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Notes by the Way.

Permanent pastures, in fact, all pastures, should be fed down close once a year; not absolutely gnawed down to the roots, but pretty close. Level feeding is at all times necessary, since, if any tuft of grass is allowed to run up to seed, that tuft will cease at once to be permanent.

The weather during the second week of May has been almost unbearably hot. Nothing like it since 1889. In that year the heat was more easily endured, as there was a fair breeze, but this past week the sky was cloudy, thunderstorms were lurking about, and the air was loaded with moisture: *muggy* is the only word to express it. Then came a fine, steady rain, which got well into the ground, doing an infinity of good, and converting what appeared to be a late spring into a very forward one. (1)

Lucerne.—There is a narrow strip of lucerne on the Priest's Farm, alongside of St. Mark Street, Montreal, the growth of which during the last four days—*May 9th*—has been something prodigious. The red-clover, in the orchard on the other side, has only just started from the ground, while the lucerne is nearly 12 inches high, and will be fit to cut for green-meat next week. (2) It is a pity this very useful plant is not more cultivated. Even if it will not stand more than three years, the cost of seed is so slight, and the amount of labour required so trifling, that it should be tried on every farm where the soil is moderately free and the subsoil dry. It will not stand having its toes in the wet.

Names of plants.—Why do we English speak of the Westeria and the Americans of Wisteria? Both cannot be right. In the States, the black-red cherry used for making *cherry-brandy* is called the Morello, and in England the Morella! Now as the Latin *cerasus*, a cherry, is decidedly feminine in gender, we are clearly right in the latter case, though of course the word *morella* comes either from the Italian *morello, a, blackish*, or from the Spanish, *Moro*, a Moor. *Cerasus*, by the bye, is now Kheresoun, a town on the Black-Sea, which gave its name to our fruit. What does Mr. Alfred Jingle say our dear old county of Kent is celebrated for? "Cherries, hops, and women." Did not a Mr. *West* give his name to the climbing plant? Why then write *Wisteria*?

Names of things.—Again, many people, "on this side," write linseed-meal when they mean ground oil-cake. Linseed meal mean ground flax-seed. What is intended by this: I sowed an acre of wheat with 300 of phosphate? No one can form from this the least idea of what manurial constituents the fertiliser used consists.

The moon.—It makes no difference whether the moon is on the increase or decrease as regards the proper time to sow your seed or salt your pork. As to the changes of the moon affecting the weather, that is all nonsense, the moon is always changing.

Punctuation.—People are too often careless about punctuation. Where, as in the good city of Montreal, there are necessarily so many compositors and proof-readers who do not understand our language thoroughly, the editor of a periodical like this has a good deal of unnecessary trouble in arranging the punctuation of articles sent for publication. A droll instance of carelessness in the use of the comma occurs to us. In, or about, 1835, the harvest was very late in S. E England. Partridges were abundant, but the grain was still standing on the 1st September and at least a fortnight's law was needed to allow of the fields being cleared. A large land-owner, therefore published the following and had it placarded all over his district: "Lord Holmesdale will not shoot himself or his tenants before the 15th September."

Experiments on dairy-cows.—Prof Haecker, of the Minnesota Experiment Station has published some very work in the 1893 bulletin of that establishment. One very curious piece of practical information comes out in his record of the feeding and yield of 22 cows: *Dora* a cow weighing 1250 lbs., was the smallest eater the of lot, though some of the others only weighed 850 lbs. *Houston* 930 lbs., ate nearly twice as much as Dora. *Dido*, a shorthorn, cost the least for food, but *Sully*, of the same breed, though 50, lbs. lighter than Dido, was the heaviest consumer of the whole 22; yet her butter cost 12cts a pound less to produce than Dido's butter.

Mr. Haecker's conclusions from his experiments are:

1. The average cost of keep was $38.00 a year.

2. The average product of milk was 6,400 lbs., costing 62 cts per 100 lbs., and 12½ cts a pound for butter-fat. 360 lbs. of butter a head per annum.

3. Productive quality depends more on type or conformation than on size or breed.

The 22 cows exploited as above seem to have been a very mixed lot: grade shorthorns, Holstein, Jerseys &c., but all good milkers.

Carbo-hydrates again.—The "Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England" counts among its contributors many of the most skilful practical farmers of that country as well as some of the leading agricultural chemists. Among the latter, Sir John Lawes and Dr. Gilbert have been for at least fifty years in the constant habit of sending notes of their different experiments in cultivation, manuring, the feeding of animals, &c., and every now and then the Journal publishes an account of any corrections these two celebrated men may think is worth while to send to the Secretary: very few, however, of these corrections are of any importance; for the thoughtful, careful way in which the Rothamsted work is done, ensures almost perfect results.

Some time ago, we sent an essay to be read at the Dairymen's Meeting, which arrived too late, but was afterwards published in this periodical: it was entitled "are the Carbo-hydrates sources of fat in the animal economy, or are they only productive of Heat and Force?" In this essay, we quoted M. Jules Crevat's opinion, on one side, and the published accounts of the experiments of Lawes and Gilbert, together with the contents of private letters from several of the best known practical men in this and other countries, on the other side. (*See Journal of Agriculture*, 1894, *p.* 110.)

Now, if any of our readers are in receipt of the last quarterly number of the Journal of the R. A. S., they will see, under the head of "The Feeding of Animals," an article by Lawes and Gilbert, intended, doubtless, as an addition to the permanent chronicles of Rothamsted. The experiments were made, some of them at least, many years ago, and their principal result was to dispose of the doctrine that food was valuable for fattening animals mainly in proportion to its nitrogenous contents. The Rothamsted experiments on hundreds of animals proved that, for fattening purposes, the carbo hydrates were the most important. So we suppose this question is settled.

Sheep-feeding.—Dr. Voelcker's account of the experiment in sheep-feeding at Woburn in the winter of 1893-4 is rather late in appearing. The object was to ascertain whether, in a season of short supplies of roots and hay, sheep could be advantageously fattened rapidly by giving them extra quantities of cake and corn, in order to economise the consumption of roots, and to do without hay. Three pens of twenty in each were fed on roots (swedes until the last few days) *ad libitum*, and a mixture in equal parts of linseed cake and grittled (1) barley. It was intended to give to Pen 1 double the quantities of cake and barley consumed by the other sheep; but they would not eat so much, and in the end they had consumed about 50 per cent. more. The sheep in Pen 3 alone had hay chaff as much as they chose to eat. The sheep in Pen 1 appeared to be ripe for the butcher first, at the end of eighty days; but, on being weighed alive, it was found that altough apparently fatter, they were only slightly heavier than the sheep in Pen 2, and a little lighter than those in Pen 3. Dr. Voelcker has given a very full and careful analysis of food consumed, weights, increases, expenses, and returns. He concludes that slow feeding paid better than rapid feeding, and that the sheep which had hay paid the best of the three lots.

Raising calves.—We have reared a good many calves in our time, and fattened not a few for the London market. Whether fatting calves pays or not depends upon the demand. A *good* cow during the period of lactation should fat 3 calves, and even then be giving a fair lot of milk a day. For, to fat a calf properly takes about 13 weeks, and at the above rate, the time for fatting 3 calves would be 40 weeks. But of course a really good milch-cow could support two calves at once, during a few weeks, as 8 quarts, or so, is quite enough milk to begin with, and 16 quarts a day is not an unusual yield, at least in our part of England.

Now, the carcase-weight of a 13 weeks old calf should be 18 stone for a cow and 20 stone for a bull, and, in our day, such a calf was worth about as much per stone of 8 lbs. as it would be now, i. e, 5s., so the one would sell for £4.10 and the other for £5.0, though, practically, the cow-calf always fetched a little more than the bull on account of the neater-form of the joints: small animals of every kind, if of *perfect quality*, always are more sought after than large ones. No really good veal tender and white in flesh, can be fed on anything but pure milk.

But when we come to talk of rearing calves for the herd, it is by no means necessary to give them full milk for more than ten or fourteen days after birth. So long as the skim,

(1) Alas! the promise is broken—May 21st.—Ed.

(2) It was 18 inches high on the 15th.—Ed.

(1) *Grittled* means cracked, not mealed. Ed.