

properties, has accordingly not unfrequently been resorted to; it must not however be too much slaked in using, or it loses these properties and thus often fails. Common potash and substances containing ammonia, for example, the liquid excrements of animals, have been adopted for remedies. Some persons employ brine, sulphate of copper (blue vitriol), arsenic and other things not possessing alkaline properties. Whenever these methods succeed, it cannot be for the reasons advanced, but it may happen that they destroy the vegetative powers of the seeds of the fungus, though they still remain fixed to the grain."

It must be observed, that it is not merely steeping but *washing* that is necessary to cleanse the grain, and the washing process should be aided by some alkaline substance. Solution of potash, ley of wood ashes, and stale urine, are the best washing fluids; and the grain should be stirred in them for some time, and the liquid carefully drained or poured off, after which the grain may be dried by stirring slaked lime, gypsum or dry wood ashes with it. This method is very much to be preferred to the common steeping in brine or blue vitriol, the efficacy of which is very doubtful.

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The Agricultural Society, No. 1, of the County of Drummond, was re-organized on the 3rd February. Colonel Edmund Cox, to be President; the Hon. Wm. Sheppard, Vice-President; R. N. Watts, Esq., Secretary-Treasurer; and John Barlow, of Wickham, John Ralph, of Wickham, Joseph Boisvert, of Drummondville, Robert Heriot, of Grantham, Valentine Cook, of Wendover, Thomas Johnston, of Wickham, Alexander Lesperance, of Headville, Directors. The undernamed were chosen to replace the members of the Board of Agriculture going out of office, Major Campbell, of St. Hilaire, E. J. DeBlois, Esq., of Quebec, John Yule, Esq., of Chambly, and P. E. Dostaler, of Berthier.

It may safely be asserted that this Society ranks in the foremost class for permanent benefit conferred, with the funds placed at its disposal, as will be seen by the following extract from its journal:—

Since its first institution it has distributed amongst its members 2 Ayrshire Bulls, 3 Short-Horn Durham Bulls, 4 Short-Horn Durham Heifers, 8 Leicester Rams, 14 Leicester Ewes, 1 Stud Horse, (Cleveland Bay), besides improved Poultry, Farm Implements, Grain and Fruit Trees, to a large amount. It has been for some time observed that the prize animals at its annual exhibitions, trace their origin to the stock imported by the Society.

• "Blights of the wheat"—London,

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Journal.

SIR.—In looking over the last number of the Journal, my attention was directed to the important letter of Mr. Hutton's, in regard to the importation of Black Sea Wheat by the Board of Agriculture, which I consider an important move in the advancement of agriculture in Canada. The Hon. P. M. Van-koughnet, Minister of Agriculture, is entitled to the warmest thanks of all those interested in the prosperity of agriculture. Such a measure as the above, I hope, will not be lost sight of by our County Agricultural Societies. There are but few farmers who do not readily admit the importance of selecting the very best varieties of seeds which he intends to plant or sow; still there are but few who give it the necessary attention it merits, but this opportunity of procuring the above article, from a port of the Black Sea, for its selection, is a chance which seldom offers to our farmers. From the experience I have had in the cultivation of the above variety of wheat, I consider it a most valuable kind for Lower Canada, resisting the ravages of the fly in a great measure. But by reason of its having for such a length of time constantly been sown upon the same soil, it is hereby ultimately reduced to a very inferior sample, which in my opinion loudly calls out for a change of seed. It is a well known fact to all intelligent agriculturists that by a change of seed from one soil to another is of the utmost importance. I, therefore, sincerely hope that our worthy President of the County of Quebec Agricultural Society will lose no time in calling a meeting of the Committee of Management, to determine what quantity of the above mentioned valuable article may be required for the County of Quebec—the time being limited to the 15th March for receiving orders.

I remain yours very respectfully,

MATTHEW DAVIDSON.

St. Foy's Road, County of Quebec, }
20th February, 1857. }

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HOW THE HUMAN BODY KEEPS WARM.

The phenomena of heat in the body is something like that produced by the combustion of fuel, such as coal; only in the body the combustion is slow, and the heat far lower than that of flame. The act of breathing is very like the bellows of a smith, and our food is very much the same as the coals which he puts upon his fire. It is probable that some heat may be produced in the various secreting organs of the body by the chemical action which takes place in them. From these two sources animal heat is probably derived. It is positively certain that the blood is heated at least one degree of Fahrenheit in passing through the lungs; and that arterial blood is warmer than venous.—Most of the phenomena which occur in the production of heat may be explained by attributing it to a combination or union of the oxygen of the air with the carbon of the blood in the lungs.

This supply of animal heat enables the body to resist the fatal effects of exposure to a low temperature. In the polar regions

the thermometer often falls to 80 or 90 degrees below zero; and yet the power of evolving heat, possessed by our bodies, enables us to resist this degree of cold. The temperature of our bodies in that region is about the same that it would be were they in the regions near the equator. The thermometer, if plunged into the blood of a man in both situations mentioned, would indicate about the same. Our bodies have nearly the same temperature in both places; because, so to speak, and it is not very absurd, the combustion or fire in the lungs gives out more heat, it burns with greater intensity in polar regions than in the equatorial. We all know that a large fire will warm our rooms, no matter how cold it may be. We can give our rooms the same temperature in winter that they have in summer, if we regulate our fires accordingly. A little more fuel is all that is requisite for that purposes. Nature has so ordered that when our bodies are in a cold temperature, we inspire more air than when they are in a warm temperature. In other words, she compels us to take in more fuel, and increase the combustion in the lungs.

The Esquimaux eats blubber, which is nearly all carbon, and the Laplanders drink plenty of grease. In warm countries, the food of the Laplander would kill the negro, and the food of the natives of the West Indies would not be able to keep the Esquimaux from perishing with cold.

The temperature of the human body, and of most warm-blooded animals, is from 98 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and is affected but a few degrees by any variation of that of the surrounding atmosphere. Animals are warm-blooded when they can preserve nearly an equal temperature, in despite of the atmospheric vicissitudes from heat to cold and from cold to heat. They have a temperature of their own, independent of atmospheric changes.

The time will soon arrive when thicker clothing must be worn by our citizens at the North. They must line their vests well along the back bone, and provide against freezing. It is a fact that warm clothes tend to save food in proportion to the cold of the atmosphere. This is the reason why cattle that are well housed consume less food, and keep in better condition, than those which are shelterless and exposed.

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Make Labor Agreeable.

Last eve as I was in at a neighbor's I heard the father express to his sons a hope that they would take good care of a calf which he intended to purchase for them, to which the mother replied it would only bring censure on them to feed it with corn and potatoes, when they immediately expressed a wish to do. Then the thought suggested itself at once, that though the father purchased it with the hope that it might influence them to take good care of it, and consequently of other things, still, would they