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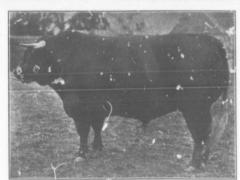
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First prize Sussex Bull, Hoyal show, 1996. Bred and owned by the Earl of Derby.
(See letter press for description of Sussex cattle.)

Our English Letter

Weather, Crops and Stock—Wheat Growing and Electricity—

October 6, 1906.

The gentle soaking rain of the beginning of this month came as a welcome, and in one sense of the word, as a pleasant change in the weather. Everywhere rain was needed, and it has done an enormous amount of good, but we still want more of it, and it is not unlikely that the present month will fully replenish the springs and wells. In various districts water has to be carted long distances for stock, while the heavier soils need a thorough soaking to bring them into even a moderately workable condition Under such conditions as we have experienced during September wheat sowing is more than usually difficult There is apparently no chance of sow ing in mud as our old saws direct, and the problem is complicated by the extraordinary hardness of the subwhich seems as solid as a rock and would probably prove impervious to the heaviest rainfall. Wheat thrives in a moderately stiff bottom, but this too solid for anything, and prob ably many who would now be usually thinking about drilling wheat wil prefer to await the winter's frost rather than entrust anything to ground in so intractable a condition. Stock-breeders' prospects for the coming winter are assuming a very

Stock-breeders' prospects for the coming winter are assuming a very serious aspect, so much so as to affect the price and demand for milch cows. In thousands of cases it is absolutely essential that these should be purchased, as too many of the milk contracts are so absolutely binding that the dairyman has no means of extributes of the contracts of the contracts of the contracts of the contracts are so absolutely binding that the dairyman has no means of extributes of the contracts of the contracts of the contract of the

WHEAT GROWING AIDED BY ELECTRICITY
Wheat grown by the aid of electricity was one of the remarkable
products on view at the recent bakers'

exhibition. The grains of the wheat were remarkably large and well flavored, and we were told that the cost of treatment was more than covered by the increased yield. In addition to this we were assured that the nitroan ordinary English grain proving to be of such strength as to be satisfactorily worked alone.

The system under which it was grown was that running across the top and bottom of a fitteen acre field, at a height of 15 feet from the ground, were thick cables charged with electricity, while stretched lengthwise between the two, and about 12 feet apart, were smaller cables. Electricity was thus discharged into the air over and absorbed by the plant and conveyed by the roots to the soil. The result was that the growth was stimulated, the grain ripened earlier, and the crop was some 30 to 40 per cent. larger. We are promised more data lager on, but the flour made from the wheat was so white that it almost appeared to have been bleached. The authorities at one of the universities ments, and further light will be thrown on the matter as soon as definite results are assured.

CARROTS AND THE COLOR OF BUTTER

An experiment was carried out at Wye College to ascertain (1) how long a period it takes before a change in color becomes marked; (2) what is the minimum quantity of carrots required to alter the tint; (3) will a mixture of carrots and mangles answer the same purpose; (4) what effects have carrots on the churning character of the cream, the quality of the butter and the percentage of fat in the milk.

For the experiment four Lincoln Red Shorthorn cows were picked out, the animals having calved down a few months previously. Two of the animals were fed upon 28 lbs. of carrots and their ordinary allowance of cake neal and hay. Two others were fed in a similar way, mangolds being substituted for carrots. The records were taken in February and March,

and the feeding reversed, i.e., carrots being substituted after the first month of the trial. A brief summary of the results is as follows: Length of time before the effect on the color of the butter is apparent. Butter made from carrot-fed cows, first week very slight difference compared with that of mangold-fed cows. Second week, diference more marked, less time occupied in churning and better grain and flavor. Third week, a very good high colored butter considering the time of

On reversing the order of feeding it was noticed that the color was maintained in a diminishing degree over two or possibly three weeks, whereas the cows that had previously had mangolds responded slightly to their change of food, and would no doubt have done much the same as the other cattle. The experiment did not last long enough to finally answer the question as to how few carrots will give the required tint, but had in the control of the control o

THE MERITS OF SUSSEX CATTLE

The Sussex Herd Book Society has published an interesting booklet on "The Merits of Sussex Cattle." Few breeds, if any, trace back their origin further than the Sussex. As long ago as 1700, when Arthur Young wrote his remarkable series of letters, published in his "Annals of Agriculture." they were recognized as a well established breed of very high repute, and were in the hands of capable breeders, for he reports an experiment in feeding which proves that the breed then had a remarkable proclivity for rapid fattening. Summing up their merits he declared that "Sussex oxen are as remarkable for the fineness of their hides as they are for the closeness and delicacy of their flesh. The breed is in great favor on siblands of Sussex, Kent and Surrey, comprising as this does all qualities of grazing land from the poorest to the strongest. It is on the former that they are mainly bred and on the latter finished off for the butcher.

In the olden time, indeed down to a very recent period the steers were largefy used for draught purposes in cultivating the land and clearing the produce of the woods, for which these powerful oxen were admirably adapted, as with their constant and steady pull they were able to move reat weights with few breakages. It is probable that as the cuttle were so much used in their native districts for the produce of the produce of the state of the s

figures of cond and exposure and of furnishing a good carcase of beef after its working career. Absolutely red in color they are esteemed one of the hardiest of our breeds, and for their ability to thrive and do well under the most unfavor-