

fuse to respond to a dressing of plaster once in two years. Caustic lime is so dear that it cannot be used for its mechanical effects; but plaster is so cheap, and, at the same time so effective in supplying lime as a plant-food, that I am surprised to see how much it is neglected. On our lighter soils, cropped has they have been year after year with grain, the lime must be almost entirely exhausted, and plaster is the easiest and cheapest form in which lime can be restored.

Black or bog-earth.—As I have mentioned before, caustic lime in some form is absolutely necessary to the reduction of peat or bog-earth to a good vegetable mould, but we can't use it at forty cents a bushel. The gas works at Sorel give away their gas-lime, and at Quebec, I believe, it only fetches forty cents a load! Sixty bushels an acre constitute a fair dressing, or for a very deep peat, perhaps eighty bushels would not be too much. It may be turned up with twice its bulk of earth, for meadow land, and kept for six months or so before carting out, for of course it will, if applied in its fresh state, burn up all the grass.

Dairy-Shorthorns.—An American, who ought to know better, writes as follows "The modern Shorthorn as a dairy-cow is another boom which will tax our credulity." Now, as I have often said, the English dairy-shorthorn is utterly unknown in this country, none have been imported, and they don't run about loose. At all event, there has been no attempt to boom this breed, only they have won the first milking-prize again this year, and, except when local breeds interfere, they are the universal dairy cattle of England. You may buy scores of them from Gloucester to Darlington for from £18 to £26 a head, and as there is not the slightest attempt at pedigree-making, I don't see how they are to be boomed.

Rotations.—Really, if all accounts be true, the general farmer is very much behind the times. Maize, oats, wheat, grass, I see, is the course of cropping practised by people some parts! No wonder the average grain-crop is so low!

Infield and Outfield.—Farming in ancient days in Scotland must have been not unlike, in some points, the farming in some parts of the province of Quebec to-day. The land under culture was distinguished as "outfield" and "infield." The infield land, or field adjacent to the homestead, was cropped constantly without intermission with grain-crops, and its fertility maintained by applying to it all the dung produced upon the farm and all the compost that could be collected. Whereas the "outfield" land, or the land at a distance from the homestead, was only ploughed and cropped occasionally. All the carriages of the farm were at this epoch still performed by small horses with creels or paniers; wheeled carts and roads for their use were still almost unknown. The rude but effective plough, drawn by a team of ten oxen, was kept ploughing in the moorland, gathering up the surface soil in high, narrow ridges, and so creating a certain depth of vegetable mould on a naturally shallow and barren surface by paring and leaving bare the spaces between the ridges. But no manner of dressing of any sort was applied to the outfield land and the cropping was continued until its capacity to grow grain was exhausted. We don't plough with ten oxen,

but, I regret to say that cropping the outfield land till its capacity to grow anything at all is exhausted, is an every day occurrence.

Dairy cows prize.—The prize of £50 offered by the President of the English Dairymen's Association for the best herd of dairy-cows, any breed or cross, numbering not less than twenty animals, the property of a tenant-farmer renting not less than seventy-five acres, has been awarded to Mr. E. G. Mothersall, Lightfoot House, Preston, Lancashire. The cows in question are all dairy-shorthorns.

OUR ENGRAVINGS.

Parsnips and carrots.—v. article p. 1.

Trotting Stallion, Abe Downing.—v. article p. 4.

Lucretia Dewberry.—A new and valuable fruit for preserves.

Corbett's pulveriser.—A remarkable addition to the means we already possess for cleaning grassy land.

Mahomet, Holstein bull.

Pears.—At the Chiswick autumn exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, two Belle Angevine pears were exhibited by M. Leroy which weighed two pounds three ounces each! They must have been baking pears, I am sure. I thought the Guernsey Chaumontels I saw in the island in 1856 large enough—one pound four ounces—but a pear a pound heavier than those I never thought to see.

Work on the land is very backward this year. Very little land has been ploughed, and if the snow hangs about next spring, and is followed by rain, we shall have a late seedtime.

Herefords, Polled-Angus, Shorthorns, and Jerseys, have all fallen terribly in price in England this autumn. Short-horns seem to have averaged at some of the sales only £23 a head; good Jersey pedigreed two-year-old heifers only brought £6 to £8 a piece; and Angus £22 to £23. What a jolly price for us to stock at! Sheep, too, are equally low, good Hampshires and Shropshire full-mouthed ewes bringing only sixty shillings a head; they were worth eighty to ninety shillings a twelvemonths ago. The hot sun of July and August seems to have played the very mischief with the root crops at home, there is no aftergrass, and the pastures are bare of keep. I fancy exporters of Canadian cattle will find their trade but a poor one this year, to the great benefit of the consumer, who latterly has had to put up with the "culls" of the herds; and to pay, at Montreal at least, fifteen cents a pound for the roasting pieces of these inferior beasts.

Autumn cultivation.—Rather a fuss in going on in the columns of the English Agricultural papers as to the advisability of cleaning the stubbles in autumn. Even there, with our open winters, all the best farmers practised it, and here, with our long hard winters, we need fear no loss by nitrification and washing. Any one here who autumn cleans an acre one year will clean five acres the year following.