

tested many times, and the weight of evidence (?) seemed to be on the other side of the question. The inventor of the thermometer believed that healthy persons gain two pounds at the beginning of every lunar month. His idea was founded on experiments upon himself, but when the same experiments were tried on a considerable number of persons, the whole theory blows away. Probably Suetonius would have convinced himself to the contrary had he experimented long enough.

It is a prevalent opinion, that more births occur on the decrease than on the increase of the moon. This opinion has been tested by comparing the number of births with the periods of the lunar phases, and it is found that the idea receives new support from the statistics.

Pliny says that eggs should be put to hatch on the new of the moon. Many people think that fowls are more healthy when hatched on the full of the moon. Gircau inclines to the opinion that during the dark nights about new moon, the hens sit so undisturbed that they kill their young or check their development by too much heat; while in moonlight nights being more restless, this effect is not produced. But I am told by an old lady who has raised poultry, that she has never been able to discover any difference in favor of the new or full moon. Certainly fifty years' experiments by a lady who was willing to discard the popular notions of her time are entitled to our respect.

In conclusion, it appears that of all the lunar influences popularly supposed to be exercised upon the earth, few, if any, have any foundation in fact. If the moon thus governs the world, it must be in one of these ways:

First, by her gravity or attraction; *secondly*, by her heat; and *thirdly*, by her light.

With regard to her *attraction*, we say that inasmuch as she produces not the least tidal effect on the atmosphere, she cannot, by her gravity, effect trees, vegetation, persons, animals or disease.

With regard to her *heat*, we say that it does not amount to the thousandth part of a degree, and hence can have no appreciable influence.

With regard to her *light*, we say that it has no more influence than any other light, on the same or similar substances.

SILESIA SHEEP—*Good Fleeces*.—At a shearing of a portion of the Silesian sheep imported last August, by CHAMBERLAIN, CAMPBELL & LADD, which took place recently at the residence of the first named gentlemen in Red Hook, Dutchess Co., N. Y., the weights of several fleeces, as well as the carcasses from which they were shorn, were noted, and are worthy of being chronicled. The average weight of eight unwashed fleeces, from ewes which had suckled lambs during the winter, was 8lbs. 1 oz. The average weight of the carcasses of the same ewes was about 78 lbs. Considering the fineness of the wool, and its high market value, this is a wonderful result,—for it will be seen that, after deducting 33¼ per cent. from the fleeces, they will average 5 lbs 6 oz. of clean, merchantable wool. The sheep shorn were not the best of the flock: A five year old buck, shorn at the same time, produced a fleece (of 13 months growth) weighing 14 lbs. 12 oz.; weight of carcass, 125 lbs. Messrs. C., C & L., say they will cleanse the fleece of this ram, for dollars and cents, in proportion to carcass against any fleece of only 13 months growth, shorn from any rams of any age in America.

THE MILKMAID AND THE BANKEE.

A milk maid with a very pretty face,
Who lived at Acton,
Had a black cow, the ugliest in the place,
A crooked-backed one,
A beast as dangerous, too, as she was frightful,
Vicious and spiteful,
And so confirmed a truant, that she bounded
Over the hedges daily, and got pounded.
'T was all in vain to tie her with a tether,
For then the cow and cord eloped together.

Armed with an oaken bough (what folly!
It should have been of birch or thorn or holly,)
Patty, one day, was driving home the beast,
Which had, as usual, slipped its anchor,
When on the road she met a certain banker,
Who stopped to give his eyes a feast
By gazing on her features, crim-soned high
By a long cow-chase in July.

"Are you from Acton, pretty lass?" he cried;
"Yes," with a curtesy, she replied.
"Why then you know the laundress, Sally Wench?"
"She is my cousin, sir, and next door neighbor."
"That's lucky, I've a message for the wench,
Which needs despatch, and you may save my
labor.
Give her this kiss, my dear, and say I sent it,
But mind, you owe me one,—I've only lent it."

"She shall know," cried the girl, as she brandish'd
her bough,
"Of her bel-ving intentions you bore me;
But as to the kiss, as there's haste, you'll allow
That you'd better run forward, and give it my cow,
For she, at the rate she is scampering now,
Will reach Acton some minutes before me."

RULES FOR MAKING BUTTER.—The Massachusetts Committee on Dairies says:—"Your Committee, having had much experience in butter-making, offer the following rules as the result of their experience. The newer and sweeter the cream, the sweeter and higher flavored will be the butter. The air must be fresh and pure in the room or cellar where the milk is set. The cream should not remain on the milk over thirty-six hours. Keep the cream in tin pails or stone jars, into which put a spoonful of salt at the beginning, then stir the cream lightly every morning and evening—this will prevent it from moulding or souring. Churn as often as once a week, and as often as circumstances will permit. Upon churning add the cream upon all the milk in the dairy. Use nearly an ounce of salt to a pound of butter. Work the butter over twice, to free it from the buttermilk and brine, before lumping or packing. Be sure that it is entirely free from every particle of buttermilk, and it will keep as long as desired. In Scotland a syphon is sometimes used to separate the milk from the cream, instead of skimming the pans."

INJURY TO WHEAT BY RAIN.—Mr. John Johnston, near Geneva, N. Y., writes us that the loss in wheat in Western New York, by weight, in consequence of the rain, will be from eight to eleven pounds to the bushel, and that the loss by shelling was great. He says "I have no doubt that from 30 to 40 per cent. of all the wheat that was out in the rains, is lost to the farmer. Some of my neighbors have had some new wheat ground, and say it scarcely makes thirty pounds of flour to the bushel, which is worse than I ever knew before."