

HOW EASILY BUTTER IS SPOILED.

A farmer's wife writes to an exchange: "Of all the products of the farm, butter is most liable to be tainted by noxious odors floating in the atmosphere. Our people laid some veal in the cellar, from which a little blood flowed out, and was neglected until it had commenced to smell. The result was that a jar of butter, which I was then packing, smelled and tasted like spoiled beer."

Another lady writer observes that there was a pond of filthy, stagnant water a few hundred feet away from their house, from which, when the wind was from a certain direction, an offensive effluvia would be borne on the breeze directly to the milk-room, the result of which was that the cream and butter would taste like the disagreeable odor coming from the pond. As soon as the pond was drained there was no more damaged butter.

CARBON FOR STOCK.

There is a growing impression among stock owners that the health of sheep as well as cattle suffer from absence of carbon in their food; and it was suggested by a correspondent a few weeks since that the worm disease of sheep had greatly increased of late years because the pastures are not burnt as formerly. The ash or char of the grasses, it was asserted, gave the carbon of which they stand in need.

That the carbon obtained in this way does the sheep good is undoubted, because the animals go licking about a burnt place while there is plenty of good grass around, and they are not at all likely to choose what is not good for them under such circumstances. But if carbon is the ingredient sought after it can be given to sheep in other and less expensive forms, for frequent grass burning is most suicidal to the man dependent upon his grasses.

HINTS TO DAIRYMEN.

The third annual report of the Vermont State Dairymen's Association for the year ending October, 1872, recently printed, is a pamphlet of 164 pages, and contains much valuable information.

The report opens with the address of President Mason, who makes some pertinent remarks in regard to the loose way in which many dairymen keep an account of their farming operations and the cost of the articles they have to sell. The same applies equally to farmers engaged in other branches of farming. He says:—

We dairymen are a stubborn class to learn. We do not accept facts without a good deal of proof and persuasion, and in too many cases work out our own injury through a fear of being too easily deceived. This is a progressive age, and those who allow themselves to fall in the rear in the march of improvement must be content to occupy second-rate positions, and be satisfied with small pecuniary rewards. It is somewhat surprising that, notwithstanding the improvements in dairy farming, so little has been effected towards inducing dairymen to perform their operations in a more systematic manner and keep a regular record and account of their dairy business generally and specifically.

For one who practices such a method ninety-nine keep all their accounts 'in their heads,' as it is termed, and are rightly called 'guess dairymen,' for they never know anything, and only guess it is so-and-so. They don't know whether this, that or the other mode of dairying pays the best; whether they can afford to sell their produce at a given price or not; they cannot tell whether it is for their interest to continue in the dairy business or not, nor even at the end of the year are they sure whether their names should be on the loss or profit side of the ledger. Having kept no record of their doings, they are almost wholly in the dark.—They can only guess 'it's about so.' It is high time for all such to take 'a new departure,' and commence a thorough reform. Of course, keeping such records occupies some time, but how can it be better spent than in thus obtaining a better knowledge of our profession and the working in that special branch in which we may be engaged?

Farmers should keep an exact account of everything connected with their dairy, so that at the end of the year they can sum it all up and know all about it and not have any guess work. They should be able to show just what it costs to make 100 pounds of cheese or butter. Then, and not till then, can they tell whether it pays to continue dairying. They should also keep a similar account in all other farm operations, and then there would be an end of the continual guessing and thinking and ignorance in regard to those things we should know all about.

KEEPING BUTTER IN WARM WEATHER.

A simple mode of keeping butter in warm weather where ice is not handy, is to invert a common flower-pot over the butter, with some water in the dish in which it is laid. The orifice at the bottom may be corked or not. The porousness of the earthenware will keep the butter cool.

"READY PROFIT" SHORT-HORNS.

In his 81st year Mr. Thomas Garne passed away at his bleak primitive home in the valley of the Windrush, Gloucestershire. He went from Ald-worth at Lady-day, 1825, to the exposed farm at Broadmoor, on the northern side of the valley. He had all the admiration for a good beast that had run for generations in his family, and Mr. Nathaniel Stilgoe fostered his inclination for the then rising Short-Horn which Sir Charles Morgan and the Strickland family had been the first to bring into the district. As is usual with young breeders, he got a pure bred bull of Mr. Attenborough's blood, through Mr. Stilgoe, and this bull was followed by Edgar of Mr. Campion's breeding. Mr. Stilgoe, who subscribed to the second and third volumes of the "Herd Book," finding his farm at Chapel Ascote unsuitable for breeding, sold the best of his cows to Mr. Garne. From Lord Sherborne, his landlord, Mr. Garne bought Pye, when a fortnight old calf, for 20 gs., and she produced a large family. He also got some other females from Lord Sherborne, and with them rested contented, never purchasing any more females.

Mr. Garne was more fond of his herd for its ready profit, and that innate pleasure which the breeding and development of young stock unconsciously gives. He would rise at three in the summer and watch the light ailed the cattle then. Constitution he would have above all things. Circumference was a great word with him, for with that and thick hairy coats came that hardihood that must be had to withstand the cold situation. "Big loins, big chests, round ribs, plenty of muscle, and a clean bag," were points he insisted strongly on, and in bull-buying his maxim was "beast first, pedigree afterwards."

Mr. Stratton and other breeders bid money for his stock, but he was chary of selling; he liked to keep his best, and if they went wrong the feeding stalls were the fittest place for them. Size was also aimed at; the bull calves were allowed to suck, the heifers raised by rail and hand until yearlings, when they were turned out, and in proper season a bull taken out to them and they calved in the fields. So for nearly half a century Mr. Garne laboured diligently with his kine, producing animals that hundreds in the south have admired, and many a one has crossed to our Australian and Canadian colonies. Cattle for cattle's sake, robust health and ready profit, and a strong aversion to all fashion and new-fangled ways were his doctrine.

Peaceably he passed away, inheriting a good name and leaving it after him, in that bleak, cold, desolate valley of Gloucestershire.—Thornton's Circular.

MILK.

Considerable has lately been said in medical journals concerning the value of milk as a remedial agent in certain diseases. We notice an interesting article upon this subject that lately appeared in the London *Milk Journal*, in which it is stated, on the authority of Dr. Benjamin Clark, that in the East Indies warm milk is used as a specific for diarrhoea. A pint every four hours will check the most violent diarrhoea, stomach ache, incipient cholera and dysentery. The milk should never be boiled, but only heated sufficiently to be agreeably warm, but not too hot to drink. Milk which has been boiled is unfit for use.

"It has never failed in curing me in six or twelve hours, and I have tried it, I should think, fifty times. I have also given it to a dying man who had been subject to dysentery eight months, and it acted on him like a charm. In three weeks he became a hale, fat man, and now nothing that may hereafter occur will ever shake his faith in hot milk."

A writer also communicates to the *Medical Times* a statement of the value of milk in 26 cases of typhoid fever, in every one of which its great value was apparent. It checks dysentery and nourishes and cools the body. People suffering from disease require food quite as much as those in health, and much more so in certain diseases where there is rapid waste of the system. Frequently all ordinary food in certain diseases is rejected by the stomach, and even loathed by the patient; but nature, ever beneficent, has furnished a food that in all diseases is beneficial—in some directly curative. Such a food is milk.

Dr. Alexander Yale, after giving particular observations upon the points above mentioned, viz: its actions in checking diarrhoea, its nourishing properties, and its actions in cooling the body, says: "We believe that milk nourishes in fever, promotes sleep, wards off delirium, and, in fine, is the *sine qua non* in typhoid fever."

We have also lately tested the value of milk in scarlet fever, and learn that it is now recommended by the medical faculty in all cases of this often distressing children's disease. Give all the milk the patient will take: even during the period of the greatest fever it keeps up the strength of the patient, acts well upon the stomach, and every way is a blessed thing in this sickness. Parents, remember it, and do not fear to give it if your dear ones are afflicted with this disease.—*The Household*.

STOCK AS A DESTROYER OF THE CURCULIO.

I planted a small orchard of plum, apricot and nectarine trees, adjoining my barnyard, and pastured it with hogs, and ewes and lambs—(the lambs bark the trees)—driving strong locust posts around the young trees, to prevent injury by the hogs rubbing against them. The result was, that the fruit ripened untouched by the curculio. I offered this to the Ohio Horticultural Society for their premium of \$100.—Their reply was through the *Western Horticulturalist*, edited by D. Wadler, that there was nothing new in it but the use of sheep. A lady whose mother had a fine green house, the plants of which had been much injured by insects, which she could not get rid of until she used sheep manure, which completely drove them off.

Such had been my experience when the buds of grafts were eaten up by insects. The application of sulphur, soot, snuff, &c., had no effect, but on applying powdered sheep manure on the buds and grafts when moistened from dews, and coarse manure around the small trees at the ground, the insects disappeared immediately. The oil left on the body of the trees by the sheep rubbing against them, the effluvia from the sheep and their manure is offensive to many insects, and then feeding the grass close to the ground, gives the buds a better chance to feed on the insects and exterminate them. Their manure and that of the hogs produces a healthful growth of the trees—the hogs destroy insects in the grub—premium for reclaiming old orchards.

If of inferior fruit, one-third of the top may be taken off and grafted in the spring or fall, with a healthy annual bearing kind, and next year then another third of the top grafted, and the third year the under third may be grafted in this way, and you will soon have bearing trees. If the trees are of fine varieties of fruit, shorten the old and feeble branches, and encourage young shoots. For this mode, Forsyth, of England, received a pension from his government, and from several of the Continental governments. This system of renewing old orchards was termed Forsything. The ground may be plowed shallow, and subsoiled deep—with the coulter plow, shortening the outer roots somewhat, but not destroying the rootlets under the tree. *Cor. Fruit Records*.

MILK.

A case of scientific investigation at Cornhill University, by Prof. Low, is full of interest to farmers and especially dairymen. The milk furnished by the milkman attracted the attention of the Prof. by the peculiar appearance of the cream, which had aropy look. When subjected to a powerful microscope there appeared a large number of organisms in different stages of growth. The investigation was pushed by the Prof. and the cause ascertained. The milkman admitted that he allowed his cows to take their drink from a stagnant pool, instead of giving them good, pure water. It was shown that the foul organisms taken up by the cows when drinking such water pass into the circulation, enter the blood and even taint the secretions, making the milk a mass of filth. This fact has before been brought to the attention of dairymen, and cannot be too carefully attended to by those having the care of cows for dairy and domestic purposes.

An artificial cooking butter is largely sold in Paris under the title of "Margarine." It is prepared from raw ox-tallow by gently heating it with water, potash, and macerated tripe; the purified, cooled and salted product is then submitted to hydraulic pressure to remove the stearine; the result is a yellow substance, very much resembling butter that has been heated. It is said to be more durable than the natural product. A similar substance may be made by treating the tallow with a diluted, heated solution of carbonate of soda—one part of carbonate with thirty parts of water—and then washing the product, first with water containing one per cent. of hydrochloric acid, to remove the alkali, and then with pure water. It is said that butter prepared by this latter method was used by the citizens of Paris during the late siege.

A few roots fed daily in winter with hay, will keep a sheep in good condition to care for her lambs in the spring. The lambs need looking to the first few hours after birth; most of them, however, will not need it, but occasionally one will be found that will not be strong enough, or from some other cause will fail to obtain its natural supply of milk, and will require assistance.

The sheep business in parts of New Mexico is in a discouraging condition this season, for the reason that the fall of snow and rain during the fall and winter was uncommonly light. For the same reason farming is depressed, since the mountain streams do not afford the usual supply of water for irrigation, and farmers have not planted. Where streams come out of the snowy range water is abundant.

Agricultural Items

The Buffalo Board of Health has voted the cattle yards a public nuisance and will insist upon their removal or perfect renovation.

In 1871, England sent to the United States books of the value of more than a million dollars in gold. She received from that country less than \$6,000 worth.

Grasshoppers are committing great depredations in New Hampshire; oats, beans, and, in fact, all green things, falling before them.

Owing to the failure of the blue plum crop in the Niagara district, common plums bring as high as \$4 per bushel.

The *Guardian* (Richmond, Q.) says:—Notwithstanding the dry season, the farmers hereabouts speak in the most satisfied terms of both their hay and harvest crops, while the potato and root crop is said to be above an average.

The appreciation of American agricultural collegiate education by farmers is shown by returns from Cornell University. It graduated two agricultural students in June last.

H. S. Thompson, of Kirby Hall, Yorkshire, states in the Royal Agricultural Society of England's Journal that his favorite fertilizer for grass lands is 1 cwt. nitrate of soda, 2 cwt. mineral superphosphate, and 3 cwt. of kainite per acre. These cost about \$20. For mowing land he would increase the quantity of nitrate to 1½ cwt. per acre.

HARVESTING OVER.—From all quarters we hear that the harvest is nearly over, that there never was better harvesting weather, and that, all things considered, crops are somewhat over an average. There are no complaints of overgrown wheat or any other damage to this year's crop.

It is a remarkable fact that in Buffalo just now a ton of hay brings twice as much as a ton of corn. Abundance of corn can be had for \$15 per ton, while hay readily brings \$30 per ton.

The farmer who has barns ample enough to house all his stock, has the means at hand to give the same stock an unending supply of the best water the year round. The rain that falls on the roof, if caught in cisterns, will water all the stock the roof can comfortably shelter.

A gentleman addicted to scientific inquiry has discovered that thirty-three days complete the cycle of the potato bug generation; that 700 of the critters are the average product of one female, from which the family grows in the second generation to 245,000, and in the third to 82,700,000.

It indicates a low state of farming when the farmer carries his grain to market full of foul seed, shrunken grains, or several varieties mixed, and it is one of the best evidences of high farming when all his grains are put in the market clean and pure. Will not our readers give this subject a careful consideration, and see if it does not indicate a way for the improvement of farming?

The bugs have been indefatigable in their efforts to prevent the growth of the potato this year, and we thought at one time, with the assistance of the drouth, they would eventually succeed; but by the persevering efforts of the farmer and his family in picking them off and sprinkling the vines with Paris green, and having the late fine showers as an auxiliary, there is a good prospect of an average crop.—*Clinton New Era*.

A New Jersey correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* that in his neighborhood the pea bug had been gotten rid of by threshing peas, cleaning them, and then putting them in a heap on the barn floor and sprinkling them at the rate of a quart to five or six bushels, with spirits of turpentine. Leave the peas a few days to dry, after shoveling the heap over to mix them well with the turpentine. Barrel them, and the bugs are never heard of again.

Long continued observations show that harness and other leather exposed to the action of ammonia, continually given off in stables, becomes weak and rotten sooner than other leather. Even when care is taken to protect them with grease this takes place. Prof. Artus recommends the addition of a small quantity of glycerine to the oil or fat employed in greasing such kind of leather, asserting that it keeps it always pliable and soft.

The Grand Rapids, Mich., *Democrat* says:—No one having lived in Western Michigan a quarter of a century has failed to observe the great change in the climate of this region. Our winters are colder and our summers dryer and hotter. Is this change to be permanent? If so, why? Will the change that is going on in time affect what is known as the fruit belt of Western Michigan, destroying the hopes and expectations of those who have invested largely in lands to be converted into peach and apple orchards and gardens in which to cultivate the smaller fruits?



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THE GATHI TABLES is now borders are to this month the few months ing them near will require le every hour will farm.

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