

from other causes. Green food will sometimes purge. A horse worked hard upon green food will scour. The remedy is change of diet or less labour. Young horses will scour sometimes without any apparent cause. Astringents should be used with much caution here. It is probably an edict of nature to get rid of something that offends. A few doses of gruel will assist in this purpose, and the purging will cease without astringent medicine.

Some horses that are not well rubbed home, (having too great space between the last rib and the hip bone,) are subject to purging if more than usual exertion is required from them. They are recognised by the term of washy horses. They are often free and fleet, but destitute of continuance. They should have rather more than the usual allowance of corn, with beans, when at work; and a cordial ball, with one dram of catechu, and ten grains of opium will often be serviceable either before or after a journey.—*Youatt.*

(From the London Farmers' Herald.)

Much pains have been taken at various meetings of the Agricultural Societies, held during the last two months, to enforce upon farmers the importance of selecting improved breeds of cattle and sheep, to the exclusion from their stocks of any of doubtful pretension—and calculations have, in some cases, been made to shew the advantage of such breeds in point of profit. Now in selecting the stock for his farm, a judicious farmer has two or three preliminary enquiries to make—two or three important matters upon which to satisfy himself, before he stands committed to any particular breed of either cattle or sheep; and the most experienced must be aware, that a selection of animal which on one soil and in one situation may do well and afford a fair return, yet, when removed to another, ceases to be so productive, and, in some instances, is even a source of loss instead of profit. In illustration of this, at a recent meeting of a Farmers' Club, we had the pleasure to sit between two members, one of whom was a successful exhibitor at all the neighbouring shows of Southdown sheep, which he had bred in and in for ten years; whilst the other, whose farm was within five miles from that of the gentleman just spoken of, had tried to breed them, but totally failed, and failed, as he rightly judged, in consequence of diseases incident to his more humid situation.

It has been our lot also to see splendid short-horn beasts, or rather what had been, in the previous generation, very fine animals indeed, grazing in pastures upon so poor a soil that our only wonder was how they lived at all. The breed from such stock must, of course, degenerate, and, instead of being profitable, are sure to become just the reverse. It is all very well to seek to awaken stock farmers to the advantage of improving their breeds by the judicious selection of well-blooded beasts; but it is much better to urge upon them the vast importance of seeking in the first place to acquire a knowledge of what their soil is capable of performing, and what their situation will afford—for, most assuredly, unless the stock be suited to the soil and the situation, loss instead of profit will be the certain result. Hitherto experience, too often dearly bought, has been the farmer's only guide—books have as yet been but little unfolded before him—the experience of others has been transmitted, if at all, orally from father to son—and certain lands have traditional value for the rearing of certain stock or the production of certain crops, whilst other lands have for ages been reputed to be fit to rear nothing but geese and feed only the fowls of the air. Now, however,

the press has been brought forward in aid of the agriculturist, and "SCIENCE WITH PRACTICE" has become the farmer's motto; reasons have been assigned for the various agricultural operations, and causes, with their certain effects, have been pointed out. To books then we would have the young farmer resort, if he would know why certain animals will not thrive upon some soils which are well suited for others—and why crops, which in the early stages of their growth, wear a promising and healthy appearance, should in their maturity fail to remunerate him for his labour. Why some soils which may have been in tillage beyond his recollection should continue to afford profitable employment, whilst others are apparently totally exhausted. If he would know why one animal, of a particular shape, size, and form, is more likely to feed quickly than another, and why that other may yet be more likely to suit his soil and his situation, and therefore be more profitable, although, perhaps, not a beast of such complete proportions: let him read what others, more experienced than himself, may have written upon these subjects, and let him compare their observations with his own.

It has been well observed, by an eminent writer, that "by the help of history a young man may, in some measure, acquire the experience of old age;" and it is equally clear that by the combination of theory with practice—or rather perhaps we may be justified in going further and say, that, by the help of theory alone a young man may, in some measure, acquire the knowledge which practice only can really supply. Let him then apply to books as he would to a friend whose knowledge will be freely imparted, and whose assistance may be at all times relied on without disappointment. The sweeping charge so often and so boldly made, that farmers are an ignorant and prejudiced class, will most assuredly hang about them until they are prepared to give reasons for the various operations they carry on, and the predilections they evince in the choice of stock—and there is no way by which they can so surely remove the stigma as by each man reading the opinions of others and recording his own for the benefit of his fellow farmers.

#### CREAM.

*New method of obtaining Cream from Milk, by G. Carter, Esq., of Nottingham Lodge, near Elltham, Kent.*—The process of divesting the milk of its component portion of cream, to an extent hitherto unattainable, has been effected by Mr. Carter, and is thus detailed by that gentleman in a paper presented to the Society of arts. A peculiar process of extracting cream from milk, by which a superior richness is produced in the cream, has long been known and practiced in Devonshire, this produce of the dairies of that country being well known to every one by the name of "clotted," or "clouted cream." As there is peculiarity in the milk from which this fluid is extracted, it has been frequently a matter of surprise that the process has not been adopted in other parts of the kingdom.—A four-sided vessel is formed of zinc plates twelve inches deep, with a false bottom at one half the depth. The only communication with the lower apartment is by the lip, through which it may be filled or emptied. Having first placed at the bottom of the upper apartment a plate of perforated zinc, the area of which is equal to that of the false bottom, a gallon, (or any given quantity) of milk is poured (immediately when drawn from the cow,) into it, and must remain there at rest for twelve hours; an equal quantity of boiling water must then be poured into the lower apartment through the lip; it is then permitted to stand twelve hours more, (i. e.

twenty-four hours altogether,) when the cream will be found perfect, and of such consistence that the whole may be lifted off by the finger and thumb. It is however, more effectually removed by gently raising the plate of perforated zinc from the bottom by the ringed handle, without removing any part of it with milk below. With this apparatus I have instituted a series of experiments, and, as a means of twelve successive ones, I obtained the following results; Four gallons of milk, treated as above, produced in twenty-four hours, 4½ pints of clotted cream, which after churning only fifteen minutes, gave 40 ounces of butter. The increase in the cream, therefore, is 12½ per cent, and of butter, upwards of 11 per cent. The experimental farmer will instantly perceive the advantages accruing from its adoption, and probably his attention to the subject may produce greater results. I shall feel richly rewarded if, by exciting an interest on the subject, I can produce any, the slightest improvement in the quality or mode of producing an article which may probably be deemed one of the necessities of life.

#### ICE-HOUSES.

[FOR THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.]

PETERSBURG, VA., Dec. 5th, 1843.

A GREAT deal has been written on the proper construction of ice-houses, and yet there are very few who preserve ice in the best manner. The chief defect, as far as my observation extends, is imperfect drainage. Nothing can compensate for this; all the lining of roof and walls with tan-bark, charcoal, &c., will be attended with little benefit. As the season for cleaning out ice-houses, preparatory to putting away the ice, is at hand, I take the liberty of making a few suggestions on the subject.

The best site for an ice-house is at the summit of a steep declivity, with a northern aspect. If there be trees about it, so much the better. When the pit is excavated, it will not be a difficult matter to cut a drain on a level with the floor, either by ditch or tunnel. When the ground is level, the only drainage that can be effected is by absorption. If the earth be of a loose and porous texture, the absorption may keep pace with the supply of water from the melting ice, but if it be compact and retentive, I know of no remedy, not even by sinking a well of moderate depth. The ice-water and rain-water will destroy the ice long before the hot season is past.

The best ice-house I have ever seen, is one made in as cheap and rude a manner as the plainest farmer could desire. On the side of a hill a pit was dug; a simple pen of logs supported the walls; it was covered with rived pine slabs, and so open as to admit a free circulation of air. During the heat of the day, the sun shines full upon the roof. And withal, the pit is only 12 feet square, by 14 feet deep. It has been in use now for 6 or 7 years, and has never been clear of ice since it was first filled. Two years ago, when the winter was so mild, it was only half filled, with thin ice; and yet there was some remaining at the end of the next season. In the construction of this house, there is nothing to distinguish it, except the perfect draining.

Our ice-houses in Virginia generally become empty by the last of August or first of September; in many cases still earlier. There is no time when it is more desirable to have a full supply than in September; for the weather is then sometimes exceedingly hot, and more sickness prevails than during any other month. Since ice has become an article of necessity almost as much as a luxury, I trust these remarks may not be unproductive of some benefit.

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