

Are we to have a trial of Implements this year?

There are two kinds of clubs farmers should join. One to discuss agricultural subjects, and a club for a paper in which to express their views.

To persons that sent in their dollar to us for their year's subscription, and have not been in arrears, may add to their names three others at 50 cents, and remit us \$1. Thus they will be able to have their paper as cheap as at first, by retaining the 50 cts., or we will continue their paper for a longer term, or send them something additional. Remember 75 cents is the lowest we take for single subscribers at the office.

The third annual meeting of the Canadian Dairymen's Association, will be held at Ingersoll, Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 2d and 3d, 1870.

**GOOD RULES.**— An English farmer recently remarked that "he fed his land before it was hungry, rested it before it was weary, and weeded it before it was foul." Seldom, if ever, was so much agricultural wisdom condensed into a single sentence.

The first number of the "Canada Health Journal" has made its appearance on our table. It is a small but neat pamphlet, edited by Dr. Campbell of this city. It has a good article in it on the Treatment of Intemperates. It is a monthly, at 50 cts. per annum.

**Change in Varieties of Wheat.**— At one of the recent discussions at the Rochester Farmers' Club, it was stated by some of the farmers present that the Soule wheat, which was formerly regarded as the best and most profitable variety in Western New York, had been gradually deteriorating, and now but little is raised. On the other hand, the Mediterranean had been gradually improving in both appearance and quality, especially when sown on high ground, up to within a few years, since which time it has lost ground. What are the results of the observations of cultivators generally on this subject? We would like to hear from our readers.

**Gleanings from the Agricultural Press, East.**

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN (Albany) has an article on the drainage of cellars. Taking a sanitary view, it says:

"When we reflect what the soil of a cellar bottom has absorbed, in a half century's use, of the juices of turnips and onions, of cider and brine, not to mention cats, rats, and mice, and a thousand nameless horrors, we may imagine what sort of a soup is produced by the rising of the water to the depth of a few inches, and its stagnation beneath the floors of our parlors, dining rooms, and kitchens."

We have no doubt but that if the statistics of death in the houses where water in the cellar is common if not constant, could be carefully given, some problems would be solved that have puzzled physicians and neighborhoods for many a year. Why peo-

ple should die in one house, apparently before their time, and live in the next, when the surface circumstances seemed the same, has been in many places a grave question. A good drain from the cellar or a coating of cement on the bottom and sides might satisfy public wonder by making two houses within twenty rods of each other equally healthy, which in numberless localities is not the case to-day.

**Effect of Cooked Food on Health of Animals.**

BY E. W. STEWART.

Some who admit that cooked food will fatten animals faster, still claim that it is injurious to the health and constitution.

This, however, must be considered as wholly theoretical, since we know of no instance where careful experiment has given countenance to this theory. It is difficult to see how food should be rendered more soluble and digestible, and at the same time more unhealthy. Cooked hay is more laxative than in the dry state, but not more so than grass before being made into hay, and yet grass is the most perfect food for the horse, sheep, cow, &c., and no cooking ever yet done has rendered dry fodder more soft and succulent than grass. It has been found beneficial to correct the too constipating effect of hay by a little oil-meal or other laxative food. We have fairly tested the effect of cooking food upon the health of horses, cows and sheep.

I own three horses that have been fed every winter upon cooked food for twelve years. This ought to be considered a sufficient time to test it. The cows have always been healthy, in good condition, and yielded milk satisfactorily. The oldest horses have been used mostly to haul loads to and from the city, fifteen miles distant, and have sometimes fallen into the hands of bad drivers and taken very severe colds, but a few days on cooked food has invariably cured them. So far from having injured their stamina, I believe that without cooked food in winter, they would have been long since broken down and worthless, while they are now able to do good work at eighteen or nineteen years old. The effect has been equally favorable upon others. One, soon after I purchased him, had a bad cough and symptoms of heaves; but two weeks upon steamed feed cured his cough, and all symptoms of heaves disappeared and have not returned. I have come to regard steamed food as a specific for colds and incipient colds.

As cooked food is more easily masticated and digested, it would seem to be well adapted to the young animal; and such is the practical fact, notwithstanding some scientific men, so-called, have argued to the contrary.

I have raised many colts from weaning age to five years (six at one time), and fed them wholly upon cooked food during winter, and never discovered any weakness of constitution or want of stamina. They were always in excellent health, and have proved to be very serviceable horses.

And most peculiarly is this mode of feeding adapted to raising calves and young cattle. Instead of remaining nearly stationary as those of most farmers do in winter, trusting to the grass of the following season to bring them forward, they may be kept growing as thriftily in winter as summer. This is surely a great item. An average of two hundred pounds may be added to the weight of our cattle at two years by this mode of feeding. I have now a common heifer just twenty-four months old, kept with only ordinary care, under this system, weighing eight hundred pounds, and placed beside another of the same age, which I purchased of a neighbor, kept upon the old pick; pinch and freeze system, there appears at least a year's difference in their ages.

The Texas cattle disease has given a new in-

terest to cooking food, since it is ascertained that this disease is caused by the spores of the Cryptogomic plant, called *Tilletia caries*, and that this is probably communicated from a rust on the grass similar to rust on wheat. It has long been supposed that rusty straw or hay is unhealthy for cattle. A number of cattle have died in Massachusetts and other places, which Professor Gamgee has pronounced to be caused by smut on corn. All these facts show that diseases are caused by parasitical fungi on plants used as cattle food. Sometimes mildew or rust is very general, affecting a large proportion of the grain and grass, no doubt rendering the fodder less nutritious, and, perhaps, liable to communicate disease to our animals.

Now, when this occurs, "steaming is the remedy." Mechi found that rye grass affected with rust or ergot, from excessive manuring, which was fatal, when eaten by calves or lambs, in the green state, yet, when cured into hay and steamed, was entirely harmless food. Heat destroys these low forms of vegetable life, termed by botanists *epiphytical fungi*. We have often watched the effect of heat upon rusty hay or straw and found the odor entirely changed by steaming, and cattle are quick to recognize this change, eating that greedily after cooking, which they refused before. Diseased potatoes, which, which are unwholesome for animals in a raw state, become wholesome when cooked. Hay and straw which have been injured by too much moisture after cutting, or become musty, are restored to their original sweetness by thorough steaming. All these considerations show that cooking the dry food of animals must be promotive of health; and to this must be added the greater thrift, and the immense economy in being able to turn so much of what is now wasted into milk, meat, and wool, to serve as human food and clothing.

We do not positively say that we will continue our paper at as low a rate as we now place it, but all that send in their cash up to the 1st of April, will receive it for one year from the time their subscriptions are sent in. It will give us a good knowledge whether cheap rates will pay best. Send in your names while the price is down.

**SEX OF GUINEA FOWLS**

The inquiry in regard to Guinea fowls, may be easily answered. During the rearing of the young, there is no perceptible difference as to male or female, and, in fact, they can only be distinguished by their utterance, during the laying season, at which time the females are almost constantly calling "come back," or, as many people interpret the sound, "pot-rack," while the males are equally fluent in uttering the word "chu," "chu," "chu," while the female is not on or about her nest. There is another way they can be distinguished after they attain the age of six months. The males are much larger, with an increase of comb or gills, with prominent ridge on the beak, just as it unites with the feathers.

You will notice that the females are much more delicate than the males, in the appearance and shape of the head, and hence the large gills of the males are easily distinguished.—Ext.

Add all that is lost by selling too soon, then add all that is lost by holding, compare the sums, and the argument will be for a prompt marketing of all farm products.