

like a good nursing mother, keeping scarcely anything to herself, but imparting almost the whole to her offspring. Betsy being found worthless as a breeder, was brought to the shambles; but Bina was kept four years, and uniformly managed her family matters in the same way. Take her for all in all, I do not expect to look upon her like again. She bred rapidly and numerously; always more after her sire than herself, and never failed, though almost at the expense of her own life, to leave her litters in that healthy, thrifty condition, which, perhaps, more than any other one thing contributes to make a hog profitable. It is at least two years since I parted with this sow, and though I have since owned many, having purchased several at high prices, I have never found one really good breeder. Invariably there has been some great defect; either shy breeding, both as to time and number, sickness after parturition, a very common case, or most generally, a disposition to take on fat from what they consumed, instead of converting it into milk for the benefit of their young. This may seem a needlessly long story; but in all things pertaining to rural economy, facts are important; and besides, as Byron says of one of his poems, "it hath a moral." The moral and practical lesson is this:—When you stumble on a really good breeder, keep her. Let not bad treatment destroy her, let not friendship nor flattery wheedle you out of her, nor money buy her, nor increasing years induce you to kill her for pork. Let her live while she will breed, if she dies upon your hands with old age, for you will not be likely to find another, soon, and may not in a lifetime.

FACTS ABOUT MILK.

In Canada, too little attention, is generally paid to the economy of the Dairy. The *Agriculturist* (a periodical of which our Province has just cause to be proud) contains, in the June number, some useful facts relating to the temperature of milk. Our contemporary says:

Cream cannot rise through a great depth of milk. If, therefore, milk is desired to retain its cream for a time, it should be put into a deep, narrow dish; and, if it be desired to free itself most completely of cream, it should be poured into a broad, flat dish, not much exceeding one inch in depth. The evolution of cream is facilitated by a rise, and retarded by a depression of temperature. At the usual temperature of the dairy—50 degrees Fahrenheit—all the cream will probably rise in thirty-six hours; but at 70 degrees, it will, perhaps, rise in half that time; and, when the milk is kept near the freezing point, the cream will rise very slowly, because it becomes solidified. In wet and cold weather, the milk is less rich than in dry and warm; and, on this account, more cheese is obtained in cold than in warm, though not in thundery weather. The season has its effects. The milk, in spring, is supposed to be best for drinking, and hence it would be best suited for cheese; and, in autumn,—the butter keeping better than that of summer,—the cows less frequently milked give richer milk, and, consequently, more butter. The morning's milk is richer than the evening's. The last drawn milk of each milking, at all time,

and seasons, is richer than the first drawn, which is the poorest.

A LIQUID FERTILIZER.

Are our readers acquainted with the *Horticulturist*, edited by A. J. Downing, and published in Albany by Luther Tucker? If not, we would strongly advise them to introduce themselves thereto through the medium of a subscription without delay. The *Horticulturist* treats of Pomology, Landscape, Gardening, Botany, Entomology, and Rural Economy in general, and the name of its conductor (of European as well as American celebrity) is a sufficient guarantee that its *dicta* on these topics may be safely relied on. From the last number we extract the following account of "A Liquid Fertilizer for Choice Plants":—

A LIQUID FERTILIZER FOR CHOICE PLANTS.—BY AN AMATEUR.

DEAR SIR,—I am confident that there are many of your lady readers, and perhaps many of the other sex, who are puzzled among the many *new manures*, and having failed with some, and injured their plants with others, they end by raising only sickly and meagre plants, when they might have them presenting a luxuriant and satisfactory appearance—with leaves of the darkest green, and flowers or fruit of double the usual size.

Having made a trial for three years past, with a perfectly safe and satisfactory liquid fertilizer, which appears to suit all kinds of vegetation, which is clean and easily applied, and procured without difficulty, in any town, I confidently recommend it to your readers, especially those who wish to give especial pains to, and get uncommon results from, certain favorite plants—either in pots, or in the open garden—plants whose roots are within such a moderate compass, that they can be reached two or three times a week, if not oftener by the watering-pot.

This liquid fertilizer is made by dissolving half an ounce of sulphate of ammonia in a gallon of water.

Nothing so good can be cheaper, and the substance may be obtained at almost any apothecary's.

Now for the mode of using it. I may say, at the outset, that weak as this solution appears to be, and is, if plants are watered with it daily, they will die—just as certainly as a man will who drinks nothing but pure brandy.

The right way to apply it is to water the plant with this solution *every sixth time*; the other five times with plain water.

The proportion is so simple, and the mode of using it so easy to understand, that the most ignorant person cannot possibly blunder about it—*if he can count six*. If we prepare the solution occasionally, and water our plants in pots *every Saturday*, with this ammonia water, and all the rest of the time with plain water, we shall have a safe rule.

The result will, I am sure, both delight and surprises every person who will make a trial of it.