

field, especially by the dairy farmers, who of all others, ought to be deeply interested in its study.

"Hoard."

COWS AT GRASS.—In our opinion, and we have had a good deal of experience in the matter, if we had only a small sum to lay out for purchased food or manure, we should prefer spending it on food to give to the milking cows at pasture to laying it out on nitrogen at 15 cents a pound, which is about what it comes to in the "complete fertilisers" now on the market.

A couple of pounds a head each day to cows on grass will make a marvelous difference in the yield of milk, and, as we believe, in its quality, too, and whatever is not thoroughly digested will be available to the grass as manure. And this system, of extra feeding on pasture, has the additional good quality over manure of not requiring the expenditure of labour in spreading.

If we only could see, here and there, throughout the country, a farm on which crops were grown on purpose to be fed-off, "in situ", by sheep; and pastures grazed by cattle, with additional food, such as we have been speaking about, we should soon see an improvement in the general farming of the province, that, at present, seems to be very far off.

IMPORTATION OF AYRSHIRE CATTLE

In a recent number of the "Scottish Farmer" published in Glasgow, Scotland, there appears a picture of seven highly purebred Ayrshire Cattle which have recently been imported, and are now in quarantine at Halifax. The "Scottish Farmer" speaks of them in the most laudatory terms, and says that the animals have been secured from the very best milking strains in Scotland. The dam of one of the animals imported "Old Beauty Lass 6804" has maintained a great reputation in Scotland, her milk record being from sixty-six to sixty-eight pounds per day.

Since the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893, where our Ayrshires took such high rank, there has been an increasing demand to secure Ayrshires from the Province of Quebec, and it is with a view of introducing the best strains of blood from Scotland that this recent importation has been made. The animals were selected by Mr. James Roden, Manager of the Trillemoch Farm, owned by Mr. Robert Reford, at Ste. Anne de Bellevue. Four of the cattle are for Mr. Reford's farm, while two are for Mr. Wm. Wylie, of Howick, and the remaining one for Mr. James Cottingham of Ormstown, the recent winner of the Gold Medal for the best managed farm in the Counties South of the St. Lawrence.

The animals will be released from quarantine about the middle of next month. We are happy to note a steadily increasing demand for pure-bred Ayrshires, and more particularly for those which have a reputation as good milkers.

Swine.

PROFIT IN SWINE.

"Eds. Country Gentleman"—Hogs have long filled an important place on our farms, principally as meat producers for family use. Partly owing to

the stringent times, and partly because of the changes which come with the advance of years, the hog is being transferred to the list of money producers. That there will always be a demand for good pork is unquestionable. For economy, both to the buyer and seller, there is no meat which surpasses pork. Its fine flavor and the small ratio of waste in the hog commend it to lovers of meat in spite of the ancient prejudice respecting the swine's flesh.

Western farmers are this year selling pork at \$3.25 per cwt., and claim to be realizing a profit of 100 per cent. on the selling price of their corn. In our section it is selling at \$5 per cwt., and although not raised in so large numbers the hogs are perhaps grown as cheaply as in the West. Hogs grown in large herds are not grown so nearly from the waste products of the farm, garden and dairy as the few kept by the New-York farmer. Their liability to disease at the West is greater, because of the predominance of corn in their diet. There is a prejudice among pork buyers here against western picked pork. This helps the market for the home product, which has this year been well sustained.

I think a larger rate of profit can be shown by a neighbor who raised two March pigs, selling one and packing the other, than any western pork-raiser. Having the skim-milk from two good cows, the pigs received little else till fattening time. The litter to which the two pigs belonged came March 24, 1896. One was slaughtered at seven months, dressing 225 lb.; the other dressed, at eight and a half months, 332 lb. Allowing the pigs to have been of about equal weight when the first one was killed, we have a gain of about 2½ lb. a day on the latter. The whole litter contained seven pigs and the rest were slaughtered at about eight months, averaging about 300 lb. apiece. Here was an average gain of over 1 lb. per day from the time of weaning. At 5 cents per lb. for the pork, we have an average of over 10 cents per day for the feed given to the two pigs. There is clearly a good profit in the operation, with grain at its present prices, and would be if grain were much higher. Much of the growth of these pigs must be credited to the cows. At the low price of butter, many cows would make a poor showing when balancing their accounts, were it not for this side issue.

The facts have been given; now for the lesson to be drawn. In breed, the Chester-White predominated, giving the pigs good bone. The pigs stood well upon legs, looking almost too leggy for promising pigs. Their start in life was excellent, the sow being well fed before and after farrowing. She proved to be a good milker, pushing the pigs from the start. Had the litter been reared together, they probably would not have made so good a showing at the shambles, but being taken by different parties and being given plenty of their natural food, skim-milk, and uncrowded, they advanced about as fast as nature could lay on the flesh.

FEEDING PIGS FOR PROFIT.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—The majority of feeders of pigs have not caught on to the present method of feeding for the highest market value. Nor have they discovered the best way of marketing their product.

If one should go into a fine grocery

store in any large town or city, and ask for bacon, he would be shown narrow strips of lean meat not more than one and a half inches thick, in which the lean and fat are mixed in thin streaks. And the price of this kind of meat is twenty cents a pound. It used to be more when I used to sell bacon made of pigs under a hundred and fifty pounds dressed and by no means fat, but which were fit for killing any day after they were three months old, without any finishing.

These pigs were fed mostly on clover pasture with the skimmed milk and butter milk, with a little mixed meal of corn and peas and oats grown together, and threshed and ground fine. The pigs were slaughtered and dressed with care to get a clean smooth skin, and the meat was dry-cured and only slightly smoked. As the main business of the farm was fine butter making, the waste milk from fifteen cows fed about twice as many pigs, with good clover pasture and a few ounces of the meal mixed with the milk. The feeding of an animal has everything to do with the quality of the meat, of course allowing something for the kind of pig, as to its habit of growth.

The Berkshire is the model bacon pig, always ready for the knife from three months of age. But at five or six months the meat is in the best condition for curing in this form. The hams and shoulders cured in the same way brought fifteen cents a pound.

I find in a Danish agricultural paper that this is precisely the way the farmers there do with their dairy pork, which sells in the English market at twice the price of the best American meats. We have read something of how they do in Denmark, in their dairy business, and this is one of their improved methods, but the Danes have not the sole monopoly of excellence by any means. But why cannot we do a good deal more of this on this side of the Atlantic and meet the Danes in their good market as well as supply our home trade?

H. S.

Correspondence.

THE OX-EYED DAISY.

To the Editor of

The "Journal of Agriculture."

Nothing perhaps causes the thrifty farmer a greater feeling of annoyance than to see the Ox-Eye, Daisy or Marguerite popping its white nose up in his meadows in the month of June. He may fight against this weed for a time, but slowly and surely as it settles into his pastures and along the sides of the fields and perhaps in his less careful neighbor's meadows, it gets the better of time till he almost gives up in despair to make up his mind that all his crops must contain a percentage of marguerites. I had suffered little from this plague until a few years since, when the top dressing of a rather sandy meadow with the manure of a town stable produced a very nice crop of Marguerites. In a year or so, these weeds had increased to such an extent as to make the field well nigh white. In order, at any rate, to prevent the spreading of this weed, I cut the field in the end of June of that year (1894) and before the flowers had seeded. This cutting I repeated at the same time in the following year, and last summer was surprised to notice that this weed had almost disap-

peared. At any rate the swing of a scythe here and there throughout the field was quite sufficient to cut all that appeared last year.

This year I have reason to believe will find any meadow free from this obnoxious weed.

This proves (does it not?) either that the Marguerite is a biennial, and not a perennial, as it has often been stated to be, or, that this cutting of the weed before it has ripened, will kill it. What is more to the point, don't these facts show that this very troublesome weed may be got rid of by treating it in the manner I have described?

By my observation the seed of the Marguerite in grass land does not ripen till after the first of July. To cut this grass by that date is no very great loss to a farmer, and I would ask some of your readers, who find that their fields in June are white where they should be green, to try the method I have indicated in order to attempt to get rid of a weed which causes them so much loss every year.

WILLIAM MORRIS.
Sherbrooke, 10 May 1897.

The Apiary.

(Continued.)

In our last, we left the Queen, triumphing in her victory over her rival, and reigning over the hive in undisputed authority. Let us now follow her into the sacred limits of the realms of love.

From three to five days after her eruption from her prison-cell, the Queen-bee takes her bridal flight, and her nuptials, with a drone, are celebrated in the upper air, from 20 to 25 feet from the ground. The Queen, of course, survives, but the unfortunate drone, her mate, perishes as soon as the couple return to the hive, and this by the action of his cruel bride. The Queen is now no longer in need of a husband, as she is in a condition to bring forth progeny to her life's end.

THE WORKER-BEE.

The workers are the smallest inhabitants of a bee-hive, and compose the bulk of the population. A good swarm ought to contain at least 20,000; and in large hives, strong colonies, which are not reduced by swarming, frequently number four or five times as many during the height of the breeding season.



Fig. 23.

Their functions are varied. "The young bees" work inside the hive, prepare and distribute the food to the larvae, take care of the queen, by brushing her with their tongue, nurse her, maintain the heat of the hive, or renew the air and evaporate the newly-gathered honey by ventilating. They clean the hive of dirt or debris, close up all the cracks, and secrete the greater part of the wax which is produced in the hive.

"The old bees" may, if necessary, do a part of the same work; but, as we have seen, odd age renders some unfit to prepare the food of the larvae. More