

in the botanical examination of the pastures, any support for these local suppositions, we were led to doubt their being founded upon fact. And we were justified in doing so, for it must not be forgotten that either to the soil or to the pasture all difficulties were invariably attributed. We ought not to assume, from the results of these few experiments that the matter is conclusively settled either one way or the other."

We passed two years of our life (1839 to 1841) in the immediate neighbourhood of the "Cheddar Valley," and we can heartily support Mr. Lloyd's statement: that "it is the universal belief among cheesemakers, that it is more difficult to make cheeses in some localities than in others, and that the difficulty is due to local and not to climatic causes." We see nothing in the publication of which we are speaking to induce us to alter the opinion we expressed in the last No. but one of the JOURNAL, p. 292, that "red clover and timothy cannot reasonably be expected to turn out such cheese as is produced on the centuries old pastures of the Midland and Western counties of England."

As Mr. Lloyd's publication can be bought, in England, for the trifling sum of 1s 7d, we strongly advise all cheese-makers and cheesery-patrons to buy a copy of this most carefully compiled work.

Sheep carcass-test.—The very useful practice of inspecting the carcasses of some of the prize-sheep at certain exhibitions, was fully carried out at the Ontario provincial show held at London last month. Messrs. Foulds and Yapp were the Judges, and the sheep selected were the first-prize Shropshire, Oxford, Suffolk, together with a Southdown, which was not placed, it being far too fat, and very wasteful in the cutting up.

The Shropshire, a lamb, showed a good proportion of lean to fat, and won the first prize; it was said to be worth 3 cents a pound more than the Southdown.

Mr. Foulds thought that rape had a tendency to make fat, in which statement he, no doubt, was right, and as lean is needed as well as fat, he might have advised farmers to give sheep, when on rape, a few pease mixed with clover-chaff.

Mr. Yapp, told the audience that mutton-carcasses weighing from 60 to 65 pounds fetch the best prices in Great Britain. (He should have said, in London and fashionable watering-places,

for except for such markets, a 9 stone Southdown, or a 10 stone Hampshire would sell quite as well as an 8 stone Southdown—a stone is 8 lbs.) Sheep with black faces sell for 2 to 4 cents a pound more than white-faced sheep.

Composition of soils.—Granitic soils are generally poor in phosphoric acid; so are clays, though, in revenge, they generally contain lots of potash. Ferruginous clays and sands are very poor soils, holding but little lime and phosphoric acid. M. de Wampe says that the soils of the province of Quebec are generally poor in phosphoric acid, wherein he is possibly right; but if "ferruginous sands" are very poor in phosphoric acid, how can we account for the superb crops of swedes grown by M. Séraphin Guèvremont on the Sorel sand which is rich enough in iron, goodness knows?

British cereal crops.—In 1899, England's wheat-crop turned out much better than was expected. The average yield of grain was 32½ bushel, against 34½ in 1898. Scotland's wheat, but little grown there and then only on the best and richest land, yielded, in '99, 34½ bushels, against the enormous crop of '98, 42½ bushels. The average wheat-yield of Britain, for the last 10 years, is:

England	29.76 bushels.
Wales	24.08 "
Scotland	36.94 "

But, what to us is really astonishing is, that the ten years average yield of oats in England is actually higher than that of Scotland; i. e. England 40.84 bushels, Scotland, 36.74! We know that a "struck-bushel" of Scotch oats weighs from 4 to 6 pounds more than an equal bushel of English oats. We never, in the southern or southeastern counties grew oats over 38 pounds a bushel; whereas, we have commonly seen oats in Scotland going from 43 to 46 lbs. Can it be that measure has been the list in all cases in preparing the statement, weight not being considered at all? Hardly likely.

Barley in England, in '98 gave an average of 35½ against 34½ in '99; the same grain in Scotland: 39 in '98, against 34½ in '99.

Care in making estimates.—We see by the Manitoba papers that the men who put forth the