

must admit it has done, the same system will in time enhance the value of butter quite as much if not more.

Then the milk, properly handled and sent to the butter factory, would yield a much larger amount of butter than when made up at home, for the simple reason that the factory has all the proper appliances for setting, cooling, &c., which the great majority of the private dairies throughout the country have not; in fact, in a host of cases the milk is as good as wasted, for where you have not a good, cool cellar, it is almost fruitless work to attempt to make good butter during the hot weather. Another trouble with the bulk of the dairy butter is that a great deal of the packing and filling of tennets and firkins is spread over too long a space of time, so that in some packages there are two and three shades of color in one package, to say nothing of the quality. No tennet should be more than ten days in filling, for when longer it is almost invariably of more than one shade of color. If the grocers in giving out tennets would not allow any one who cannot fill in that time to take one, but would have their butter brought in to them in rolls, or crocks, and then shaded and packed carefully by themselves.

The great trouble is, we have too much poor butter. Good butter is the exception and not the rule, although I must say that there is a great improvement within the last few years, but there is still great room for improvement. There never was yet too much good butter made, and we never hear of the market being overstocked with finest butter or cheese.

During the discussion at the Ingersoll Convention the idea was brought out that when cows were fed on grain their milk yielded more butter, and the same was of a much more nutty and rich flavor. I have no doubt in my mind that it would pay every dairyman to feed his cows grain of some kind the entire year. He can safely depend that it will either go into the milk pail or on to the cow's back in the shape of beef. With the low price of barley and American corn, no dairyman could go astray in buying for his cows. The careful feeding and care of cows is something to which very few give the attention they should. We often hear the remark made: "Mr. is a good feeder, but Mr. is a poor feeder."

You may have good cows and plenty of good feed for them, but if it is not carefully and judiciously given to them, you will see very little result from it, and probably get less. We all know what an attention our successful stock breeders bestow upon their herds in feeding, and their success depends to a large extent upon that very thing; and we all know that it pays them well. If it pays them well it will pay you better than just as well as best with the same amount of cows.

The low price of cheese last season caused many to take their milk from the factory and make it up to butter. The result of this was that the make of fall butter was heavy, which has helped to keep prices very steady and quiet during the winter and it will be well into spring before stocks are well worked off. Many of the factories talk of starting early, and I would advise all to do so who can keep good warm fires in your drying room, and market your cheese as fast as you can. New cheese will be in demand this spring at about former prices.

Mules on the Farm—Reply to Inquirer.

Q. I have recently given the following question to my friends: "What is the best use for mules on the farm?"

A. I have been thinking of this question for some time, and have come to the conclusion that the best use for mules on the farm is as a pack animal.

height, sound and young, with good dispositions: also price? How do they answer for farm purposes?

A. W. C.

We have known mules to do all the work on the farm as well as horses, though they are not so generally used for that purpose. They are slower, though at least as strong, and much hardier, and they are kept at much less expense. We have known an instance of a pair of mules driven by a gentleman in his carriage. They were from an imported Spanish sire. They were tall and handsome, and were good travellers. Mules are much used in the Southern States for all purposes. For work in the cities they prefer them to horses, their hoofs not being so liable to be injured by the macadamized streets. Throughout the entire South, on plantations their use is almost universal. Kentucky and Indiana have been their great breeding places. They are mostly from Spanish sires, and bring high prices. The mule, like the ox, being slower than the horse, and more patient in endurance, is especially adapted for plowing and cultivating newly cleared land. We can see no objection to the raising of mules in Canada, not only for work on our farms, but also for sale. To do this it would be necessary to import sires. We have often asked how it is that while many are importing Durham and Ayrshire bulls no enterprising farmer or breeder has thought of importing a Spanish donkey, as there would be a fair prospect of breeding large mules with good profit. The demand for mules is not confined to the Western and Southern States. We see there is a demand for them even in that new country, Manitoba, the price being \$200 per span.

The Orchard—Wind Belts or Not.

We have received the following:—

Please tell through your paper if Norway spruce trees are a benefit to an orchard, and how far should they be planted apart. Or will they be an injury to the fruit trees by not letting sufficient air in to let the fruit come to perfection when grown-up trees.

A. S. Stratford.

We have read in many papers numerous recommendations for planting belts of trees to protect the orchard from wind, frost, &c. It is our impression that they are written more to sell trees than for any other purpose. We have seen many orchards injured by shade trees. The wood of the trees has been corroded with moss and fungi; the trees have not as healthy an appearance; the fruit is more spotted, is smaller, and has neither the color nor flavor of the fruit that unprotected trees produce.

Our own orchard has no protection. We would rather have it so. It is on a high hill, exposed to all winds. We believe the more air an orchard or any other trees have the better they will grow, and the better will be the fruit. Plant your shade trees to protect or ornament your houses, buildings, yards and stacks; let wind, air and sun have free access to your orchard. It is all nonsense to stake a young orchard when the trees are properly planted, and a careful person will walk round the trees after a heavy rain and hard wind and stamp the earth about the roots of any tree, should one be found out of its perpendicular. It will be far better than all the galling stakes you can put out. We shall be pleased to insert the opinion of any practical person who may differ with our views on this subject.

Joseph Harris claims we are only raising ten to fifteen bushels of wheat per acre where we ought to get from twenty-five to thirty bushels; thirty bushels of corn instead of sixty, and seventy-five bushels of potatoes instead of 200. *(An orchard note.)* True enough, but the slack farmers are so continually working hard to reduce the average of the best 24 acres that is what's the matter.

Agriculture.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England, as Reviewed by an American Agriculturist.

The following comparison of "The Royal" with the Agricultural Associations of America has led the writer to appreciate the thoroughness of the work done by the Old Country Societies. Here, too, we have something to learn from that old society of the Old Country. Thus the *Prairie Farmer* writes:—

In looking over the report of the annual meeting of this society in the *Agricultural Gazette*, we have been struck with the quantity and character of its work as compared with our American societies of a similar character.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England was organized about forty years ago. The area of its work is a country not much different in size from Illinois, but containing many times its population and wealth. It is a country in which the landholders and landlords are a very wealthy and influential class, and take a proprietary interest in the advance of agriculture.

The society has, at the end of 1876, eighty-two life governors, seventy-seven annual governors, 2,191 life members, eleven honorary members, making a total of 6,510 members.

The funded property of the society is £25,334, 8s. 5d. New 3 per Cents., with a balance in hands of bankers of £1,023, 8s. 1d. The funded capital was increased during the year £4,000—chiefly the surplus receipts of the Birmingham "meeting" or exhibition.

On this substantial basis of money and men, the following work has been going on during the past year: Dr. Voelcher, the chemist, has made 720 analyses during the year for members, mostly of manures and food, and contributed three papers to the journal of the society. The chemist of the United States Department of Agriculture reports but eight analyses for 1875. Our American farmers are not very anxious for chemical knowledge, apparently.

"The Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society" continues to be published, and made up from the contributions of Voelcher, the experiments of Lawes and Gilbert; it occupies an important place in agricultural literature. Under this head we note that a sum not exceeding £500 was voted to prepare a memorial on "British Agriculture" to be laid before an International Congress at Paris, in 1878, and to be published in the "Journal."

The country is divided into seven districts, called "Country Meeting Districts," in which, in turn, apparently, exhibitions of animals, implements, etc., are held. The last meeting, at Birmingham, seems to have been very successful; and for the coming one at Liverpool, the society has offered £3,000 and the Local Committee £2,400 in prizes, or a total of £5,400.

Veterinary matters are looked after by the employment of skilled persons in the investigation of diseases, and by the foundation of scholarships.

Under the head of education, scholarships seem also to be provided for the benefit of those who pass the best examinations in agriculture, chemistry, land surveying and mechanics. Seven candidates out of the thirty-two entered had passed examination on the minor school ships. These are worth £29 each.

Trials of reaping machines, examinations of well-managed farms, etc., show that the society is pretty well awake, and looking in many directions.

Grasses, Clover, and Corn for Soiling.

ORCHARD GRASS AND MEDIUM CLOVER. Clover is too familiar to farmers to need a description. But orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) is not generally grown, and should become more common. As a soiling crop it has some conspicuous advantages. It grows and ripens at the same time with medium clover, and thus furnishes an excellent combination of green food. A much larger crop is raised when both are grown together than with either alone. They should be cut just before coming into blossom, and in moist seasons will furnish three cuttings. Make the soil fine, and sow 20 pounds of orchard grass and 12 pounds of clover.

TIMOTHY AND FALCUT CLOVER. Here also we have the right mixture of grasses to produce a model