

*Escape of ammonia.*—Some years ago, we took the trouble to consult the well known analytical chemist, Dr. Girdwood, of McGill College, as to the use of sulphate of lime (plaster) in stables to arrest the escape of ammonia from the dejection of the animals. Dr. Girdwood held our opinion: that the two dry substances, plaster and dung, were not likely to exercise much mutual action.

He recommended a plentiful use of good dry, rich mould, as being much more likely to prove beneficial; besides, as he said, it costs next to nothing, and can always be had, for the mere trouble of carting. As we had used this largely, both here and in England, we had no hesitation in recommending its practical employment, both in stables and on the top of mixens. Of course its action is for more mechanical than chemical. Well, this was mentioned in the JOURNAL some dozen years ago, and we see by the last issue of that very well edited paper, *Farming*, that other writers have come into our views:

“Dry earth containing a considerable quantity of humus is one of the best and cheapest manure preservatives. Every farm has plenty of this, the only cost being the placing it under cover. The greatest loss in a manure pile is the escape of volatile gases such as ammonia. These can be largely preserved by sprinkling the dry earth over the manure pile and about the stalls when the stable is being cleaned. Disagreeable odors will be prevented and fertility saved.”—*Farming*.

*Her Majesty's stock sale.*—The usual annual sale of the Queen's stock took place at the Flemish Farm, in Windsor Great Park, on the 14th December last.

After luncheon, the following lots were put up to auction by the Messrs. Buckland & Sons: 43 Devons, Shorthorns, Herefords, and “blue-grey” beasts; 550 Hampshire down, Southdown, and Suffolk sheep and lambs; 90 bacon hogs and porkers.

The blue-grey beasts are, we fancy, the cross between the Shorthorn and the Galloway.

The following prices were realised:

Hereford steer of considerable weight fetched £40. A Shorthorn show bullock realised the same price, and a Shorthorn heifer £26. Devon bullocks fetched from £22 to £37 each; Devon heifers, from £14 to £26; black Polled bullocks, £29 to £33 10s.; blue-grey bullocks, £32 to £37 10s.; prime Polled oxen, £24 to £29; Hamp-

shire Down wether sheep, 62s. to 85s.; Hampshire Down tegs, 55s. to 75s.; Suffolk tegs, 55s. to 58s.; South Down tegs, 43s. to 60s. Berkshire bacon pigs, from £8 to £10 15s.; Berkshire fat hogs, £3 to £8 15s.; Berkshire porkers, £2 15s. to £3; and white Windsor bacon hogs, £3 to £6. The total amount realised was £3,308, 11s.

*Fall feeding of meadows.*—No one, of course, who knows anything about the habit of growth of our valuable grass, timothy, would ever dream of turning his cattle on to it in the fall. But, where a pasture is composed of other grasses, and is not likely to become “poached” by the animal's feet, we cannot see any probability of its being injured by fall feeding. As we have remarked in this periodical a dozen times, look at the Sherbrooke street lawns, in this town of Montreal! Nothing can exceed their rich, luxuriant growth all the summer, and the more frequently the lawn-mower passes over them, the more verdant and profuse does the herbage become. It is no injury to sound pastures to feed them off in the autumn, except in the case of heavy, wet land. In the following extract, we find the New York farmer wrong, and the editor of *Farming* right.

“A New York farmer objects very strongly to the practice of pasturing meadows in the fall. He claims that there is more money lost by so doing than what is gained from the feed which the animals secure. It is doubtless injurious to turn stock on meadows when the ground is soft and wet, but the question is if very much harm is done when the ground is dry and firm in pasturing meadows in the fall.”

*Average yields.*—We find that in our last, we made a material error in the number of bushels of wheat to the acre in Scotland, in 1898. It should be 42.47, an enormous average, but it must be remembered that there were only 55,861 acres grown, no land being sown to wheat in Scotland unless soil, previous cultivation, condition as to manuring, and a favourable seed-time are all in its favour. There are sixteen times as many acres of oats as of wheat sown in the northern Kingdom.

The following table (work dreaded by the printers, so we will shorten it) shows the average yields of wheat, barley and oats for the ten years 1888-97.