

harvest: in the English autumn nothing but burning will ensure their destruction.

Escutcheons.—Did I mention that Professor Brown and Dr. Hoskins agreed with me in my opinion that the theory of the milking qualities of a cow being indicated by the arrangement of a certain portion of the hair between the thighs is rubbish? Dr. Hoskins told me that the American Jersey Association had erased all marks for the escutcheon from their list of points given as a guide to the judges.

I see that Mr. Edward Burnett, a dealer in Jerseys, states in the *Country Gentleman* that he has bought for his patrons more than \$50,000 worth of cows, and that he has never been once guided in his selection by the escutcheon. "Neither I," adds he, "nor any one else can understand it." It is high time this absurdity was exploded. I have never met with one practical farmer who believed in it.

Ranche losses.—I made a slight mistake in the January number in speaking of the Cochran Rancho losses. Since I wrote, I have seen Dr. McEachran again, and he tells me that the acclimatised cattle have done well enough, but that the *Pilgrims*, by which I understand the Montana and other States' cattle brought into the N. W. Territory, suffered to the extent of 20%, and, which is far more important, out of three thousand calves born on the rancho, there were only fifteen hundred that survived. And yet the *Montreal Star*, in a recent issue, speaks of the great success which the ranches have met with this season!

Curtis on sheep.—Mr. F. D. Curtis, a constant correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, esteems it a blessing "when the snow spreads its mantle over the frost-bitten grass. After the grass has been frozen and turned brown it has lost its value as food, and any kind stock will rapidly grow poor if compelled to live upon it. I found this out years ago. A flock of sheep were brought up and divided. A portion of them were put into stables and fed for fattening, and the others, in good condition were turned out to graze in the fields. The snow was a long time coming that year, and as the store sheep looked full every day, I thought they were doing well, and so much fodder was saved. When winter came and they were put up, I am sure they had run down one-half in weight. It must have been a steady and rapid decline from the time the grass was stricken with frost."

A most remarkable statement, this of Mr. Curtis, and worthy of looking into as a curiosity of farm-writing. In the first place, I should like to know what kind of a shepherd Mr. Curtis keeps: does he never handle a sheep to see how it is doing? A sheep may look full enough to the eye and yet be doing badly. A good shepherd would pass his hand over a sheep here and there at least every other day, and this without disturbing their repose, as sheep well looked after are very tame creatures. Besides, the mere look of a sheep's eye, and the carriage of its head will always tell of its thriving or not to an accustomed inspector. If in my flock-master days, I had found that my man had allowed my sheep to "run down one-half in weight," I should have set that man to keep the birds off the grain, or to something more suited to his capacity than taking care of a flock of sheep. Would Mr. Curtis allow the frost-bitten grass to go to waste? Did he never hear of such a thing as supplying the defects of an inferior food by a small quantity of richer food? A few pease or oats, say, half a pint a day, a head, with a pound or so if pease-straw or clover cut into chaff, would have corrected the quality of the grass, and enabled the sheep to utilise the whole of it.

Are we to waste all the grass that may remain in our

pastures after the first frosts? By no means; but let us use it with discretion. I do not advise its consumption by cows, seeing that it often scours them, but sheep can eat it with impunity, and, aided by other, food it will be an economy to give it them.

It is owing to such ill-considered statements as these of Mr. Curtis, that farmers have such an aversion to and contempt for *book-farming*.

Cow-feeding in 1811.—Messrs. Rhodes and Laycock were the chief purveyors of milk to the Londoners in or about the year 1811. The cows kept were of the Holderness breed—the original shorthorns.—At 3 A. M. each cow had half a bushel of grains; at four they were milked; a bushel of turnips was then given to each cow, and very soon afterward, they had some soft green grassy hay—56 lbs. between ten cows.—At 12, noon, they had more grains, and at 3 P. M. they had more turnips, followed by hay. This mode of feeding was continued during the turnip season, from September to May. During the summer the cows were fed on grains, cabbages, tares, and rowen, or after-grass hay. When they were turned out to grass, they were kept in the pasture all night, but even then they were fed with grains. Mr. Laycock, who kept about 600 cows, some of which cost him the, then, enormous price of £25 each, used to *store up in pits* as much as 80,000 bushels of grains in one season! The average yield of his cows was nine quarts a day throughout the year equal to about 350 lbs. of butter! This, I fancy, is about the earliest known practice of the system of ensilage. Talking of cows, there is a curious legend at Islington of a cowkeeper named Pullen, who was continually trying to get together one thousand cows, but that one always died, keeping his number down to nine hundred and ninety-nine!

Milk-cows at Quebec.—In looking over the list of prizes awarded at the provincial exhibition held this autumn at Quebec, I was struck with the discrepancy between the official list and the list printed in the daily papers. The official list, sent me in the French language, runs as follows:

MILK-COWS.

1st prize, W. A. Reburn, Ste. Anne de Bellevue; 2nd prize, Thos. Brown, Petite Côte, Montreal; 3rd prize, James Drummond, *ex æquo*, Petite Côte, Montreal; 3rd prize, Elzéar Marcotte, *ex æquo*, Portneuf, Quebec.

By this it will be seen that Messrs. Drummond and Elzéar Marcotte divided the third prize. Referring the matter to Mr. James Cheesman, the judge of the Milk-cow competition, and explaining my doubt of the correctness of the official list, I received the following reply:

Drawer 2678, Toronto—Nov. 15th, 1887.

Dear Jenner Fust,—Your impression was quite correct. Only three prizes were awarded: 1st, Reburn; 2nd, Brown; 3rd, Drummond.

With kind regards,

JAMES CHEESMAN.

In my translation, in the Journal for December, I took the liberty of diverging from the French original by giving: James Drummond, 3rd prize; Elzéar Marcotte, 4th prize; thinking that perhaps the phrase *ex æquo* would not be understood. I do not think our Scotch friends would grudge a prize to a French-Canadian, but it is just as well that errors of this kind should be corrected, as if they are once allowed to go free, there is no knowing how far they may extend.

The Journal.—I do not know whether I ought to mention