

nine sisters slow their husbands. Well, at the Exhibition, I heard a tale that very nearly made me burst out with the above exclamation. Now the mendacious statement in question was this: A dying left two sons—B and C; B's share of the farm on the demise of A was good land, C's share was inferior. B bred Hampshire downs; C bred Southdowns. The two brothers B and C disagreed about the relative merit of the two breeds, and to test it, they agreed to feed off a piece of turnips on either farm with a certain number of sheep from their flocks. B, whose turnips were very good, put 100 Hampshire-downs on his piece; C, whose turnips were very inferior, put 200 Southdowns on his piece—both pieces being of course of exactly the same size. The 100 Hampshire-downs had finished their piece of good turnips before the 200 Southdowns had finished their piece. From this was deduced the axiom that although the Hampshire-downs lambs may be in a trifling more expeditious in maturing than the Southdowns, that goes for nothing, as it is easier to feed two Southdowns than one Hampshire down. A more wonderful statement we never heard. We have bred both sorts, and that within a mile of the farms of B and C, whom we knew; and we are well assured that the story is absolutely untrue.

At the Exhibition, at Montreal, the show of sheep was very good indeed, particularly the Shropshires, Southdowns, especially Mr. Jackson's, and Dorsets. One Dorset ram, from Hillhurst, struck us as being equal to anything we ever saw in England. We may as well mention here that the ewes of this breed had begun to drop their lambs at Dorset-fair time, i. e., about the 12th September! As they do not kill lambs weighing six or eight pounds apiece, but let them go till they are 13 or 14 weeks old, these newly dropped lambs will be in good condition for the Christmas Smithfield market. We have known them fetch a guinea \$5 00 a quarter at that season. They are housed most of the time, and the only difficulty is to keep the house at a uniform temperature.

A couple of useful pens of Hampshire, but the Shropshires were the pick of the lot, though the Oxfords were very good.

The horses were superb, but we were surprised to see only one Suffolk.

In cattle, the Shorthorns were better than of late years, and we were glad to see the Hillhurst herd represented once more after a long interval. Mrs. Jones headed the list of prize winners in Jerseys, though the herd of the Dawes of Lachine was fairly successful. None of Mr. Reburn's stock present. The Flower show was not so good as usual, the grasshoppers having played the very mischief with the outdoor plants. Why on earth do these beasts select the pansy for their especial food? Is it, possibly, because it is the only flower we have room for in our border to grow? Our bunch of rape, too, which we grew to show enquirers, has been the object of their earnest attention—but it beat them, is flourishing, and will continue to flourish till the snow buries it.

Why sell your oats, Messrs. farmers, at present prices, or your pease, or your barley? Here is what the papers quote as their selling value at Montreal.

No. 2 new oats..... 30½ to 31 cts.
Pease, per 66 lbs... 66 " 00 cts.
Barley, feed..... 43 " 44 cts.

Take the average price of the bushel of the three as 47 cts, and you have a

feed of 6 lbs a day per head of your cows for 5 cts. or thereabouts, besides saving the time of sacking up, going with loads to market, &c. And why send the grain intended for your stock to the mill? A kibbling machine—one that cracks the grain into small bits—is not a costly article; and as most of you have a horse-power of some kind, it would pay you well to use it in conjunction with your chaff-cutter and the kibbler, rather than send to mill.

Rape.—Our excellent contemporary, *The Farmer's Advocate*, very sensibly remarks that, "when sheep are on rape, they should always have some dry food with it to prevent bloat or hoven. In this purpose we recommend pease and clover-chaff; straw we never have found eaten in sufficient quantities till the cold weather arrives. As for turning cattle of any kind on to rape, we would rather not risk it; besides, we consider this plant to be the special property of the flock, growing it being as much for the purpose of manuring the land for the succeeding crops of the rotation as for making mutton. There is but little danger of sheep 'blowing' on rape if they are turned on for the first time in the afternoon with their bellies full, and removed after an hour or so to a dry pasture. The next day, they may be let in again to the rape, in the afternoon of course as before, and will be thenceforth safe enough."

Price of cheese.—A great fall in the price of cheese took place in the Cheshire district of England on or about the 14th September. At Crewe Market, the best lots only sold for 40s. to 43s. per 112 lbs. fair cheese, at 30s; and common for 22s. to 26s. This must not be attributed to foreign competition, for the imports have been during the last 8 months less by 72,765 cwts than in the same period in '94, when best Cheshire sold for 65s and medium for 60s per cent. The real reason of this heavy fall is the temporary glut of cheese that would not be likely to keep owing to the terribly hot weather. We remark with pain that here the best qualities of Cheddars seem to be unable to reach 8 cts a pound, and butter does not appear to be doing any better. Does the Revd. owner of the Canadian cow "La Major" remember what we told him on this matter some eight years ago?

A splendid garden is that belonging to the Seminary in Sherbrooke street Montreal, but the management of the farm is not quite what it ought to be. For instance, a piece of pastured land was ploughed in early August and left in an untouched state till the farrows had all grown together with timothy and couch-grass. It would have been far better to have cross-ploughed it as soon as possible, and then the grabber and harrows would have had a chance to clean it. A lot of rough dung is now (Oct. 1st) being ploughed in, and it will be in a nice mees next spring if the weather keeps mild for another month. We sadly want a good "broad-share" of some kind to pare off the top two inches of the land; whereas, now, we are obliged to use the plough and then the grass is buried just deep enough to grow again. We call the process in England "paring" or broad-sharing, and a team will get over at least twice as much ground with our implements as with a plough.

Boxes.—One of the essayists, in the late competition for agricultural crops, speaks of the cattle boxes as being of

German origin. Would he kindly let us know his authority for this? We used them for fattening beasts as far back as 1849, and we heard of them as being employed, at least 5 years before that, by Mr. Warnes, Trimmingham, Norfolk. If properly constructed, not only do the beasts thrive therein to perfection, but the manure is preserved in the most exquisitely complete fashion; for the animal being free to walk about, the pressure of his heavy carcass is felt everywhere, over every square-inch of the bedding, and neither is the smell of escaping ammonia ever in the least degree perceptible, nor is the least waste by leakage possible. The plan is so simple: 4 boxes for ordinary beasts may be made by digging out a trench 34 feet long by 9 feet broad and 2 feet deep; this is to be surrounded by a good wall, of any kind so long as it is warm, and well roofed in, with a Louvre for ventilation in the middle and at either end. The 34 feet trench will allow an 8 feet box for each beast, the divisions to be made of bars—any rough stuff will serve—with room enough between them to allow the animals to put his head through and to retract it easily—very easily, for a little sudden contest of strength between two bullocks will soon frighten one of them, and, if he once finds his head in difficulties, you will, unless you make haste to release him, soon have a skin ready for stripping.

The manger in each box must be made so that it can be raised or lowered, as the bedding and dung are never to be removed until the box is full, which it will be generally in about three or four months. The bottoms should be laid with puddled clay.

No animal will lie down in filth if he can avoid it. The cattle come out after 4 months of box-feeding cleaner than when they went in. Once or twice a day, an armful of straw for litter, and for food too, if the beasts like to eat it, should be thrown down in the most used parts of each box. It is the perfection of business: watch the cattle and see the neighbours performing each the other's toilet! One licking the other all over the places he cannot reach himself. Perfect quiet reigns, if the feeding hours are well observed, and no well trained children are more docile in their nursery than are rough Highland Kyloes, or Welsh rants, after a week's confinement.

Sweating barley.—However good condition barley may be in when put into the barn or stack, every maltster knows that it will "take the steep" better—i. e., imbibe more water—if it has undergone a gentle sweat after being carried. If this is not gone through, the maltster puts the barley on the kiln for a few hours, at a moderate temperature; therefore, do not be in a hurry to thresh your malting barley, as the operation of kiln-drying, costing, at all events, some outlay in labour, the buyers will always be willing to pay more for grain that does not need it.

Daddy-longlegs.—A correspondent asks "what do daddy-longlegs develop themselves into?" This is the *tipula*, is it not? And becomes a wireworm, does it not? We have not a single work on entomology, and our memory is hardly what it was; though at 72 years of age, we cannot complain much of its weakness.

Green-manuring.—A very sensible farmer, writing in *Hoard's Dairyman* on this subject, speaks as follows:

"GREEN MANURES.—Any man with the average amount of human nature, feels pleased when the correctness of his opinion is confirmed by high authority. Especially is this the case when he has been one of an apparent minority. This pleasure has just been mine. Within a week I have come across the reports of the results of work of some experiment stations in plowing under green crops for fertilizing the land. Each and all condemn the practice as wasteful. Just how anyone could figure out a profit from plowing in a heavy crop of green clover, for instance, instead of curing it and feeding it to a respectable cow, sheep, or hog, and then plowing in the manure resulting from the process, has always been a mystery to me. I have been much inclined to the opinion that the guilty man never did much figuring on the subject. My difficulty has been, and is, to get enough clover to feed, and I should as soon think of buying cotton-seed meal, at \$25 per ton, to plow in for manure, as to turn under clover. Nevertheless, not ever having tried the experiment I should have hesitated to condemn the practice, but now that the matter has been subjected to investigation and experiment, and the results accurately noted by competent men, I think readers of the *Dairyman* should be advised of the particulars before repeating the practice. Logicians wisely warn us against the assertion of a universal negative, and doubtless we are not justified in asserting that the use of green crops as manure is never true economy, but—figure on it before you try it again, my friend. You can easily find the necessary information on which to base a close computation."

"Bogus" Butter is being made in the State of Illinois after a pleasant fashion. Milk is subjected to a high temperature, and both cream and curd are taken from it. The commissioner of internal revenue being applied to, he decided that as it was not "a sophistication of butter and other substances not the product of pure butter or milk"—which strikes us as rather an awkward formula—"it is not a violation of the law to sell such a compound." Of course the American agricultural papers are up in arms about it, and think that, "in the interest of the purchasing public, a State-law should be secured, classing the new (old) compound with adulteration and forbidding its sale." Is anything gained by false statements? The "new compound is not sold as pure butter; and lots of the inferior dairy-butter has plenty of curd in it. One would think that, provided this "new compound" would keep for a reasonable time, it would be in the interest of the purchasing public that it should be at their service if they want it. If this, oleo-margarine, or any other commodity be offered for sale as anything but what they really are, then, forbid their sale by all manner of means.

Lambs are weaned here about the first week in August, and a very good time too, as it gives the ewe time to recover her condition before she is put to the ram. We observe that a writer, in a States' paper weans his lambs "when the sign is in the feet." Now Richard Dean, our instructor in the art of ferreting rabbits, some 60 years ago, taught us that rabbits would not bolt unless "the sign was in the feet." What mystic connection exists between the weaning of lambs and the bolting of rabbits, it would puzzle Mrs. Besant and Percy Sinnott to explain.