bottle, enough to inoculate half an acre of land.

This "nitragin" preparation may be used in two ways; either by diluting it with a little water and dressing the seed with the mixture, or by using more water, moistening about 56 lbs of soil with the liquid, letting the soil-mixture dry in the air, sowing it regularly over the land, and burying it to the depth of about three inches by cultivation. The whole thing is so wonderful, so almost incredibly valuable, if the experiments now going on in England and Germany prove its efficacy, that one feels bound to wait patiently before giving an opinion about it, until the trials are concluded, which cannot be until two or perhaps three years have expered; for, as Voelcker points out, it is only by trials that we can ascertain the extent to which land can be thus fertilised for leguminous crops, and therefore for succeeding crops. It opens up to the imagination a boundless field of possibilities, but, alas, when one has passed a long life in the cultivation of the soil, one has seen so many fair hopes dashed to the ground that the feeling is strong that practical results are often merciless in dissipating imaginative hopes.

If, for 5s. an acre, we can tap the unlimited resources of the atmosphere in nitrogen, instead of purchasing the most costly of fertilisers, there will be a great gain to begin with. But the possibilities of the new agency are not exhausted by the result upon a single crop. They extend at least to the crop following the leguminous one, and, if the first be fed on, to other following crops. But there are various questions which only experience can settle, such as whether the organisms, once applied will gradually die out, and need to be replaced, or will keep on increasing under certain conditions of cropping, and whether the application of "nitragin" will prevent "clover-sickness." The introduction of Dr. Nobbe's preparation has opened up a wide field of experimentation, and we can only hope that it will prove prolific of results substantially beneficial to agriculture.

SILAGE.—The question of the relative values of silage and other foods for milch-cows does not appear to be yet settled in the States; at least, so the experiments lately carried on at the New-York Experiment Station would seem to show. The following, from "Hoard's Dairyman," gives a good idea of the average of the results of the experiments:

When corn silage replaced some other food, or the amount of silage in the ration was increased, there followed: (1) In seven instances a decrease in the cost of milk, once an increase, and in one instance, little change in cost. (2) An increase in the yield of milk in six instances, *and in three instances a decrease.* (3) A decrease in the cost of fat in six instances, an increase twice, and little change once. (4) An increase in the amount of fat in five instances, a decrease in one, and little change in three instances. (5) An increase in the percentage of fat in the milk in six instances, a decrease in two instances, and little change once.

It will be observed that in case "5" there is an increase in the per centage of fat in the milk: so food does alter the fat contents of milk!

SOFT-CHEESE

The Doctor Jenner, whose recipe for making a soft cheese follows, is, or rather was, the great inventor of vaccination. As he was born and passed his life at Berkeley, the very centre of the Glos'ter cheese district, he must have been thoroughly acquainted with all the processes of the manufacture of that article.

Dr. Jenner's old rhyming recipe for making a soft cheese is worth recording, though it is fairly well known. It is as follows:—

"Would you make a soft cheese? Then I'll tell you how:

Take a gallon of milk, quite fresh from the cow;

Ere the rennet is added, the dairyman's daughter

Must throw in a quart of the clearest spring water;

When perfectly curdled, so white and so nice,

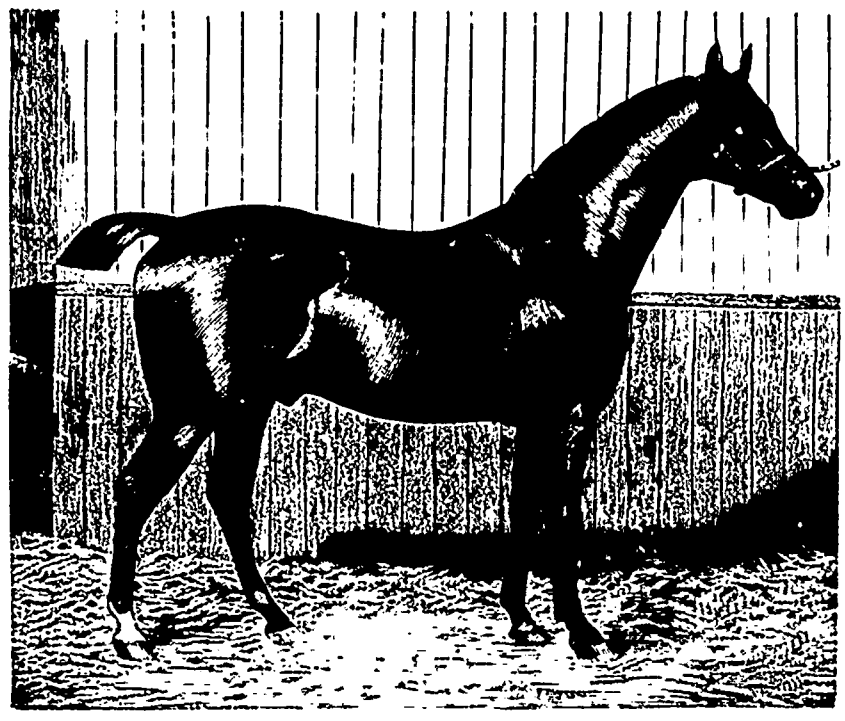
You must take it all out of the dish with a slice,

And put it, 'thout breaking, with care in the vat,

With a cheese cloth at bottom; be sure to mind that.

This delicate matter take care not to squeeze,

But till as the whey passes off by degrees.



THE SWEEPSTAKES STALLION AT THE LONDON HACKNEY SHOW OF 1896.

Next day you may turn it, and do not be loth

To wipe it quite dry with a fine linen cloth.

That this must be done you cannot well doubt,

As long as you see any whey oozing out.

The cheese is now finished, and nice it will be

If enveloped in leaves from the green ashen tree,

Or, what will do better, at least full as well,

In nettles just pluck'd from the bank of the dell."

Something like Camembert, is it not?

GLO'STER-CHEESE.—This cheese, made in the Vale of Berkely (the Valley of the Severn), is now (Sept. 2nd) rather scarce on account of the shortness of grass. Prime dairies are in demand, and sell freely at from 45s. to 54s. per cwt. (112 lbs.), an advance of 9s. a cwt. on the August market. This advance is equal to nearly 2 cents a lb. in our currency.

LATE-CROPS.—We were glad to find, in our little "tournée" (Sept. 7th) the other day, that, at all events in the Ste Thérèse district, the practice of sowing grain up to the middle of June seems to be abandoned. We only saw two pieces of late oats and one of pease. Of course there were several patches of late buckwheat, as there usually are, but that does not signify much, the quantity grown is so trifling.

PRIZE ESSAYS.—We have received the essays written in the competition for prizes offered by the Exhibition Company of Montreal. Very few competitors we regret to say: only nine essays having been sent in and, judging from the style, at least four out of the nine are from the same hand (1). As, in accordance with our advice of last year, no names are attached, we have the advantage of adjudicating with perfect freedom from personal bias.

At the Exhibitions, in Yorkshire pigs of both large and small kinds and Essex pigs. Mr. Featherston, of Streetsville, Ont., was quite up to h's old form.

FARM-WORK FOR OCTOBER.

Deep ploughing — Water-furrows — Width of ridges—Harvesting roots —Stock—Dressing grain.

Round come the seasons, one after the other, and the same tasks await the farmer this fall as were laid upon him in the autumns preceding. The crops are all in; realisation of their products has begun, and now the principal work to be done is the work needed to prepare the land for next spring.

We cannot lay too much stress on the beneficial effects of the deep ploughing in the fall of all the fields intended for manured crops in the following spring. Deep ploughing for grain-crops we do not approve of, especially on heavy land; but the turning up of a couple of inches or so of the subsoil to the mechanical influence of the frost when that moderate proportion of raw earth is to be well mixed with the upper soil by the subsequent action of grubber, harrow, and roller, together with the ameliorating effect of a heavy dressing of farmyard dung, cannot but assist the roots of the following hoed-crops in their arduous task of foraging here and there in search of that humidity, so scarce in our hot summers, and without which the food which nature or the farmer, so plentifully supplies to the land cannot be assimilated by the plants whose mouths these roots are.

Wherefore, after you have prepared your land by "stubble-cleaning," plough deep for the ensuing crops, laying the furrows nearly-up at an angle of forty-five degrees; that is, if you plough seven inches deep, your furrow should be ten inches wide; and not being led away by non-practical men to make your ridges, on heavy land, too wide. With all the convenience we can see in wide ridges for the operations of harvesting grain-crops, it must be remembered that, on our undrained clays, a quick and ready exit for any heavy fall of rain, or sudden thaw, is a most desirable thing, and that this cannot be secured except by moderately narrow ridges and plenty of water-furrows.

Norrowish ridges, deep-ploughing, with a four-horse plough, in the fall, and wisely located water-furrows were the boast of the County of Kent, where we began our farm-education, and very large indeed were the crops produced by this system. Not that the soil itself was anything to glory in. It was, at least on our paternal estate, a poor clay, with here and there an acre or two of sand of the poorest kind, and the rent of the surrounding district, not 12 miles from London Bridge, was only a pound (*$4.86 1-3) an acre: so it could not be* very good land! However, deep cultivation, moderate manuring, judgment exercised in keeping the horses and implements off the land when wet, making the ridges to fit the drill and harrows, so that the teams, in drilling, harrowing, etc., always walked in the furrows; all these minutiae were so carefully practised that this very moderately fertile land not infrequently yielded from 40 to 48 bushels of wheat to the imperial acre.

We said so much about the root-harvest, a month or so ago, that it would be a waste of time and space to go over the same ground again. All that need be said here is that, in storing the root-crop, care should be taken to give potatoes and mangels that part of the roothouse or cellar that is the most secure from the frost; the table-carrots should, if possible, be covered up in sand or finely sifted earth, to keep them from shrivelling, while the swedes can take pretty good care of themselves.

We were surprised to see, in August, with the thermometer at 90o several lots of parsnips in the Montreal Market. Every one ought to know that a parsnip is not fit to eat until there has been a good sharp frost. In England, they are rarely seen on the table until the month of February.

STOCK are still at liberty in the fields, except the work-horses, and the brood-sows that have littered. The colts and fillies may stay out if the weather be fine and not too cold, but the plough-teams should indisputably be kept in the stables and be well fed. Ten hours work a day before the plough is deserving of reward, so do not stint your oats, of which there is, we are glad to see, an abundant crop. If you have a few bushels of pease to spare, do not grudge your horses two or three pecks

(1) To which four, we regret to say we were obliged to award all four prizes. Really, the writer, Mr. James Dickson, of Trenholmville, must not be so greedy another year!—Ed.