

log in winter materially improves both the quantity and quality of wool, and that good pasturage is quite as good for the quality of the wool as the most nutritious food fed to a stalled sheep. The test was made with those of the merino breed.

The professor also concludes, as the results of patient investigation and research, that food has a greater influence on the quality of wool than climate.

PRESENT EXPERIMENTS.

The bill on hand for experimenting during the present year is both full and varied, including amongst many other items of much importance, experiments in dairying on a large scale, in fattening cattle, including the possibility of making yearling beef fit for exportation, and in fattening shearling wethers of six distinct grades for the British market.

The careful examination of the report will prove labor well spent. Although some of the conclusions reached in this abysmal science may prove faulty, and some of the experiments turn out to be less utilitarian than could be desired, the new thoughts alone which the perusal of these gives birth to are of immense benefit to the inquiring mind. A young man of good parts cannot read it without being struck with the limitless compass of the variations in that grand science, agriculture, which is to form his future life-work, and of the importance of rivetting upon that work at once the best of his energies, and with a perseverance that knows no cessation. Agriculture, the unfathomable science, is in this respect perhaps only second to the Author of it.

What's in a Name?

There is usually difficulty at the first in acquiring a name, but when once obtained, it is certainly a passport to power and influence. The effort which brings men to the front is usually infinitely more laborious than that required afterwards to sustain them in this position. While it is not usual then for men to rise without real merit, it is quite possible for them to sit upon the mountain top, while others more worthy of the place must stand beneath them.

The way that leads to distinction is always one of toilsome effort, especially in lands which give no preferment to the distinguishing accidents of birth, but the avenues of fame are usually on level ground when the upland is once reached. The studies of Chalmers, the great and the good, were, if anything, less laborious when the thousands hung upon his lips in the Tron church of Glasgow, than when pouring forth a tide of equal eloquence to the honest rustics of Kilmany, and we venture the assertion that the brain-power of Edward Blake, the university student, was no less severely taxed than is that of the Hon. Edward Blake, the leader of the opposition, whilst watching the every movement of the ablest diplomatist this country has ever seen.

The heights of distinction, though not perhaps always sunshine, admit of life more at ease than the way that leads to them, as this affords no resting place to the man determined to clamber upward. In other words, the multitude will readily pay homage at the shrine of greatness when once declared, who will deny it to the man of equal merit prior to such declaration. The reasons are that the many allow a few leading spirits to do their thinking, and hence to formulate their estimate of worth; and most are prone to go with the crowd, even though they may not be able to give a reason. And this principle pervades every avenue of life, from the king upon his throne to the successful school-boy upon examination day. We find it in the estimate that men put

upon the legislator's worth, but no less in that which they place upon the cow or the horse of the stockman.

This explains what otherwise would indeed seem unaccountable, that most men in purchasing a superior animal will give far more by way of tribute to the fame of the breeder, than for the animal itself. We often find stockmen who have made their mark, buying up animals from some neighbor, similar in breeding to their own, and of equal merit, because of this tendency in the human mind that leads it to worship at the shrine of fame.

We find no fault with the successful stockman for accepting the tribute thus rendered, for it is spontaneously given, and it points at least to past merit; for the accident of success (if we may so use the term), unlike that of birth, never places a stockman upon a pinnacle to which he has not clambered over a way hedged in with difficulties. But we do with purchasers who allow a name to blind their judgment, and hence to lighten very materially their pockets.

There can be no denying the truth of our assumptions. Their correctness has been exemplified again and again in a thousand sale-rings in many lands, and in the history of stock transactions in every neighborhood. Animals exposed at the same sale and of exactly similar breeding by two individuals, the one noted and the other not, will sell very differently. Some men, quiet and unobtrusive in their ways, will, in some instances, fail to find purchasers for animals of real merit, while their neighbors, it may be, go a long way and pay a large price, partly for pedigree, partly by way of tribute to greatness, and partly for the animal.

All this points to a great lack of judgment on the part of those seeking good stock. Herein, it may be, lies a chief difficulty. The men who are really good judges of stock are not very numerous, and hence they are led to take for granted that everything a distinguished breeder may have must necessarily possess intrinsic merit. It is not surprising that such should be the case, as hitherto the attention of the majority of farmers in this country has not been particularly directed to the stock interest. But all this must change. Grain growing must become more and more engaged in simply to provide supplies for the ever-increasing stock interest, and therefore the judgments of men as to what is inferior or really good must be cultivated more and more.

In every age it has been a matter of prime importance to individuals to be masters of the situation. A man who is necessitated to engage another to select for him is not in a position to attain to the first rank, while at the same time this course should not be altogether shunned while the judgment is being educated. As with all the other faculties, the judgment may be so educated, and in a marked degree, and just as other faculties of the mind are educated, by study and practice.

This affords a strong argument in favor of holding stock exhibitions, and of affording every facility for onlooking while the judging is being done. How much the country could afford to pay to sustain a show of this kind is at least an open question, one that should in part be determined by the estimate put upon the education of judgment that these would facilitate. There can be no question but that such exhibitions would not draw the crowd as do those with the peep-shows and the mountebanks in attendance, but would they not draw that portion of our community who are to form in coming days the principal stones of our edifice of national greatness; the section of our farmers whose hearts are set upon improving our stock?

Then our agricultural colleges can and do lend a helping hand in assisting us to educate the judgment in this respect. The young farmer who has never enjoyed the benefits of such an institution has only his observation to aid him in reaching his decisions, and it may be the teachings of the agricultural press, while the student has the more definite and more exact teaching of the college to regulate his observations.

The possession of a good judgment is not only valuable to the stockman in making purchases, but also in making sales. We once heard an anecdote related of the late Lawrence Drew, at one of England's fairs: A rustic from one of the midland counties brought in a horse of great promise, but he did not seem to know the real value of his treasure. Mr. Drew asked his price, which on being named was at once paid over in British gold. Some foreigners standing by put the question to Mr. Drew as to what he would take for his new purchase. He at once replied, naming a sum very far in advance of what he had paid, and signified that he did not care to sell at that. This difference in price was just the amount given to Mr. Drew as a reward for cultivating his judgment, and the penalty paid by the rustic for having neglected to do the same.

While the current sets in the direction that we have found it flowing, the effect is to discourage stockmen at the outset who may have begun wisely, and who have animals of real merit. We say to such, Do not be discouraged; persevere, and your turn will eventually come. True merit may for a time be pent up by the snow-drifts of obscurity, like the waters of some rivulet, but eventually they will find an outlet at the approach of the brighter suns of more congenial days. True merit, like true worth, in the end breaks through all barriers and finds its way adown to the broad and brimming river that flows through the avenues of a more public life.

Huntingford.

THE GOLD MEDAL PRIZE FARM OF OXFORD.

All the way out from Woodstock to this beautiful farm the country presents evidences of a richness such as is not found in many parts of Ontario. The beautiful dwelling-houses and the substantial farms speak of a prosperity that must be somewhat hazardous to the young people of this section, who are so highly favored with fine roads and a proximity to an attractive town, the enticements of which are not the most conducive in any case to the upbuilding of that strong character, which becomes at once a bulwark in society and a pillar to the nation.

The shades in this pet region are abundant, and the ancient forests (all that is left of them) speak of great capabilities of soil. The hills of this part of Oxford contain a wealth of gravel sufficient for the wants of all coming generations, and the valleys possess a depth and fatness of soil that handsomely repay the husbandman for his tillage. In fact, almost any one of the fields that we saw on our journey to Huntingford, five miles northward from the town, would have answered for a garden. The streams in the valleys are very pure and hurry on with a perpetual flow.

Mr. John Donaldson, the father of Mr. Wm. Donaldson, the present occupant of Huntingford, settled in Oxford about a mile southward from Huntingford in the year 1840. He came from the romantic county of Cumberland, and not far from the historic town of Carlisle. Mr. Wm. Donaldson purchased a portion of his present farm in 1857, which now comprises 300 acres, although he has a fine farm leased in addition, not very far from his home.

Huntingford is the only farm that we have met