

Milch cows, in winter, should be kept in dry, moderately warm, but well ventilated quarters; be regularly fed and watered three times a day, salted twice or thrice a week, have clean beds, be curried daily, and in addition to their long provender, they should receive succulent food morning and evening.

#### THE ROSE AND ITS CULTURE.

The rose is "everybody's" flower. The ease with which it is grown makes it so; for it *will* live, as thousands of starved, deformed, sickly plants, put in the out-of-the-way room around the old farm-houses—choked by grass and overrun by weeds, and cropped off by cattle, fully testify. Its beauty makes it a favorite. Eyes whose perceptions are dull in discovering the tasty proportions of form and likeness of color in other flowers, sparkle forth its praises, even when its most perfect developments are seen in the miserable specimens whose parent branches have drawn their sustenance from the same exhausted soil for half a century—dwarfed down to comparative insignificance, and starved into disease. "As beautiful as a rose," has been a commonplace expression from the time to which our memory runneth not back, and it has been uttered with a dignity of expression which fully indicates the force of the comparison it is meant to establish.

Its fragrance justly entitles it to commendation. When the gentle dews of evening drop their richness on its opening petals, it gives back to the stifled air odors rich in luxury and health. And the gentle breezes of morning waft its perfume to gladden and refresh all who inhale its pure and delicious sweets.

It has always been a wonder to us, as much as this plant is professedly admired, as numerous as its claims are, and as easy of cultivation as it is, that it has, by the mass of mankind, received no more attention. True, almost every country door-yard has a bush or two of some humble, unpretending variety, introduced, perhaps, by a female member of the family, who, on advice of "the lord of creation," a class far too apt to suppose that any embellishment to the homestead, beyond a plot of beans or a hill of potatoes, as frustrating the designs of Providence, or as coming directly in opposition to his own utilitarian views of things, has given it a location in a sterile and unfrequented corner, where, struggling with quack grass and pruned by ruminating animals, it struggles on in gloomy uncertainty betwixt life and death—doubting in spring whether its feeble energies can produce a bud or unfold it to a blossom. If it does give a stunted bloom, it is such a sad abortion, compared with what it would produce under favorable circumstances, that it is no wonder that the parent shrub, if it lives at all, lives on unambitious or future beauties and future sweets. Yet every one is loud in their praises of the rose—hailing its beauties with rapture from the first rich tints its opening bud discloses, inhaling its sweets with expanded lungs amid loud panegyrics to its worth, until the beautiful and perfect flower falls into decay.

A beautiful and perfect rose! Will it be charitable to suppose that three-fourths of the population of our country have never seen so rare and fascinating a flower? If they have, it must have

been at some floral exhibition, where they were too much occupied with the beautiful and wonderful exciting things around them, where they gazed in extatic astonishment on things in general, without going into detail of rare and beautiful objects in particular. It is certain the ill-formed, half-starved objects we have alluded to, cannot belong to this class, and it cannot be supposed that more than one in ten of the landholders of this country are in possession of any other.

Now, although there are a large number of varieties of the rose, and many of them approach some other variety of the species so closely that it requires the eye of a connoisseur to trace the difference; and although all may be so cultivated as to become perfect in their variety, yet there are varieties which, constitutionally, will admit of greater perfections than the rest, under similar circumstances. These it should be the object of the cultivator to obtain. Although the first cost may be a trifle greater, they require no more ground and no more labor in cultivation than ordinary and inferior kinds, while one bush of the best will yield more satisfaction than half a dozen sickly, mean, almost good-for-nothing plants.

In its demands on cultivation, the rose is modest in proportion to the remunerative satisfaction it affords. It loves a deep loam; so if the soil is shallow, it should by all means be trenched. If straw or coarse manure is laid in the bottom of the trench, a benefit will be found from the continued lightness of soil it will afford, and by its drainage in taking off superfluous water in heavy storms. The soil round the roots should be kept light and free from weeds. Like all plants and animals, it should have a sufficient territory to occupy, and healthy aliment. To afford a desirable supply of food, rotten manure should be forked into the soil around the roots to give an abundant and healthful wood for next year's bloom. Mulching with leaves or coarse manure, after the ground is put in order for the season, is highly beneficial, as it preserves an equilibrium of cold and heat, dryness and moisture, essential to the health of the plant.

Its greatest enemy of the insect tribe that we know of, is the slug, which fastens on the under side of the leaf, and feasts upon its juices, until it is reduced to a skeleton, disfiguring the plant. The best remedy we know of for its ravages, is found in keeping the plant in good health, so as to insure a vigorous flow of nutritive sap and a firm growth of leaves and wood. With us it has succeeded admirably, and we commend it to all whose bushes are affected with a troublesome and wasting insect.

#### WHICH IS THE BEST GRASS FOR MEADOWS?

*Mr. Editor.*—Which, of all the grasses, is best for meadows? Is a mixture better than one kind? The custom here is to seed down with a mixture of clover, herdsgrass or timothy, and red-top.

The first season, the clover predominates; the second, the herdsgrass; but afterwards the red-top.

As the former dies out, the ground is left partially seeded. It is a well-settled opinion, that red-top is more valuable for hay than herdsgrass; and herdsgrass more valuable than clover.