

Artificial Butter.

The wholesale butter dealers are beginning to complain of the inroads made upon their business by the growing traffic in the compound known as oleomargarine. It promised to be a formidable rival to both the farm product and that of the creamery. Mr. T. Mortimer Seaver, Secretary of the Butter and Cheese Exchange, who is evidently well posted as to the future prospects of the trade, in an address delivered before the Susquehanna Agricultural Society of the State of New York, on the manufacture and use of oleomargarine, said:—"As a product, it has already taken its place among the commodities of commerce, and is destined at no distant day to prove no mean competitor of a certain class of butter. It has not, as yet, risen to the rank of a first-class table product, though in many instances where it has been surreptitiously sold for butter, it has deceived hundreds who daily consume it. If, then, its abettors have managed to produce an article so clearly resembling butter that persons in the daily habit of eating butter do not perceive the difference, it needs no great stretch of imagination to foresee how formidable an opponent it may become, when by constant manipulation and improvement the defects which now enable good judges to detect it are eradicated, the prejudice of consumers removed, and the product given a fair opportunity, on its merits, which, until a very recent period has been denied it.

"Next to the dairy resources of the West, there is no competition from which New York State has so much to apprehend as oleomargarine; and it is even a greater competitor against the West, for the bulk of Western butter, outside of creamery, being an inferior grade, off color and flavor, compares very unfavorably with the bright, rosy, uniform color of oleomargarine, not to mention the fact that it can be produced at figures cheaper than ordinary Western, and fresh every day."

"It spite of the low prices that have ruled this summer, the oleomargarine factories have been constantly busy, and hundreds of tons of it shipped abroad and consumed at home. This is in the face of all the opposition that has been brought to bear against it. What, then, has the future in store for it when every commission house in the city shall open its doors to receive it, and, placing it alongside of your dairies, offer it for sale, advocating its merits whenever it promises a better profit than butter? And this is just what you may look forward to within another year."

Dairy Notes.

The habitues of stock yards, men who are thoroughly conversant with the sheep, hogs and cattle that come and go from one year's end to the other, express the opinion that the producer derives no benefit, makes no money by the ill-bred, low fleshed animals offered for sale. Time and again has it been exposed as one of the worst of the farmers' fallacies to permit animals to breed at will, and then "root hog or die" for a living until they arrive at a worse than scrub maturity in the expectation of making money out of them.—*Journal of Agriculture.*

Elmira, N. Y., is cursed, or was very lately, with a cow-milking machine. It had tubes, and all you had to do was to sing some sweet tune, or say "So, bossy," and then carry the pail to another cow. Yes, carry the pail to another cow; for the pail was not so full but that it would hold the milk of both. As a result, in one instance of a trial of the milker, a Mr. Fitch gives all whom it may concern fair warning of intention to "eject from his premises any man who should enter with the request that he take a patent cow-milker." This is one of the humbugs we have tried, and exposed in the *Scientific Farmer*, with the expression of opinion that no machine can succeed which does not give the udder the motion the calf gives in sucking, and which every good milker must imitate so far as he can.

A Brother in Burlington County, New Jersey, writes:—"Our Pomona Grange has made one shipment of sheep and cattle from the West this summer, and Brother James Lippincott starts soon for three car-loads of heifers and cows, by order of the Executive Committee of Pomona Grange. Said committee being composed of one from each grange, and each one charged with the wants and needs of their own grange, but of this committee is chosen a committee of five or six, called the Stock Committee."

Poultry Yard.**White China Geese.**

It is only of comparatively late date that geese-breeding has received much attention, more especially the raising of pure-bred ones; and even now there are many who would like to go into it but are afraid it will not prove profitable. Geese pay well on a farm where they have plenty of liberty and can get all the grass they can eat, which is considerable, but they cannot bear confinement and do not pay when kept in close quarters. A grain and grass farm under an ordinarily good system of management is just the place to make them pay, and those who live on such farms, and have not tried geese, should do so by all means.

There is one thing which makes many persons opposed to breeding geese, and that is their pugnacious disposition, for they are severe on other poultry. Full-grown birds (chickens) can easily get out of their way, but they will kill many a young chick if they get a chance to do so. The old gander is worse when his mate is setting, and that is generally the time most young chicks are out. A little care, however, will prevent any loss in this way.

In regard to varieties opinions differ naturally. The Toulouse geese are very highly esteemed, growing to an exceedingly large size, but in point of laying the White China are ahead of them. They are pure white in color, with a knob or excrescence at the base of their bills, giving them a very curious appearance.—*Poultry Bulletin.*

Hardiness of Fowls.

In view of the very severe losses of chicks this year by poultrymen generally all over the United States, it would seem that hardiness is one of the greatest essentials in fowls, and the subject worthy of a few lines.

My experience is that clumsy, sluggish fowls are not as healthy as quick, active ones; and also that feather-legged fowls are not as healthy as clear-legged ones.

First, it stands to reason that an active game or Leghorn fowl, that forages away off, and picks up many insects, etc., getting a great deal of exercise, should be healthier than any inactive, clumsy Cochinchina or Brahma, that has to be lifted off and on the roosts, and that sits around on the ground all the time.

Again, a clear-legged fowl has a better chance to travel and scratch than one whose legs are clogged by feathers, and also does not catch the filth and snow, etc., and is not so tender-footed.

My Leghorns are wide-awake creatures, and they scratch and lay and cackle right along, and keep my egg baskets full.

My Plymouth Rocks are fine, large, clean-legged birds, weighing eight to twelve pounds. They are much larger than the Leghorns, but not quite their equals in laying. They are up before me in the morning, are active and forage long ways off, and many of the chicks I do not see till they come home late, with their crops full. They are well-named Rocks, because so hardy and solid, and almost proof against disease. I never heard of one having cholera.

Give me the active, clear-legged fowls, and you may have all the balance. No cholera in mine, thank you.—*D. A. S., in Journal of Agriculture.*

Composition for Hen Roost.

Make a trough for the roost by nailing lath on both edges of a piece of scantling or board three inches wide, projecting upward half an inch or more. Fill this trough with mortar, into which has been put to one pail of mortar half a pound of sulphur, half a pint of crude carbolic acid (liquid) and half a pint of kerosene. If you want the mortar to set quickly, add one pound of calcined plaster, such as dentists use for casts. Mix thoroughly. The mortar can be knocked out easily, and removed once or twice a year. Have these roosts loose, so they may be turned over bottom side up in very cold weather, to guard against freezing the fowls' feet by contact with the cold mortar. Poultrymen will find this much more effective than patent eggs, etc., as the whole flock sit on the roost ten or twelve hours every day, instead of a part of them a few minutes, when they are laying. The above is neither expensive nor troublesome to make, and should be used by every body who keeps fowls.

Veterinary.**Granular Growth in Wounds.**

To E. B., Elgin County.—That proud-flesh is the consequence of such a wound as you describe, and is to be expected unless proper precaution be taken. The case is so similar to one described in the *Country Gentleman* that we copy it as applicable to the case of your horse:

"Last fall one of our horses calked himself severely, so that for two months he was laid up. He did it again in the spring, and in July a third time in about the same place. He was laid up, but escaped and cut himself once more, and before these had healed he calked himself a fifth time, so now there is a lump larger than a half dollar standing out nearly half an inch. This does not seem to heal over, and we are afraid of proud-flesh getting in. Can you recommend any remedy for this, and a preventive for his calking? How would rubber shoes answer for this last? Have any of your readers had any experience with them?" "A. G. G."

The ulcerated surface must be pared off with a scalpel to a level with the surrounding parts, and after it has ceased bleeding, paint over with a strong solution of carbolic acid, and continue this every day for a week, or longer if necessary. Also apply the following powder twice a day for a few days, and as the sore dries diminish its use. Powdered calcium hydrate, 1 oz.; red precipitate, 2 dr.; mix. After a week or ten days smear the parts with a paste of white precipitate and Venice turpentine. If the growth begins again it must be pared off with the knife, and if the wound is at the junction of skin and hoof, the latter must be kept rasped thin under it to obviate pressure. If he calks himself in the stable, the feet should be protected by boots. If outside, then probably the Rodway shoe would be serviceable. The rubber shoe is not durable, but with careful driving you ought to be able to prevent much of this awkward action on his part. Still there are animals that, despite all contrivances, will cut themselves with calks.

The Digestion of the Horse.

BY COLVIN.

The horse's stomach has a capacity of only about 16 quarts, while that of the ox has 250. In the intestines this proportion is reversed, the horse having a capacity of 190 quarts against 100 of the ox. The ox and most other animals have a gall bladder for the retention of the bile secreted during digestion; the horse has none, and the bile flows into the intestine as fast as secreted. This construction of the digestive apparatus indicates that the horse was formed to eat slowly and digest continually bulky and innutritious food. When fed on hay it passes very rapidly through the stomach into the intestine. The horse can eat but about five pounds of hay in an hour, which is charged, during mastication, with four times its weight of saliva. Now the stomach, to digest it well, will contain but about 10 quarts, and when the animal eats one-third of his daily ration, or 7 pounds, in 1½ hours, he has swallowed at least two stomachs full of hay and saliva, one of these having passed to the intestine. Observation has shown that the food is passed to the intestine by the stomach in the order in which it is received. If we feed a horse six quarts of oats it will just fill his stomach, and if, as soon as he finishes this, we feed him the above ration of seven pounds of hay, he will eat sufficient in three-quarters of an hour to have forced the oats entirely out of the stomach into the intestine. As it is the office of the stomach to digest the nitrogenous parts of the feed, and as a stomachful of oats contains four or five times as much of these as the same amount of hay, it is certain that either the stomach must secrete the gastric juice five times as fast, which is hardly possible, or it must retain this food five times as long. By feeding the oats first it can only be retained long enough for the proper digestion of hay, consequently it seems logical, when feeding a concentrated food like oats, with a bulky one like hay, to feed the latter first, giving the grain the whole time between the repast to be digested.