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Editorial.

Agricultural Statistics.

The Dominion Government, it appears, have already, or are about to introduce a Bill into Parliament, having for its object the collection of Agricultural Statistics. These Returns will be made to the Agricultural Department at Ottawa, and subsequently published for general information.

We have for years advocated the necessity of such information, and during the time Mr. C. S. Lugrin was Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, the matter was frequently referred to in his Annual Report, and urged upon the attention of the Local Government. Methods by which such Statistics could be gathered at a comparatively small cost were suggested by the late Secretary, but these were more applicable to the Province than to the Dominion, inasmuch as the information to be sought for would have been obtained through Parish Officers.

The Dominion Government will doubtless desire such a scheme as shall secure the most correct returns. Every Province will then be able to judge of the value of its Agricultural produce, stock, &., a matter in regard to which we have always been in the dark.

Origin of Diseases in Fowls.

From a work on this and other matters relating to Fowls published three or four years ago, we make the following extracts:—

Club Foot is an ailing which generally shows itself in large fowls, and arising from flying off high places, and causing too severe a jar.

Rheumatism is noticed in fowls in mid-summer, after much damp and rainy weather, and sometimes comes from plunging them in water for the hatching fever.

Pip is confined to young fowls during the hotter months, and is attributed to unclean food, dirty water, cold, damp localities, or from drinking rain water.

Inflammation of the eye originates from exposure to cold and moist weather, attended with easterly winds.

Costiveness arises from dry diet, without access to vegetables—the latter they should always be furnished with. The chickens should be furnished with chick weed, tender grass, green cabbage, &c.

Asthma is caused by obstructions of the air cells, and an accumulation of phlegm, which interferes with the exercise of their function, and causes them to labor for breath.

Chicken pox is generally the result of fighting, when the head has been badly picked. It will come sometimes, without any apparent cause, and will effect a number at the same time.

Cholera is a disease of recent introduction, and in some instances the fowl dies in less than an hour after it is attacked. Upon dissection the liver is found much enlarged, and a sticky, slimy substance covers the surface. This slime everywhere appears to prevade the mucus membrane, and clogging up the air passages, produces death.

Moulting, or shedding feathers, is of annual occurance, and frequently requires treatment. After the third year fowls moult later every succeeding year, and it is often as late as January before old fowls come into feather. The time of moulting continues according to age, health, and weather, from six weeks to three months.

Megrims are brought on from overfeeding, want of exercise, and from having no shelter from the powerful sun, which effects the bird's head, and it becomes stupid and heavy.

Paralysis arises from various causes, but principally from fowls being confined in small, damp, and unhealthy yards.

Apoplexy arises from over feeding; want of exercise, and foul water frequently bring on fits of apoplexy, and numbers of fowls drop from their roosts and die in a few seconds.

Snuffles is brought on by cold, continued feeding on dry husky corn, confinement and requirement of green food. The bird's throats become sore, and, unless some soft nourishing food is given them immediately, they lose flesh rapidly.

Yellows arises from the fowls having been fed on sour, unwholesome corn.

Crop-bound arises from the birds having been kept short of food for several days, and then overfed with a quantity of dry corn, they consequently over-gorge themselves, and from weakness cannot digest the food.

Cramp is generally caused by cold, damp and unhealthy places in which fowls are often kept, and it effects them principally in the legs.

We shall refer to the diseases and their treatment next week.

Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

FERTILIZERS FOR ROOT CROPS.

A noted English writer on fertilizers for roots says that superphosphate of lime is principally used in England; but guano is used to a considerable extent in Scotland and Ireland, where the climate is cooler and moister than in the South of England. In dry seasons there, as well as in this country, these fertilizers do not give satisfaction. Having, in connection with other scientific farmers, made many experiments with artificial fertilizers, running through a series of years, he comes to the following conclusions:

1. That their action is very much dependent upon the soil. Some soils possess a great responsive power, and others do not respond at all to fertilizers.

2. Poor land, and in poor condition, derives the most striking benefit from artificial dressings. Land in high cultivation, on the other hand, derives often no benefit at all.

3. Superphosphate is the most paying manure we can use for swedes.

4. Guano, nitrate of soda, farmyard dung, and organic matter containing nitrogen, diminish the germinating power of the seed and cause a blankness in the crop, when they are brought into close proximity with the seed.

5. Guano and nitrate of soda top-dressed on, either at the time of sowing, or later, by which means they are not placed in contract with the seed, increase the crop, but not to an extent which warrants us in recommending them in the district.

6. The dissolved guano is less injurious in its effect upon the seed than ordinary Peruvian guano.

7. That the benefit from the application sometimes is represented by 10 to 12 tons per acre over the unmanured plats, and that in other cases the unmanured plats are fully equal to those dressed, in which cases there is a heavy pecuniary loss from their application.

8. About 3 cwt. of superphosphate to the acre has given the best economic result during several years' experience, extending over hundreds of plats.

The writer says, however, that on some soils a larger quantity is applied, as "a ton per acre to mangels;" but root culture is one of the main crops in England, and immense crops are obtained which warrant the use of such large quantities of fertilizers. He admits that artificial fertilizers often prove a failure—"in many cases the money expended is wasted, while in other cases it is well spent." The manner of applying fertilizers on English prize farms is thus: "Artificial manures are applied by hand on the surface, namely, 5 cwt. of pulverized bone, 1 cwt. of guano, and 3 cwt. of superphosphate, at a cost of £3 10s. per acre. The land is then scarified, harrowed, and rolled, by which operation the artificial manures are thoroughly incorporated with the soil, and the last week in May, if the season admits, the turnips are drilled on the flat, at a distance between the rows of 19 inches."

CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVIES.

An important object in the construction of a country privy, is to allow the night soil to be easily removed once a year, and have no offensive odor from it. It is a bad practice to set a privy on blocks, or piers at the corners, 18 inches, or two feet high, leaving an open space between the piers or blocks, and allowing the odor of the deposits to perfume the air around one's dwelling; yet we often see them so placed—a nuisance to the place, besides endangering the health of the family. Then, we find hundreds of privies built in a style that would disgrace a pig pen; rough boards, with cracks between to light the building, instead of a window; and the whole thing unfit for human beings to use, costing, perhaps, five dollars, all told! Farmers, you ought to be ashamed of yourselves to allow such nuisances to be on your premises; and my advice is to build a respectable one, not less than 5 x 6 feet, nicely clap-boarded and painted, with a small one-sash window to slide up between the plastering, or the inside ceiling. Give it a double-pitch roof, and have a box ventilator run from below the seat, up between the studding, thence between the rafters, and coming out of the centre of the ridge of the roof, a foot above the ridge, with a moulding around the top, to give it a tasty appearance. Lay the floor with the best of seasoned, pine matched floor boards, attach square covers to the openings, hung with butts, then get a pannel door for the structure, and you won't be ashamed to have a friend call on you, and stay over night. Now, such a privy can be built alongside of the old one; and when the pit is dug (I shall not allow you to put this in its position without a pit) and walled up, four men can put it on its foundation in a few minutes. Dig the pit 3 x 6, four or five feet deep, and wall it up with brick eighteen inches thick, laid up in mortar. The dirt that you throw out will raise the ground about a foot, sloping off six or eight feet; consequently about four feet is all the depth you will require below the level of the natural ground. In the centre of the rear wall, an opening is to be left two feet wide; and the ground should be dug out five or six feet back of the privy to allow a place to go down to remove the deposits. This passage should also be walled up with brick, leaving a clear space of two feet at least between the walls; and the tops of these walls should be as high as the other walls where they connect; and then slope off to the rear, so as to hang a door over the aperture, and have a descent of some inches. At the end of this passage a couple of steps may be made with bricks, to enable one to clean the vault ont easily; I find that such a method of cleaning out a privy vault works well. The night soil should be mixed with any good soil in layers—three or four times as much earth as night soil—to remain in the heap a month or two, when the whole mass will be worth as a fertilizer three times as much as the same bulk of stable manure. The tops of the heaps should be flat to hold the rain.

DON'T BORROW MONEY.

Perhaps few men have seen the troubles that famers have been brought to, in consequence of motgaging their farms more than I have; and I warn my readers to beware of the pit they would dig to fall into, by borrowing money to enable them to purchase stock, or to cultivate their farms better, and more extensively. There never was a time within the present century when farmers needed to be so careful not to run in debt as at the present time. It will do for young men, with but little money, to buy really good farms, and run in debt for a part of the purchase money; but a farmer who is out of debt—owns his homestead free of mortgage—would be very unwise to put even a small mortgage on it, no matter what his condition is, it would be better to cut down expenses to the utmost degree. When a farmer is out of debt he can, on a tight pinch, support his family on a very small income. His cows, pigs and fowls, with the breadstuffs he can grow, without any hired help, will supply him with food. Then by keeping from fifty to one hundred hens, he can buy his groceries with the surplus eggs; and with a few pigs fattened, a few calves, a little surplus hay and grain, he can clothe his family; and thus avoid mortgaging his farm—the death knell, in most cases, of a farmer's prosperity and peace of mind. Every farmer who finds it hard work to "make both ends meet," and has girls and boys growing up, should have a patch of strawberries, raspberries, or of other small fruit, for the children to weed and pick; and also to sell in the village, if not far off. Let the rising generation among farmers be utilized, by being thus employed at times in some profitable and pleasant work. Strawberries often yield one hundred bushels per acre, or 3,200 quarts, worth anywhere from 15 to 20 cents a quart; and many a farmer has cleared, with the help of his children, one hundred dollars on a quarter of an acre. The Wilson, Chas. Downing, Green Prolific, Kentucky, Champion, Monarch of the West, Seth Boyden, and Jucunda, are among the most popular varieties.

THE VALUE OF STABLE MANURE.

Stable manure generally sells to market gardeners and other people who want a little for private gardens at $2 to $3 a twohorse load. No farmer can afford to pay over $1 a load and draw it two or three miles, unless it be wanted for some better paying crop than is generally grown on farms. If a farmer cannot buy stable manure at $1 to 1.50 a load, he had better not buy any, but make what he can on his farm, and try turning under green crops, as buckwheat, clover, &c., to keep his farm in good condition, growing more grass and less grain and hoed crops. Some farmers recommend borrowing money to buy manure rather than attempt to grow crops with an insufficient supply. A late writer says: "Any man who has capital enough to own valuable land cannot well be too poor to buy the fertilizers needed to make it productive. If he cannot do otherwise he may safely borrow the money till his crop is harvested and sold. When a farmer cannot get enough stable manure, as is the case with all farmers, buying some kind of commercial fertilizer is the alternative to doing nothing." That is doubtful. How can a farmer be assured of "safety" in borroing money to buy manure? Suppose the season be very unfavorable, as by a great drouth, and his crops fail, what then? No, don't do it; but keep more live stock, turn everything into manure that you possibly can, save your hen manure, as it is worth as much as pure guano, keep all the pigs you can, as their manure is very strong, throw weeds into their pen to keep the manure from drying, with turf, muck, or anything that will increase the bulk of its contents; and thus try to avoid the necessity of buying manure.

CARTING OUT MANURE.

In hauling out manure at this season of the year, upon fields to be plowed in April or May, if the heaps be made of a size to equalize its distribution, the same as would be made if the land were to be plowed without delay, there will be a great loss in the manure by the escape of its ammonia and drying of the surface of the heaps. Suppose a two-horse load of first-rate stable dung be placed in six heaps in a field in February, and this manure remains in these heaps till the middle of April, or the fore part of May, and are then spread and the land plowed, how much loss does the manure sustain? Not less than 10 per cent. Men argue frequently that the loss is not so much; but it cannot, I think, be less than ten per cent. There must be a certain degree of loss—more than farmers can afford to lose—and the question is, how is this loss to be prevented? One way is to wait till the ground is to be plowed, and then haul out the manure, and plow it under as fast as it is spread. But farmers are too busy to haul it out then, and are compelled often to draw it out in the winter. If one must do so, it would be a good plan to make the heaps large, but not too large to be spread properly with a little extra hard labor; pack them as solidly as possible, and if they be well built up and trodden down, they may be made so compact with a little labor that not over one or two per cent of loss will take place. Another way is to put only three or four very large heaps to the acre, making them compact, as in the foregoing case; and when the time comes to spread the manure take a team and a sled with movable sideboards and proceed to remove some of the manure to other places, so that when it is spread it will be evenly distributed. It would be but a short operation to remove a part of the manure in that way, and I think the labor can well be afforded by farmers, rather than lose so large a portion of their stable dung by evaporation, as the ordinary method of hauling out manure in the winter is sure to cause.

Length of the Milking Season.

There are various opinions upon this subject among dairymen, as well as upon almost every other point of practise; but it is really so vital a question, connected with the profit of the dairy, that there should not be two opinions upon it. A little careful study of this question, practically, ought to settle it within very narrow limits. The cow, in a state of nature, had a short period of lactation—only from three to six months—the only requirement being food for her calf. When this object was attained, the secretion of milk ceased. But when her milk began to be used for human food, efforts were made to prolong the period of lactation, and increase its flow. The model dairy cow, as we know her, is almost an artificial production—a monument of skill in breeding and feeding. Instead of secreting a few quarts of milk per day for three months, as did her long-ago progenitors, she yields from 4,000 to 6,000 quarts in a period of 44 weeks. In a state of nature, such a production of milk was impossible, even though the cow had had organs of sufficient capacity, for her food and surroundings were entirely inadequate. The extraordinary development of the milk secretions in the cow is entirely the work of the breeder and feeder. If then this work of developing the milch cow is a good one, and we are to congratulate ourselves upon its accomplishment, shall we not adopt, in the management of the cow, the same system which has been successful in developing her milk production?

It will be found that every improver has striven to extend the period of lactation, this being absolutely necessary to an increased aggregate yield of milk for the year. A cow that has given a good yield at the flush, has been encouraged by the best food and care to continue this yield as long as possible. This effort has, no doubt, been carried to an extreme in many cases, for cows should not be permitted to give milk through the year, as they sometimes do; but it is seldom that a cow having a short period of seven to eight months is profitable, however large her yield may be considered in the flush. We have had cows giving 40 lbs. per day at the highest, and still not reaching 5,000 lbs. in a year, for the want of *staying* qualities, as the horsemen say; whilst other cows, never giving over 30 lbs. per day, have reached 5,500 and 6,000 in ten months. From much experience with many cows, tested individually, we have come to consider a short period as fatal to a large annual yield in a cow. We do not know of a single large annual yield from a cow that did not give milk ten months. Great yields have come from all the milking breeds, and from those of common stock; but in every instance, so far as we have been able to learn, the cow has been a *long* milker as well as a *deep* milker.

If these facts are acknowledged, what real ground can there be for two opinions upon this question of the desirable length of the milking season, except of giving a reasonable time for recuperation before the next calf is dropped? Facts show that, practically, six weeks to two months is ample time, under proper feeding and care, for the cow to recover her energies and be in condition for the next lactation. We regard this as a most important question, to be understood by every dairyman; for, when he understands its importance, he will test each cow's staying quality, and, after finding her deficient in that and in the aggregate quantity of milk, he will discard her. If a cow tapers off in milking at seven months, under good feeding and care, there is no use in wasting further food upon her. Let her be prepared to go to the butcher. You do not want to keep her heifer calves, unless the dam of the sire was remarkable for holding out, in which case the calf may take this quality from the sire, for this quality in a milker is hereditary. Yet you may increase it very much in many cases. We have found it advisable to milk the heifer with her first calf, at least twelve months, not allowing her to come in the second time in less than eighteen months from the first calf. This helps to establish the milking habit. But all long and deep milking is based upon good feeding, which means a proper variety of food to supply all the cow's wants. If your pasture is short and scanty, you cannot expect the cow to hold out her milk without extra food.—*National Live-Stock Journal.*

Breeding instead of Purchasing Cows.

No one will deny that one essential requisite to success in dairying is to have good cows for the business, and in considering how this is to be obtained it is evident the surest way would be to rely upon breeding animals upon the farm where they are to be used, rather than purchased at random from droves, providing a kind, or race of animals can be obtained that will transmit desirable qualities or excellencies from generation to generation with reasonable certainty. Experience teaches us that we cannot rely on the common stock of the country to obtain from cultivated breeds which have been long bred in reference to special qualities, and have in consequence, established a fixed type in this regard. I think our dairymen need not look beyond four or five breeds of thoroughbred cattle for obtaining desirable results, namely the Short Horns, the Ayrshires, Devons, Alderneys, and the Dutch or Holstein Cattle. There are other breeds more or less famous in the districts where they originated; such as the Gallways, the Kerrys, the Herefords, the Bretons, the Swiss and other European varieties, some of them, at least, when transported from their native districts, have not given such satisfaction on the whole as the breeds I have named.—*Practical Dairy Husbandry.*

THE BLUE GLASS CURE.—A New York corresdondent of the Chicago *Tribune* writes as follows, of tests he has made of General Pleasonton's blue-glass cures:—"A lady of my family, about six years ago had a violent hemorrhage of the lungs, and for ten days raised more or less blood daily. She was very much weakened by the loss of blood, and considerably frightened withal. I obtained some blue glass and placed it in the window where she was in the habit of sitting, the blue glass constituting one-half of the lower sash of the window. The lady sat daily in the associated lights, allowing the blue rays especially to fall upon the nerves of the back of the neck for about an hour a day. The second day the sun's rays being unusually strong, she got 'to much blue glass,' and at night felt peculiar sensations in the back of the neck, among the nerves, and an unpleasant fullness in the head. The sensation wore off next day, and since then she has not remained so long at a time under the blue glass. But from the first she began to grow stronges, her face soon gained its natural fullness, and in a week she was, to all appearance, as well as ever. Of course she was not cured of the trouble in her lungs in so short a time, but the soreness in her chest had passed away, and she began to feel well again. After sitting in the associated light for a week a large number of red pimples came out on her neck and shoulders, an indication that the treatment was bringing out to the surface the humours of the blood. In a letter to me General Pleasonton says:—"I am satisfied that if this treatment shall be continued through the winter and spring any tuberculous developments that may exist in the lungs will be arrested, its pus absorbed into the circulation, and then thrown off from the blood in the excretions (as has occurred already in the spots on the body); the wounds of the tubercles will be cicarized, and the lady restored to a condition of good health."

How to treat Insect Stings.

The pain caused by the sting of a plant or insect is the result of a certain amount of acid poison injected into the blood. The first thing to be done is to press the tube of a small key firmly on the wound, moving the key from side to side to facilitate the expulsion of the sting and its accompanying poison. The sting, if left in the wound, should be carefully extracted, otherwise it will greatly increase the local irritation. The poison of stings being acid, common sense points to the alkalies as proper means of cure. Among the most easily procured may be mentioned soft soap, liquid of ammonia, (spirits of hartshorn) washing soda, lime water, smelling salts, quick-lime made into a paste with water, the juice of an onion, tobacco juice, chewed tobacco, bruised bock leaves, tomato juice, wood ashes, tobacco ashes, and carbonate of soda.

If the sting be severe, rest and coolness should be added to the other remedies, more especially in the case of nervous subjects. Nothing is so apt to make the poison active as heat, and nothing favors its activity less than cold. Let the body be kept cool and at rest, and the activity of the poison will be reduced to a minimum. Any active exortion, whereby the circulation is quickened will increase both pain and swelling. If the swelling is severe, the part may be rubbed with sweet oil, or a drop or two of laudanum. Stings in the eye, ear, mouth or throat sometimes leads to serious consequences. In such cases medical advice should always be sought as soon as possible.

Good Advice.

We know that many farmers have an idea that they cannot write well enough for publication, but this is all nonsense in this connection. We have plenty of employees in our office who can write and spell better than they can talk agriculture, and if our friends will give us their experience and opinion in a plain way, there are those here who will put their communications in proper shape. We want to get at the facts which our readers alone can furnish us, and the rest we can take care of here. If you have found a new variety of potatoes which is better than the old ones, write and let us know. If you have found how to raise pork at a profit, tell us about it. If you have proved anything by experiments in feeding cattle, or breaking colts, or keeping hens, let us know that, and so on.

Again, if there is anything you want to know before you decide upon next year's operations, write and ask about it. If we know we shall be glad to tell you, and if we do not we will try and make some subscriber inform you. A long winter is passing and it would be very foolish in all of us to let it pass without learning very much which will help us next year. We can learn much from books but more from each other.—*Exchange.*

BEE KEEPING FOR BOYS.—Boys on the farm can lay by a nice little sum of money every year by keeping a few stocks of bees. Quinby, the best authority on bees that ever lived in this country, says that a stock of bees is better than a hundred dollars at interest. If they are properly taken care of, there is no doubt of it. Ten dollars a stock is a very reasonable estimate of profits from a well conducted apiary. The lessons in nature that the care of bees would inculcate, would alone pay for all the trouble experienced. Every farmer's boy, old enough to take care of them, ought to have a stock of bees in a movable-comb hive, to commence with. If the father possesses the requisite knowledge to direct in the care of the stock, it might [illegible] carried off the [illegible] *Ag.*

Running in Debt.

I dwell on this point, for I would deter others from entering that place of torment. Half the young men in this country, with many old enough to know better, would go into business—that is, into debt—to-morrow, if they could. Most poor men are so ignorant as to envy the merchant or manufacturer, whose life is an incessant struggle with pecuniary difficulties, who is driven to constant "shinning," and who from month to month, barely evades the insolvency which sooner or later overtakes most men in business; so that it has been computed that but one man in twenty of them achieve a pecuniary success. For my own part I would rather be a convict in a State prison, a slave in a rice swamp, than to pass through life under the harrow of debt. Let no young man misjudge himself unfortunate, or truly poor, so long as he has the full use of his limbs and faculties, and is substantially free from debt. Hunger, cold, rags, hard work, contempt, suspicion, unjust reproach, are disagreeable, but debt is infinitely worse than all. And if it had pleased God to spare either or all my sons to be the support of my declining years, the lesson which I should most earnestly seek to impress on them is, "never run into debt." Avoid pecuniary obligations as you would pestilence and famine. If you have but fifty cents and can get no more for a week, buy a peck of corn, parch it, and live on it, rather than owe a dollar! Of course I know that some men must do business that involves risk, and must give notes or other obligations, and I do not consider him in debt who can lay his hands directly on the means of paying, at some little sacrifice, all he owes; I speak of real debt—that which involves risk or sacrifice on one side, obligation and dependence on the other—and I say from all such, let every youth humbly pray God to preserve him evermore.—*Horace Greeley.*

Care of Poultry.

The care that poultry is entitled to, to make it profitable, says an exchange, is not near so much as one would think. It is just like any other business—it needs daily attention, not one day in a month, but each and every day. If you expect a cow to be profitable you attend to feeding her regularly, give her good, comfortable quarters to protect her from cold, storms, &c. Now the poultry should have equally as favorable treatment as any other stock. Construct houses, not too large, as you will permit too many to crowd together. They should be about eight feet wide, sixteen feet long, to accommodate each a flock of fifty fowls, fronting to the south, with large windows, so placed that the fowls may enjoy as much sunlight as possible. Have it perfectly tight and dry, excepting means for ample ventilation, without a possibility of a direct draft reaching the fowls at night after going to roost. A fowl will take cold while asleep, as easily as a person. Keep the roosting apartment clean; sprinkle a little air-slaked lime and dry ashes under the perch; have the house thoroughly whitewashed inside three or four times a year. See that they have free access to plenty of pure, fresh water at all times; don't force them to drink the drainage from the barn-yard; many cases of cholera have been caused by this. A few drops of sulphate of iron put in their drinking-vessels occasionally will be a benefit. Sprinkle the perches with coal oil, and scatter sulphur in their nests and dusting-boxes.

Many fowls die from severe colds received from roosting in exposed places. Of course, every fowl that dies, it is said, had the cholera, when probably half of them were affected in this way.

Cheese Business Prospects for 1877.

Mr. H. Farrington, at a recent meeting of the patrons of his factory, gave it as his opinion that the prospect this year is excellent, as there are 350,000 boxes less in stock than at this time last year, and of these 100,000 are Canadian cheese. Patrons might reasonably expect a fair price for the spring make. The great proportions which the dairying interests in Canada have assumed is something wonderful; only one dozen years ago Canada imported over $250,000 worth of cheese a year, now she exports the magnificent sum of $3,000,000 annually. Canadian cheese has formerly been put upon the market as American, but he was happy to say that today it was being sought after by dealers under its proper name; and as a section he did not think there was a more favored locality upon the continent of America for making a good quality of cheese. In competition with the best American cheese, at the [illegible] carried off the [illegible] *Tribune.*

this record, good as it was, might be bettered. The system most in favor was the Chedder, or rather, a modified form of it; we should keep pace with any progress which might be made, and he hoped there would be a local convention established in the township so that all might be educated in the dairy business. He thanked them for their very liberal patronage in the past, and he hoped he should enjoy it in the future.—*Oxford Tribune.*

VALUE OF POULTRY MANURE.—From actual experiment, we found that the droppings from four Brahmas, for one night, weighed, in one case, exactly one pound; and in another more than three-quarters, an average of nearly four ounces each bird. By drying, this was reduced to not quite 1½ ounces. Other breeds make less; but allowing only 1 oz. per bird daily, of dry dung, fifty fowls will make, in their roosting house, alone about 10 cwt. per annum of the best manure in the world. Hence half an acre of poultry will make more than enough manure for an acre of land, 7 cwt. of guano being the usual quantity applied per acre, and poultry manure being even richer than guano in ammonia and fertilizing salts. No other stock will give equal return in this way, and these figures demand careful attention from the large farmer. The manure, before using, should be mixed with twice its bulk of earth, and then allowed to stand in a heap covered with a few inches of earth, till decomposed throughout, when it makes the very best manure than can be had.—*Illustrated Book of Poultry.*

HOGS IN THE ORCHARD.—A correspondent of the *American Farm Journal* says: "For the past two winters I have fed hogs a good portion of the time in my orchard, and continue to feed and pasture in it until the early fruit commences to fall. By so doing my orchard appears to be in a very flourishing condition, heavy loaded with large smooth apples, which appear to be clear of any effects of the apple worm. I believe this method of treating an orchard preferable to any other mode of cultivating an orchard yet tried. Having practised feeding corn in the ear around the apple trees, especially the ones of slowest growth and bearing, the result is such trees appear to grow and bear finely by such treatment. Hog manure and corn cobs no doubt are about the best manure that we can apply to trees to promote a healthy growth and good bearing. Then after the apples are gathered in the fall, if hogs are pastured and fed in the orchard they will doubtless destroy many worms that may remain in the refuse and decayed matter left on the ground, thereby greatly promoting the healthfulness of the next year's crop. Some care should be taken with young trees by placing some trimmings of brush around the roots to prevent the swine from rubbing against the tender trees, but if they should scratch their backs against the large trees, all the better."

THE HATCHET IN PRUNING.—Rev. J. H. Creighton, of Clumbus, Ohio, writes to the *Gardener's Monthly*:—Of all the blunders that the common farmer, and some others, make with trees, none is so common, or so hurtful and which he is so long finding out, and of which he might know so certainly, as the practice of cutting off *lower limbs.* All over the country nothing is more common than to see mutilated trees on almost every farm. Big limbs cut off near the body of the tree, and of course rotting to the heart. This is a *heart* sin against nature. The very limbs necessary to protect the trees from wind and sun and just where limbs are *needed most,* they are cut away. But the greatest injury is the *rotting* that always takes place when a big limb is sawed off—too big to heal over it must rot, and being kept moist by the growing tree, it is in the right condition to rot, and being on the body, the rotting goes to the *heart* and hurts the whole tree. It is common all over the country to see large orchards mutilated in this way. We often see holes in the trees where big limbs have been cut away, where squirrels and even raccoons could crawl in. Perhaps the only reason these trimmers would give is, that the lowest limbs are the easiest got at, and some would say they wanted to raise a crop under the tree.

TAKE every precaution to prevent the accumulation of dust upon plants; and above all protect them from that terrible infliction carpet sweeping. It may be well enough to kill the old people by compelling them to breathe clouds of dust, but send the children into the fresh air to skate, or to snowball, and screen the plant if possible. The essentials of success in plant culture are suitable soil, air, light, moderate and regular heat, a moist atmosphere, regular and moderate [illegible] *Guide.*