

milk of the several breeds of cattle kept, for the purpose of determining the quality and quantity of the butter, and how the yield is affected by variations in treatment.

The dairying interests of Iowa are very important, and there are a large number of creameries in different parts of the State, in some of which are manufactured from 4,000 to 5,000 pounds of butter per day during the best part of the season. In all cases the cream only is collected, the skim milk being kept by the farmers for feeding young pigs. Before the establishment of creameries, butter was sold at an average of from 8 to 10 cents per pound, but as soon as creamery butter could be had the quality was so superior that the price went up to 20 cents, which is now about the ruling figure. This difference in price has added several millions of dollars yearly to the revenue of the State from this source. One serious difficulty in prosecuting this business arises from the long drives necessary to collect the cream, sometimes involving a circuit of forty miles. Iowa has about one-third of all the creameries in the United States. The cheese interest is comparatively small.

Field Experiments.

During the past few years many varieties of wheat, oats and corn have been tested; also many sorts of grasses for fodder, and a large proportion of the newer sorts of potatoes, as this is an important section of the root crop in Iowa. Experiments have also been conducted in making sugar from sorghum.

The past year's work in potatoes includes the testing of the comparative value, both in productiveness and quality, of from eighty to ninety varieties. It has been observed that the newer sorts are much more vigorous in their growth, and have almost entirely escaped the rot which has seriously injured the older kinds. Roots are not much grown; bran, which can be bought at from \$8 to \$10 per ton, is thought to be cheaper as food for stock. This is alternated with potatoes, which, it is claimed, can be grown on rich prairie soil at a cost of about 6 cents per bushel.

Horticulture.

It is in horticulture that the work of this institution has been most pre-eminently useful. The climate of Iowa is particularly trying to fruit trees; the hot and dry weather of summer is very injurious to the foliage, while nothing but the hardest character of wood will endure the extreme cold and bitter winds of winter. The hardest varieties of apples grown in other States and in Canada will, as a rule, pass safely through the ordinary winters of Iowa, but an exceptionally cold season occurs every few years, which makes a clean sweep of most of them. Such apples as the Fameuse, Ben Davis, Talman's Sweet, Wealthy and Golden Russet will be killed to the ground in many parts of the State during such extreme winters. These bitter experiences have led the horticulturists of that State to seek to introduce fruits from other quarters of the globe where the conditions of climate are somewhat similar. It