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OFFICIAL PART.

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DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

July 1st, 1888.

Small vs. large cows.—A correspondent, who has devoted much time and study to the investigation of this question, says, in a note on some observations of mine in the Journal: "The smaller the animal, the more food per cent of live weight required to sustain life, but also, the greater effort made to digest similar food and to turn it into satisfactory use. However, butter being mostly carbon, is it not possible that the active, nervous little *mother* will secure more of that from the same quantity of life sustaining food?" From the same, on "Contests of Dairy-cattle": The true difficulty in such competitions is the proof of a given total quantity of milk

of a given quality in the year, with the total quantity of elements of food required to produce such equally rich milk. Competitions, therefore, can only be valuable where the animals can be compared for a lengthened period."

The Guénon theory, my friend says, is by no means exploded. "I have never seen a really good milch-cow without a good escutcheon. All admit that there must be room for the udder, and breadth behind, and when these are found they are always accompanied by a good escutcheon; at least, it strikes me so."

Butter-fat in milk.—Again, on this subject: "What seems to vary in milk is butter-fat alone. All the analyses I have observed—I am not always a good observer—show about the same per centage of casein and sugar, taking the year round. But the fat varies from 2%, to even 13% in those exceptional butter producers whose records we see in the papers. If this be so, is not butter-fat the true point of comparison on the one side, and the quantity of food required to produce it on the other." This latter point is almost always overlooked, but wrongly so."

General-purpose cow.—"Where, oh, where is the general purpose cow?" asks our correspondent; "It strikes me very forcibly that we have three varieties of *special* purpose cows and nothing else." My answer to this question is, that you import Jerseys, Kyles, Sussex, and even Dexter-Kerries, but you will not import the English farmer's general-purpose cow, the unpedigreed milking Shorthorn. Until you do this, you will never know what the general-purpose cow really is. I see the price of the best strains of this breed is going up daily. They are not fit for *Sorel sands*, but in the Eastern Townships the land is almost every where good enough for them."

Maize.—"It seems well established, that between the