered in layers through the heap, is also of great benefit.

ONE old method of clearing a house of rats is to catch a rat alive, and, after scorching his hair with a taper, to let him loose again. It is said that the smell of the singed hair will cause every rat about the premises to migrate. A writer in the *American Cultivator* has found a very successful plan to be to smear one or two of the rats with tar. He tried the experiment eight years ago, and has not been troubled with the vermin since. Rats are said to abhor tar, and it is worth something to know that they abhor anything.

THE plants of a meadow, says the *Agricultural Gazette*, live in harmony, on the unmanured, open park, having nothing to fight for in a state of nature; but toss them a bone, ground fine, or any other choice bit, and their harmonious companionship terminates at once. Every act of improved cultivation occasions instant war. A grass likes the best that can be got. It will swallow soda, but not when it can get potash. As a general principle, all manures tend to drive out weeds by increasing the better herbage.

It may be too late to give any advice as to what is best to be done with corn hurt by the frost, but if too late for this year it will be in good time for a future one. The best thing that can be done is to cut the crop at once, and set it up in shocks. In this way the stalks will retain their nourishment for the seed for a considerable time; whereas, if they are left standing in the hill, exposed to sunshine and drying wind, the corn will make no further growth. The ill effects of the freezing are greatly mitigated by slow and gradual curing in the shade of the shock.

IN selecting corn for seed, it is a safe rule to pick those ears which are filled out to the very ends, and are large and long and heavy. But this year, especially, farmers should have a care to pick none but ears that have been untouched by the frost. If these can't be found in your own fields, you must look for them elsewhere. But be sure that you get a good article, and that you get it before the advent of winter; and, having got it, see that it is properly cared for. If exposed to the storms of winter, its vitality may be destroyed, and the chances for next year's crop be ruined.

THE factory system, applied to cheese-making, has afforded great relief to the women folk of the farm. The creamery system would give them another and still greater measure of relief, and it

should be encouraged in every possible way. Why could not the creamery system of butter-making be taught in our Agricultural College? The work could be efficiently and economically done, and the sending out of 100 or 120 students each year, with an acquired knowledge of butter-making on the creamery system, would have an excellent effect. The drudgery of butter-making ought to be abated, if the wives and daughters of farmers are to share in the general march of progress. Why should a farmer provide himself with every labour-saving implement for use in the fields, and deny to his wife and daughters the benefit of labour-saving processes in the house and dairy?

THE great majority of foals are dropped in the spring and early summer months, although there seems an increasing number of mares bred in the fall. As many farmers are situated, it seems that fall dropped colts would be preferable to those dropped in spring. Many farm mares which have to labour hard during the summer have little or no work during the winter, and could better suckle a colt during the leisure time. Colts dropped late in the spring often have a hard time during the first winter; more so than would an unweaned foal. The latter would be in good shape to go on grass in the spring and would come to the second winter a strong, lusty fellow well able to care for himself on dry food. There is rather less regularity in mares coming in season in fall, and some think them less likely to stand to service than in the spring. Usually, however, stallions are less called on for service in the fall and ought to be more sure.

THE clipping of a horse no doubt adds much to his general appearance, and in the summer season is cooling to the system, but as the practice is extended to the winter months, it becomes a cruel nuisance. Nature ordains that all animals shall throw off their old coats and take on new, but she does this as a means of protection. When the horse begins to shed, it answers perfectly to remove the surplus with a brush, and, with the trimming of the hair above the hoofs, the animal will soon be smooth and shining in appearance, with everything in good order for hardships. But, however, when the clipping is done at that period that demands all the covering possible, the horse is liable to cold, and even pneumonia and consumption, just the same as would happen to an individual that makes the change to summer clothing in winter. The advocates of clipping claim that it is superior to the wearing of shaggy hair, which permits of the skin being always wet, and that the horse is more liable to disease than when clipped, but then, again, the horse in his wild condition seems to possess the shaggy coat, especially in damp and cold situations, which refutes the claim,