

well known, watery ; and this dispenses with the necessity of mixing it afterwards with water. It is far the most common adulterating material in watery food. Water is not so much added to it as it is incorporated in the animal system before the milk is produced. It is well known that acid water, and especially water that contains lactic acid, has a tendency to produce an abundance of milk. When animals are fed with concentrated food, such as bean-meal or cake, it may perhaps be advisable—in the absence of brewers' grains or distillery refuse, two materials which contain lactic acid—to generate some lactic acid by keeping barley-meal for some time in contact with water, and by letting it slightly ferment, perhaps with some vegetable matter, which has a tendency to hasten the formation of lactic acid from barley-meal. By doing this, I am inclined to think, concentrated food like cotton-cake, or bean-meal, or rape-cake, could be rendered more digestible—more readily available for the production of milk of a good quality.

The owner of a dairy will do well to compare his practice with that of Mr. Dumbrell, and with the valuable chemical inquiries of Professor Voelcker. It is more than probable that the information he will obtain will well repay him for the time he employs in the study. The butter prepared in different districts of England we are all aware, widely differs in its quality ; and yet it is a very reasonable conclusion, that by a little more attention to the dairy and to the pasturage, and artificial food of the cows, the inferior butter produced in several counties may be very materially increased in value,"—*Farmer's Magazine (English).*

The Poultry Yard.

The Best Way to Dispose of Bones.

Messrs EDITORS :—After reading the various communications which have been published in the *Country Gentleman* on the different methods of disposing of bones which accumulate about the premises of the farmer, and converting them into an available manure for agricultural purposes, I will inform your readers how I dispose of my stock of bones. All the bones which are obtained from the meats used in the family, are saved and carried to the hen-house, and deposited there to be used when wanted. Near the bones is placed a flat stone large enough to break them on. At the commencement of winter I begin to break them up, and dispose of them in the following manner:—Laying the bones on the stone, with an old axe, I pound them up fine enough for a hen to eat, and then let my hens eat them. In this way of disposing of bones it requires no sulphuric acid, potash or other costly drugs, which are somewhat danger-

ous for persons to use who are not acquainted with their nature. Neither does it require any fixture to prepare them in, nor time and labor to manufacture the bones into as good manure as any that is made on the farm.

At the present time I do not propose to discuss the comparative merits of the various preparations of bones that are used for manure, neither am I prepared to decide whether bone manure or hen manure is the most valuable for agricultural purposes ; but I am well satisfied as to the value of hen manure for any use that I have made of it. I believe it is an established axiom in agriculture, that the richer the food on which an animal is fed, the richer and more valuable will be the manure. As fresh bones contain much animal matter, as well as phosphates, the manure of hens fed with bones must be much more valuable than when kept in the ordinary way.

But the most profit which I obtain from bones used in this way, is the extra quantity of eggs which my hens produce when fed with the bones. I have found that it is necessary to give my hens a generous supply of animal food, as well as that containing phosphates, if I wanted them to lay well, and other things being equal, the supply of eggs has always been governed by the supply of these articles of food.

As my hens have the run of the farm when the ground is bare, they get a supply of animal and vegetable food, but in the winter season they must be furnished with these things from other sources. I think there is no one thing that furnishes a larger proportion of egg-producing food than fresh bones, as there is always more or less animal substance adhering to them. By making a little calculation with my bones and other animal offal, I give them this food several times a week during the season that they cannot get to the ground. Since I commenced feeding my hens in this way, the average weekly production of eggs has been full as large through the winter, as during any other part of the year. The price at which eggs sell for in this vicinity, is generally one-third more in the winter than in the summer, so that when the eggs are sold it makes a considerable difference to what it does not to have any eggs through the winter, as is the case with many who keep hens, and to sell what eggs are disposed of in warm weather, at the low prices which generally rule at such times. The past winter I kept fifteen hens. Early in the spring, a neighbor, on being told that my hens had laid nearly fifty dozen of eggs since December last, said, that his "hens had not laid an egg then, that he had not commenced feeding them yet to make them lay," their principal food previous to this being boiled potatoes and oats—thus showing conclusively in this instance, that hens must have the right kind of care and food to make the keeping of them pay well.—O. T. ALVORD, in *Country Gentleman*.