

Mr. McDonald had so well said on the subject. Ho The show of Orchis and purple-fringed species (*O. spectabilis* and *H. fimbriata*) are remarkable for the beauty of the three or four purplish flowers borne on the spike; the former, unlike the latter, prefers the wooded hillsides. The white fringed species is delicately scented and is susceptible of cultivation, as, notwithstanding its habitat in low grounds, it flourishes well in the common flower-pot when properly watered. The beautiful little Calopogon is found in the wettest portions of the bog, along with the round-leaved sundew. The structure of the flower in this genus affords an interesting instance of the adaptation of means to an end in nature. The pollen, instead of being connected by threads with a sticky gland for the purpose of adhering to the stigma, as in the other genera, consists of loose powdery grains. In order that these grains may adhere to the stigma, it is broad and flattened at the apex and covered with a beautiful array of white, yellow and purple hairs with club-shaped ends. The stemless lady's slipper (*C. aculea*) is a delicate little species growing in the shade in moist ground and is closely allied to the two cultivated species *C. insignis* and *venustum*. It bears only a single flower of rose-tinted purple color, and is far more rare than the coarser yellow flowered-species.

Owen Sound, Dec. 15th, 1873.

C. M. P.

Omission Supplied.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

SIR—I notice an omission from my article on "Varieties of Soil" as published in the number for 15th Dec. The particular proportions of No. 3. are not included. In case the omission should have occurred in the MSS., I send you the details, which please have the kindness to publish in your next number.

I remain, yours truly,

C. M. SMITH.

Owen Sound, Dec. 24, 1873.

No. 3. Cultivated Soil.

Silica.....	680	grs.
Alumina.....	60	"
Lime.....	51	"
Magnesia.....	6	"
Oxide of Iron.....	25	"
Potash.....	4	"
Soda.....	2	"
Phosphoric Acid.....	6	"
Sulphuric Acid.....	2	"
Carbonic Acid.....	40	"
Organic Matter.....	107	"
Moisture.....	9	"
Loss.....	5	"

Total..... 1000 "

[NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The article referred to by our esteemed contributor, was printed exactly according to MSS., copy.]

A BIT OF ADVICE.—Our Arlington correspondent, by availing himself of our advertising columns, will, no doubt, obtain the information respecting the particular breed of fowls and eggs desired. They may be procured either in Canada or the United States.

Mr. Lewis F. Allen, Buffalo, editor of the American Herd-book, announces that he will receive pedigrees for the forthcoming 13th volume of that work until January 1st, for bulls, and until February 1st, for cows.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Our friends who kindly favor us with original communications, will oblige by writing in a good bold hand, on only one side of the sheet, leaving room between the lines or in the margins for any necessary alterations or corrections. Such matter, marked on the envelope, "Copy for the Printer," and left unsealed, goes through the P. O. at one cent per ounce.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club.

At the last meeting of the Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club, the subject for discussion was, "The benefit of a Farmers' Club, and the best method of conducting it."

Mr. Alex. McDonald, who had been appointed to introduce the subject, said, "Mr. President, and gentlemen, I feel sorry that the task of introducing the important subject chosen for discussion to-day has not devolved on some member of our club more able to do it justice than I am. It is a great, and obvious truth, that the farmer has not the same conveniences, opportunities, and facilities of daily intercourse, communications, and comparison of knowledge and opinions as the followers of commercial or manufacturing interests have. The latter naturally congregate in towns and cities, and their sympathies, feelings, and opinions, circulate like electricity immediately through the whole body to their mutual advantage, encouragement, and success. But how is it with the cultivator of the soil? At home, separated, distributed among a thousand rural fields, each attentive to his own acres, they have only occasional opportunities of meeting and communicating with each other. The duties of the farmer are varied, intricate, ever changing, dealing in trial, experiment, and new endeavor, coping with nature in every mood, and often witnessing results involving mysteries of which no research has discovered, or philosophy explained the cause. This experience is beyond price to the whole community, and he is called upon by the noblest of influences to meet his neighbors in social converse, learn his method of operation and its results, keep himself interested in his occupation, and posted in everything pertaining to his profession.

The follower of no other calling is so liable to fall into narrow, dogmatical habits, keeping on unchanged from year to year, until they mark his identity as surely as his own physiognomy, and chains him a slave to routine, in thought, sympathy, action, impulse, observation, and labor. It is here the farmers' club comes to assistance, and shows its benefits. He can there meet his brother farmers in a free, easy, and candid interchange of ideas and opinions for the general good, and impart and receive information to their mutual advantage. The only difficulty connected with these institutions is to get farmers together, as a body, to think, and act in concert. I cannot account for their apathy and indifference in patronizing and supporting them, as their object is to encourage and support agriculture in every possible way. It can be readily seen that by their means much valuable information is diffused, different modes of cultivation compared, and their results ascertained, improvements suggested, and made public, and such thoughts, opinions, and observations elicited, as cannot fail to exercise a beneficial influence on all concerned. Such meetings stimulate to reading and thought, and their record through the medium of the press awakens attention, and diffuses intelligence through the whole community. They tend to soften the farmers' prejudices, increase his knowledge, and improve his manners, and it certainly behoves everyone to do his best to strive to improve his own position, and also that of his fellow-men. In conducting a Farmers' Club, a simple organization only is necessary. A President, Secretary, and two or three managers might comprise the officers. The subjects brought before the club, to be introduced by some member of it, or such other person as the managers may think fit to select; the discussions to be conducted with as little formality as possible, and every available means taken to improve their efficiency, and increase their usefulness.

Our club meets regularly once a month during the winter season, and we cordially invite everyone to join us, free of expense. It has been our earnest aim and endeavor to make our meetings as interesting and useful as possible, and, although we have not accomplished so much, or received such an amount of support as we could wish, yet I am fully persuaded that our time and trouble has not been altogether thrown away."

Mr. Carruthers said, "He could add little to what

was of opinion that it was desirable, and for the advantage of the farmers of the township that the club should be carried on; and was sure that it must be very discouraging to those who took the trouble to get up the opening address to see so small an attendance. It must be from want of thought that so few attended. If they got up a good, lively discussion now and then it would create more interest in their meetings. He was sure they all might spend an hour or two more unprofitably than in attending a meeting of the Farmers' Club."

Mr. T. A. Pratt said, that "farmers had not the same advantages as townspeople had, who got the news, and saw each other every day, whereas farmers would not see each other oftener than once a week, if as often. He thought that if the club would get up a regular subscription list, and charge so much for its membership, that their meetings would be better attended. What people got for naught, they put little value on, and, besides, if they had some funds, they could secure speakers from a distance, occasionally, to introduce a subject, and stir us up."

Mr. J. Russell said, what he thought "a Farmers' Club was very useful for an exchange of ideas, and that, if it was really taken hold of in earnest, it would be for the benefit of all. If he had not attended many of their meetings, he could say that he had read all their reports with great pleasure, and he hoped with some profit, as they were generally very interesting. He could, he thought, express himself much more freely if it was not for their secretary sitting there jotting their sayings with his pencil, which he might put in print. One great drawback to all the Farmers' Clubs was that farmers had so much to do at home that they could not find time to attend the meetings."

Mr. Pratt, President, in summing up, said that he thought "the present subject had been very well introduced to the meeting, and that he had little to add to it. Though the club had not succeeded as well as he could have wished, he was convinced that they had really done some good by their discussions, even during the past year. He believed that he had been at every meeting of the club for the last twenty years, and he thought he had reaped some benefit from them, as he heard different methods of working, or raising crops, and was led to try them. He did not know any better method of conducting a club than their own; to have a President, Secretary, and two or three Directors. A great deal depended on what sort of men they put in these offices. They wanted, if the club was going to succeed, to be active and energetic. As they were now going to elect their officers for the ensuing year, he would say, to elect suitable men. It was a great mistake to put people in positions that they were not qualified to fill. For his part he had done all that lay in his power to make the club beneficial to all concerned. He regretted that so few came to these meetings, and thought if our farmers took proper interest in the matter that they would find time to attend the meetings."

The following are the officers elect for 1874:—Mr. Alex. McDonald, President; Mr. Walter Riddell, Secretary; and Messrs. J. Russell, J. C. Carruthers, and T. A. Pratt, Directors.

WALTER RIDDELL, Secretary.

Baltimore, Dec. 20th, 1873.

"Triumph" for Short-horns.

Those who have been in the habit of reading the London *Mark Lane Express* will not need to be reminded that it has never been prodigal of compliment for Short-Horns. Its comments on the Smithfield show just held, reach us as we go to press, and come with unusual force in view of the foregoing fact. Its leading editorial, written before the prize awards were announced, opens thus:—

"As a good butcher's beast, there can be no question but that the Short-Horn will this morning have to encounter a far more severe trial than he hitherto has done. One of our most experienced judges, Mr. Sanday, has told us that the Short-Horn ox, for beef of really prime quality, is by no means so valuable an animal as he once was; and yet in the face of this, the Champion Plate has since its establishment at the Smithfield Club, been won three times out of four, up to the close of 1872, by a Short-horn. It has been, however, continually urged that this award has never depended so much upon actual merit as on certain preponderance of partiality or prejudice. Thus, until very recently, while one bench included a Devon, a Hereford, and another odd man, the judges who undertook Short-horns, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and cross-breeds were commonly all Short-horn fanciers; although this majority, as we have shown before now, was never warranted by the number of entries. There was, accordingly, something very like a working majority to begin with, unless,