

wares more for sale than for service. These facts however, do not detract from the importance of studying closely both the anatomy and physiology of all the animals kept on the farm. The organs of digestion, respiration, circulation of the blood, and of locomotion, need to be thoroughly understood. Effective and profitable assimilation of nutrient elements can only be realized in systems of the right form. Where the chest is too small for the free and healthy play of the lungs, and the ribs too flat and near together to allow adequate room to the abdominal viscera of ruminants, digestion and respiration are imperfectly performed, and the gain in flesh, wool or dairy products, for the food consumed, is less than it ought to be. Hence, a broad skeleton, indicating a barrel form of the body, and a deep, capacious chest, show a high capacity to fatten. On the other hand, a narrow, flat carcass, with both the hind and fore legs close together, because the osseous frame is defective, indicates feeble powers of digestion and assimilation, and a bad animal for breeding, as well as feeding. The bones of the pelvis, spine, ribs, chest, legs and head are too little examined and compared by those who aspire to the honors of good stock-breeders. Indeed, we regard a knowledge of comparative anatomy as indispensable to one who would really improve the live stock kept on his farm. The whole theory of good and bad points, rests on anatomy and physiology. Reject these, and all is darkness, doubt and uncertainty; for no man can possibly understand the organization of an animal before he has made its anatomy the subject of special study. No one has ever distinguished himself as a breeder of neat stock or horses, who did not understand all the essential points of a good animal. These should be seen, and particularly described by some one familiar with the same, rather than learned from any mere book account of them. The most common defects in native cattle, are large heads and horns, long, large and crooked legs, big, coarse, bull necks, narrow chests, and narrow across the back and loins, hair coarse and harsh, skin hard and close to the bone, and the whole appearance of the creature indicates all the evils of domestication, with little or none of its advantages. The brute has been taught to depend on man for its food, and finds anything but plenty, or kindness at his hands.

Such of our readers as have had opportunities of seeing the fine forms of the native deer of American forests and prairies, need not be told how far they excel in beauty and symmetry most of the so-called cultivated neat stock of the country. The latter, instead

of being improved, is sadly deteriorated by thousands of farmers. If cattle were properly cared for, they would never fail to improve by domestication. All wild animals show the advantages of good keep in their appearance when abundantly supplied with nourishment. The husbandman should show his art in providing aliment for his stock, as well as his science in pairing males and females. In this way, all really mean stock would soon become scarce, to the great benefit of the public.

In selecting breeding animals, it is important to have the female proportionably larger than the male; for the blood of the mother nourishes her offspring both before and after its birth for some months. If she is small and the male large, the young is likely to be disproportionably large as compared with the supply of aliment, especially if its mother be not well fed. Males of the most perfect form, with sound constitution and of medium size, are always to be preferred. Animals either over-grown or under-grown are generally to be avoided for breeding purposes. Fashion often leads to the production of cattle which are monstrous in size and fatness; but such monstrosities show a corrupt public taste, and are not to be encouraged by wise persons. Animals kept for propagation should not be allowed to become either very fat or very poor. Extremes of all kinds are to be sedulously avoided. They are the bane of all that live, and the natural fruit of human folly. Many err in attempting to keep more cows than their pastures will properly feed, so that they yield but a small quantity of milk, and their calves get stunted before they are three months old, to a degree that injures them for life. Keep all calves well the first twelve months of their existence, and it will do much to improve the bovine race. It is needless to say how grass and milk are to be produced: for no reader is presumed to be ignorant on this subject.

MAPLE SUGAR.

THE season for making maple sugar will soon arrive, and a few remarks as to fixtures and preparations therefor may not come amiss. A few years since it could be purchased in our market at from six to eight cents per pound by the quantity; but within the past two years it meets with a ready sale at ten and twelve cents per pound, and choice samples will readily command extra prices. From being an article of slow sale, it has, in consequence of the clearing up of our lands, become an article of luxury; and we do not, under ordinary circumstances, anticipate any future decline in prices.