

produce larger returns, while less labor is required. To my mind, no system of farming is better calculated to keep and increase the fertility of the farm than that which makes the raising and feeding of beef cattle a leading feature in its plans and purposes—feeding the bulk of the grain raised, and having it go to market on legs instead of on wheels, while a generous heap of manure is left to stimulate the growth of grain, grass and roots. The production of beef, however, is but one of many lines open to the stock-raiser, and while the circumstances of one man may be such as to make it profitable to him to make a specialty of beef, another may find it more profitable, under his circumstances, and more congenial to his tastes, to make a specialty of dairying; and, by proper attention to the most profitable production of milk, or of high-class butter products, which are always in demand, and, for which, if the quality is extra, an extra price can always be obtained. Another may find that upon his farm, and under his circumstances, sheep-raising may profitably be made a leading feature of his business; and at the present time no class of stock is in better demand, or paying better, than sheep; no kind of stock can be more cheaply kept, nor requires so little labor in its care. There is no healthier climate in the world for sheep than ours, and no country where sheep are so little liable to disease. We would not, however, advise, as a rule, "putting all one's eggs in one basket." The safest course for the average farmer is to raise and keep a few colts, a few cattle, a few sheep, and a few pigs. All kinds of stock do better in small numbers than in large lots, and it is not often that there is a depression in the markets for more than one or two classes of stock at the same time, and if any mishap should occur in one class the farmer has the others to depend on. One thing I submit is certain, that is, that to whatever line a farmer turns his attention in the matter of stock-raising, it will be found to pay best to keep good stock, and to keep it well. I would not be understood as insisting that every farmer should keep pedigreed stock. That is hardly practicable, and is not followed even in England, the home of the thoroughbreds; but I lay it down as a sound principle, that every farmer will find it profitable to improve his stock, and keep on improving it by the use of pure-bred sires of some established herd, and of good constitution and quality. I hold it true that if the object be only the production of veal calves to be marketed, at six to ten weeks old, or of lambs to go to the shambles, at the same age, it will be found to pay well to secure the use of pure-bred males, as the produce would show such improved form, weight and quality, that the extra prices obtained would in a very short time repay many times over the extra cost of securing the services of such sires. If the object be to produce steers or heifers, to go off as beef animals, it goes without saying that high grade cattle not only make vastly greater improvement and better returns for the food consumed, but their well-rounded forms and symmetrical appearance invariably command the highest market prices, while the lower grades go begging for buyers. This holds true also in regard to dairy stock. I know a man in my own county, in the butter business, who has never bought or owned a pedigree cow, but by the purchase, once in three years, of a pure-bred

Jersey bull, at a moderate price, from \$50 to \$75, I believe, has so improved the working capabilities of his cows that many of them have made from 14 lbs. to 16 lbs. of butter in a week, and some as high as 18 lbs. and 21 lbs.; and he has sold cows (of his own breeding) of this class as high as \$100 each, and refused that price for others. His cows have in some years averaged him \$75 each in buttersold, besides the sales of heifer calves, in many cases, at \$25 to \$40 each. Of course, he feeds well, and keeps his cattle always in condition to do full work, or to sell to good advantage; but, while he is doing this, he is getting large dividends, not only from the prices received for butter and calves, but also in the shape of a large quantity of rich manure, which goes to keep up the productiveness of his farm. This is a system that is easily within the reach of the average farmer of moderate means. Of course, it requires close attention and regularity in feeding, and other details, but this is the price of success in any line of business.

While common lambs are being sold by many farmers to butchers and drovers at \$3 to \$4 each, I know men who have flocks of good grade sheep, who keep their lambs till winter, and sell them to the same class of buyers for \$6 to \$8 a head; and others who have sheep of higher grade, built up by the course I recommend, the steady use of pure-bred rams, have sold their ram lambs at \$8 to \$10 each for breeding purposes. In all these cases the only extra outlay has been the price of a good sire, which can often be sold at the end of his term of service for nearly as much as he cost, for it is well known that, in these times at least, good, useful pure-bred males can be bought at very moderate prices, and the profit is not all in the sale of surplus stock, but largely in the improved character of the females retained in the herd or flock. In addition to this there is the feeling of satisfaction a man experiences in his own mind in watching the growth and progress of well-bred stock, and the pride he may take in being able to show them to his neighbors or to visitors. To one who has been used to breeding and handling good stock, it seems almost incredible that in a country where the facilities for improvement are so easily available, so few, comparatively, of our farmers have taken advantage of them. In a day's drive, through almost any county in Ontario, how very few herds or flocks are seen that give evidence of any improved breeding? If it were something that was beyond the reach of the means of the people, or something that was very difficult of attainment, there would be some excuse for the state of things which exists; but, to my mind, the way is so clear that a wayfaring man, though an average farmer, ought to be able to see it and walk in it.

An American Exchange says:—"It is estimated that 50,000 horses now in use will, before long, be thrown on the market, owing to the development of electricity as a motive power; but they will be of undersized, underbred horses that are always a drag on the market."

A lady, writing an exchange, says:—"I have a method of cleansing rancid and poor butter that makes it better and more economical to use in making pastry than lard. I melt it, and then boil sliced raw potatoes in it. When the potatoes are brown, I know the butter is cleansed, and that they have absorbed the butyric acid that chiefly makes the butter rancid. I skim off the surface, and pour the pure oil in jars, to store it till time of use."

Ponies and Pony Breeding.

(Continued from November Number).

THE EXMOOR PONY.

Exmoors are another famous breed of ponies, on which very careful and costly experiments, with the view of improvement, have been tried by one family for a long series of years. The following account of them, written for the Illustrated London News, has been brought down to the present day by information recently gathered on Exmoor itself. The Exmoors are interesting in an historical point of view, because they so clearly show how sparse feed will dwarf and good feed increase the size of horse stock:—

"Exmoor, afforested by William Rufus, continued up to 1818 to be the property of the Crown. It was leased to Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, who has an estate of a similar character close adjoining. He used its wild pasture (at that time it was without roads) for breeding ponies and summering the flocks of Exmoor sheep bred in the surrounding parishes. There are no traces of any population having existed in this forest since the time of William Rufus. Exmoor consists of 20,000 acres, at an elevation varying from 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the sea, of undulating table-land divided by valleys, or 'combes,' through which the river Exe, which rises in one of its valleys, with its tributary the Barle, forces a devious way.

"Exmoor may be nothing strange to those accustomed to wild, barren scenery. Horses bred on the moors, if left to themselves, rapidly pick their way through pools and bogs, and canter smoothly over dry flats of natural meadow, creep safely down the precipitous descents, and climb with scarcely a puff of distress these steep ascents, splash through fords in the trout streams swelled by rain without a moment's hesitation, and trot along sheep paths bestrewn with loose stones without a stumble; so that you are perfectly at liberty to enjoy the luxury of excitement, and follow out the winding valleys, and study the rich green and purple herbage.

"Coming, as we did, from the part of the country where ponies are the perquisites of old ladies and little children, and where the nearer a well-shaped horse can be got to sixteen hands the better, the first feeling on mounting a rough, little, unkempt brute, fresh from the moor, barely twelve hands (forty-eight inches) in height, was intensely ridiculous. It seemed as if the slightest mistake would send the rider clean over the animal's head. But we learned soon that the indigenous pony, in certain useful qualities, is not to be surpassed by animals of greater size and pretensions. We crossed the stream, not by the narrow bridge, but by the ford, and passing through the straggling stone village of Simon's Bath, arrived in sight of the field where the Tattersall of the West was to sell the wild and tame horse stock bred on the moors. It was a field of some ten acres and a-half, forming a very steep slope, with the upper part comparatively flat, the sloping side broken by a stone quarry, and dotted over with huge blocks of quartz. At its base flowed an arm of the stream we had found margining our route. A substantial, but, as the event proved, not sufficiently high stone fence bounded the whole field. On the upper part a sort of double pound, united by a narrow neck, with a gate at each end, had been constructed of rails upwards of five feet in height. Into the first of these pounds, by ingenious management, all the sale ponies, wild