

steers the price of the butcher's cuts may be taken as a valuable guide ; but in judging cows the same purpose may be served by attaching relative numbers to the different points according to their respective values. This we have done in the standard points given herewith, the total being 100, so that in purchasing cows for the purpose of improving or building up a herd, the breeder will be able to select those possessing the greatest number of the most valuable points. Some latitude must be allowed in establishing these relative numbers, giving greater preference to the effect than to the cause. For example, if a milker has great digestive powers, it must follow that she has a capacious udder and large milk veins, and whatever other effects that result from the cause. Indeed, the whole machine is made up of cause and effect. The points may also be divided into two classifications, viz., (1) those indicating quantity of milk, and (2) those indicating quality, and the relative numbers may be adjusted according to the object sought—butter or cheese. The quality is indicated by the color of the skin, which is best observed on the escutcheon, in the ears, around the eyes, on the nose, etc., the peculiar dark-orange tinge on these spots being readily recognized, as well as the waxy appearance of the horns and hoofs.

The Coming Cow.

At the recent Islington show, held under the auspices of the British Dairy Farmers' Association, and representing the cattle, cheese, and butter interests of the whole United Kingdom, the little Kerry cow carried off two of the most important first prizes, having competed against Jerseys, Ayrshires, Holsteins and Shorthorns. This Irish breed is of small size, but compact in form, and has long been celebrated for superior milking properties, regarding both quantity and quality, as well as flavor.

Now look out for a Kerry boom. It is a notorious incident that live stock grabbers in their scourgings over the face of the earth in quest of boom material, have escaped the Kerry mountains. Our farmers who are in favor of infusing a squirt of aristocratic blood into the veins of their "scrubs" should have patience for a few years until the Canadian cow eclipses the Kerry, and then the fabulous prices will remain in the pockets of the farmer instead of being squeezed out into the pockets of the speculator.

At the Islington show the Rev. Canon Bajo, paid the following compliments to the Kerry cow: "It is a remarkable fact that with all the talk we hear of high-bred stock, of Guernseys and Jerseys, that a little animal called the Kerry cow has been to-day in your show yard the producer of the finest butter. Now if that be so there is something good in Irish cattle of which I feel pride as an Irishman. It is an exclusively Irish-bred animal that is able to produce against England the finest class of butter. I am connected with a company, in the finest land, I believe, in the world, called the Golden Valley, but we have been often beaten by the farmers from Kerry mountains."

PROFESSOR—(To one of his students): What is the average percentage of cream in milk?

STUDENT—Do you mean during the strawberry season, sir?

Grooming and Blanketing.

These being questions in which the health of the animal is greatly involved, should be carefully considered at this season of the year. Some farmers object to much grooming under the supposition that the dirt on the skin keeps out the cold, or keeps in the heat, as the case may be. The reverse of this is the case, however. Dirt radiates heat from the body, arrests the gaseous exhalations and distributes the temperature unequally over the different parts of the body. Cleanliness, induced by grooming, stimulates cutaneous circulation, and this is the true defensive weapon against atmospheric inclemency. If the whole surface of the body is kept clean, the temperature and the circulation become equalized, perspiration is free, the skin less vulnerable, the work of the other excretory organs is lightened, and the health of the animal promoted. Grooming is to our domestic animals what bathing and washing are to man.

Grooming may be done right and it may be done wrong. It is an obnoxious practice to raise a dust in the stall, especially when the animal is eating. If there is much hair and dust to fly, let the work be performed outside. The animal should not be irritated or tormented with the comb; if the skin is tender, the rubbing should be gentle until it toughens. Cattle may be groomed with great advantage to the animals, and consequently also to the owner; they will thrive much better, generate less lice, and lie down more comfortably. The currycomb is food.

With regard to blanketing farm horses, false physiological notions prevail amongst many farmers. If the stable is reasonably comfortable, no blanket should be used; but every farmer should be scrupulously attentive in applying a covering when the horse is in a state of perspiration, in or out of the stable. The strongest objection to the blanket is that it disturbs the natural equilibrium of temperature, arresting the emanations from the upper surface of the body. If the covering could be equally distributed over the whole surface of the body and limbs, the practice would not be so objectionable. The blanketed horse is a tender animal, and there is no use in ministering to his comforts in the stable, if he is to suffer therefrom in the performance of his duties. Horses accustomed to blankets would be injured by being suddenly deprived of them.

The Moncton (N. B.) Transcript, a paper which takes a great interest in the stock farm which the New Brunswick Government is about to establish in that Province, in criticising the action of the politicians and the party animosities that have been aroused in the contemplated change of the location of the farm from Kings to York county, has come to the conclusion that the most the Government should do in the interests of all concerned is to aid and encourage private enterprise.

Farmers who are in the habit of feeding scanty rations to their stock will have observed that they usually lose more flesh before New Year than during all the rest of the winter months. It takes some time for an animal to become accustomed to changes of circumstances, especially amidst sudden extremes of temperature, food and other conditions. Stock well managed during the first two or three months of winter, will require little attention afterwards.

Garden and Orchard.

Raising Small Fruits.

Most farmers regard small fruits as a luxury, and not as a necessary article of diet, and are therefore either prejudiced against their use altogether, or postpone their cultivation until they can afford to indulge in luxuries generally. The Fruit Growers' Association is doing excellent service in testing the different varieties and disseminating useful and accurate information. Very few farmers go into small fruit growing for the sake of profit, but more would engage in it on a small scale for family use if they were convinced that fruits were a necessary article of diet, as well as a wholesome luxury. By commencing in this way, it would soon expand into a regular branch of their business. Our fruit growers are attempting to awaken a livelier interest in fruit growing by advocating the introduction of botany into our public schools. This is a step in the right direction, but we fear that it will be as barren of results as the introduction of agriculture has been. The Association means systematic or structural botany, which would not have the desired effect. A knowledge of the names of plants or of their different parts, or even a knowledge of their cultivation, would be but a weak stimulus; consumption must be stimulated as well as production, and this can be most successfully achieved by a knowledge of physiological botany, including the analyses and nutritive properties of the different articles of diet. Teach the consumer that fruits are a succulent food, that they are useful for the saline or mineral matters they contain, which are usually deficient in other foods, that the acids are as wholesome as they are delicious, and frequently also medicinal in their effects; then teach the nature and action of succulent foods, the necessity for the plentiful supply of the salts of plants, the action of the acids, etc. An elementary knowledge of these facts would stimulate consumption, consumption would stimulate production, and production would create a thirst for a knowledge of the best and most profitable varieties. The introduction of agriculture into schools has proved a failure because the authorized text book does not contain the first principles; so it may be with botany.

Fruit growing as a business may be said to belong to a higher order of farming than most of the other branches. We mean that it demands greater intelligence. In order to attain the maximum of success, a comprehension of the principles of agriculture is just as necessary to the farmer as the principles of any other profession to those engaged in it; but the impression we wish to convey is that while a minimum of success can be attained in some branches of farming by brute force, fruit growing demands more brain than muscle. Hence we find amongst fruit growers an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and they have found that the most effectual way of acquiring it is by experimenting and organizing.

Every farmer possesses special facilities for the cultivation of small fruits. He requires no extra tools or implements; he can raise all the manure he requires; he has a wide scope on his farm for the selection of such soils and aspects