

from the farm, carries away soil fertility. The sale of milk also robs the soil ; but in order to produce the milk, food must be fed to the cows, and about eighty per cent. of the fertilizing material in the food is available for the soil. Where butter or cream only is sold very little soil fertility is carried from the farm, as butter and cream consist largely of those elements which the plant gathers from the air, hence cost the farmer nothing. Buttermaking is a most valuable means of restoring the fertility to worn-out soils.

ICE-HOUSES FOR THE DAIRY FARM.

Every dairy farmer should provide a supply of ice for cooling milk and other farm products. It is also very convenient for household purposes in hot weather.

A very simple and cheap house will serve for storing ice. The main requisites in an ice-house are to have drainage under the ice, ventilation above it, and protection from the direct rays of the sun and from the rain. A few rails covered with sawdust, placed in the bottom of the house, will provide drainage. Some posts placed in the ground in such a way as to provide support for a "shanty-roof," and support on the sides for rough lumber, and holding the sawdust in place, will produce the other requisites. The ice should be packed firmly and solidly, having about one foot of sawdust around the sides and on top of the ice. The air should circulate above the sawdust, which can be got in a shanty-roof building by leaving the gables on the sides not boarded.