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RURAL NOTES.

THE Canada West Farm Stock Association has established a branch of its business at Waukegan, Illinois, thirty-five miles north of Chicago. A detachment of the Bow Park herd has been located there, for the greater convenience of selling to western breeders. Success to the new departure!

THE "Davy" herd of Devon cattle in England, which has existed for nearly 200 years, and won a high reputation, was recently scattered by an auction sale. A yearling bull brought 100 guineas, a bull calf 90 guineas, cows sold for 80, 75, and 60 guineas, and the whole herd averaged £31 stg. per head.

AUGUSTUS STORR, of Brooklyn, N. Y. (may his tribe increase!), has presented to the State of Connecticut a well-stocked farm, with suitable buildings, located in the township of Mansfield, seven miles north of Willimantic, as a foundation for a State Agricultural School. The gift has been accepted by the State, an annual appropriation made for the support of the institution, and a board of trustees appointed.

THE British public is opening its eyes to the merits of American, which includes, in their indefinite way of speaking, Canadian cheese. An English paper says: "American cheese is coming into the market in very great quantities; from 30,000 to 40,000 cheeses have been landed in Glasgow every week during the last two months. Every lot is picked up as soon as it arrives, the quality being considered fine."

HERE is an item for those who desire to get rid of stumps. It is given for what it is worth, and may be easily tested by the curious: "In the autumn or early winter bore a hole one or two inches in diameter, according to the girth of the stump, and about eight inches deep. Put into it one or two ounces of saltpetre, fill the hole with water, and plug it close. In the ensuing spring take out the plug and pour in a gill of kerosene oil and ignite it. The stump will smoulder away, without blazing, to the very extremity of the roots, leaving nothing but ashes."

THE (English) *Gardeners' Magazine* says, that the importation of apples into Britain from the United States, from the abundant crop of 1880, amounted to no less than 1,948,806 barrels, of which 599,200 were shipped at New York, and 510,800 barrels at Boston. On this item, the *Country Gentleman* remarks, "it would be very gratifying to us, were it not for the fact that many of them were badly put up, to the injury of their reputation." Natural curiosity impels one to ask

how many barrels of apples were shipped from Canada during the season reported. Very likely the original statement included this, but it got sifted out while passing through the American papers.

BUTTERMILK is now being proclaimed, in certain quarters, as a panacea for many of the ills that flesh is heir to. It is said to purge the human system of refuse matter, to cure dyspepsia, and to be a remedy for sleeplessness. All this will be good news to those who are fond of the beverage. A show, at least, of scientific reason is given why buttermilk should aid digestion. The acid developed by churning is represented as aiding the secretion of gastric juices, which seems highly probable. Many would as soon take a dose of nauseous physic as drink buttermilk; still, if it is the efficacious medicinal agent which some authorities aver, we had better avail ourselves of it, even though wry faces have to be made in the process of gulping it down.

THERE is an evident "boom" in the direction of bee-keeping. Honey commands a high price, and the success of such men as D. A. Jones, Dr. Nugent and others, inspires a host of would-be imitators. But the trouble is, that few have any intelligent idea of the cost of success in bee-keeping. It involves, first of all, an intelligent knowledge of apian principles. This may be obtained by study of books on the subject, of which there is no lack. Then the manipulation of bees is an art only to be gained by practice. Most people make a failure of it at the outset, and have to pay for some lessons in the school of experience. Then the temptation comes to give the thing up in disgust. It is only those who persevere in the face of difficulties who achieve success. Perseverance is a rare virtue, and hence there are few really successful bee-keepers. In this, or in other pursuits, success has to be conquered.

THE Governor of Illinois, at the instance of a Committee of the National Shorthorn Breeders' Association, has issued a proclamation prohibiting the importation of "any domestic animal of the bovine species" into that State from certain districts infected with pneumonia, unless accompanied by a certificate of health properly signed by a duly authorized veterinary inspector. The localities placed under ban are as follows:—Pennsylvania—Counties of Lehigh, Bucks, Montgomery, Berks, Delaware, Chester, Lancaster, York, Adams, and Cumberland. New Jersey—Counties of Bergen, Morris, Essex, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Atlantic. Maryland—Counties of Cecil, Hartford, Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard. New York—Counties of Putnam, Westchester, and Queens. Delaware—

County of Newcastle. Connecticut—County of Fairfield.

THERE is no end of "sells" in the nursery business, and people cannot be too careful in dealing only with respectable and responsible parties. Peter Henderson says that no season passes but some pretended dealers in nursery stock have the audacity to plant themselves right in the centres of our large cities, and hundreds of our smart business men glide smoothly into their nets. The very men who will chuckle at the misfortunes of a poor rustic when he falls into the hands of a mock auctioneer or a pocket-book dropper, will freely pay \$10 for a rose plant of which a picture is shown them having a blue flower! And this kind of imposition will continue so long as men purchase trees and plants without knowing anything about them, or without availing themselves of the horticultural information which is now offered in so many different ways, or without making it a point to deal with those who have a character at stake and a business reputation to maintain.

THE dry earth closet system is the best mode of utilizing that richest and most neglected of manures, the contents of the privy. One difficulty about the adoption of this method is that of emptying the box in winter of its solidly frozen contents. Prof. Caldwell, of Cornell University, has hit upon a simple way of conquering this difficulty. He procured a box of galvanized iron and one of the cheap wheelbarrows sold at country hardware stores, knocked off the scoop-like body of the barrow, and mounted his box in its place on the frame of the vehicle, without, however, fastening it there, and an opening was made under the seat of the privy large enough to receive them both. When the box was full it was wheeled to a distant part of the garden, which, as usual in a village residence, extends back from the rear of the house, and was dumped off so that it would lie bottom side up on the ground; a small kettle of boiling water was poured over it, and directly it could be easily lifted off the solid mass within. Till this simple but ingenious plan was arranged he became almost discouraged every winter by the complaints that were made of the trouble found in removing the contents of the closet; but this substitute for the old-fashioned and still prevailing style of an ugly outhouse at the back side of the yard over an offensive water and air-polluting vault, was so convenient and healthful that he could not give it up for any such obstacle; necessity became again the mother of invention, and hence this contrivance, which, though worth more than many a patented idea of which we make common use, has still not sought any recognition at the Patent Office.