soft and fringy than a common larch, and of a peculiar, almost tropical appearance. What is usually propagated as the Pœmpferi looks much as other larches. There is some mistake somewhere.

L. Leptolepsis. From Japan. On the grounds of the Busy Institute this has proved the most rapid grower of all larches. It is of late introduction and its ultimate size, I do not know. The Tamaracs among the White Mountains and about Boston have been attacked by some insect or fungus, causing them to droop their leaves, and threatening their destruction. The leptolepsis larch, though growing in Boston quite close to native infected trees, shows, as yet, no signs of injury.

Liquidamber. Sweet Gum.—This is a really beautiful tree, native of the milder climates to the south of us. It suffers when young at Boston, and, with Mr. Brown, would not live above the snow line.

Liriodendron. Tulip tree.—There are trees about Boston fifty feet in height which, when in full bloom, are a sight worth seeing. A friend says, that the sight of one of these in full bloom is a sure cure for atheism. It also attains large size about Niagara. I planted a lot of little trees three years ago thinking that they would grow and kill back, and that I might, in that way, grow it as a shrub on account of its large peculiar leaf. It is not one of those trees that can be grown in that way. But it has come through our winters almost all right. It seems nearly hardy.

MACLAURA.—OSAGE ORANGE.

This is grown largely as a hedge plant where the winters are milder than ours. I have seen it at London, Ontario, making an impenetrable barrier around an orchard, growing rampantly one year, and killing back next, its dead spikes proving as formidable as the living. However, a friend writes that it has been found in the woods near London, suggesting increased hardiness. It forms a small ornamental tree of great beauty.

MAGNOLIA.

This is a class of tree of stately form, heavy, massive foliage, and large fragrant flowers, but we have not dared to try them here as yet; still, as a class, they vary much in ability to stand cold. The evergreen *Magnolias* suffered severely last winter at Washington. In the botanic gardens of Harvard University, at Cambridge, there are *magnolias* at least thirty feet in height. I have been struck with the way in which some varieties shoot their terminal buds in Boston, and think that they should be tried in some sheltered places about Montreal.

The Chinese varieties Soulangea and Speciosa and the Fraseri seemed the hardiest.

The head of the Jersey Cow depicted on our page is about as lovely a specimen as can be found. I don't know whether I am premature or not, but I would make a small bet that at the next exhibition at Mile-End there will be found more than one descendant of the old race, imported from the N. W. of France by the early settlers, whose general configuration and the "expression" of whose countenance will forcibly remind a competent observer of this lovely gazelle-like creature. The Canadian cow is to have a fair chance to show what she is and what she *can do*.

The first number of "the Breeder's Gazette," published at Chicago, has been kindly forwarded to us by the proprietors. The paper and type are both of a superior quality, and the engravings are well executed, though we must be pardoned for saying that the good points of the cattle are a little exaggerated. There is plenty of room for a journal like this, if it will hold the balance even, and take no party side in the contests between Shorthorn vs. Hereford, and Percheron vs. Clydesdale, and adhere strictly to its promise, that "our Horse Department shall be conducted from the stand-point of the farmer and the breeder rather than from that of the gambler and horse jockey."

AGRICULTURE.

Paris, October 1881.

With the view to develop the use of steam ploughs in France, a native manufacturer will lend that implement gratis, in order that intending purchasers may test its utility. The combination system, for the general purchase of farm machinery, the subscribers employing the implements by a rotation determined by lot, is also making satisfactory progress. At the Electricity Exhibition, the plough ordinarily worked by steam, has for motor, electricity, which drags the machine in inverse directions, as do the locomotives. In the case of the electric motive power, it is not necessary to transport the generating machine on the grounds, the current can be sent along by wires, at a distance of one or two miles from the farmstead, where the generator can be worked by the stationary steam engine. It does seem, that the only difficulty connected with the use of electricity, is to be able to produce it on a large and cheap scale. In the case of extensive illumination, electricity can be profitably employed, but not otherwise up to the present. There is no doubt electricity as a source of power and heat, as well as of light, will be made commercially cheap. For example, the power of the fluid is marvellous; in the Electric Exhibition the one current supplies the light, and drives the several machines, while never displaying any diminution in power, despite the several and varied demands made upon its services.

A warm discussion is going on between scientific and practical men, as to the possibility of profitably rearing precocious Merinos for the butcher. The Scientists assert the practice is remunerative, but their opponents reply, offering an examination of their accounts, that for thirty years they have been occupied with the question, and have never found the precocious Merino a paying investment, save where the rams are reared and exported for breeding purposes. A flock, then, of Merinos, highly fed, and destined early for the butcher, does not pay—in France at least. Scientific authorities are called upon to rebut these facts by counter-facts.

France expends three-quarters of a million of francs annually, in the purchase of native horses in Algeria, for cavalry wants, besides awarding prizes to breeders and supporting studs. The horses of Algeria are not good looking, but they are serviceable and bear immense fatigue. The Arabs continue to prefer mule rearing, to horse-breeding: the mule is more easily reared, fetches a higher price, and often commences work at the age of 18 months; for the Arab, the mare is his all; her foal, if of the same sex as the mother, is a joy, and is reared: if the contrary, a veritable calamity. Cattle rearing is more remunerative than horse-breeding, and less liable to deception.

Salicylic acid, after remaining for a long time a laboratory curiosity, has developed into a modern industry. The new product was accepted by some enthusiasts, as the philosopher's stone: it was boasted that it cured every disease, no matter whether of long or short standing, like a patent medicine. Then came the inevitable reaction. The French government excommunicated it in the interest of the public health, while other countries, that dispense with governmental tutelage, had no complaints to record on sanitary grounds. In Germany the acid has been found by veterinary surgeons efficacious against several diseases: horses with sore mouths, were cured in five days by merely allowing them to bathe their lips in a weak solution, renewed thrice daily. In 1874, in