

Milk-fed veal.—I was surprised the other day in passing the shop of the leading butcher at the West end of Montreal on seeing on a placard, in large characters, the following epigraph: MILK FED VEAL FOR SALE. Why, what on earth should calves be fed on for veal except milk? Now, I begin to see why the veal one gets in Montreal is so wanting in delicacy. What says Mons. le Marquis, in Molière's "Bourgeois Gentilhomme"? "A joint of Normandy veal so tender and succulent that it seems to melt in the mouth." (I quote from memory.) No veal fed on anything except milk, is fit for tables where the convives know how to eat.

Trees.—A letter from Mr. Stockwell, on fruit-trees, &c., will be found in a late number of the Journal. Mr. Stockwell seems to be at "all in the ring," as I see he deals in drugs and chemicals, shorthorn cattle, nursery-stock of all kinds, Berkshire pigs, fancy poultry, seed-potatoes, &c., and, strange to say, English beagles, which he justly calls "the best rabbit-dogs in the world. Many a hundred rabbits have I shot to them in the dear old Kentish woods.

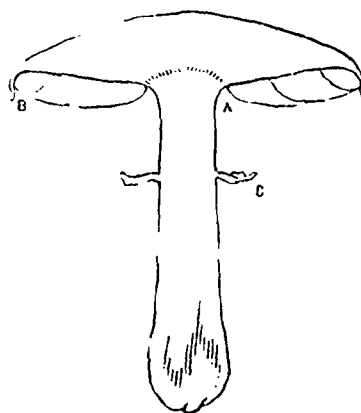
Rain-makers.—That rain can be produced at will is not a new idea. Some thirty years ago, a civil-engineer, Powers by name, and an American of course, wrote a pamphlet on the subject, citing instances, in proof of this theory, of the sequence of rain after great cannonades. And, now, companies are at work in the "bad-lands" of the Western States trying to get contracts with combinations of counties to bring down the rain of the upper regions of the air! They have not succeeded yet, and I do not think they ever will.

Mr. Powers quotes, in support of his argument, that great battles are always followed by rain, six cases which occurred during the war with Mexico, in 1846 and 1847; nine cases of battles, or skirmishes, are cited which occurred in 1861, in the war of the rebellion, and which were followed by rain at a great interval, forty such cases are cited for 1862, thirty for 1863, twenty-eight for 1864, and six for 1865. Eighteen similar cases are also cited from among the great battles which have occurred in Europe during the past century, making a total of 137 cases. The author thinks that if these facts are insufficient to convince, it would be in vain to expect to do so with a greater number of cases; and I should have agreed with him if he had worked out the subject in a more careful manner. Does he not know that, in most of the regions he refers to, the normal rain-fall is high, and that rain occurs, on an average, at least once in three days? To make his argument complete, he should have determined, from a careful comparison of a large number of cases, what is the average interval between a battle and the next succeeding rain—all the battles within a particular circuit being included—and should have then shown that this interval is less than it would be if the battle had no influence in the production of rain. Although, on these and other grounds, I do not consider that Mr. Powers has proved his case, I am strongly of opinion that great battles and great fires do exert some influence in the production of rain. The idea is by no means a novel one. It was revived during the Franco-Prussian campaign, and several communications on the subject appeared in the *Cosmos* and other scientific journals; and the American papers report that the terrible fires in Chicago, Wisconsin, &c., were followed by deluges of rain.

Mushrooms.—Are there any infallible rules for distinguishing the true mushroom from all other fungi? Situation is one important point; in Kent, on the chalk-hills, where the pastures are, in a dripping September, often white with mushrooms, the general rule is never to gather those fungi, however fascinating may be their appearance, that grow in

the shade of trees. But there are other ways of judging, which, if not always unerring, are at least worth knowing as a protection against the poisonous agarics of our fields.

The true mushroom has a peculiar intense purple-brown colour of the spores. But a writer says.—"Several dangerous species, at times mistaken for this mushroom, have these spores amber brown, or pale amber-brown, in colour, and belong to *Pholiota* or *Hebeloma*. In the accompanying figure is



SECTION OF THE TRUE MUSHROOM.

shown a vertical section of the true mushroom, which differs—when the colour of the spores are taken into consideration—from almost all other agarics, and certainly from all poisonous ones. One of the principal points to be observed is the distinct and perfect collar at C, quite encircling the stem, and the edge of cap at B, overlapping the gills, in some poisonous allies, as *a. aruginosus*—generally found on and about stumps—this ring is reduced to a few mere white flecks or scales. Lastly, the gills never reach or touch the stem A for, on inverting a mushroom, a blank space will be seen all round the top of the stem where the gills are free from the stalk." It appears that the true mushroom always grows in grassy fields, has purple-brown spores, a clothy collar, gills which do not touch the stem, and a top with overlapping edge.

Manures for Mangels.—The most satisfactory manure-mixture for mangels has been found to be, in the South of England; 224 lbs. of nitrate of soda, 418 lbs. of superphosphate—(mineral), containing 14% of phosphoric acid, and 448 lbs. of salt, per acre. I say, the most satisfactory, because other mixtures produced greater yields per acre over the unmanured pieces, but the one under consideration grew the crop at the lowest cost per ton, which of course is the point aimed at. My readers will observe that there was no dung employed in this experiment, and for that reason superphosphate had to be used. With dung, as I said in the May number of the Journal, I do not consider that superphosphate in any form pays in growing mangels, and, in proof thereof, I may say that, in the same series of experiments, a mixture of dung and artificials was tried and the result was as follows:

2 cwt. nitrate of soda	}	Tons.	owt.	lbs.
4 do superphosphate		25	19	56
4 do salt				
20 loads dung	}	22	18	7
4 cwt. superphosphate				
20 loads dung		22	12	63

when the 4 cwt. of superphosphate, costing at least \$6.00, only added 6½ cwt. to the crop. Here, you see the wonderful effect nitrogen has upon the mangel crop. I think I was right when I told my readers—more than once—that any one