

*Consuming value.*—When a tenant is leaving a farm in England, the hay, straw, &c., is taken by his successor at what is called "consuming value." It has been always a moot point with valuers—or *valuators*, as they are called here and in Scotland—what this consuming value really is. The truth is, that the point is a variable one, depending upon the situation of the farm, its nearness to markets, &c. The English Agricultural Gazette puts the consuming value of straw at one-third of its market-value, and that of hay at about one-half. In the case of mangels, swedes, and other roots, the consuming value would bear about the same ratio to the market-price as hay does, so if mangels are worth 20s. a ton, as they usually are, to sell, they would be worth 10s. a ton to feed, and that is the usual allowance made for them.

The average yield of fall-wheat in the States has been, according to the report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 12 bushels an acre, that of spring-wheat slightly over 10 bushels. The total wheat-crop of the States amounts, probably, to some 410,000,000 bushels, and as the natural weight of the grain is about 7 per cent. less than the 60 lbs. per bushel at which it is sold, there is that deduction to be made on the total yield, making the real production of wheat in the States, for the year 1888, 407,130,000 bushels: this reduced to English quarters would amount to all but 51,000,000 quarters.

I cannot find out the number of acres in wheat during the past year in the States, but, allowing for a fair increase in the number of acres sown, let us say there will be 38,000,000 acres demanding seed for the harvest of 1889; this would amount, at 2 bushels an acre, to 9,500,000 quarters. Again, supposing a population of 60,000,000, each of whom require 5 bushels of wheat for food, we have a consumption-derand of 37,500,000 quarters, which two amounts being deducted from the total yield, will only leave 3,500,000 quarters for exportation.

*American vs. English cattle.*—Mr. J. H. Reed, of Nebraska, in a letter to an English paper, after observing that many if not most of the different States of the Union could make as good a display as he saw at the late Islington Dairy-show, except in Guernseys and in Welsh cows, goes on to say that "after seeing the uniform excellence of the herds on your farms, I am thoroughly impressed with the fact of our being very far behind you in the general average of good stock. The matter is being now discussed among us of discouraging further importations of breeding stock and encouraging our home breeders, who are now able to display as good individual as any imported, and I confess to be one who has held this opinion. But I shall go back with it very much changed. Having seen the great uniformity of excellent quality in many parts of Ireland and Scotland, as well as in England, I am thoroughly persuaded that there is something back of the good individual animal that we want. The long-continued breeding in one direction in your more circumscribed area of country has given a fixed character to your stock which we have not yet secured, and I am satisfied it will be safer for us to use all the blood we can get from your herds yet for a long time, and I shall go back prepared to teach that doctrine." Time, and time alone will get rid of what the Americans call "scrub" cattle. I do not suppose that the dairy-farmers in the States will breed thoroughbred stock at any time, for I think we may take it as proved that the cross-bred cow is, as a general thing, more profitable, at least our dairy-shows are generally, if not invariably, headed by the high-grade shorthorn. See the next paragraphs.

*The Milking trials at Islington.*—The breeders of pedi-

gred shorthorns seem to have given up all idea of competing for prizes at the great dairy shows in England, and therein have shown their wisdom. For many years they have dried off their cows as soon as possible after conception, with a view to enable them to devote all their powers to the sustenance of the embryo, and, in consequence the cows have, so to speak, got out of the habit of giving milk. At the late dairy-show, held at Islington, the pedigreed shorthorns are said to have been as moderate a lot as ever were got together, and were only five in number!

But a very different tale is told of my favourite breed—the true dairy-shorthorns. They hold their usual place at the head of the milch cows of all kinds. The competition for the Champion prize seems to have been very close, the total marks of the first and second awards, both to shorthorns, being 136 and 135.9—almost a dead heat. The following extract from the notes of the Judges show that the shorthorn cows had it all their own way: the 1st and 2nd shorthorns'

Class	Pure-bred Shorthorn	Shorthorn Cows (high grades.)	Jersey Cows.	Guernsey Cows.	Cross bred Shorthorn and Holstein.	Number
	Morn. Evn. Morn. Evn. Morn. Evn. Morn. Evn. Morn. Evn. Morn. Evn.					
Average weight of milk:—	11.3	12.4	13.2	14.2	15.0	107
Composition of milk:—	12.48	12.64	12.44	12.32	12.24	82
Solids.....	3.66	3.63	3.63	3.64	3.61	76
Fat.....	8.82	8.98	8.81	8.78	8.73	58
Other solids.....	.41	.34	.33	.33	.33	48
Actual weight of fat in lb.....	.99	.85	.83	.82	.82	48
Actual weight of other solids.....	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3	48
Points—For time since calving.....	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8	48
For weight of milk.....	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.1	48
For weight of fat.....	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	48
For weight of other solids.....	136	136	136	136	136	48
Total.....	55.6	55.6	55.6	55.6	55.6	48
Awards.....	2nd Prize.	1st Prize.	2nd Prize.	1st Prize.	2nd Prize.	48