

AGRICULTURAL.

DAIRYING IN SWEDEN.

In the journal of the British Dairy Farmers' Association, lately issued, Prof. John Natho, of Sweden, gives some interesting particulars as to dairy education in Sweden. He says that in the year 1851 the Swedish government appointed two travelling dairy teachers for the whole of Sweden, paying them at the rate of \$1,000 a year, and also giving them free tickets and \$1.50 per day when travelling about. If a dairy maid desires to improve her practice, the teacher will go to the farm, staying as long as he is wanted, in order to instruct her in either butter or cheese making, and at the same time he will advise the farmer how to feed the cattle so as to produce the largest quantity of rich milk and the best butter. When these teachers reach sixty-five years of age they are pensioned off.

In connection with the two Royal Agricultural Colleges at Alnarp and Utuna, the government started in the year 1883 two dairy colleges, giving a grant to each. Here pupils are admitted either as in-students or out-students, and all provision is made for their accommodation. This covers the greater extent of the tuition, but in addition, the government pays every year 32 girls \$41.50 each for learning butter and cheese-making on good dairy farms. The government travelling teachers inspect these farms two or three times in the year. The girls must do all the work in the dairy, and also milk the cows and feed the calves. The farmer with whom these girls are placed must instruct them in dairy management, arithmetic, writing, reading, spelling, book-keeping for dairy purposes, &c. For his teaching he receives \$27.50 from each girl, they paying for their board with their work. In the North, where there are no good dairy farms, the Swedish government has started two dairy schools for girls, at each of which six are being educated, but these have been established so recently that their results are scarcely apparent. When we turn to the tables which accompany this article, the influence of this education is seen. In 1861 the export of butter from Sweden was 20,574 kilos., and the import 1,110,181 kilos. In 1885 the export was 11,446,189 kilos., and the imports 2,844,599.

FLAX AS AN EXHAUSTIVE CROP.

In the Ohio Valley there is objection to flax on the score of injury to the soil. "It is hard on the land," is a common remark of correspondents. Such is the first greeting of the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture, December, 1885, to the flax industry of the United States—an industry which produced 12,000,000 bushels (at Chicago's average price, \$13,500,000) of seed the last year. Its several manufacturing plants in the West are valued at \$6,000,000, with an annual output of \$15,000,000. The right of discovery of the true character of the flax plant awarded to the Ohio Valley (in other words, States) is not quite correct. All intelligent writers on agriculture from the days of Pliny and Virgil—all cultivators of the plant from the date (1629) of the legal forced planting on Massachusetts' sterile shores to the utilizing of its appetite for mineral manures in subduing the fresh-turned soil of Dakota—have conceded its soil-exhausting capabilities. There seems a lack of wisdom in political economy that forces the farmer to export the raw products of the farm, freighted as they are with the valuable manurial constituents of the soil, or causes the Western pioneer farmer to waste his own most valuable fibre (estimated at 162,500 tons), while to bind his sheaves he buys (estimated at 20,000 tons) twine made from the interior fibers of India.

OF INTEREST TO DAIRYMEN.

By an act passed by the New York legislature and approved by the governor, the dairy commissioner is directed to employ expert butter and cheese makers, not exceeding five in number, whose duty it shall be, under his directions, to examine and inspect butter and cheese factories and the methods employed therein, and attend to such agricultural fairs, institutes, meetings, conventions within the state as shall be designated by the commissioner, to impart thereto information as to the best methods of making butter and cheese. Five thousand dollars have been appropriated for the purpose. On or before Dec. 15 next the commissioner must report the number of experts employed under the act, together with their compensation and expenses, and must include the whole in his annual report. Another appropriation of \$2,500 has been made to the State Dairy association to be expended in holding a number of dairy conferences in various parts of the state to illustrate butter and cheese making.

TO KEEP CHINCH BUGS FROM A CORN FIELD.

A great many remedies and preventives against chinch bugs have been suggested and published from time to time, the most of them emanating from good authorities, but very generally so difficult and impracticable in their application as to be of little general use. In their migration from one field to another, at the time they first appear on the side of a field of corn and before they have entered it, cut five or six rows of the corn and clean the ground, then plow a strip of land eight or ten feet wide, leaving a deep furrow in the center of the strip, with the perpendicular side of the furrow toward the field to be protected. Into this the bugs will fall, where straw may be thrown or them burned. Or the furrow may be covered with some of the stalks that have been cut while they were green, by laying across it, when the bugs will crawl under them into the furrow and remain there in the shade long enough for the stalks to dry and be burned.

A STABLE PRECAUTION.

The following we know from long experience to be an excellent plan for tying up horses in such a way that they cannot get entangled in the halter: Go to the woodshed and select a round piece of beech, oak, chestnut, or other hard wood, about three inches and a half in diameter; cut off pieces say three to four inches long, and shape off the corners with a knife, so as to make the pieces as nearly round as possible. Next, either bore a seven-eighth inch auger hole through the piece or drive in a staple and ring. Take the pieces of wood to the stable, and, instead of tying your horses' halters to the mangers, run the halter strap through the hole in the manger, from the inside, so that the end comes out in front of the trough, and fasten the halter strap

through the block or the ring you may have put in it. This is a great improvement on the fixed fashion of tying. It always keeps the halter strap taut, and thus the horse cannot throw himself by getting his leg over the slack of the strap, but yet, when he wants to lie down, has "rope" enough for comfort, without danger.

THE WOOL TASTE IN MUTTON.

C. M. Clay, of Kentucky, writing on the very common belief that when sheep are killed for mutton with the fleeces on them the mutton is rendered unpalatable on account of the wool taste, says it is all nonsense about the wool affecting the taste of the meat. He explains that "the bad taste is caused by the excretions of the bowels going into the circulation when the sheep are killed that gives the wool the flavor. The intestines must be taken out as quickly as possible; then you may wrap it in wool and lay it on ice for days, and if there is any wool taste I will eat the sheep, skin, wool and all." Indiana Farmer, commenting on the above, says that if mutton is treated as Mr. Clay advises there need be no concern as to the wool taste.

RENDERING POSTS DURABLE.

I should like to have the opinion of your readers as to the cheapest and best preparation to put on oak or chestnut posts, so as to make them last the longest, with the method of putting it on. I do not mean to dress the whole post, but merely the part that is in the ground.—J. C. Lynchburg, Va. [A number of applications have been tried for this purpose, but many years are usually required for the completion of the experiments, and as various external influences have operated in opposite directions, farmers who have made the trials have conflicting opinions. Probably one of the best is the mode given several years ago in the Country Gentleman, of applying petroleum by boring a slanting hole in the post downwards near the ground and occasionally filling it with the oil and keeping it plugged.]

PRIZE SHEEP FOR CANADA.

No fewer than 850 live sheep will leave Liverpool to-morrow for Canada in the steamer Oxenholme. This consignment is the largest ever taken from England by one vessel, and the animals include a great many of the finest sheep in the country. Nearly all of them are show animals, and in many cases the sheep have been exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Show held at Nottingham a few days ago, at which some of them were prize winners. The Oxenholme will convey the sheep to Montreal, from which place they will be drafted to various farms in Canada and the Western States. The sheep are mostly of the Shropshire down class, and some of them are exceptionally valuable.—[Manchester (Eng.) Examiner, July 23.]

HAY FOR HOGS.

Very few are aware of the fact that hay is very beneficial to hogs; but it is true nevertheless. Hogs need rough food as well as horses, cattle, or the human race. To prepare it you should have a cutting-box (or hay cutter), and the greener the hay the better. Cut the hay short and mix with bran, shorts or middlings, and feed as other food. Hogs soon learn to like it, and if soaked in swill or other slop food, it is highly relished by them. In winter use for hogs the same hay you feed to your horses, and you will find that, while it saves bran shorts, or other food, it puts on flesh as rapidly as anything that can be given them.

HOGS AS PRODUCERS OF MANURE.

One hog, kept to the age of one year, if furnished with suitable material, will convert a cartload per month into a fertilizer which will produce a good crop of corn. Two loads per year multiplied by the number of hogs usually kept by our farmers would make sufficient fertilizing substance to grow the corn used by them; or, in other words, the hog would pay in manure its keeping. In this way we can afford to make pork at low prices; but in no other way can it be done without loss to the farmer.

NOTES.

I have found in my practice that one pound of Paris green to 200 pounds of plaster does all that could be asked for, kills the potato bug without injury to the vine. A knowledge of this fact has saved me many dollars.

Stock farming must be the foundation of all long continued, successful farming. Any other system is one of slow exhaustion and ultimate sterility. Ignore the sheep, the hog and the cow, and the land will grow poor inevitably.

The union between soton and stock takes place by the inner bark and not by the outer surface of the wood; consequently the skill of the grafter is exercised to bring the inner bark of the soton in close contact with the inner bark of stock.

American orchardists must soon meet the competition in English markets, of apple growers in Australia and Tasmania. The imports of choice apples from these latter points has already increased to such an extent as to affect British fruit growers.

The bulletin of the Ohio Experimental Station for May reports that trees dusted with air-slaked lime in Michigan have yielded abundant fruit. It can be mixed with water and sprayed, or applied by means of a flat paddle from a barrel in a wagon which is driven along the rows of trees on the side toward the wind.

INSECT FRIENDS.—California fruit growers have recently imported some Australian parasites warranted to kill fruit pests. These little bugs, no larger than flies, feed on insect pests and rapidly destroy them. Congress will be asked to sanction the importation of these parasites, in order to clear California orchards from insect pests that are increasing every year.

Vaseline makes a very clean, odorless application for light harness, riding bridles, saddles, etc. After giving it a chance to dry in, go all over the surface with a rag dipped in the white of an egg. This gives it a waterproof coating that will last for some time and prevents the oil from staining the hands or clothing. Have the leather perfectly clean before oiling.

An exchange says that the Hollanders could teach Americans something about dairy farming. Good Dutch cows are held at \$150 each, and are kept on land which often brings a larger yearly rental than would buy good improved American farms outright, and yet these Hollanders pay rent and make money besides. They are a thrifty people, and know a good cow when they see her.

THE GREATEST LIBEL SUIT.

The Pall Mall Gazette Objects.

The Pall Mall Gazette, commenting on the action of Mr. Parnell in bringing suit against The London Times in the Scotch Courts, says:—"Mr. Parnell's trick seems to please his supporters and has disquieted his foes, but it doubts whether it will do its contrivers any good. If Mr. Parnell has discovered the forger who planned the letters published by The Times, then it is no trick but the execution of a determination long avowed. But his admirers' ground for applause is on the trick which will bedevil the Commission of Inquiry entirely. If this is Mr. Parnell's object it is a false move, and Mr. Parnell has changed front in the face of the enemy, which is dangerous. The tardy adoption of a course which he refused to take when it would have been useful to his English allies will not be understood. The commission will proceed with the work and Mr. Parnell cannot arrest it. If he refuses to testify before it, he will harm nobody so much as himself. As Mr. Parnell's case stands he has no motive to hold his tongue but to challenge inquiry."

THE LIBELS SPECIFIED.

The Tribune's cable letter has the following:—"Mr. Parnell sues The Times on the letters and on the Times' articles relating to them. Nothing is alleged, and it will be certainly difficult for The Times to go into other charges against Mr. Parnell. The libels complained of are, first, The Times' assertion that he said Mr. Burke, when murdered in Phoenix Park, got no more than his deserts; second, that he urged Mr. Egan to murder Mr. Foster; third, that he gave Frank Byrne money to escape to France. The Times, both yesterday and to-day, writes in a tone which indicates surprise and vexation that the action should have been brought in Scotland and brought in this form. If you were going to sue The Times why did you not sue before? say Mr. Parnell's opponents, whom he does not take the trouble to answer. There are Liberal friends of his, who say that if he meant to take this step he might have given them a hint. Many of them argued in the House of Commons that he could not do what he has now done. One or two Liberal papers object rather strongly to his present course. These points, however, are not the main points, except so far as they relate to the commission and to Mr. Parnell's supposed intention of asking the commission to delay action because of the Scotch suit. There was, as I long since said, a time when he might have prevented the appointment of a commission by bringing an action. It is not at all likely that the action will now have any influence whatever in the proceeding before the three judges. Sir James Hannen, I hear, dislikes the task before him, but will go through it to the end and precisely as if politics had nothing to do with the matter."

Sham Antiques.

Now that the time is approaching when the summer resorts of Brittany and Normandy will be patronized by seekers after fresh air, it is well, the Paris correspondent of the London "Telegraph" remarks, to draw attention once more to an old subject. Among the English, as well as French, visitors to such places every year there are numerous antiquarians, collectors of ceramics, and those whom the American humorist facetiously called "bric-a-brackers." Now the members, or rather imitators, of the "Black Band" are as numerous as ever in France, and they still take a diabolical and professional delight in entrapping unwary antiquarian tourists by offering sham curios, articles of vertu, pottery, coins, and medals for sale. These people cunningly distribute reputed antique bedsteads, chairs, *bahuts*, medallions, and pottery-ware in old farm houses near watering places. The guides, hotel touts, villagers, and similar folk are told to sound the praises of these things in the ear of the tourist, who is flattered and delighted at the prospect of being able to pick up a bit of genuine old china, a *rococo* cabinet, a jar of "Old Gaul," and perhaps a buckler of javelin owned by one of Caesar's legionaries. The diplomatic guide or tout is never gushing about the antiquities; but he generally insinuates in an off handed, distant kind of way that he knows or has heard of some old woman living leagues off who had kept such things in her family for years. The amateur antiquarian goes to the *bonne mere*, who shows him her collection and narrates their history; how they were heirlooms from her mother, who had been in the chateau of a local magnate, and had hidden them at the time of the revolution, and so on. Of course, the *bonne mere* could not, on any account, part with the things; but, as monsieur is so pressing she has no objection to letting him have some of them at a fair price. The amateur then goes on to bid for the articles, and finally departs with half a dozen old plates, a couple of jugs, or a rusty javelin, deeming himself lucky to have found his curios himself. Next day the bric-a-brac dealer from Paris receives notice of the successful sale, and he at once proceeds to pocket the pelf, to pay the usual percentage to all his confederates, and to replace the curiosities sold to the innocent and unsophisticated stranger by others. Thus the trade in the sham antique, goes on from year to year, and, despite exposures, there are still numerous victims annually.

"Men usually marry their opposites," said Cholly, reflectively. "That is true," said the old man, a little surprised at Cholly's unusual brilliancy. "All the married men I know have married members of the opposite sex." "I mean," said Cholly, "that a tall man is apt to marry a short woman, and vice versa; I wonder what kind of a woman I will marry?" And the old man opined that he would marry a girl with some sense.

Not only do French milliners perfume their artificial flowers, but the custom among fashion leaders of adopting one particular flower and using its corresponding perfume, has lost none of its prestige. French flowers are still perfumed with the odor of the blossoms they so wonderfully and perfectly imitate, and this season the delicate and exquisitely fragrant trailing arbutus is used as a corsage bouquet, the artificial flowers being most minutely copied from nature's early herald of spring. These pink-tinted blossoms are perfumed with the subtle and dainty odor which belongs to the natural flower.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

CAN HE SWIM?

Can your boy swim? No! Then do not trust him in any sort of boat until he has learned the art, and feels as much at home in the water as upon dry land. You might just as well send him out alone into a crowded street before he has learned to walk. He might possibly creep along all right, and reach home alive, or somebody might pick him up and care for him, but the chances would not be in his favor. So in boating, the boy who cannot swim may get along very comfortably for a while, and not suffer from this defect in his education, but the time will assuredly come when he will have cause to bitterly regret it. It is one of the simplest things in the world, too, and can be learned in three or four intelligently directed lessons, such as can be had in any city swimming school or from the experts in any country village. By all means talk swim to your boy before you talk boat, and stipulate as one of the conditions of his having a boat that he shall first be able to swim a quarter of a mile without resting.

WOMEN WHO NEVER REST.

Many women never rest. They seem not to understand what rest—real rest—means. To throw one's self down with a newspaper or a book is not rest; it is only a change of occupation. To sit down and keep the fingers flying over some sort of fancy work, as if one were pursued by a demon of unrest, is certainly not rest. But to lie at full length on a hard surface, arms extended at the sides, head back, with no pillow, eyes closed, all cares and worries dismissed—this is rest; this will smooth away wrinkles in face and in temper; this will give an air of repose to the tired, anxious, nervous woman; this will take away many an ache and straighten out rounded shoulders and craned out necks.

English girls who are famous walkers are taught to lie down for a few seconds whenever they come in from their tramps. If Canadians would learn the value of lying down frequently, say two or three times a day, they would have as much go ahead and power to go ahead as they are now famous for.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES' BATH.

The Princess of England whose complexion is not only the finest, but who has best stood the wear and tear of time, takes her morning plunge regularly, and in water fairly cold but she is particularly careful to promptly make use of the flesh brush, using gloves of moderate roughness rapidly over the surface of the body, and, finally, the rough towel in a quick, general rub, occupying both for the bath and this massage, if one may call it such, twenty minutes in all. At night the same lady's bath is prepared tepid and of distilled water, the admirable advantage of which is not properly understood. Every particle of foreign matter is removed from distilled water, so that it is absolutely pure. It costs about twelve cents per gallon, and can be used, a quart at a time, for a quick sponge bath, with admirable effect, especially when combined with a little glycerine and rose water.

INFERIORITY OF THE STERNER SEX.

"A woman will take the smallest drawer in a bureau for her own private use, and will store in it dainty fragments of ribbon, scraps of lace, fancy ruffles, velvet things for the neck, bundles of old love-letters, pieces of jewellery, handkerchiefs, fans, and things that no man knows the name; all sorts of fresh-looking, bright little articles that you could not catalogue in a column; and at any time she can go to that drawer and pick up anything else. Whereas a man, having the biggest, deepest, and widest drawer assigned to him, will put into it a couple of socks, a collar-box, an old necktie, two handkerchiefs, a pipe and a pair of suspenders, and to save his life he can't shut the drawer without leaving more ends sticking out than there are pieces in it." Such are the sober, wise reflections of our esteemed contemporary the Stroudsburg "Times."

SOUND RULES FOR A WOMAN'S LIFE.

A New Hampshire woman, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday, having prepared every article of food with her own hands, upon being asked how she had kept herself so vigorous, replied:—"By never allowing myself to fret over things I cannot help; by taking a nap, sometimes two, every day of my life; by never taking my washing, ironing, and baking to bed with me, and by oiling all the various wheels of a busy life with an implicit faith that there is a brain and heart to this great universe, and that I could trust them both." Sounder rules could not be framed. Many a woman would be happier and live longer through adopting them.

The Telephone Sharpens the Hearing.

"The idea that a person's hearing is impaired by the constant use of the telephone is ridiculous," said General Manager Plush, of the Bell Co., yesterday. "I see a professor in Berlin has laid claim to having discovered what he calls 'telephone deafness,' but it is my candid opinion that he is looking for public notoriety. Come upstairs and talk to the girls yourself." The reporter walked up a flight of stairs and passed into a room of switchboards and operating tables. What the manager said was fully concurred in by several of the young ladies who were spoken to.

"I have been working in this office for three years," said one girl, "and I feel quite sure that my hearing has improved since I came here. I can distinguish the faintest sound on the wire, or anywhere else, and I have a great deal of fun sometimes listening to the conversations of people who think I am not within hearing distance. I have never had any trouble with my ears, and a doctor who was treating me a short time ago said the gentle current of electricity that passed into the ear was highly beneficial." An eminent specialist in diseases of the eye and ear told the reporter that a gentle current of electricity could not fail to be of benefit to any of the human functions. It is good for rheumatism, and when applied to the ear it makes the tympanum more acute, and has a tendency to put greater life and vigor into the brain.

Small boy—Say, pa! teacher said to-day "Study hard, boys, time flies." Father—Very true my son. Small boy—Well, and a little while after he said, "time leaves footprints." Now, pa, how can "Time" leave footprints if it flies?

The Market for Canadian Products.

A great change, however, has occurred in the proportion taken by each country. In 1888 we exported to the United States 61 per cent., and to Great Britain 34 per cent. By 1887 the two countries had entirely changed places as buyers of our farm products. Great Britain taking 60 per cent, and the United States 35 per cent. This change is the more remarkable from the fact that in certain articles our exports to the United States show a marked increase, as, for instance, in eggs, which increased from \$206,000 in 1868 to \$1,822,000 in 1887, and in horses, which increased from \$384,658 in 1868 to \$2,214,000 in 1887. Indeed, notwithstanding the high duties imposed by the United States with a view to absolutely excluding nearly every description of Canadian farm products, the people of the United States have been obliged to buy the whole range of such products 28 per cent. more from Canada in 1887 than they did twenty years ago, but this is a bagatelle as compared with the increase of our farm exports to Great Britain. Everything we offer in the English market goes in free of duty, and here the increase of purchases of our farm products in the twenty years has been 280 per cent. being ten times as great as the increase of purchases by the United States. Great Britain now buys 25½ millions of dollars' worth a year, the United States only 15½ million dollars worth. During the twenty years of Confederation Great Britain has purchased from Canada \$347,000,000 worth of farm products, the United States \$294,000,000 worth. This great increase of sales to Britain is rendered more noteworthy by the fact that in the first five years of the twenty the United States bought 3½ millions worth more than Great Britain, showing conclusively the vast importance of cherishing the British market in preference to all others.

A Tiny Lass in Court.

There is a court quarrel in Detroit as to who shall be guardian of little Mary Middleton. Presumably she has a fortune, but the Detroit papers haven't informed us on that point. Says the "Journal":—

The case was up again before Judge Brevoort this (Thursday) morning. "The evidence is contradictory and bewildering," said the Judge, "and I will justly conclude the unhappy dilemma in which I am placed by learning whom the child favours as a guardian."

Little Mary was brought up to the Judge, and as he stroked her hair with his hand he asked her whether she desired to go with her stepmother or her grandmother.

"Well, I don't know," she replied, "I loves my mamma, I loves the baby, and I loves gran'ma."

"But don't you know which one you want to go with?" asked the judge.

"I want to live with mamma, my gran'ma, and the baby both," replied the sweet-faced little one.

"Do you mind mamma?"

"Not always," she replied, "but I tries to, and feel sorry if I don't. But I fordes sometimes. I love mamma, gran'ma and the baby. One wants me to go with her, and the other wants me too. I don't know what to do." And she looked perplexed.

Her replies put Judge Brevoort in a greater quandary than before. Both parties think much of the child and are capable of caring for her. Judge Brevoort will decide later.

Coffee Among the Arabs.

The great event of the visit is the coffee. The host has a kind of brazen shovel brought, in which he roasts the beans; then he takes a pestle and mortar of the oak of Bashan, and with his own hands he pounds it to powder, making the hard oak ring forth a song of welcome to the guest. Many of these pestles and mortars are heirlooms, and are richly ornamented and beautifully black and polished by age and use; such was the one in question. Having drunk coffee (for the honored guest the cup is filled three times), you are quite safe in the hands of the most murderous.

So far do they carry this superstition that a man who had murdered another fled to the dead man's father, and before he knew what had happened drank coffee. Presently friends came in, and, as they were relating the news to the bereaved father, recognizing the murderer crouched beside the fire. They instantly demanded vengeance. "No," said the father, "it cannot be; he has drunk coffee, and has thus become to me as my son." Had he not drunk coffee the father would never have rested until he had dyed his hands in his blood. As it was, it is said he further gave him his daughter to wife.

The Cobden Club.

So much is written about the Cobden Club and its baleful influence upon American politics, says the New York "Herald," that it is well to remember that James A. Garfield and other conspicuous Republicans were members. The Cobden Club is devoted to free trade. It dines annually, and has a small publication fund to supply tracts and broadsides. This represents its material existence. So far as providing money to subsidize American newspapers is concerned, we take it that its managers have about as much as they can do to raise the money for their annual dinner. The Cobden Club always seemed to us to be a kind of mutual admiration society, composed of loquacious people, free of access to foreigners who would pay entrance fee. And this is probably the reason why Garfield, who was an easy going fellow, and his fellow-Republicans joined.

His Excuse.

There are often wise and true sermons in the utterances of children, and there is a great truth for us all in the following excuse written by a little colored boy who had been absent from school for a day:

"DEAR AFFECTIONATELY TEACHER.—I'm sorry I couldn't come to school on Friday, but I couldn't 'cause it rained, and dat's de way it go in dis world. If de Lord shut de door, no man can open de door. If de Lord say, 'Open de door,' no man can shut de door. If de Lord say, 'It rain,' no man can stop it rain. But de Lord, He do all things well. And you oughtn't to growl about it."

Mrs. Wiggins (incredulously)—And do you mean to say that although you've been married a year your husband has never once alluded to his mother's cooking? Mrs. Youngwife—Never, Charle's folks always lived at hotels, you know.