

SIR,—Whilst reading some back numbers of your excellent paper I came across an article on Hereford cattle. In reading the article I was greatly surprised to find it stated, "The oxen are in great repute for purposes of husbandry, the ploughing in the county of Hereford being almost entirely done by them." Now, sir, as I have resided in the county of Hereford for upwards of 20 years, and as my father has been, and is still a farmer, dealer and breeder of Hereford cattle, you will doubtless allow that I should know a little on the subject, I therefore wish to inform you that your information must be wrong as oxen are not used at all for the purpose of agriculture in Herefordshire or adjoining counties. The article is pretty correct in other particulars, but the dairy is made a source of profit more than formerly, butter made from Hereford cows being worth two shillings per pound in Hereford market during the winter months, during the time butter is in such demand. The calves are fed on skim milk, with the addition of linseed, or Thorley's food for cattle, about one ounce of the latter being fed to each calf at each time of feeding (cost of the condiments being one halfpenny per calf per day). This food is a great favorite with Herefordshire stock keepers—(Thorley's). I hope you will pardon me for drawing your attention to an article so old, viz: Sept. 1876.

C. R. F.

SIR,—I thought you would like to know how to get rid of those vermin on hens, for two years we were annoyed most dreadfully with them so that we dreaded going to the barns, and they killed a number of chickens after they were large enough to kill.

We just took a day to it and made a complete job, we boiled water and scalded every roost, and at night we caught every hen and turkey about the place, and put a little blue ointment under each wing and dusted a quantity of sulphur and carbolic powder through their feathers, and we have got rid of the pests, we also put some sulphur in the nests of the sitting hens. 3 oz. of blue ointment, ½ lb. sulphur and 2 oz. of carbolic powder is enough for 50 hens and only costs about 50 cents, it pays well as the vermin hinder the hens from laying.

BINBROOK.

SIR,—I fear you will think me a troublesome correspondent, but as I like to improve by the experience of others, that others would be like myself who read your valuable paper.

I tried your recipe for destroying the worms on the apple trees, and it worked like a charm. I made my hired man give them a thorough dosing of the weak lye and soft soap, and we had no more of them. Last year they stripped my trees clean. I see trees the same this year, while there is not a worm to be seen on my trees. I think it helps the trees also. We washed the trunks but with a weaker mixture.

As I thought some of your readers might be troubled to get a good catch of timothy and clover on the hills in dry seasons, as I have, I thought I would just say how I have such spots treated in the winter when the snow is light. I have a heavy coat of manure drawn and spread evenly, and as soon as the ground is fit in spring I have it sown with the grass and clover seed; a little hardy grain, rye or oats, is a good addition. The whole should be well harrowed. I had several spots treated in that way this spring, and now it is nearly as good as the rest. The timothy is out in head. I did a piece in that way, about one quarter of an acre, in my pasture. The cattle or horses did not trouble it. I think the quantity of fresh manure prevented them eating it, as you always find they do not like to eat grass when it is matured.

B. Binbrook, July 3.

SIR,—Please inform me about the Globe Lightning Rod Co., where their headquarters are and whether Insurance Companies give any preference to parties who use lightning rods. Lobo.

[The Globe Lightning Rod Co. is an incorporated or chartered Association, with a capital of \$50,000. The names of Board of Directors are:

J. F. Mahon, of Johnston's Bank, London, President; C. B. Hunt, Forest City Flour Mills, and Hunt Bros., Vice-President; J. H. Smallman, of the Canada Chemical Works, and of Smallman & Co., London, Secretary and Treasurer; S. Hewitt, gentleman, and T. C. Hewitt the present Managing Director. The works of the Company are permanently located at the City of London, on King Street, where the copper rods of the Company are manufactured.

Insurance Companies always give a preference to the best risks. Buildings protected against destruction by lightning being better risks than those not so protected, Insurance Companies certainly prefer these that are protected. On this subject see Mr. Cody, the inspector for the Agricultural Mutual, now London Mutual Insurance Company, whose opinion is published in the annual statement of that Insurance Company.]

SIR,—In one of your ADVOCATE's you mentioned that there were stores in New York where a high price was paid for good butter. Will you give me the address of some of them. What will keep cows from drying up? AGNES, Drummondville.

[The only prevention of cows drying out is an uninterrupted supply of good food, and on a farm the best and most effectual way to obtain this is by soiling. Have a regular succession of such crops as are best adapted for mowing and feeding green. The climate of Canada renders it necessary to have other food than pasture, for one milch cow, at least during the heat and drought of summer. Wheat, bran and corn meal are, each of them, good for increasing the produce of milk and improving its quality, but on every farm an abundance of good rich forage can be grown for green-feeding. Fall rye sown in September may be mown early in May. In succession oats and peas come in, then clover, succeeded by corn, millet and Hungarian grass.

We do not think there would be a profit in sending butter from Canada to New York. It is true fresh "gilt-edged" butter brings a higher price there, but the expenses—freight, commission and duty would most likely overbalance the increase of prices.]

SIR,—Trusting that notes on the farm are of interest to you as well as to farmers generally I send you the following: I have just finished cutting eight acres of wheat of the Scott variety, four acres were sowed the last week in August, and four acres were sowed the 12th of September; that part that was sowed in August was damaged considerably with the fly, while that sowed about two weeks later was not damaged at all. My advice would be to have the ground under a good state of cultivation, and sow from the fifteenth to the 12th of September in order to escape the fly. I would like to hear the experience of others during the past year on this subject. My wheat will average 30 bushels per acre. Wheat in this neighborhood is unusually good this year.

A SUBSCRIBER, Charing Cross, July, 1878.

SIR,—I saved last fall, very late, six bushels of Arnold's Victor wheat for the exhibition at Paris, I saved earlier a quantity of Seneca, have given both the same cultivation; the Arnold's Victor excels the other, the heads are fine and compact and will yield a very large crop. I can recommend it to my brother farmers for seed this year.

J. H. B., Beamsville, July, 1878.

SIR,—I see in your last ADVOCATE an article on the buckthorn—as to its merits for hedging, etc. I would wish you to state when the seed can be procured, and at what price can they be had, and from whom; or what the sprouts cost per 1,000 and when procured. P. McN., Wallace, N. S.

[Sprouts can be procured from any of our nurserymen or the seeds from the seedsmen. The seed is quoted at about \$1.50 per lb., and one year old plants are about 75 cents per 100.]

SIR,—Perhaps some of your readers would like to know how to destroy black rot on plum trees. Bore an inch hole nearly through the tree about a foot from the ground; fill the hole with brimstone and powder; make a plug for the hole; it will soon grow over; then cut away the parts affected until you come to the grub, as there always is one, and you will get rid of the rot. This is a sure cure.

B

It is a fact first observed and made known by an English farmer and agricultural writer, Mr. John Hannon—recently deceased—and widely confirmed by many experiments during several years past, that the latter stages of the ripening process diminished the proportion of flour and nutritive value of the wheat. The time to secure the best grain is when the kernel is still soft enough to be crushed, but is comparatively free from moisture, and breaks into meal between the thumb-nails.—*American Agriculturist.*

The Apiary.

The Bee Moth.

The injury done by the miller and its progeny of worms can hardly be estimated. Young colonies, and especially weak ones, often become a prey to the moth, while members of old hives are often greatly annoyed by them. But old stands are rarely overpowered or destroyed by them. They are often found in such hives, but the bees gnaw them out, and they do no real harm. Undoubtedly, before the advent of the bee moth it was comparatively easy to care for bees. Then weak swarms could be saved and nursed into good stocks, while now they are quite sure to be destroyed by them. If a hive becomes destitute of a queen, or reduced in numbers, it is soon overcome. Much time and trouble may be saved to the bees by looking out and destroying every worm, especially in the spring. As they have four generations in one season, every one destroyed at this time sensibly diminishes the number. Numbers of them hide in "patent moth traps," and it is a good plan to catch them; but so many are allowed to hatch there by the careless bee-raiser, that it is useless to recommend them. To indolent beekeepers they are worse than useless, and painstaking ones do not have any use for them. When a hive contains more combs than the bees can cover, the millers have a fine chance; and when a large hive has but a small colony in it, there is then a fine shelter and rich harvest for them. Hives should be made very tight about the top, as when the moth enters at this point it is going to be some trouble to get rid of. Too much care cannot be taken about this matter. If they once get the start in a hive, it is gone beyond recovery in a short time. The industrious bee-raiser finds the moth the greatest trouble and worst enemy of anything else pertaining to the business.

FEEDING BEES.

The best substitute for honey that can be found for feeding bees is sugar melted down into candy. The bees take no more than is necessary to sustain life, yet will never starve while they have it at easy access. Various opinions as to what bees ought to be fed on are before the public. Different persons have different notions on the subject—all perhaps good enough—but we will recommend, besides the above, another which is very good; it is rye meal. In some sections it is a great help to bees to feed them on this article before the first pollen-yielding flower comes. There is often found a great deficiency of bee bread in a majority of hives in the spring, and here the advantages of feeding on rye meal can hardly be over-estimated.

As soon as the bees fly freely in the spring, put the meal in shallow boxes or troughs a short distance from the apiary, and attract the bees to them by pieces of empty comb laid near by. They soon learn the way to it, and take it eagerly until flowers come, when it will be abandoned. The rye should be ground, and not bolted. Wheat flour will be taken by them, but not so readily. Meal-fed bees will send out larger and earlier swarms than others, because the abundance of bee bread encourages the rearing of brood.

Many other points are yet unmentioned, but our limit will not admit of our investigating the subject to a further extent, at least not at this time. We heartily recommend bee-raising to all who wish a healthy, pleasant and profitable employment.—*W. A. Graham, in Ohio Farmer.*

WINTER VERSUS SPRING WHEAT FLOUR.—It is an exploded idea that New Process flour cannot be made from winter wheat, and we quite agree with Mr. Abernathy, who, our readers will observe, states in the present issue that "patent" flour can be made from good grades of winter that is fully equal to spring wheat flour. We are hardly prepared to follow him, however, when he gives the palm of excellence to winter wheat flour. The fact that many bread-makers do not succeed well with flour made from spring wheat is because they do not know how to handle it. They generally knead it the same as they do winter wheat flour, which is unnecessary, since it has a greater percentage of gluten. An ordinary bread-maker will knead a strong spring wheat flour to death; for no matter how strong a flour may be, the elasticity of the gluten can be destroyed by too much kneading. Remember this when your customers complain that they cannot make good bread from your strong flour.—*American Miller.*