

ment of saleable carcass. When chemical analysis had once shown how food should be applied so as to produce the greatest amount of flesh, the point for consideration was the limit of price of these flesh-producing substances, so as to bring feeding within the bounds of a profitable operation, for there is necessarily a pecuniary limit beyond which the cost of food would be more than the product of feeding. We may assume that this has now been ascertained by direct experiment, and that the different kinds of cake which now form the basis of feeding are within the range of a reasonable return.

It is not surprising, when artificial foods should thus come to be adopted as so much fattening power, that various mixtures should be employed largely impregnated with stimulating substances. They are thus made extremely palatable to the animal, who naturally enough thrives upon the good things provided for him. We will not now stop to inquire how far this stimulus may be permanently beneficial, even admitting the temporary advantage; our object is simply a cash account. If the price of cake, ranging at about £10 a ton, forms the limit from which any ordinary return can be expected, how can an article, sold at a price realizing from 300 to 400 per cent. on the cost price of the materials of which it is composed, ever bring any return at all? Such savoury condiments, dished up at from £40 to £50 a ton, have no more fattening powers than the ordinary cakes and meal, of which, indeed, their bulk is principally composed. Locust beans, the different oilcakes, and Indian corn form the basis of these cattle foods so often paraded before the public, with which sundry stimulants, making a kind of curry-powder concoction, are mixed up. This, though it may be highly agreeable, yet at the price above stated forms a most costly addition to the ordinary feeding cost, and an animal once reared on such material can hardly fall back on ordinary food; hence the price of fattening is greatly enhanced, but without any increase of the saleable carcass, for there is a natural limit in this direction. A compound at £10 a ton will make no more flesh than oilcake at £10; but if the farmer approves of and will have the compound, let him simply mix the materials himself. There is no secret in the composition, for the test is at hand in a simple

analysis. The following is an ordinary formula:—

## TO MAKE ONE TON OF MEAL.

	Cwt.	qrs.	lb.	Price.
Locust Bean, finely ground, at £6 a ton.....	6	0	0	£1 16 0
Indian Corn, at £7 a ton.....	9	0	0	3 3 0
Best Linseed Cake, at £10 a ton.....	3	0	0	1 19 0
Powdered tumeric, at 8d. a lb.....	0	40	1	6 8
Sulphur, at 2d. a lb.....	0	40	0	6 8
Saltpetre, at 5d. a lb.....	0	29	0	8 4
Liquorice, at 1s. a lb.....	0	27	1	7 0
Ginger, at 6d. a lb.....	0	3	0	1 6
Aniseed, at 9d. a lb.....	0	4	0	3 0
Coriander, at 6d. a lb.....	0	10	0	7 6
Gentian, at 8d. a lb.....	0	10	0	6 8
Cream of Tartar, at 1s. 8d. a lb.....	0	2	0	3 4
Carbonate of Soda, at 4d. a lb.....	0	6	0	2 0
Levigated Antimony, at 6d. a lb.....	0	6	0	3 0
Common Salt, 4 a lb.....	0	30	0	1 3
Peruvian Bark, at 4s. a lb.....	0	4	0	16 0
Fenugreek, at 9d. a lb.....	0	22	0	16 8
Total.....	20	0	0	£12 18 5

Looking at this composition, it will be evident at a glance that the chief ingredients, are the ordinary commercial locust bean, Indian corn, and oilcakes. These form its bulk, and constitute nine-tenths of the whole; the remainder being made up of condiments and stimulants, the sulphur and antimony being intended to act upon the skin in the production of a fine coat, and the fenugreek forming a kind of mucilage to prevent any ill effects that might arise from the stimulating character of the food. These ingredients have, no doubt, been selected with skill, and an animal may be expected, and not unreasonably, to thrive upon such savory substances. For this precious article (which it unquestionably is) the modest sum of about 42s. a cwt. is demanded, or at the rate of £42 a ton, or upwards of 200 per cent. on the cost prices, even taken at the valuation given above, which, for the one-tenth or stimulating portion, might be considerably reduced if the several materials were bought at wholesale prices. We prefer, however, to take the ordinary trade valuation, in order to give the widest margin possible for the cost—this, after all, being the simple point at issue. If a farmer wishes for the article, the use of which, containing as it does so much stimulating matter, is very questionable, and chooses to pay from three to four times the intrinsic value, it is, of course, at his option to do so; but as the whole question of farming is one of paying, we will put it plainly—Can it pay to feed animals on substances costing from £40 to £50 a ton? A knowledge of the constituent elements of these foods may induce a pause before the outlay is made. Some supposed great secret has, no doubt, with a few, acted as a charm, on the