## HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

We have the strongest belief that the farmer should keep before him a high standard, not in two or three special products of his farm only, but in all things; for there is no profession in which all the conditions and circumstances of life, well understood and made the most of, so concentrate to induce efficiency, comfort and wealth, as in that of the farmer. There is probably no trade, business or profession calling forth so universal an intelligence. We therefore quote, with sympathy and satisfaction, the following paragraphs from *Farm, Stock and Home*:

"The grandest product of the farm is not large crops of wheat, corn or other grain; nor is it herds of stock, nor the pounds of butter; it is the boys and girls. In every avenue of life where thrift, capacity and energy are required, the man who pushes to the front is the son of the farmer. He has the intelligence; there is a large element of broad, common sense in his nature; he has a constitution that can endure labor and all the trials of life. It is a notable fact that in all the colleges our best students are the boys from the farms. In the workshops, in the halls of legislation, at the bar, on the forum, in the pulpit, ninety-nine-one hundredths of the men who stand upon the summit were once boys on the farm.

In youth they perhaps went barefooted, wore patched clothes, and worked their way up to an education; but they got there! While the city boys are fooling with the most frivolous things in life, the country boy is working, struggling towards the practical, useful ends of life, and often brings up on the summit of fame. With a book under one arm and a few extra clothes in his hand, he passes the elegant home of the city boy, and looks at ease and luxury from a distance; but one day he may return and buy the mortgage which is now on that once envied home, and become the honored citizen.

Where did that boy get his noble purpose and unfaltering courage? They were born to him on the farm; they were woven into his fibres by years of toil; the warp and woof of his life are threads of golden labor."

True, however, as this is, it should not be taken as encouragement to the farmer's boy to desert his father's calling—a tendency far too marked for many years past in various parts of the Dominion, and resulting in the overcrowding of what are called "the professions."

AN INCREASING PEST.—Among the unsightly objects which meet the eye of the tidy orchardist, none are more disgusting than the nests of the Fall Web-Worms, which are to be seen as early as the middle of July and on through the remainder of the season, upon the apple-trees, shrubbery and shade trees.

The most feasible plan to destroy this pest seems to be to watch for the dried appearance of the leaves, and as soon as the presence of a colony of these caterpillars is thus indicated, remove the branch containing them and destroy them by burning or crushing. When the worms are small and it is difficult to reach them, a swab, attached to a pole, dipped in kerosene and thrust into the nest will destroy them.—*American Agriculturist for July.*

H. I. Y.—We can scarcely do better in reply to your question than to give you the following from the *American Agriculturist*:—

"Experience has abundantly shown that mulching the ground not only adds to its fertility by the decay of the mulch itself, but it also retains a large amount of ammonia from the air. All have observed that soil covered with mulch keeps more porous and friable than when left exposed to the sun and drying winds. Earthworms contribute toward fertility by their holes, through which the air easily penetrates, imparting fertility, which the soil absorbs. A piece of ground, a part of which had been in strawberries and mulched with salt hay for three years, showed a great advantage from the mulch. When plowed, this mulched part broke up very finely, while the other part was very lumpy. It was all planted the same day with corn, which came up in five days on the mulched portion, and was about two weeks coming up on the rest, and much of it failed to come up at all. The after culture was alike, yet there was a much more vigorous growth on the part which had been mulched. Soils not only have the power of absorbing ammonia from the air, but also from water that holds it in solution. By retaining the water so enriched, mulch adds to the fertility of the soil. Besides the advantages already mentioned, it is an easy way to keep clear of weeds. The hay from salt marshes is excellent for this purpose; but where it is expensive or inconvenient to procure, other material will be found servicable."

We have little doubt but that the time has come when a far greater attention will be given to breeding stock throughout Nova Scotia than has hitherto, for a long time, been paid to that branch of farm improvement and means of profit. In this connection we recommend the following, on account of the axioms of common sense embodied in it, to the careful attention of the farmer who may be contemplating the improvement of his breeds:—

"The coupling of two animals can not, *of itself*, produce qualities to a degree greater than the sum of that to which they exist in the animals and their ancestors. The breeding of animals can create excellence only by addition and holding the same. In the true sense of the term, qualities in animals are *created* only by environment. For breeding to make any improvement, there must first be one superior animal; and its superiority can come only of more favorable conditions surrounding it. Hence improvement is made along two lines: By surrounding animals with favorable conditions and by selection in breeding. The first produces in individuals greater merit than is possessed by those animals not so happily situated; the second combines and holds this merit. The animal of superior merit not only has more good points than the average animal, but it has fewer bad points; and when two superior animals are selected and bred, their merits are doubled and their defects are divided as compared with the merits and faults of animals reproduced in their offspring. It is plain that selection in breeding can accomplish nothing, unless the animals are first surrounded by unusually favorable conditions. On the other hand, favorable environment is of little value without selection in breeding, for the good results produced by it may be lost with each animal. There will be no aggregation and retention of merit. Hence the two must go hand in hand."—*American Agriculturist.*

One of the most absurd and mischevious errors of the day is that of the father who gives to the son destined for a farmer an education inferior to that he bestows upon the one destined for a profession.—*Ben. Perley Moore.*

The following appears to be a suggestion excellent from its simplicity:

A WINDOW IN THE CHURN.—Professor Shelton thinks that all churns should have a pane of glass in the end, so that the operator may observe, without opening the lid of the churn, when the butter is beginning to form, and may know the exact moment when the churning should stop.

Early cut hay more nearly compares with grass in the green state than any other feed, and the greater value of the early-cut is speedily shown when cows giving milk, previously fed upon it, are abruptly changed over to late cut hay. The observations of some farmers have been so fixed upon these results as being uniform under uniform circumstances that they have settled upon the grass ration as second to no other factor upon the farm in insuring success in feeding.

So much of the ordinary butter made thoroughout Nova Scotia is either oversalted or undersalted, that we give prominence to the following from the *Rural Vermonter*, chiefly on account of its indication of proportions, believing that there is a good deal of rule of thumb prevalent:

SALTING BUTTER WITH BRINE.—This is a practice coming into vogue among progressive dairymen. Novices often fail in their first attempts. In all cases, allowances must be made for the amount of water in the butter before the brine is added. In butter worked and packed for market, it amounts to 12 to 15 per cent. Butter lying loose in the granular form contains considerably more water—say 15 to 20 per cent. The brine may be saturated, but when applied, it is diluted by the water in the butter. Hence results undersalting. Salt enough should be added to the batch to saturate the water in the butter—say to the amount of about 36 per cent of the weight of the butter. That is to say, there are about 20 pounds of water in 100 pounds of butter. This calls for about seven and a quarter pounds of salt. Either brine salting or stirring the salt into the granular mass of butter is far preferable to working in dry salt, which never can be evenly distributed through the butter. The brine touches and covers every granule.

## OUR COSY CORNER.

Jackets and basques are now closed with hooks or buttoned invisibly. The absence of buttons after their former abundance and showiness is especially noticeable.

The Chinese coiffure still struggles for supremacy, but straight bangs are ordered out. The Greek knot, sometimes called the Hebe, and less reverently denominated "the pug," is fashionable; and curled or crimped bangs are laid back upon the head and fastened with lace-pins. Fillets of gold or silver cords or bands of gay love ribbon may encircle the head.

JELLY WITHOUT BOILING.—Press the juice from any fruit, put one pound of sugar to every pint of juice, and stir till all is dissolved. Let it stand for twenty-four hours, and it will be ready to put in glasses or jars. This will keep well.

Never attempt to make jelly on a cloudy or damp day, if firmness or clearness is desired. If jelly is not very firm, let it stand in the sun for a few days, keeping it covered with pieces of window-glass or mosquito-tenting.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP," and take no other kind.

A CARD

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, etc., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the REV. JOSEPH T. INMAN, *Station D, New York City.*