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THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE, published in our last number, not having been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, were only given as a matter of information.

Notes by the Way.

May 1st, 1893.

CLOVER.—Does the seed of white-clover, like the seed of charlock—wild mustard—lie in the ground for years without sprouting? If not, why does a dressing of certain matters bring it up in abundance?

Many years ago, in 1849, if our memory serves us, a meadow near our house in England that had been mown yearly for season after season, gave up growing the clovers altogether. There was nothing but orchard-grass, sweet-scented meadow grass, with a little perennial rye-grass and plenty of ox-eyed daisies, but no creeping

clover — *trifolium medium*, — white-clover, or trefoil, i. e., yellow-clover. We dressed the meadow with a mixture of lime and road-scrappings, and the following year, the meadow was completely restored, the different clovers having evidently received the food that suited them. The following extract from the London "Field" would seem to show that basic-slag has the same effect.

CLOVER WITHOUT SOWING SEEDS.

SIR,—I have read, with great interest, in your issue of April, the letter of your correspondent H. E. on the improvement of pastures, and I may say that I have had a good deal of experience, if not in improving pastures, at least of trying to do so. In some cases I have succeeded fairly well, but according to your correspondent, a rough, poor arable field, left unploughed for two years, with all the weeds known growing at random, can, without let or hindrance, without grass or clover seeds being sown, after a dressing of 6 cwt. of basic slag to the acre, become a sheet of white clover. A most desirable transformation scene! I can understand this dressing improving the grass; but not to the extent of making the field a clover field, nor have I ever seen such an example of a self-sown pasture, though I have travelled far and wide. I should like to know whose basic slag was employed to produce the clover, as no seeds were sown, and whether, either in Sussex or any other county, a similar result has elsewhere been obtained. If so, I need hardly say I shall be busy next week dressing the self-sown fields with basic slag. I shall be glad of any information from H. E., or, indeed, from any of your readers on the subject.

MARDEN PARK.

A PROLIFIC EWES—M. J. Maxtone Graham, sends an account of marvelous fecundity in a ewe, half-bred Leicester-Blackface. On the 14th April she lambed down 4 ram- and 2 ewe lambs, five of which she is suckling, and the sixth is being brought up "on the bottle," as the farmer's wife, fancying it was rather cold after its birth, took it in to the kitchen fire, and the dam refused, very wisely, to have anything to do with it when the lamb was returned to the pen. It seems that plurality of births are very rife in Britain this spring.

A CURIOSITY IN BREEDING.—Mr Fowler, a well known shorthorn breeder, bought, at Betts' sale, a cow in-calf to Grand Duke IV. She produced a bull-calf, Royal Duke, the worst specimen of a shorthorn Mr. Fowler ever had on his place. His pedigree was so good, that in spite of his mean looks he was used as a sire, and his son, Lord Eglinton and his daughter Lady Eglinton, were among the most noted winners of their day!

CROSS-BRED SHORTHORNS AND JERSEYS.—Side by side, in M. Bouthillier's cowhouse, at Bloury, St. Thérèse, stand two heifers. When we visited the herd, we asked the owner if the larger one of the two was not a half-bred Jersey and shorthorn; the reply was in the affirmative, of course, for the double type was distinct. "But how is her companion bred?" asked M. Bouthillier; "well," we replied, "she looks like a large Jersey. If we were to guess, we should say that there may have been a cross somewhere of some kind, but what cross we cannot say." The heifer turned out to be by the same Jersey bull as her companion, out of another

shorthorn cow! Colour, black switch, an almost typical Jersey, she was as different in appearance from her half-sister as a Devon is from a Welsh cow. Can any biologist account for this?

LEAN MEAT.—Small, fine bone and thickness of lean meat rarely go together. Those who are trying to supply packers with a better stamp of pig than those that have been in use heretofore, had better note this. If a good carcass of mixed lean and fat is wanted; and every bacon curer is crying out for such now; stout-boned sows and boars should be bred from. We well remember the disgust we used to feel when our sales' note from the London markets used to come back with the observation from the salesman: Not enough lean meat. The pigs sent—about 120 annually—were high-bred Suffolks, with very fine bone.

SHEEP.—Every one who has visited England will remember the mutton-chops he ate there. Many a Montrealer has said to the writer, during the last few years, "Are we never to eat a real mutton-chop here?" The reply of course was: "No, you will never taste such a thing in its perfection until the farmers take to breeding short-wools more extensively, and the butchers learn that a mutton-chop is not cut from the long bones of the neck." The best chop is from the saddle, cut about 1½ inch thick, right across the two loins that compose the saddle. It should be cut with a saw, not with the knife.

MANGELS FOR COWS.—A correspondent of the Rural New-Yorker wants to know if mangels are injurious to cows, as he has lost several and his veterinary surgeon says their deaths were caused by eating mangels! We beg to assure the Editor of the Rural—he asks for information on the subject—that if experience teaches anything, mangels are the most harmless of foods for all kinds of stock. Millions of tons are given every year by English farmers to their milch cows, and we never heard of any complaints arising from their use. We ourselves have had no little experience in cow-feeding, and we never found mangels anything but beneficial to our stock, though our friend and farm-tutor, the late William Rigden, had an idea that the formation of a curious crystalline substance in the urethra of his show-rams was due to the mangels they received after the other roots were done.

CLOVER-HAY.—What is the good of sowing 2 or 3 pounds of clover to the acre, as I regret to see too many of the competitors in the competition of Agricultural Merit are in the habit of doing. Seven pounds of red-clover with timothy, and fourteen pounds when sown alone, are about the proper quantities. And in making clover-hay, cut it when the majority of heads are in full bloom, but before there is the least sign of the blossom turning brown. Above all, if the crop is heavy, and shows signs of going down, cut it at once; the leaf will be smothered, if the clover is allowed to stand, and drop off,—the leaf is the most valuable part of this plant.

BARLEY.—At the last meeting of the Council of Agriculture, Mr Andrew Dawes, of Lachine, "drew the attention of the Council to the bad results obtained from the sowing he had made of 2-rowed barley lately imported from Europe." In 1862, we were working the brewery at Chambly, and as we did not much fancy the 6-rowed barley the farmers in that

neighbourhood were in the habit of growing, we imported from Hertfordshire England, a lot of superb Chovavaler 2-rowed barley which we distributed among our customers, gratis, to persuade them to grow it. The first year's crop produced a miserable, thin, hard sample, and many farmers refused to grow it again; but those who persevered were rewarded for their patience, as the second year's crop was very fine, and the third weighed nearly as much as the original, i. e. 57 lbs. a bushel. The quality, as malt-ing-barley was, as are all 2-rowed barley grown here, inferior to the original.

HUNGARIAN GRASS.—Where the seeds of the previous year's sowing fail, Hungarian grass is a very fair substitute. Sowing 30 lbs. an acre, in June, will, if the land be in decent order, both as to manure and cultivation, bring a fair cut of hay in August. Mow very early, as this grass, if the blossom is allowed to die, will be as hard as a stick.

THE DAIRY-ASSOCIATION.—The Eleventh Report of the Dairymen's Association, now soon to be published, will be found very interesting reading. The discussion on the various subjects treated by the lecturers are worthy of all consideration, particularly those on "Butter-packages" and on "French-cheese." During my visit to St. Thérèse in April, I found that the farmers of that district were highly pleased with the instruction afforded them at the convention; and a most intelligent foreman, or bailiff as we should call him in England, told me that he had no idea before that so much was to be learnt on the subject of feeding cows and preparing the milk-products.

SWINE.—Feeding young pigs in a clover field is good, but perhaps it would be better to cut the clover and give it to the swine in a well littered yard. In spite of the large quantity of nitrogenous matter in clover, I would recommend that a few pease be added to it for the young ones, as the plant in its immature condition is rather washy, and the pease would tend to firm the flesh, and promote the growth of lean meat.

CAPONS.—If any of our readers has tried the caponising of his young cockerels, we should be glad to hear from him on the subject. If the job were a difficult one, it could not be so commonly performed by the wives and daughters of our Surrey and Sussex small farmers.

The Farm.

CLOVER-SICKNESS.

A month ago, we mentioned that a well known correspondent of the "Country Gentleman," Mr Terry, sneered at the idea that there was any such thing as "clover sickness," treating it as a malady many people had heard of but no one had ever seen.

On February, 3rd 1887, a letter appeared in the same paper, from Mr A. P. Root, which established the fact that in the soils of the United-States, clover-sickness prevailed wherever clover had been too long grown, or had been too frequently repeated. Mr Root described the results just as they occur elsewhere. First, the benefit which the wheat derives from the growing of clover; next, the benefit clover derives from land-plaster; and finally, the inability to grow clover,