

suitable diet without other food. The same might be said of ashes. Land dressed with ashes alone, will soon be found in a sad condition; and yet the potash, soda, and lime they contain, are worth far more for agricultural purposes than the price generally allowed by soap-boilers. Their alkaline salts act favorably upon the silicates in the soil; they render insoluble silica soluble, and are therefore valuable on uplands; while on peaty lands, if well drained, and on any lands which abound in inert vegetable matter, their value is very great."

DISCUSSION ABOUT CATTLE.

At a late meeting of the Agricultural Club in Boston, Mass., Sanford Howard presented the following excellent suggestions upon the comparative merits of various kinds of cattle:

Breeds may be classed as *natural* and *artificial*; the peculiar characteristics of the former are the result of natural causes; those of the latter, the result of man's interference. The Merino and Scotch black-faced sheep, West Highland and Devon cattle, are examples of natural breeds; the Leicester and improved Cotswold sheep, Ayrshire and improved Short-horn cattle are examples of artificial breeds. Breeds of cattle must be chosen according to the situation in which they are to be placed, and the purposes for which they are designed. Cattle are wanted for beef, milk, and labor. These properties are in some degree antagonistical; they cannot be combined in the highest perfection in the same animal. For instance, the fattening animal should possess, as much as possible, a rotundity of form, with a broad chest, and an even balance of the fore and hind quarters; whereas the milker should be characterized by flatness rather than roundness, and a considerable preponderance of weight in the hind quarters. Animals which have the most extreme tendency to fatten, are deficient in the muscular fibre and nervous energy necessary to confer activity and strength. Opinions in reference to the comparative merits of breeds for this section, must be in a great degree conjectural, owing to the limited trials which have been made; but we may be guided in selections for particular purposes, from what is known of their characteristics. On this basis, the lecturer submitted the following list:

As Dairy Stock.—1. For poor and rough soils, the Kerry breed, indigenous to the mountains of Ireland, and represented by all authorities as combining remarkable hardiness of constitution with superior dairy qualities, especially for the production of butter.

2. For better soils, and for milk-selling establishments, the Ayrshires.

3. For cities and towns, the Jerseys, at the same time testing them by fair trials, as to general adaptation.

4. A selection from the common, or so-

called native stock, to be subjected to a systematic course of breeding.

5. Crosses of the Ayrshire, and of the Jersey, with the common stock, the offspring to be kept separately for a sufficient period to ascertain their qualities.

As Fattening Stock, of Secondary Value for the Dairy.—1. For poor and rough soils, and a severe climate, the West Highland Scots.

2. For somewhat better soils, the Galloways and Devons.

3. For medium quality of soil, the Herefords.

4. For the best soils and milder climate, the fattening variety of Short-horns.

The Herefords, Devons, and West Highlanders are excellent draft cattle.

In this climate, owing to the extremes of heat and cold, strength of constitution is an important requisite in cattle that are obliged to undergo more or less exposure at all seasons. On this account, as well as for other intrinsic properties, the lecturer advocated strongly the introduction of the West Highlanders.—*The Plough.*

POTATO CULTURE.—Mr. R. Errington, in the *Cottage Gardener*, after stating that luxuriance of growth is a promoter of disease, cautions the inexperienced against deep planting, especially for crops required early; "but even later kinds love not to be buried deep. Let those who would prove this just try a few rows of early potatoes side by side. Let them plant one lot about seven inches in depth, and the other about three, and I will engage that the latter will be ready for use nearly a fortnight before the deep planted one. Moreover, early crops are best without after application of soil, if it can be dispensed with. I have known a frame of potatoes retarded a fortnight or more by an ill-judged application of surface-dressing when they were six inches or more in height; and no wonder, either. Persons thus over officious do not consider that in so doing they interpose a cool and fresh body, somewhat non-conducting, between the generally warmed medium the roots are in and the atmosphere, and that such interposition must lower the temperature where the roots are situated by perhaps five degrees; of this fact I am persuaded, having well proved it."

The Flax market is very firm, and the quotations have an upward tendency. Russian Hemp has changed hands at a considerable advance. Petersburg clean has produced £70 to £75 per ton. Coir goods are steady. Jute has risen 10s. to 15s per ton.—*English Paper.*

The growing wheat crops throughout the Union are represented to be unusually promising. Every where in the north and west there is an increased breadth of land under

wheat—say 20 cent—and the prospect is, that the yield in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and other western States, will be twenty to twenty-five per cent. greater than that of last year, in spite of the fly, the rust, and the hard winter.

FLAX AND BARLEY.—There are some remarks in the March number in regard to raising Flax and Barley together. I have tried flax and oats for several years, and they do well. The straw, instead of being fit only for bedding, is the best I can raise for stock; they are extremely fond of it. The seed may be fed with the oats, or separated by the screen of the fanning mill. I sow a peck of flax-seed and a bushel and half of oats, with plenty of plaster and ashes.—*Farmer's Companion.*

"GO FORTH INTO THE COUNTRY."

Go forth into the country
From a world of care and guile,
Go forth to the untamed air,
And the sunshine's open smile;
It shall clear thy clouded brow—
It shall loose the worldly coil
That binds thy heart too closely up,
Thou man of care and toil!

Go forth into the country,
Where glad some sights and sounds
Make the heart's pulses thrill and leap
With firmer, quicker bounds.
They shall wake fresh life within
The mind's enchanted bower;
Go, student of the midnight lamp,
And try their magic power.

Go forth into the country,
With its songs and happy birds,
Its fertile vales, its grassy hills,
Alive with flocks and herds.
Against the power of sadness
Is its magic all arrayed—
Go forth and dream no idle dreams,
O, visionary maid!

Go forth into the country,
Where the nuts' rich clusters grow;
Where the strawberry nestles 'mid the furze
And the holly-berries glow.
Each season hath its treasures,
Like thee all free and wild—
Who would keep thee from the country,
Thou happy, artless child?

Go forth into the country;
It hath many a solemn grove,
And many an altar on its hills,
Sacred to peace and love.
And while with grateful fervor
Thine eyes its glories scan,
Worship the God who made it all,
O, holy Christian man!

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