

FATTENING OF CATTLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—“*Est modus in rebus*” is a trite and true maxim, and the middle path is the safest. In fattening cattle we seem to have overlooked the important fact, that *excess* here is symptomatic of *disease*, and that fat is neither nutritious nor wholesome, whether chemically or physiologically considered. Baron Liebig very properly classes the *matériel* of grease under two divisions—the nitrogenous and non-nitrogenous; muscle belongs to the former, and fat to the latter. The former ministers to nutrition, properly so called; when the non-nitrogenous is connected with respiration and animal temperature.

That we push the fattening of cattle to an extreme point in many cases can admit of no doubt, and that such overfed, and even fat, meat is not merely innutritious but unwholesome, is a truth beyond cavil or dispute. In our Christmas exhibitions we perceive nothing but mere interlineations of “lean,” the nitrogenous muscle being almost obliterated or absorbed into the non-nitrogenous fat. The force of these remarks will be materially strengthened by considering the circumstances under which this unnatural state of things is consummated. Oilcake, *e. g.*, is employed as food, and we superadd entire want of exercise and undue warmth. These are readily recognised as powerful auxiliaries to the deposition of fat; but these, also, war with the laws of nature, and the experience of ages proves that these sacred laws cannot be infringed with impunity. Assuredly, unnatural food and unnatural treatment cannot in the “nature of things,” contribute to the information of what is “good for food,” either in reference to its being wholesome, or easy of digestion, or nutritious. In sacrifice, the fat was consumed on the altar, while the muscle was preserved for food, and we now see a philosophy in this.

Further, it is a matter of serious consideration whether our modern and novel modes of feeding and fattening cattle may not entail a class of diseases, to which, in their natural condition, they are strangers.

I am, respectfully, sir,

Your obedient, humble servant,

J. MURRAY PH. D.

Portland-place, Hull, Oct. 3

KHOL RABI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—As I fear that our turnip crop is, locally at least, threatened with a disease analogous to, if not identical with, that which preys upon the potato, it seems to me wise to consider whether some substitute may not be found to lessen the evil. The “Kohl Rabi” appears to be a highly nutritious root, and eminently calculated as food for cattle. I like it much as an esculent for the table, and I believe cattle are very fond of it, and as far as my cursory chemical examination of the “Khol Rabi” goes, it is entirely favourable to its employment for the end proposed. It is extensively cultivated along the borders of the Rhine, indeed was the predominant vegetable cultivated in the gardens I visited at Wiesbaden, Cologne, Coblenz, Bingen, &c., and at Heidelberg, and some other places, it occupied the chief place in the public markets. I have cultivated a small plot of Khol Rabi this season, and it gives promise of good produce, while my turnips are destroyed.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

J. MURRAY, Ph. D.

Portland Place, Hull, Sept. 22.

THE TURNIP FLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MARK LANE EXPRESS.

SIR,—As many remedies have been applied for the destruction of that enemy to the turnip crop, called the “fly,” or flea, I have been in the habit for the last four years of soaking my turnip seed in a decoction of elder shoots. The remedy is this: Put the *elder shoots* into a small tub or pan, and pour scalding water on them; let them remain till cold, take out the elder and put the turnip seed in for twelve hours, and then hang it up in a bag to dry: it is then strongly impregnated, and I have always had a plant when my neighbours have had to sow two or three times over. I tried an experiment this year in the same field. I sowed Swedish turnips with the *above dressing*, and a small part of the field without it: the fly took them; and the *dressed part* was an *excellent plant*. I feel convinced that if I had dressed the other part of the field, the fly would not have destroyed the plant. If you think my observation worthy of a place in your valuable journal, you can insert them.—I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant.

W. WILSON.

SKETCHES FROM A MODEL FARM.

Whoever strives to improve the condition of agriculture merits the gratitude of the community at large and it is with satisfaction, therefore, that we mention the name of Lord Torrington, as having caused an homestead, upon a very improved plan, to be arranged in Peckham green, Mereworth, near Maidstone, which with buildings and machinery complete, cost upwards of 2000*l*. The farmhouse possesses every convenience and comfort; the offices adjoining are enclosed within a wall, and the whole capable of being secured by lock and key. On entering the gate facing the east stands the large bullock and cattle lodge, entirely under one roof, and capable of containing forty-eight head of cattle, besides calves and sheep. A sketch of this will be found at the head of our calendar for July.

It is of an oblong square, 53 feet, seven inches, by 90 feet 6 inches, and divided into six compartments, each beast having a feeding trough, and water cistern to itself, whilst pipes convey currents of cool air to the animals heads. According to the principle carried out, there is a covered drain, by which the drainage and refuse passes of in a receiver, where after lying about a fortnight, it becomes perfectly eligible to be used as good manure. They are several rooms adjacent to this building, one for cooking the food of the cattle, of which we give a view, another, with two floors, with a machine for cutting turnips, &c., and at the end is an oilmill complete for making the linseed cake, the straw-cutting and, at one extreme is a window from the parlour of the farm-house, so that the manager can at all times, command a view, of the whole proceedings. On the opposite side to this lodge is a capacious barn, with two floors, on one of which is a threshing machine capable of turning out fifty quarters per day, and on each side, are three loose boxes, for horses, bulls, or cattle that are sick. Behind these is the piggery, and close adjacent the cart-houses, and other buildings. Also the oast-houses, on a new construction patented by Knight. The machinery is turned by two horses in a mill. At a short distance stand three cottages, each having two rooms on the ground floor, and two above, with a small flower-garden in front, and kitchen-garden at the side; of these we also give a sketch. In the back-yard is a pump for general purposes, an oven for the whole of the inmates, a drying place and laundry.