

author himself, having been one of Liebig's first and most convinced pupils, confesses to have done so.

But all these obstacles—the ignorance of the public, and the occasional mistakes on the part of Liebig's adherents—cannot suffice to explain the persevering opposition which the new agricultural system encountered for so many years, and which even now has not yet completely subsided. The chief obstacle to its speedy and universal adoption lay in its striking, and quite unexpected, practical inefficiency.

Contrary to the discoverer's fond hopes, the artificial manure composed by his orders, and tried on the grandest scale upon every variety of soil and climate, had none, or scarcely any, influence upon the produce of the fields; at any rate, if such an influence could be perceived at all, it was infinitesimal, and too slow to be of any practical value.

Now, the unsuccessful chemist had to undergo a long and dreary period of discouragement, ill-will, and malicious derision. Let us hear his own words about it:

"A real, lasting, and, not to be mitigated, sorrow, was caused to me by the fact that I was unable to see and discover the cause of my artificial manure's inefficiency. In thousands of cases I perceived each of its ingredients operating exactly in the way indicated by my theoretical researches and discoveries; yet, when united, and brought into the shape of artificial manure, they seemed to be worth less."

Sincerely convinced of his doctrine's correctness, the perplexed discoverer was helpless before its practical failure. And yet, a decisively favorable and convincing result was absolutely necessary to keep it afloat, as the opposition to innovating doctrines is nowhere stronger and more tenacious than among farmers and land-owners, to whom the inclination toward routine and the following of old courses is even more natural than to the rest of mankind.

From the beginning, they had scoffed at the idea of preparing manure by artificial means; they had declared aloud that animal action was necessary for its production, and that, as a frequently used phrase somewhat peremptorily said, "The work of nature could never be replaced by the product of a chemist's melting pots!"

The failure of Liebig's artificial manure caused indescribable jubilation in the ranks of the farmers and land-owners; strange to say, they loudly rejoiced to see that efforts which had been made exclusively toward their own good, and toward the raising of their condition and welfare, had been unsuccessful!

(To be continued.)

With pleasure we notice the importation of a Stock Horse, from Maine, into Maitland, Nants. The animal is from the celebrated breeds of Knox and Messinger, he stands 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ hands high and weighs 1250 lbs. and is beautifully proportioned and of a rich brown colour. Although only five years old and untrained to trot, he shows an extraordinary rate of speed. This horse was imported solely by private enterprise at a cost of \$1300.—*Truro Sun*.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF KING'S COUNTY AGRI. SOC'Y. FOR 1874.

The officers of King's County Society for promoting Agriculture, in compliance with the Provincial Act of the encouragement of Agriculture, respectfully submit the following report for the year 1874.

In reviewing the transactions of the past year, the Directors feel conscious that it would be a remission of duty did they omit to congratulate the Society on its advanced position, on the interest displayed by members, and the agricultural class generally in this important branch of industry, so peculiar, so essential to their present demands and future comfort. The fixed purpose of this Society, for some years past, has been the improvement of stock for beef, and it is pleasing to note that, locally there is a marked progress in that department, and the gratification would be more enhanced could the remark be more extensively applied. The introduction of improved breeds necessitate a deviation from fixed grooves. Stock of high character is the component of high farming, and, unless the connection is maintained, good results are precarious, therefore we are not unmindful of the fact that progress has not been co-extensive with the expense incurred. If superior animals are an acquisition, extra means should be taken to maintain and keep them up to that standard of excellence which they have acquired, and for which they are conspicuous.

Domestic animals readily adapt themselves to surrounding conditions—farm Stock in particular, and in their good or bad appearance is usually reflected the thrift of the farmer. To attain that standard of excellence, it will be requisite to adopt a course of treatment opposite to that now in practice. In the choice of breeds for a particular locality, and for a specific purpose, regard should be had to the influence that soil and climate would exercise in developing the animal system, also to the too common practice of mixing different breeds on the same farm as incompatible and injurious; amidst such

confusion it is impossible to establish a family type or carry out a desired purpose.

We are conscious of the obstacles to be surmounted in carrying out a systematic course of breeding. Some of the requisites are time, patience and skill; when these have been expended, local prejudice may step in and play an ugly part. If we had breeds in this country adapted to particular purposes we should not go abroad for them, but we shall have to rely upon other countries for a supply as long as this consequent practice exists, a situation that does not redound to the credit of the garden of Nova Scotia. Though the variety of breeds of cattle in England are very great, we have ventured to import only a few of such as are considered the most popular, viz.: the Durham, the Ayrshire and Devon; these having their origin in particular localities shew that climate, situation and capacity of the soil to feed, have co-operated in establishing their peculiar qualities. To the agriculturist Nova Scotia presents many natural inducements yet undeveloped, to the employment of labour and capital. We have extensive dyked marshes that could be made to yield an abundance of the best fodder, rich intervals and hill-side pastures; also sandy plains and stony ridges, each requiring a race of animals especially adapted to it. The climate, with its varied temperature, offers no impediment to raising vegetable products as food fit for man and beast, and, if our brag is worth anything, we can feed to repletion.

MILCH COWS.

In submitting a few remarks on this subject we feel conscious of our inability to present any new or original suggestions. It is satisfactory to notice that the dairy is beginning to attract attention; heretofore this important branch of husbandry has been overlooked by our agricultural societies. Milk has special attractions as an article of food, and is indispensable in our nutritive economy. The profits accruing from the dairy attest its importance, and the quantity of milk used in the manufacture of butter and cheese in the Dominion of Canada for exportation is creating a demand in the home market, more especially for the latter article.

The consumption of cheese has largely increased within the last few years, and is becoming a staple article of food more than a luxury. In the products of the dairy Nova Scotia has always sustained a reputation for excellence, and the indications are that it will soon be a leading agricultural interest.

The milch cow is a machine for converting herbage into money, and the more nutritious food she gets the more profit is realized. Good cows are in demand and prices steadily advancing. Latterly