If so, why not eat saltpetre, or chloride of potassium to supply potassium salts, superphosphates to supply calcium salts, etc.? In this way the animal might be able to dispense with the vegetable kingdom altogether. These reflections show the absurdity of the use of salt for food, and the question cannot be defended from any standpoint whatever.

The only defence now left for the salt worshippers is its use as a medicine. If it has anything to do with the healing art, its defenders must now prove that animals require a constant supply of medicine; and then it must be shown that salt is the best or cheapest remedy for that particular ailment, or those particular ailments, with which man or beast is perpetually afflicted.

A medicine has a disturbing or alterative effect on the system or on an organ, converting one disease into another of a milder character; but in health such a disturbance or alteration must have an injurious effect, and must create a disease, the potency of which must be in proportion to the strength of the medicine. Let us now consider what medical authorities claim for salt, noticing both the mild and the extravagant claims. In excess it is said that salt is a poison. It would therefore be well to keep it on hand in case you wanted to poison any of your family or domestic animals. It is a remedy for dyspepsia. All right; but be sure that you or your animals have dyspepsia before you administer a dose. It checks hemorrhage of the lungs. If you or your animals are constantly bleeding at the lungs, use salt by all means, if you can find no better or cheaper substitute. In small doses it is a stimulant and tonic. Every mouthful of food you eat contains stimulants and tonics, and if Providence has not supplied a sufficiency for all ordinary purposes, then take salt; but then a change of stimulants and tonics is just as necessary as a change of food. In larger doses it is a purgative and an emetic. Why won't a pill work as well, and how can you prove that salt is the most fashionable emetic?

It must also be remembered that common salt contains many impurities, notably gypsum or sulphate of lime, which are deleterious to the system. It decreases the solvent power of everything you drink, thereby retarding the excretion of effete matter; and many other injurious effects may be laid to the charge of salt.

Such, Mr. Editor, were the arguments which induced me to relinquish the enjoyment of salt, notwithstanding the earnest solicitations of my friends to the contrary. I was told that criminals in olden times were condemned to die by forced abstenance from salt, that wild animals ran voraciously to "salt licks," and many other doleful yarns of a like nature, but I resolved to become a martyr. If by my martyrdom I could prove science to be a fraud, the prospect of my living in the grateful remembrance of prosperity, would be ample reward. It was not until after I had undergone the ordeal that I found that there were whole schools of medicine who repudiated salt both as food and a medicine.

The fact that animals relish salt is no argument in its favor; for it must first be proved that man and beast relish nothing except what is good for them. Many cattle are fond of chewing bones, not for the common salt or chloride of sodium which they contain, but for another kind of salt called phosphate of lime, and the same line of reasoning would prove that cattle should be salted with this compound. All animals do not get salt. Who will now attempt to draw the line of demarcation between those which do not require salt and those which would perish for want of it?

The result of my experiment has been that I have improved in health, my formerly depraved and abnormal appetite became restored to its natural condition, and I now find that everything I eat has a saline and delicious flavor of its own, which became imperceptible to the taste owing to the use of salt. The true appetizer and stimulant consist in a sense of a variety of flavors, which is destroyed by salted foods, and is as necessary as variety in all other respects.

If salt can now be defended as a luxury, I feel incompetent to urge any argument against its use.

Some experiments with cows have shown that the disuse of salt has checked the flow of milk; other experiments have shown no diminution; but a few tests prove nothing, especially when it is known that any sudden deprivation of salt may act deleteriously for a while, if the animals have long been accustomed to its use. More reliable tests would be made with cows that have never used it. The stimulating effect may have a tendency to increase the quantity of milk to the detriment of the quality.

Common salt is the only kind that can be deficient in plants, for they will flourish without its presence in the soil, so that the only remedy is to strew it on the land as a fertilizer.

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The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station calls attention to the fact that in its experiments, potatoes raised from large, whole seeds ripened nine days earlier than those from seed cut to single eyes.

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Farmers in many parts of Nebraska are burning corn for fuel. Soft coal is worth in that State about 22 cents a bushel, and corn does not find ready sale for more than 12 cents, and experiments have shown that two bushels of corn will produce more warmth than one bushel of coal.

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Canada is to play an important part in the forthcoming International Exhibition, to be held in Antwerp, Belgium. Great Britain and her colonies will be the centre of attraction, and the space reserved for Canada is said to be about 9,000 square feet, which will be filled with the products of our deversified industries. The exhibition will last about five months. One of the greatest benefits which we shall derive from being so prominently represented will be the tendency of turning the ever swelling tide of emigration to our shores. The Belgians are a most desirable class of people for us to encourage, being industrious and skillful, and our climate is better suited to them than that of most of the other countries to which the tide has been directed. There are many small farmers amongst them, who have some capital, and no doubt a special effort will be made to induce them to cast their lot amongst us.

# The Dairy.

## Dairymen's Convention.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN ONTARIO DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above Association was held at Stratford, on the 14th, 15th and 16th of last month, in presence of a large attendance of the members, and several distinguished dairymen from the United States. Mr. L. R Bichardson, of Strathroy, President of the Association, occupied the chair.

Henry Wade, Secretary of the Agricultural and Arts Association, read a paper on "Cows for the Dairy," in which he chiefly confined his remarks to his experience with the Shorthorns and the Ayrshires. He was in favor of active cows for hilly districts, and advocated breeding from the best females irrespective of breed. He maintained that the dam had the greatest potency in transmitting the milking qualities. He denounced the practice amongst many farmers of selling the best female in the herd, even when they were hard up. Not having kept an account of the quantity and quality of the milk, many farmers did not know their most profitable cows.

Alex. Loppan, Atlas, Mich., spoke of originating herds. He had been breeding from the best native cattle for half a century. He has also a herd of the best Holstein, or rather Dutch-Friesian, cattle, and as he keeps a register of the productions of all his cows, he is able to speak with authority. His native cows readily bring $100 each, and their yield ranges between 50 and 70 lbs. per day, the Holsteins ranging between 50 and 75 lbs His herd of natives were built up by in-breeding, and he has found no injurious results from this system. He likes cows that are prodigious consumers. He does not feed high, his chief ration being oats and chaff, with a little corn meal in cold weather.

Mr. Thos Ballantyne said there was too little attention paid to the breeding and selecting of dairy stock. There was too strong a tendency to judge milk cows by beef points. Cows should be selected to fill the pail, not the eye. He believed in building dairy herds with dairy stock only; and was satisfied that if pure native cattle were used for this purpose, we would soon have dairy herds that would beat the world.

DAIRY EDUCATION.

Mr. S. M. Barré read a paper on the improvement of butter making. He described the different continental systems of dairying and dairy education. He attributed the success of Danish butter to their thorough system of dairy education, their dairy stations, their dairy schools, their dairy conventions, and their dairy literature. Dairying was taught in their public schools, and their stations were presided over by thoroughly scientific experimenters, and their teachers travel from farm to farm. To each exhibit was attached a description of the method on which the butter was made, how the cows were fed, etc. They adapted their methods to the different markets, the butter made for warm, foreign climates was remarkable for its long keeping, and was made on the ice-cooling method, but the