

THE young State of Kansas has laid the foundation for the establishment of an Agricultural College.

A flax mill is about to be erected in Maitland, county of Grenville, by Messrs. F. M. Holmes and R. Hervey, and a number of farmers in the neighbourhood are to enter at once on the cultivation of flax. Messrs. Holmes & Co., offer premiums as follows:—For the best five acres, \$20; best three acres \$15; best two acres, \$10; best acre \$5.

SINGULAR CAUSE OF DEATH TO A BULL.—The *Mark Lane Express* gives an account of the death of a valuable Durham bull the Second Duke of Thornedale, bought by Mr. Robinson from Mr. Thorne, of Duchess County, N. Y., three years ago and shipped by the purchaser to England. On the voyage the bull swallowed a bag of nails, which occasioned internal injuries that at length resulted in his death. He had got plenty of calves, and there are no less than twenty of them in the Clifton Pasture Catalogue, but he had never been thoroughly well since, and on examination the causes of the mischief were found—some of them quite sharp and polished by the gastric acids, and fairly piercing his bowels.

SPRING SHOW AT MITCHELL.—The annual spring show of the Fullarton, Logan and Hibbert Agricultural Society took place on Wednesday in this village. Owing to the fine day and the much improved state of the roads, most of our farmers who take an interest in stock breeding were present. The show was considered to be the best that has been held in Mitchell, especially in horses. The first prize for the best stallion for agricultural purposes was awarded to Hugh Armstrong, \$15; 2nd, George Carruthers, \$8. The first prize for roadsters was carried off by the horse exhibited by D. B. McDonald, of Stratford, and the second prize by the horse shown by Benjamin Pile. Best thoroughbred bull, three years old and upwards, \$10, George Graham; 2nd do \$6, George Hamilton. Best grade bull, three years old and upwards, \$3, James Gorrell. Best grade bull under three years old, James Jackson. There was a horse shown by Mr. Wm. Baker, named "Black Warrior," which seemed to draw the attention of the many farmers present.—*Stratford Beacon*, April 22.

REPORT OF TORONTO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1863.—This Report laments a falling off in the number of subscribers to the Gardens as compared with the previous three years but nevertheless announces the encouraging fact that the receipts for the year from all sources have been \$2,038 99, a sum in excess of the expenditure by about \$80. Only two Exhibitions were held during the last season, one in May under the sole auspices of the Toronto Society, and one in October at the Crystal Palace, in which the Toronto Electoral, the West Riding of York, and the York Township Societies united with the Toronto Horticultural Society. To this united Exhibition the Corporation of Toronto contributed \$300. Three Exhibitions are announced for the present year. They are to be held on the 24th of May, the 21st of July, and the 15th of September.

GALT SPRING SEED FAIR.—The Annual Spring Seed Fair was held in the Market Square, Galt, on Wednesday, but owing to a most unfavorable state of the weather there was but a small attendance of farmers. A fair quantity of grain was sold and exchanged in the market. The principal enquiry was for seed barley, which seemed to sell freely from 90c to \$1. Oats sold from 40c to 45c, and in some instances 50c. Pease from 50c to 60c. Potatoes 50c. for good varieties.

There was very little enquiry for spring wheat, farmers seem to have given up the idea in a great measure, of raising spring wheat, as they find barley or oats are a much better paying crop.

The following prizes were awarded:—

SPRING WHEAT.—First prize, Alex. Morrow; second ditto, Wm. Rutherford. 8 entries.

OATS.—First prize, Alexander Cranston; second ditto, Jas. Weir. 6 entries.

PEASE.—First prize, Thomas Kerr; second ditto, Robert Cranston. 3 entries.

POTATOES.—First prize, Alexander Cranston; second ditto, Robert Cranston. 4 entries.

No prizes were awarded for Horses.—*Galt Reporter*.

Book Notices.

THE PRACTICAL SHEPHERD.—A complete treatise on the Breeding, Management and Diseases of Sheep. By Henry S. Randall, L.L.D. This book is all that it professes to be, viz: "a complete treatise" on the important subject to which it relates. Experienced flock-masters will find much valuable information, and many new suggestions in it, while to beginners in sheep-husbandry, it cannot fail to prove a treasure. Its author is one of the best practical sheep farmers on this continent, and prior to the appearance of this work published two volumes entitled, respectively, "Sheep Husbandry at the South," and "Fine Wool Sheep Husbandry." He is also Editor of the Sheep Department of the *Rural New Yorker*. To all who know Dr. Randall's reputation, recommendation of this work is needless. It has had a very large sale in the United States, having rapidly run through fourteen editions. We hope it will find many purchasers in Canada. Every man who owns a sheep, or ever expects to do so, ought to get a copy. We extract a valuable chapter on "Spring management," which will be found under its proper head in another part of this paper. This will give our readers a taste of the quality of the book, and we doubt not will make them eager to get it. We believe it is only for sale by agents. Mr. P. R. Randall of this city, advertises it in another column, and wishes to employ sub-agents in various parts of the country, to sell this excellent manual of Sheep farming.

JOURNAL OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE SOURCE OF THE NILE.—By John Hanning Speke, Captain, H.M. Indian Army. This is a very interesting volume, got up in good style by Harper and Brothers of New York, with a map, portraits, and numerous illustrations. The author goes perhaps a little too much into details about his own everyday affairs, but even this little drawback, if such it be, is counterbalanced by the sense it gives you of living and acting with him in his exciting and, sometimes, perilous adventures. Capt. Speke, in addition to the discovery which will render his name immortal, has furnished a large amount of additional light, as to the geography and customs of a country hitherto known but little, except here and there along the coast. Missionary exploration has done much toward furnishing knowledge of the interior of Africa, and of late years, scientific expeditions have been vigorously and successfully promoted. The gallant captain furnishes a curious illustration of the fattening properties of milk, in the case of an African beauty whom he managed to measure, and whose shape was more that of a round ball of flesh, than of a human being. Obesity, it appears, is the chief desideratum of female beauty in Abyssinia, and this point is secured, by keeping the royal fair ones sucking at milk pots from childhood. The work is for sale by A. S. Irving of this city, and other booksellers.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.—By Charles L. Flint pp. 15. This pamphlet consists of a letter by the able Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, to His Excellency John A. Andrew, Governor of the State. Its object is to show the virulent character of the disease of which it treats, to demonstrate that it is infectious and in view of these facts, and the immense losses among cattle it has occasioned, to rouse the people, and especially the legislature of the Commonwealth, to take such steps as will effectually stay the plague. The pamphlet contains much startling and useful information concerning a disorder whose very name has come to be a terror to all breeders of neat stock.

JOURNAL OF THE BOARD OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES OF U. C.—The April number of this magazine contains articles on the Provincial Exhibition for 1864, Flax and Linen Manufactures, Linseed Oil and Oil Cake, Machine Stretched Belting, Mechanics' Institute Reunions. Notation, with numerous and well arranged selections on a large variety of subjects. The usual subscription price is 75 cents a year, but to members of Mechanics' Institutes, Literary, Scientific and Agricultural Societies, it is only 50 cents. It is free of postage.

BRITISH AMERICAN MAGAZINE.—The April number of this serial completes the second volume, and is as usual, well filled with a variety of reading, such as ought to furnish something adapted to every peculiarity of literary taste. The review department of the number before us is taken up with notices of the British Quarterlies and Monthlies, and copious extracts from them.

Rural Architecture.

Hints on Country Houses.

WHAT A COUNTRY HOUSE OUGHT TO BE.

We take it for granted that the object of building a country house is not simply for the purpose of affording some sort of shelter to the family that is to inhabit it, but that the intention of the owner is in reality to promote domestic comfort in the highest possible degree within the limits of his means. We are sorry to say, nevertheless, that this praiseworthy idea is very rarely carried out. Utility is but too often sacrificed to cheapness, and instead of a structure which shall last through many generations, and which shall, at the same time, be not only an ornament to the neighborhood but a graceful feature in the landscape, we have a frail clapboarded thing, with great, staring windows, frequently without blinds or shutters, and quite as frequently without any protecting porches or verandahs, with the exception of a small pent-house over the front door. Now all such dwellings, whether they be cottage or farm house, possess one of the very grave defects which it is possible for them to have in our variable climate. They are intolerably hot in summer, and they are intolerably cold in winter. They cannot be cooled by any imaginable device, when coolness is the first of essentials, nor can they be heated to a cheerful and uniform heat in winter, with all the expenditure of wood and coal that men in ordinary circumstances are either willing or able to disburse. In structures composed of rough stones drawn from the surrounding fields, or from quarries in the vicinity, these evils are at least partially removed, so far as protection from variations of temperature is concerned. But such buildings are frequently damp, and therefore, and to that extent, unhealthy, from the fact that stone absorbs moisture by capillary attraction, and that no care is taken to obviate the defect by setting the lower courses in cement and continuing them to about two feet above the surface of the soil, and also by nailing strips vertically on the interior walls, and lathing and plastering over these instead of on the surface of the stone itself. If this were done, and the roof were made to project over the eaves about two feet, and simply but sturdily constructed porches were thrown across the front to afford additional shade in summer, and protection from driving storms in winter, a stone-house would be preferable in the country to almost any other. A similar, though not so effective or so permanent a result, may be obtained by filling in with brick such houses as are constructed of wood—the difference in cost being more than compensated by the increased economy thereby effected in warming such a house in winter, and its great coolness in summer. It should, moreover, be borne in mind that a house built in the manner we have suggested, while it is refreshingly cool at the season when coolness is most desirable, is also, by virtue of its mode of construction, capable of retaining warmth and of repelling cold in winter; and thus it is that it meets the two-fold exigencies of a climate that is semi-tropical in July and August and semi-arctic from December to February.

We now turn to another point. The great majority of houses in the country are not only clumsily contrived, but are simply plain oblong or square boxes, that are as unsightly to the eye, as they are uncomfortable in their interior arrangements. It is very easy, in many instances, to change the first-mentioned defect by a simple modification of their exterior form, by drawing over the roof and bracketing it; by placing hoods over the windows wherever inside shutters are preferred, and above all, by the liberal adoption of verandahs and porches. When the latter are trellised and covered with running vines and climbing roses, they constitute the *beau ideal* of what a country house should be. Alterations in the interior of a house of this kind are usually much more difficult to effect; but there are cases which will admit even of this improvement.—*Maryland Farmer and Mechanic*.

BEST TIME TO PAINT HOUSES.—Experiments have indicated that paint on surfaces exposed to the sun will be much more durable if applied in autumn or spring, than if put on during hot weather. In cool weather it dries slowly, forms a hard, glossy coat, tough like glass, while if applied in warm weather, the oil strikes into the wood, leaving the paint so dry that it is rapidly beaten off by rains.