

are no good stallions within reach of the breeder, all the best being retained at prohibitory prices for turf purposes.' Some, too, say that cart-horse breeding requires less attention, and pays better; and there is no doubt much truth in this as things are at the present time. But if hunter breeding was carried out in the same systematic manner as cart-horse breeding both north and south, there is every reason to believe that it would pay quite as well, and for this reason alone all must watch with interest the inauguration of the first step, the establishment of a show and market for stallions suitable for getting hunting horses. Some argue that a commencement should rather be made with the mares, but what mares are good, where they are, and how they breed, can never be found out any more than they can amongst thoroughbreds, Shires, Clydesdales, Suffolks, or Clevelands, till there is a record. Once let a farmer know by record that the old mare at home has thrown one or two good ones and he will value her, while every man who studies the stud book will try to get hold of some of her produce."

LACK OF WATER ON THE RANGE.

The *Colorado Live Stock Record* says:—

"If there had been a plenty of water the present winter prior to the first of February, there would have been no death loss in Colorado. As it was the coyote and the buzzard have been fed well on many of the best animals of the plains. From all the great herds come tidings of distress for want of water. Young animals that were weak, and cows heavy with calf, have drifted on to the ice-covered pools and have fallen and died in large numbers.

"Had the Government of the State made it imperative that the owners of cattle on the range should keep men patrolling the water places, and with axes and bars and other implements keep the ice clear, they would have saved more cattle than the railroads have killed, by three-fold at least.

"The cattle inspectors employed by the State all last year to watch outgoing stolen cattle did not detect two dozen thus being shipped through the entire year. Had these men slept in the shade of the trees during the summer months, and then in winter hid themselves to the watering-places of cattle—with axes and powder and fuse if needs be—then they would have saved a hundred cattle from dying and thousands from suffering where one has been clutched from the thieves.

"Then, again, if the men who have been lobbying about the legislative halls had been on the range with their axes and picks they would have saved more bovine lives than they will get dollars from the treasury of the State.

"There is no law in the land our legislators could wisely pass so wisely as a just, humane law. Men should not be allowed to turn cattle on the plains indifferently, to suffer and die without care."

NEW PACKAGES FOR BEEF EXTRACT.

From *Bell's Weekly Messenger*.

Australian extract of beef will now be supplied to English consumer, at a cheaper rate, Messrs. Beale & Co. having by new packages reduced the cost of the package and of carriage. The extract is divided into squares, each weighing 2 ozs. net. These are wrapped first in waxed paper, then in tinfoil, and lastly in a neat paper wrapper. The advantages claimed for the package are—great economy in production, all pots, capsules, corks, &c., being dis-

pensed with; there is for the same reason a great saving in carriage. It is especially suited to travellers, tourists, and sportsmen, as a packet can be carried easily in the waistcoat pocket, and will produce in a few minutes, with the aid of nothing but hot water, a refreshing and sustaining meal for five or six persons. Another novelty, which is to compete against our home producers, is "Peoples' Food," for which the agents are Messrs. Corbin & Co., of Rood-lane, E.C. The article is a preparation of vegetables with extract of meat, and may, therefore, be used as a substitute for both, being exceedingly nutritious. This food was largely used by the German army during the war of 1870-71, and it is said to be "the favourite dish of both rich and poor in many foreign countries." It may be speedily prepared, and is very economical.

LONDON CITY MILK.

From the *London Live Stock Journal*.

Dr. Sedgwick Sanders, the analyst for the city of London, in his annual report states that he made 84 analyses of milk. The milk supplied to the city was not so pure as could be wished, and an admixture of water was frequently detected. No prosecutions, however, were instituted, owing to the chronic difficulty of the Government chemical authorities having fixed a standard for their guidance below that sanctioned by the general experience of public analysts throughout the kingdom, such standard having been arrived at from the examination of very exceptional milk, in which it had been found that an apparently healthy cow occasionally furnished milk of low quality. Without presuming to question the propriety of avoiding any possible source of injustice, he (Dr. Sanders) must point out that the adoption of the Somerset House standard opened a very wide door to unscrupulous dealers, if, indeed, it did not actually offer a premium to offenders. The difference between the standard indicated by the Government chemists and that by the Society of Public Analysts allowed a dishonest dealer to add 15 per cent. of water to his milk with impunity.

TIMELY HINTS.

From the *Prairie Farmer*.

One reason so few people get eggs while the ground is frozen or covered with snow is, they do not provide their hens with lime or gravel. Old bones, crushed, pieces of plastering, etc., furnish shell-forming material. Keep a well-supplied box where it will be easy of access at all times.....The dust-bath is essential to the health of fowls. In floored poultry-houses, place a box filled with road dust or ashes. If possible, an excavation in one corner of the hen-house, a foot or two deep, will answer the purpose. Where these dust-baths are provided, fowls are generally free from lice. A little powdered sulphur, scattered in with the dirt or ashes, is excellent.....Beale considers oats the best balanced food for fowls, having 6 per cent. of fat or oil; 15 per cent. of flesh-forming, 47 per cent. of warmth-giving, and 2 per cent. of bone-making properties. Ground husks and all, oats make a desirable food. Only the best oats are relished. Commercial oat-meal is excellent for chicks, and for fattening fowls. Corn has 8 per cent. oil, 12 of flesh-forming, 65 of warmth-giving, and 1 per cent. bone-making qualities. It is excellent for the evening meal in cold weather, as it digests slowly, and keeps the fowls warm all night. According to this writer, corn or corn-meal is to be given laying fowls, in cold weather, only, and then should be accompanied with

three or four times its own bulk of other kinds of grain or meal. Buckwheat is capital for laying fowls. Its fattening properties are small.

SWISS MILK.

An interesting account of the cost of production of Swiss milk has just been published by a large farmer in East Switzerland. In the year 1883 his expenses of production were 11,558 fr., of which 7,000 was for food, hay, grass, cake, and turnips. The receipts were for calves, cows, and manure, 4,541 fr., leaving 7,016 fr. to account for the milk. As 51,241 litres were produced, this quantity divided by 7,016 gives 0.1,367 fr., or less than 1½d. a litre, say 6½d. a quart, as the cost of production. As, however, the milk sold for 7,427 fr., it yielded 1,449 fr. the litre, or a gross profit of 411 fr. for the year. The manure is charged at 3½d. the hundred feet. In the year 1882 the cost of production of milk was 1,503 fr., and of sale 1,556 fr.; while for 1881 it was 1,468 fr. and 1,449 fr. respectively, showing an average for the three years of 1,443 fr. cost of production, and 1,486 of sale. M. Forel, the owner of the farm, admits that he cannot produce a balance on the right side with steers. He finds that each animal on the farm produces 488 feet of manure per annum or 1½ feet per day, and this estimate is based upon an average of 21 years' experience. Cows alone are found to produce 500 feet of manure yearly, but the general average is lowered by bullocks and horses. Straw for litter is allowed at the rate of 5 lbs. daily. The yield of milk averages 8½ litres per day per cow for the entire year, or nearly 700 gallons, which is saying a great deal for a herd to which artificial food—a native cake alone excepted—is strange.

PREPARING POULTRY FOR MARKET.

A New York commission firm give the following directions for preparing poultry for market, which are worth attention by those who have poultry to ship:—

"Food in the crop injures the appearance, is liable to sour, and purchaser object to paying for this useless weight—therefore keep from food twenty-four hours before killing. Opening the veins of the neck or bleeding in the mouth is the best mode of killing. If the head be taken off at first, the skin will recede from the neck bone, presenting a repulsive feature. Most of the poultry sold here has the head left on, and this is best when the process of killing has not injured the appearance of the head. When it is preferred to remove the head it should be taken off at the throat, the skin then drawn over the end and tied and trimmed neatly. The intestines or the crop should not be 'drawn.' For scalding poultry, the water should be as near to the boiling point as possible, without actually boiling; the bird being held by the legs, should be immersed and lifted up and down in the water three times—this makes picking easy. The feathers should then be at once removed, pin feathers and all, very cleanly, and without breaking the skin. It should next be 'plumped,' by being dipped about two seconds into water nearly or quite boiling hot, and then at once into cold water about the same length of time. Most of the dressed poultry sold here is wet picked and such is generally preferred. Great care should be taken to avoid cutting or bruising the flesh or breaking the bones. It should be entirely cold, but not frozen, before being packed. This is a matter of importance; for, if packed with the animal heat