



Sheep-feeding off rape—(Dec. 7th, 1884) v. last No. of the JOURNAL.

the quantity of milk they produce ; others for the high quality or richness of their milk, which means butter producers. Some combine quantity and quality in a specially economical way, under some circumstances. There are cows of active habits, which forage well on a wide range of scanty pasture, and will profitably work up the coarser kinds of food in winter. There are others which have proved their capacity for making good returns when more closely confined and subjected to high feeding. Some cows give a great flow of milk for a comparatively short season, and others are noted for an even, steady yield of milk throughout the whole year. The dairyman can easily find cattle, therefore, adapted to his particular wants. As a rule, the different dairy characteristics named pertain to different breeds, so that every dairyman is likely to find some one breed of dairy cattle better suited to his wants than any other. Yet in the matter of breeding, no matter how strong one's convictions, discretion must be exercised. Evidence abounds on every side, and every dairyman that is, or is to be, can satisfy himself as to the cattle he should adopt, if he will but make a proper study of the subject. He need not go far in this country to find the best kind or breed of cows for milk supply, the best for butter making, or the best for the cream trade. There is no special cheese-making cow ; the best butter cow is also the best for cheese (where cheese factories

pay by the test) ; this fact has been demonstrated beyond dispute.

A dairy herd may be formed in two very different ways, and its size and quality maintained. It may be done by buying or by breeding, and these two methods may be combined. The former plan is adopted largely by those who produce milk for town and city supply. Applied in its extreme form, cows are bought when mature and at their prime, judged almost exclusively by their milk yield, are highly fed so as to keep steadily gaining in flesh, and are sold, usually to the butcher, as soon as they cease to be profitable milkers. The bull in this case may be of any kind so long as he gets the cows in calf, and the calves are valued only as causing "fresh" cows, and are got rid of as soon as possible. The first modification of this system is to keep extra good cows for several seasons, and the next, to raise heifers from some of the best milkers to replenish the herd. This way of making up a herd and keeping good its numbers, requires plenty of capital and rare judgment in buying and selling. It can not be recommended to one lacking experience, and even the shrewdest buyer runs great risk of bringing disease into his herd.

The other extreme is to begin with a few well-selected animals as a foundation, and gradually build up the herd to the size desired, by judicious breeding and natural increase. This method takes