

## RICHMONDSHIRE FARMER'S CLUB.

The following have been the subjects discussed during the year 1843, and the decisions respectively recorded thereon:—

On Thursday, the 16th of March, the subject was, "The best method of managing Ewes, especially during the lambing season." **THE DECISION:**—"That at all seasons of the year, the greatest care should be taken that the ewes are depastured on the soundest land; that for a few weeks previous to the rams being put amongst them, and during the time that he is with them, they should be extremely well kept; that, when the flock is extensive and the blood valuable, it is desirable to employ a teaser, as by this means the services of the ram may be made more available (some breeders having used the same ram successfully for 120 ewes in one season,) and a better crop of lambs is ensured; that at the time of lambing great attention is necessary, but at the same time great caution should be used by the shepherd in rendering any assistance, (upon which point several valuable remarks were made by the medical men present;) and that for the first few days, shelter is of much benefit. Quiet and retired pastures were much recommended for them whilst in lamb, and hay and corn to be given in preference to turnips as extra food." There was some difference of opinion as to whether any extra food should be given, prior to their producing their young; but, if any was given, that dry food was preferable to green. A very good plan was suggested by a member for numbering the ewes previous to the ram being used, and having the date of each ewe placed opposite to her No. in a book; by which means the flock may be afterwards divided, and their food given at the discretion of the owner. It was stated that the interval between the ewes being in use, was from fourteen to seventeen days; and that it continued for two days.—Introduced by Mr. James Bell.

On Thursday, the 18th of April, the subject was, "The properties and application of Lime." Upon this subject there was apparently much difference of opinion, and many contradictory statements were made by the members present; but which a change of locality, and a better knowledge of cause and effect, would most probably have cleared up. On the whole it seemed to be the general opinion of the meeting, that by discretion in the time and mode of application, and by previously ascertaining the qualities of the lime, and the wants of the land, to which it is to be applied, lime may be used very beneficially as a fertilizer; that this information is of the more consequence when applied to arable land, where very general disappointment arises by applying the lime too near to the time of sowing. On grass lands the application of lime seldom fails in its effect, by improving the quality of the herbage, if it does not much increase the quantity.—Introduced by Mr. T. Smurthwaite, of Holme House.

On Thursday, the 8th of June, the subject was, "The prevention and treatment of the Foul and Foot-rot in Cattle or Sheep." **THE DECISION:**—"That foot-rot is in a great measure prevented by not confining sheep to rich, damp pastures; and that a cure is effected by a free use of the knife, and an application of nitric acid, antimony, or blue vitriol, diluted with water." Aperient medicine was recommended. The meeting was divided in opinion, whether lambs or old sheep were more liable to foot-rot, and it was agreed that sheep having been once infected, are more liable to a return of it. In case of foul, it was recommended to wash the feet affected perfectly clean, and apply tar and salt, or the antimony, &c., as in cases of foot-rot.—Introduced by Mr. J. Fryer, of Kirby Fleetham.

On Thursday, the 6th of July, the subject was, "The best method of making Hay." **THE DECISION:**—"That, if grass should be cut before the seed is ripe; that, the weather be fine, it should be strewed immediately—but that it takes less harm in swath in bad weather; that on all occasions lap-cocking is recommended, and that great care is to be taken in making them hollow in the middle; that clover should be rucked, but that it should be half-dry prior to the operation." Hay barns are exten-

sively used, in some districts they are recommended, and in certain localities indispensable.—Introduced by Mr. Jno. Outhwaite.

On Thursday, the 7th of December, the subject was, "The best method of managing Farm-yard Manure."—**THE DECISION:**—"That, in order to secure the greatest quantity of this indispensable article to the farmer, animal and vegetable substances of every description shall be collected and deposited at the bottom of the fold-yard, or other proposed situation for the dung-hill; that the urine or liquid constantly escaping from the heap, if not preserved in tanks for particular use, should be collected in trenches, or other temporary contrivances, near to the dung-hill, and regularly thrown over them. That in leading out manure from the folds into the fields, a ploughing field should be selected for the pie; and if not wanted for application during the space of three months, that it be placed together in as solid a state as possible, (some gentlemen even recommended carting over the heap,) and covered over with soil, in order to keep in the gases and salts, supposed to be the most valuable portions of the manure. And that, in forming the pies or heaps the manure from the different folds, and from animals living in different ways, should be carefully mixed and blended together."—Introduced by Mr. Turner.

**FACTS ON BUTTER AND CHEESE.**—The mixture of the azotised and non-azotised compounds (gluten and starch) that exists in wheat flour, seems to be that which is most useful to men; and hence we see the explanation of the fact that, from very early ages, bread has been regarded as the "staff of life." In regard to the nutritious properties of different articles of vegetable food, these may be generally measured by the proportion of the azote they contain, which is in almost every instance less than that which exists in good wheat flour. But it must not be forgotten that owing to the varieties of constitution which have been pointed among different animals, the power of particular substances to nourish men and cattle is not the same, the latter requiring a larger proportion of the saccharine and oleaginous compounds than is beneficial to him, especially when it is an object to cause a large quantity of fatty matter to be deposited in their tissues, or to be exerted in milk. Thus potatoes are found to increase the proportion of butter in the milk of a cow that feeds upon them; their starch being probably converted into fatty matter. It has also been shown by recent experiments, the proportion of butter in the milk of a cow allowed to feed during the day in a pasture, and shut up at night in a warm stall, was much greater in the morning milk than in the evening; the former containing 5-6 parts of butter in 100, and the latter only 2-7 parts: this was evidently due to the diminished demand for the materials of respiration during the night, when the body was at rest and the skin kept warm. The experiment was then tried of keeping the cow in a shed during the day, and feeding her with the same grass, and the proportion of butter in her evening milk then rose to 51 parts in 100. But this plan diminished the proportion of casein or cheesy matter in the milk; which was increased by allowing the cow to pasture in the open field. Hence it appears that stall-feeding is most favourable to the production of butter, and pasturing to that of cheese.—*Carpenter's An. Phil.*

**CHEESE-MAKING.**—Mr. Arkwright having had a series of observations instituted in his dairy at Sutton, on the conditions under which the process of making cheese is most favourably conducted, and of the changing circumstances of stock, pasture, temperature, and weather affecting the quality and amount of cheese produced, had found that a certain combination of such circumstances induced in their occurrence almost an invariable result. On the completion of the enquiries he would communicate the details to the Society, presenting to the Council in the meantime the tabulated observations of the past year, which were received with thanks and referred to the Journal Committee.