because of the hardness of the wood, which prevents the absorption."

The Professor illustrated the principles of absorption and evaporation by a pine floor. If even a thin shaving be taken off the flooring will shrink, which the crust before prevented.

"If just enough rain falls you will have a fine crop of fruit. On the other hand, if the season be excessively dry, your vines will be injured by the *thrips*, although the exception to this is the Concord, which is not effected by them.

"While in New Jersey last summer I saw a vineyard where, by the application of large quantities of sulphur, the vines had been badly burnt and quite destroyed; another, which by a judicious application of plaster and sulphur mixed, had caused a strong growth and plenty of fruit.

"I also learned how some vine culturists manure their grape vines (on their sandy soil). They dig down, say this year, on one side, and fill the hole with stable manure; the next year on another side, and so on. The roots luxuriate in this fertilizer."

Speaking of Vineland and the seeming failure of the grape crop there, he said:

"The reason is, there they build castles and expect the grapes to pay for them; while at Egg Harbor the German is satisfied with a shanty, and his effort with grape growing is a success."

The Professor also spoke of the necessity of sowing seeds deeper than ordinary on such soils as that of New Jersey, and mentioned that peas sown deep will not mildew.

Mr. Pierson raised the question of summer pruning, saying "a gentleman who pretended to know said that the vine should be pinched off at the second joint beyond the last bunch of grapes, and all laterals should be removed; but he found that his unpruned vines bore the best fruit."

Mr. Pitt said: "Some years since the viticulturists along the shores of Lake Erie practiced summer pruning, but were obliged to abandon it, as they lost their fruit. Grape disease comes not only from summer pruning, but also from want of food and by over-bearing." G. F. N.

Washington, June, 1878.

Tall Rye.

J. D. Servos, of Niagara, has our thanks for his express parcel of tall rye, but unfortunately it was nowhere *when it got here* compared to rye in Middlesex South, however much it surpassed McQueen's, of the county of Wellington.

Daisies.

SIR,—I read a great many good things in the ADVOCATE, but have not yet seen any remedy for the daisy. I have a field which is full of these pests. Last year I plowed the land and cut them off as soon as they came up, and raised no crop on the field; but this spring they have come up as thick as ever. Could you tell me what to do with the land in order to destroy them this season? By so doing you will confer a favor not only on myself, but on many others.

A FARMER, Melbourne, P. Q.

[There are frequent complaints in America of the prevalence of the ox-eyed daisy (as it is here called), and the great difficulty of exterminating it. We have found a summer fallow an effectual means of completely getting rid of weeds of every variety, even the most tenacious of life. The daisy is a perennial, and propagates itself by the seed also as well as by the root; hence the difficulty of exterminating them.]

SIR,—Will a horse rake injure grass roots? Please answer in the next issue.

A. R., East Bolton, P. Q.

[A horse rake does not injure the grass roots. If the roots are disturbed, which can only be in very loose soil, a light top-dressing of any compost would more than make amends for any apparent injury. We have harrowed and top-dressed grass lands with great benefit.]

Cucumbers for Exhibition.

SIR,—I am anxious to take prizes for Cucumbers at an horticultural show. What sorts had I better grow for this purpose. The show is not till the middle of August, so I hope I am yet in good time. I have a hot pit and also a hot house, so could grow the Cucumbers well.

A WOULD-BE PRIZE-TAKER.

[Try Stockwoods Ridge and Long Green.]

SIR,—You would much oblige me, and I think many of your readers, if you would publish a list of the legal weights and measures in the ADVOCATE, as appointed by the Dominion authorities, as we seem to have no statute here. And if not too much, I would be glad if the addresses of some reliable firms were published, where we might obtain some of the grain and seeds which are so much recommended in your valuable journal, as I believe there would be a great improvement in this locality. W. D., Margate, P. E. I.

[All articles of produce are, by Act of Parliament, obliged to be weighed and sold by the cental (100 lbs.), and a penalty is attached to the use of any other weight. We do not know if this Act has been introduced into your Province; but it contracts for the sale of articles hereafter mentioned, the weight per bushel being as follows: Wheat, sixty pounds; Indian corn, fifty-six; rye, fifty-six; peas, sixty; barley, forty-eight; oats, thirty-four; beans, sixty; clover seed, sixty; timothy seed, forty-eight; buckwheat, forty-eight; flax seed, fifty; hemp seed, forty-four; blue grass seed, fourteen; castor beans, forty; potatoes, carrots, turnips, parsnips, beets and onions, sixty; salt, fifty-six; dried apples, twenty-two; dried peaches, thirty-three; malt, thirty-six pounds.]

Soaking Seeds in Paraffin Oil.

Sir,—I have been in the habit of soaking seeds in Paraffin oil, and mixing it with whitewash, and with good results, but I do not know how to apply it in the manner recommended by Major Crofts; for oil will not mix with water, and by itself Paraffin oil is injurious to vegetation. Please answer in your next to N. B.

[There is less force in N. B.'s objection than might at first sight appear. These mineral oils mix with water much more readily than other oils, either vegetable or animal, as they partake partly of the character of a spirit. It is not, however, needful to soak the seeds so long as Major Crofts recommends, and, indeed, such long steepings are dangerous not only to Broad Beans, as Major Crofts found out, but all seeds. Peas are often injured by soaking in paraffin oil. Moreover this oil varies much in quality and strength, so that its effects are likely also to be different in different cases. Major Crofts' distinctions between the difference in the mode of germination of Peas and Beans is more fanciful than real. Both fall to pieces as they grow, and the Bean, instead of growing from and end grows from its centre or germ. Watering the ground with a mixture of paraffin and water would be likely to clear it of wire and other worms and snails; but it is a rather dangerous thing to apply to the tops of plants for any purpose whatever, and must be used on leaves and young stems, if at all, with the utmost caution. Major Crofts also reasons as if the application of paraffin to the seeds of plants, protected the tops from the ravages of birds, &c. This is simply impossible, as none of the paraffin is absorbed by the plant, and if it were, it would no longer be paraffin but changed into the natural juices or food peculiar to the species. The Major, however, deserves the sincere thanks of our readers for directing attention in an interesting way to one of the most potent seed preservers of the day.]

SIR,—I would like to know something more about cheese-making. We have been working a factory since 1870, but have not made any money, because it has taken so much milk to make a pound of cheese. Last year it took nearly eleven and a half pounds of milk to make a pound of cheese. Our milk is very rich in butter, and we make a good article of cheese; if we could get the quantity we would make a good thing; as it is, the venture has been very unsatisfactory. You are in communication with some of our best cheese-makers, and if you could give us any information in relation to working very rich milk, or getting all the curd out of milk, you would confer a favor.

H. T., Point de Bute, N. B.

[We would thank some of our Ontario cheese manufacturers to let us have a reply to our New Brunswick corresponpent's enquiries, in time for next issue.

P. E. Island Crops.

SIR,—Spring dry, but cool till the past week; rain yesterday and last night; to-day cold with north wind. Appearance of good crops, and plenty fruit. Grass a month in advance of last spring.

J. B. S., Southport, June 7th

An esteemed correspondent in Nova Scotia asks for the address of any manufacturer of patent strand wire fencing fit for heavy cattle pastures.

Any manufacturer of above wire will oblige by sending his circular to this office.

SIR,—If practicable give the best mode of making a cistern for catching and holding rain water, with a filter attached to it?

G. R. W., Windsor, Ont.

[The simplest and cheapest form is to make a double brick cistern having the division wall built up of soft brick, and the bottom and outer walls of harder brick laid in water-lime mortar. Let the water run into the smaller cistern and filter through the dividing brick wall into the larger one. Many farmers having cisterns already built and without filterers, manufacture one by placing a pan or box of charcoal with perforated bottom between the cistern and the water-spout, so that the water must pass through the charcoal on its way to the former. Such arrangements need refilling at least once a year.]

SIR,—Does it pay to give pigs any grain feed during summer? R. W., Salem, N. B.

[Yes, especially during the latter part of summer when they are running in pasture. The grain given at this season with green feed induces a rapid growth and development and gets the young porkers in good condition for the season when they are "put up" to be fattened and are given grain for their chief food.]

Dairy.

Low Prices of Dairy Products.

Undoubtedly the low price of dairy products is, to considerable extent, the result of the general stagnation and depression of business felt throughout the civilized world. But other causes have come in to depress the market—causes which the dairymen, if they had been wise, could have avoided.—The main cause, aside from the general one referred to, has been the great increase of product at fhe expense of quality. The skimmer has been as disasterous as a scourge. It has increased the supply of butter, and also increased the supply of the lower grades of cheese, which have come in to flood the market and drag down the prices of fine goods. Furthermore, the loss of quality, because of the use of the skimmer, has discouraged consumption and cast suspicion over American cheese generally. We are selling for less to-day, in foreign markets, because of this suspicion, as well as because our markets are glutted with piles of poor cheese. We are consuming less cheese to-day than we were five years ago, when the consumption was small enough, in all conscience, whereas we ought to have doubled our consumption in that time. The reason is that the consumer has been cloyed with poor cheese. Whenever he has gone to the grocery to buy, he has been served with skimmed cheese, or else with the sour or tainted stuff of the whole milk factory which the buyers for a foreign market will not take. The consequence is that a single small purchase for family consumption goes a long ways. Cheese ceases to be relishable, and gets the go-by as a regular article of food. Had we never made a pound of skimmed cheese, we should not only be throwing a less amount of butter and cheese on the market, but be furnishing a better article of cheese, if not of butter, and our home markets would be taking ten pounds of cheese where they take one. The way out of our difficulty is to return to the paths of virtue and honesty—to stop skimming, for cheesemaking, and from making skimmed-milk cheese at all—and turn our attention to improving the quality of our goods and reducing the cost of production. It is a grand thing that every sin brings its own punishment. Otherwise, none would ever turn from their evil ways, and all would be lost.

Many instances are given of cattle diseases being carried from farm to farm by rats. After devouring any possible remains of the diseased cattle after the slaughter, they are known to desert the stricken farm in a body for another, where there is at the time an abundance of food. Is it not reasonable to suppose they would carry the contagion with them, and thus introduce it into perfectly healthy sheds?