

says:—"I had 56 tons, 25 pounds of ears of corn. I regretted I could not spare time to weigh the stalks, when dry. On the whole it was the best crop I ever saw." A part of the field had been under-drained with tile. Mr. J. states that this produced far the best corn, though before it was drained it would neither bear grain nor good grass.—*Id.*

REMARKABLE PIG.—At the time of the Pittsfield (Mass.) cattle show and fair last fall, we saw a very fine pig, belonging to Mr. F. A. Willis, of that town; and learning from him that he was keeping an account of the food it consumed, we solicited the result for publication. It appears from his statement, that the pig was slaughtered the 20th December last, and that her dressed weight was 460½ lbs. Deducting from this amount four pounds, which it was supposed the pig would weigh when she was dropped, leaves a gain of about one pound seven ounces per day, during her life. Her food was the skimmed milk from one cow, with oat and rye meal mixed. Mr. Willis owned her 217 days; and when he bought her she weighed 20 lbs.—her gain in that time was therefore 435 lbs. The grain or meal was all purchased, and the actual cost of everything consumed, excepting the waste slops of the family, was a fraction less than \$20, or about four and a quarter cents per pound.—*Id.*

LARGE YIELD OF BUTTER.—Mr. John Lossing, of this city has furnished us with the following account of the butter produced in seven days by a short horned cow owned by him. She calved the fore part of December; her calf was taken off at about a week old, and in the seven days succeeding, her milk afforded fourteen pounds of butter, besides the milk and cream used in a family of five persons. The food consumed by the cow in the seven days was as follows: fourteen small bundles of top-stalks, three bushels brewer's grains, half a bushel ruta-baga turnips, four quarts shorts." The milk used in the family is considered equivalent to one pound of butter.—*Id.*

ICE HOUSES.—Since ice has been regarded an article of necessity, almost as much as a luxury, during the enervating and oppressive heats of our long summers, so much has been written on the construction of ice houses, it may be presumed that but little can be said on the subject which is new. We still remain unaltered in our opinion (see p. 280, of our fourth volume), that the success of keeping ice depends entirely on a dry atmosphere, through drainage, and free, uninterrupted ventilation. We condemn the practice of constructing any part of the main chamber, or receptacle for the ice, below the surface of the ground, or of attempting to screen the roof of the house from the sun by the planting of trees. It will be remembered that we have already remarked

that shade trees attract moisture, and that moisture melts ice ten times as fast as a hot wind or its exposure to the sun. Neither do we approve of the sides and back of the ice house being of earth, as that is moist too; and, instead of preserving the ice, as is often believed, it has a tendency to cause it to melt. An ice house, then, may be placed in an open, airy situation, on the bank of a lake or stream, or any other convenient spot, above the level of the ground, with good drainage and perfect ventilation. If well filled with solid blocks of ice, cut out of as large dimensions as convenient—for the larger they are the better they keep—these are all the essentials requisite to ensure complete success. As a proof of this, we have only to refer our readers to the buildings on Rockland Lake, near the west bank of the Hudson, and the old Congregational meeting house, at Wenham Lake, between Ipswich and Salem, in Massachusetts. These buildings are all of wood, lined with sawdust or tan bark, and standing high and entirely above the ground. It is the same with the large public ice houses in this city.

The best, cheapest, and safest mode of constructing an ice house for this country, is, to make a wooden frame, with posts about a foot thick and six or eight feet high, and then to plank up inside and out, filling the space between with sawdust, tan bark, or pulverized charcoal, over which a roof should be built with a pitch of at least 45°, made of rough slabs, small saplings, or other materials, and finally well thatched with straw of a thickness of twelve inches to a foot and a half. Whether the soil be porous or not, we would construct a plank or slab floor, about a foot above the ground, sufficiently open to admit a free passage of all the melted ice. Beneath the floor, a ditch may be dug, running the entire length of the house, and leading to a lower level, perhaps of the adjoining stream; or, instead of this ditch, a deep cellar may be formed with proper drains, and one of Kephart's fruit preservers substituted for the floor of the house. The entrance doors, one at each end of the building, should be double, with a foot space between each, and trap doors to be opened when the weather is dry, and always to be closed when the air is damp or moist. The dimensions of the house should not be less than 13 by 20 feet with 6 foot posts.

Preparatory to filling the ice house, the floor should be covered with a bed of straw about a foot thick for the ice to rest upon. The operation of storing may commence as early in the season as the thickness of the ice will admit. The blocks may be sawed out about two feet square, and laid up like masonry, in a solid mass, impenetrable to the sun and air; and when the house is filled, the ice should be carefully covered up with a thick coating as they throw in, and thus make the whole into a compact mass.—*American Agriculturist, Feb. 1848.*