

smoke is conveyed to these rooms from fires in the collar, through tubes on which the vapour is condensed and the heat absorbed, so that the smoke is both dry and cool when it comes in contact with the meat. They are thus kept perfectly dry, and acquire a colour and flavour unknown to those smoked in the common method. Hams after being smoked may be kept any length of time, by being packed in dry ashes, powdered charcoal, or being kept in the smoke-house, if that is secure against the fly, or a smoke is made under them once a week. When meat is fully smoked and dried, it may be kept hung up in any dry room, by slipping over it a cotton bag, the neck of which is closely tied around the string which supports the meat, and thus excludes the bacon bug, fly, &c. The small part of a ham, shoulder, &c., should always be hung downwards in the process of smoking, or when suspended for preservation.—*Albany Cultivator.*

The Highland Society.

The Highland Society of Scotland is the most powerful, and perhaps the most useful, agricultural institution at present existing. A Scottish land-owner would blush to acknowledge he was not a member, and many of their tenants have their names enrolled on the list. Nor is it absolutely necessary to be a Scotchman to become a member.

Besides the large amount given in premiums at the annual cattle show, immense sums have been expended in forwarding the enclosing and improving the "muirs and mosses mung," with which Scotland used to abound; and under the fostering care of the society, "barren wilds" have become "fruitful fields." Premiums for anything new in the arts connected with agriculture have been liberally given, and a repository provided for the models. High premiums and honorary medals are given for the best essays on agricultural subjects; the prize essays being recorded in the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, which being conducted under the auspices of the Society, and containing an account of its transactions, is found a useful and instructive work.

Premiums have been distributed with a sparingness to those who inclosed water-dressed morasses, planted trees, &c.; to those who made the best butter and cheese; in fact, in relation to every subject connected with the purposes of the institution,—the improvement of Scotland.

The Society, for the first two or three years, held their cattle show in Edinburgh. The gentlemen of the west of Scotland having offered a handsome addition to the premiums, it was one year transferred to Glasgow. A rivalry sprang up among the districts, and each vied with the other in making the show splendid. Fairs have now been held in the principal towns of Scotland; and thus year it took place in the ancient border town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. As the English side was allowed to compete, the anticipation, since realized, was entertained, that this would be the most magnificent show ever held; and so it was.

Between the border countries of Northumberland, York, and Durham, on the English side, and Berwick, Roxburgh, and Haddington, on the Scotch, a rivalry exists as intense as it was in the days of yore, but now much more beneficial to the country. Durham was the birth-place of short-horns, Northumberland their nurse; but the Scotch have asserted that they could be reared to perfection north of the Tweed, and the trial which took place on the 29th of September, at Berwick proved that the Scotch were right.

A worthy Scotch friend has placed in our hands a Berwick Advertiser, of October the 2d, containing a full account of the great

agricultural meeting. We wish it was in our power to give to our readers some idea of its magnificence. The picture would arouse our American farmers to greater exertions in the same way. The concourse of people was immense, and it embraced a large portion of the learning, rank, and beauty of both sides of the Tweed; and even Ireland had its representatives there. There were entered for competition, 962 head of cattle; including horses, neat cattle, sheep, and hogs. The premiums ranged from 200 to 5 sovereigns, and included everything which has any connection with agriculture.

We observe that, at the fairs of the Highland Society, sales of cattle, &c., at auction, always take place; and we believe that the commissions on the sales go into the treasury of the Society. This is a practice which ought to be adopted at all the fairs in this country. It would tend greatly to increase competition and the size of the meetings.

In one of the speeches of the Marquis of Tweeddale, he stated that a great deal had been lost by some farmers in liming their poor land. But he stated that land containing much vegetable matter was as much improved as ever by lime. No fact is better known than that lime is of little use on land bare of humus of vegetable matter; but certainly none is better established, by the experiments in England, as well as in this country, that lime is eminently beneficial on land containing a fair proportion of vegetable matter. It is beyond doubt very beneficial in mellowing stiff, cold, and clayey soils.—*Louisville Journal.*

Farmers' Club.

The season is approaching when farmers will have leisure time during the long winter evenings, for social, mental, and moral culture, and opportunities to improve in all things connected with the practice of their art; it is the time to gather knowledge and lay up facts for future use.

What means are best calculated to attain this end?

Agricultural papers are an important help. Every farmer who wishes to thrive in his business ought to take one or more agricultural papers. There is not a number published but contains a useful hint, and the information contained in a volume, will, if properly and judiciously applied, save in the labour of man and beast, much more than the expense of a score of volumes. They pass from hand to hand in the farmer's household. The wife and daughters learn something from them that is useful; the boys acquire a taste for reading on the subject of their employment, and as new ideas are presented to them in a shape that they can understand, they become more interested in it; they take hold with a will, and perform their appropriate duties with greater facility, and greater advantage to their employer, the patient animals on the farm and themselves.

But readers of agricultural papers ought not to expect, in the present state of the science of agriculture, and their own deficiency in knowledge of the fundamental principles of their art, a unity of sentiment among agricultural writers. Neither ought they always to expect success in adopting an experiment that has proved advantageous and profitable to the one who narrates it; they ought not to condemn the paper that recommends a mode of practice that is unsuccessful with them. There are many reasons why success does not uniformly attend the same course of practice. In the first place the idea may be imperfectly received by the mind; again, difference in soil, manure, &c., though slight, may defeat the result expected.

The question arises, how shall farmers avail themselves profitably of new discover-

ies and new developments in the science and practice of agriculture, that are from time to time laid before them? The answer is plain. By acquiring a thorough knowledge of the fundamental principles of agriculture.

By the organization of Farmers' Clubs in every town or school district, where farmers can meet each other one evening in a week, for the purpose of discussion on the principles of agriculture, where doubtful modes of practice can be inquired into, where improvements that have been adopted in other places can be investigated, and their adaptation to particular locations be fully understood; where the primary principles of agricultural science, would be made the subject of frequent conversation and inquiry, and all the good that can be derived from such organizations be obtained. The plan is simple, feasible and profitable. Great good must result from its adoption. The same measures have been adopted in nearly every parish in England, and they have become exceedingly popular. The reports published by these Clubs from time to time, show the great interest that farmers of all grades take in them, and the rapid strides that are made in improvement. In order to give an idea of the manner in which these Clubs are conducted, we shall publish, next week, a report of the doings of one of them, extracted from an English publication, and also give a list of agricultural books that ought to be owned by farmers so organized. Every farming town ought to have an agricultural library.—*Yankee Farmer.*

Apples for Stock.

To the Editor of the Boston Cultivator.

Recent experiments, however, have demonstrated to the more candid and judicious of our farming friends, that Apples are a valuable article for other purposes, and the cider-mill is rapidly giving place, in many sections, to the steaming apparatus and the oven.

Hogs are now fattened exclusively on apples, both boiled and baked, and there is no longer any question but that pork can be made with far less expense, and of a quality equally as good, on apples, as on potatoes, meal, or corn. Last year I butchered a hog, sixteen months old, which weighed 500 lbs. For seven weeks previous to bringing him to the tub, he eat nothing but boiled apples. A few days before killing him, I ordered some dough to be made, thinking that by keeping him for a week or so upon corn-feed, I should increase the quality of the pork. But to my utter astonishment, it was no sooner placed in his trough, than he rooted it out. The experiment was repeated for three several times in succession, but always with the same result. Apples, cooked in the usual way, were then presented, and he eat of them as usual, and upon them he was kept from that time till his death. I never eat sweeter pork, and although I had no regard either to those mysterious signs, so important in the estimation of some farmers, nor to Lunar influence, the

"Meat ne'er shrank a bit i' the pot."

A PRACTICAL FARMER.

TOBACCO.—We yesterday met with a farmer from the interior of our state, who had 1000 pounds of tobacco with him, which he sold at 3 cents per lb. He says he can raise it at a cost of 3 cents per lb. Not 20 miles from us on the Canada side, 2000 lbs. are obtained from an acre. The same can be done in Michigan. Mr. John Melvin informs us that he obtained 4000 lbs. on two acres. Persons desiring to try the experiment, could procure seed in Canada or in the South.