AGRICULTURAL.

English Cheeses.

Pro. Sheldon has written the following interesting article for the Rural New Yorker. Now that cheese making and cheese exporting have become such important branches of business in Canada the subject is one of much interest to us.

We have many distinct kinds of cheese made in England, some of which have a world-wide reputation. With one single exception, they are all of the class known as "hard cheese," in distinction from the many kinds of "soft cheese" which are so generally made in France and Germany and which are now being imported in rather considerable volume into London. That one exception is the Slipcote cheese, and it is made in Rutlandshire. There is an odd conjunction of littleness about this cheese made in England, it is made in the smallest quantity, and its home is in the smallest county of the Kingdom. There is, of course, cream cheese, which is also very small, but it is not a cheese properly so called, because it is made from cream only and it is not coagulated artificially and it is made in small quantities in various counties.

The Slipcote cheese is made from milk, which is coagulated in the ordinary manner by the aid of rennet; the coagulum is placed in a strainer to drain, and afterwards in quantities of about one pound each, on plates, where it drains still more, and next it is p'aced between cabbage leaves, which are regularly changed, and there it ripens. The ripening takes from one to three weeks. according to the weather, and is completed when the cheese begins to ooze out a thick, eurdy liquid, and when the skin or coat is ready to slip off-hence the name of "Slipcote." This singular cheese is purely local and has a very lim ted reputation. Few people in England have heard of it, and fewer still have seen or eaten it. It has been on exhibition once or twice at our London Dairy Shows.

Cream cheese is made by pouring cream into muslin which is placed in a small boxor wicker mold; here the cream coagulates by reason of its own accumulating acidity, and forms itself into shape as the whey drains from it. It is ready for consumption as soon as it is firm enough. A limited demand exists for it in London and elsewhere, but it will propably give way to the Camembert, the Neufchatel and other Continental

soft cheeses. The Stilton is at once the most modern and the most famous of English cheeses, and has no antiquity to compare with that of the Cheshire, the Derby, the Gloucester, the Wilts, or the Cheddar. Records appertaining to our ancient methods of cheesemaking are, unfortunately, very scanty, and only incidental allusions are made to them in a few old books here and there. It is a matter for regret, in this age of interesting investigation, that so little is known about the habits and customs of our agricultural forefathers; and yet it is probable that a good deal might be learned from the musty and mildewed parchments on which the archives of counties and ancient families are inscribed, if only a search were made. The search, however, would involve enormous trouble, and practically, could never be completed; for in many places such archives are not accessible, while in others they are probably more or less illegible. We must be content, therefore, to rely on the nebulous tale of tradition, the rest being buried in the grave of the centuries.

But in any case it is tolerably certain that several of our systems of cream making, as we have them to-day, date back to a very early period, and these systems, owing to local practices, and to the influence of soil and climate in given localities, are well defined and clearly distinct from each other. It may be said, moreover, that certain kinds of English cheese, to wit, the Stilton. the Cheshire, the Derby, the Leicester, the Wilts Truckless, etc.. can only be produced in integrity of character, flavor, and quality in the districts to which they are peculiar. The cheese of Leicestershire, when we get a good sample of it, is probably the best cheese in England, and it has certain pecularities which, so far as my observation and inquiry go, have not been successfully imitated in any other sections of the country. This is true also of the Cheshire cheese, which, like the Leicester, cannot be made with complete success on any other aoil that the bunter sandstone and the keuper marl. It is true also of the Derby cheese, which is made from a carboniferous limestone soil, and of the Gloucester, which belongs to the oolitic fermation. It is true most of all, perhaps, of the Stilton, which belongs to the deep marly clay of Leicestershire-a soil which communicates a quality and flavor that, so far as I am aware, cannot be obtained in any other soil, be it never so rich. Stilton cheesr is made in various parts of England, and in other countries too, but I have yet to find any sample of it equal in all respects to that made in the Melton Mowbray dis-

FARM ITEMS.

SEED POTATOES. - Rural New Yorker says: Of upwards of 100 different kinds of potatoes raised last season, only two seed-balls formed on those from which it was desired to save seeds. Our plan for raising seedling potatoes, as has been stated several times, is to sow the seeds in flower pots now; transplant when three or four leaves have formed to little (three-inch) pots, turning these out in open ground with the soil intact when there is no longer any fear of frosts.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. - At Washington, recently, the House Committee on Agriculture completed the agricultural appropriation bill. The aggregate amount appropriated is \$530,590, an increase of about \$24,000 over the last appropriation. The bill differs from last year's appropriation in an increase of \$24,000 for the Statistical Department, the appropriation of \$3,000 for the propagation of tea plant, and the refusal to appropriate \$10,000 for the reclamation arid land by sinking artesian wells. The experiments hitherto made by the Government in this line have met with very little success, but two bills have been introduced ies with very large capital to sink artesian wells for irrigating and stock watering purposes in the "arid region." The Senate may make some slight changes in the House appropriation bill, but such changes will probly be insignificant

TYR STOCK INSPECTION. - In consequence | their native tongue

of the suspicion of allowing American cattle to be imported into England, because of the danger of infectious diseases, a good deal of attention has been given to the subject at Washington. A bill has been introduced into Congress, by Senator Logan, to provide for the appointment of inspectors of live stock, dressed meats and hog products intended for foreign shipment, the inspectors to be located in the custom districts where their services may be needed, but not more than six to be appointed in any district The examination of meats is not to be compulsory; but on the application of a packer, and the payment of "reasonable fees and charges," the in pecter will examine the products and furnish a written certificate setting forth the time and place of the examination and the condition and quality of the articles examined. It is expected that the meats, the sound condition of which is thus officially certified, will find such ready sale in the European markets that the cost of inspection will be easily repaid.

Uselessness of Blinders on Horses.

"Blinders," says a writer in "Our Damb Animals," "originated in the pride of persons who imagined their horses presented a finer appearance when provided with these senseless appendages. Custom and ignorance combined in perpetuating their use, so that to-day probably nineteen-twentieths of our horses are disfigured by these worse than useless contrivances, including multitudes of miserable. broken-down animals employed in the severer grades of labor, and which could not, from sheer weariness and lifelessness, be induced to shy, or run away, by anything short of a bomb bursting in their immediate vicinity.

"The unsoundness of that logic which insists horses are less frightened by objects which are screened from their view by blinders, but which they can hear (such, for instance, as locomotives), than when they can see just what the object is, is proven wholly false by the experience of all who have dispensed with blinders on their animals. It is the unseen object which most terrifies a horse. The animal who will become unmanageable when made to face away from an approaching train, will quietly stand its ground if allowed to face the object. I know this from personal experience with many restless

"Blinders do not prevent horses from observing each object in front, and upon each side of them, as they approach it while travelling upon the road, and hence blinders can only serve to prevent their seeing objects overtaking them from behind, which is an end never to be desired. I have frequently seen horses shy so violently as to nearly overturn the vehicle on being passed from the rear by a noiselessly-gliding bicycle, which fright would have been avoided had the animal been unblindered, and thus aware of the approach of the machine.

"Blinders also much diminish the beauty of a horse, the eye being one of its finest features. But the greatest objection of all is the cruelty (and injury, as well) resulting from their use. The vast majority of blinders are made nearly flat, so that they commonly press directly against the eye-lashes and eyes of the horse, which causes pain to the animal, besides frequently destroying its sight.

"I strongly and earnestly wish there could be legislation to compel all horseowners who insist upon using blinders, to use only heavily convexed ones, which shall not press in the present cruel manner against the eye-lashes and eyes."

Our Forefathers' Homes.

Bad as the dwellings of the poor are in cities, and in the country also, they are as a class far superior to those in which our Anglo-Saxon ancestors lived. If a serf, the Saxon lived in a hut not as genteel as some of our modern pig-styes, and far less comfortable.

If he was a gentleman, his home consisted of a hall, with little rooms on the outside surrounded by an earthwork. The rude walls of the hall were covered with some sort of hangings, on which were hung arms and tropies of the chase. The floor was of earth strewn with rushes.

In this rude hall he breakfasted at nine and dined at three o'clock. It was consider ed disgraceful for a gentleman to dine alone. Everybody was welcomed with a lavish hospitality.

The stranger brought news, no mean gift to an out-of-the-way country squire, who had no newspaper and couldn't have read it if one had been placed alongside of his breakfast plate, or rather bread-slice. For they used thick slices of bread, as plates were then unknown, on which to place portions of meat. These slices were called trenchers. because they were to be carved upon. Forks were unknown.

A Norman baron is reported to have been so hospitable that he turned the king's highway through the middle of the hall of his manor. He did so in order that no traveller might have an excuse for passing without partaking of his hospitality.

Seated on a high wooden seat, the Anglo-Saxon gentieman presided at his dinner of boiled bacon, which, with bread and vegetables, mead and beer, was the principal dish. Quantity made up for the deficiency in quality.

He and his guests drank heavily. Drunkenness and sloth marked his daily life. Drinking-cups were so made as not to stand upright. They had to be emp.ied at a draught. Buckets were used to carry the mead or oil to the guests. When the Saxon gentleman or lady slept, he rested on a bench upon which a sack filled with straw had been placed. Neither he nor his wife wore a night-dress.

a more refined style of living was due to the Norman conquest, It polished the Saxons' manners, and infused into their sloth the energy characteristic of the English race. The transition required time. For a long North sea are on the point of being taken period the Saxons resisted the advance of the refined Norman manners and customs, into Congress for the formation of compan- as reminding them of their servile condition.

> -he forced his language upon his conqueror- south of the great fortifications of Freid-The process was simple but effective. The | richfort. The length will be ninety-seven unmarried Normana selected their wives from among the beautiful Saxon maidens. and these naturally taught their children

FOREIGN ECHOES.

Interesting News Items from all over the World.

The body of Prof. Giovagnoli was cremated the other day at Rome. The operation was perfectly successful in forty-five min-

It is seriously proposed at Antwerp to bring there during the universal exhibition in 1855 the Great Eastern as a floating restaurant and hotel.

According to the last census the population of Spain and its possessiona in northern Africa is 16,634,345; that of Cuba, 1,521,-684, and that of the Philippines, 5 567,685; total population of Spain and its possessions 24.456,468, with a slight preponderance of females (145,000) over males.

Jolia Hatcher, who lives near Salisbury, in England, has been awarded the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for bravery in saving the life of James Lodder, a boy who had been several times gored and tossed by a bull. The medal has an inscription stating that it was awarded "for service in the cause of humanity."

Male education and female education in India, when compared with each other, present a striking contrast. The total female population is 99 500,000 and the total male population 103 000,000, but only 127,000 females are under instruction at school, as against 2,517,629 males. In one case the percentage at school is 84, in the other it is

It appears from a work soon to be published by Louis Fagan, the author of a wellknown life of Panizzi, that the British museum possesses the only authentic manuscript of Raphael, the manuscript being a sonnet written on a sheet containing sketches for some of the figures in the "Dispute of the Sacrament," which was painted in the Vatican about the year 1508.

The North German Gazette replies to the "attacks of the Spanish republican Castelar on the elevated person of the Jerman emperor" by as hearty an attack on the character of his assailant, ascribing his rancor to the fact that Germany was one of the first powers to recognize Alfonso XII. after the fall of the republic, and his motive to a desire to fish with selfish ends in the troubled waters of a new republic.

The treasury of the German empire has just undergone its annual inspection. Every year three important financial officials visit and verify the imperial funds kept in the Julius tower at Spandau, and divided into four sections—that intended for the expenses of fortifications, the share for pensions and invalids, that set apart for building the parliament house, and the war portion, which now amounts to \$30,000,000.

Nothing whatever is known at the Vatican of the £500,000 said to have been left the pope by the late Mrs. Stapleton. It is safe to conclude that the report was a tantalizing invention of some "anti-clerical." Half a million pounds, or even francs, would be a welcome addition to the papal treasury, which is decidedly dry just now. The want of money to pay cardinals is said to be the chief reason for the long delay in creating new ones.

While the Austrian crown princess was driving recently through the Rothethurmstrasse, one of the most frequented streets of Vienna, a little boy of 5 years old ran against the wheels of her carriage and fell. He suffered only a slight abrasion of the skin on the nose, but was taken at once to the hospital. The crown princess, with her maid of honor, subsequently went to inquire about him at the hospital, and also called to reassure his parents.

A correspondent at Snakim writes: While encamped lately near Osman Digma's quarters, some of our allied Arabs showed a perfectly ridiculous cowardice, walking about the camp on their hands and knees at the first sound of a musketry attack, which they piteously declared "caused them stomach ache." One Arab officer also, in a late reconnaissance of the Turkish cavalry, behaved very badly, and another officer positively bolted. This gentleman has been tried by court-martial and sentenced to death, but the sentence will be most likely commuted by reason of the offender's youth, and because the Turks were themselves in the act of turning their backs.

A few days ago, says a correspondent at Nice, at the hour when all fashionable Nice was abroad, a great crowd assembled at the entrance of the Rue Adelaide, drawn thither by a crime then just committed, and now already forgotten. A woman of 57 years of age, who had made money by keeping a private grambling saloon, had married a young husband. This man made continual demands upon her savings in order to meet his own losses at the roulette-table of Monte Carlo, and she at length refused to comply with his requests, which became daily more exorbitant and imperious. In a moment of fury be first cut her throat and then shot himself through the heart.

The Atherseum club of Madrid recently inaugurated their new house, which has cost £30,000, raised by subscription among its own members. Though it is neither remarkable for its architectural merit nor for its comfort, it has a noble library with 30 .-000 volumes, and its corridors are hung with portraits of former presidents and of the greatest statesmen of all parties during the last fifty years. Its saloons, adorned with frescoes and fine paintings by modern artists, members of the club, and the lecture hall, with seats for 1,200 persons, were filled by the elite of Madrid society and the diplomatic corps. The king, queen, and princess honored the inauguration with their presence, at the invitation of Senor Canovas, who is at present president of the Athenæam, and who provided the inaugural entertainment. The king desired to be in-

According to the Militarische Nachrichten, the works for the construction of a canal which will unite the Biltic with the in hand. The canal will commence at a point between Brunsbuttel and St. Margarethen, on the Elbe, will pass Rendsburg, The conquered, however, had his revenge | and end at the bay of Kiel, near Haltenau, kilometers; the canal will have a depth of nine meters at low water, and will be a hundred meters wide. The largest ships will be able to pass at all hours of the tide

in both directions. The canal being entirely under the control of Germany, her men of war will be able to avoid the perilous passage of the belt, which Denmark is at present able to impede by her coast batteries and by torpedoes. When the Baltic is frozen over the ships can be utilized in the North Sea.

A whole family has been poisoned at Oien (Buda), on the opposite side of the Danube to Pesth, by an escape of gas. The gas had penetrated into the house from a disused pipe buried under the ruins of another house at some distance, which had been burned down several years ago. The doctor was sent for, as everybody in the house felt ill. Symptoms of gas-poisoning were apparent, but as no gas was used in the house the doctor was unable to account for it, and left after administering medicine. The patients were relieved and went to sleep, but next morning five of them were found dead, and four others in a hopeless condition. Only a nurse and a child have recovered, being saved, probably, owing to their faces being buried in the bedclothes. One of the victims was the grandmother of the children who had come the night before on hearing of the illness of the family.

Harems in Morocco.

Yesterday we were guests in two Moorish harems. The inmates gave us a very kind reception. The gloomy appearance of the outer walls contrasted strongly with the inside of the houses. The halls were tiled. Marble pillars, bright colors, and rugs gave the rooms a bright appearance. Mattresses were laid on the carpets in apartments facing the court-yard. They were the bedrooms of the wives. There were no windows. Each wife leaves her slippers at the entrance of her bedroom. We saw no chairs and only an occasional cushion. The wives prefer to recline or to sit on the floor. One or two sat on sheepskins.

The second harem belonged to a rich Moor. We saw there several clocks and mirrors, evidently a recent importation from Paris, but they looked out of place. The Moor had only one wife, and she was just 13 years old. She had been married two years. She sat on the floor barefooted with three other women, who were either relatives or visitors. She was very pretty. With an enguging smile she metioned us to sit near her. She looked animated, gay and happy. Several servants in the Oriental attire were in attendance. The life of Moorish wives must, however, be very wearisome. They are shut up in apartments with grated windows, high above mankind, with only occasional glimpses of the great world without.

In the first harem I saw a widow with seven children, all girls. Two were playing cards and two were sewing. None of the girls had ever seen a man. On Friday only the widow is allowed to go to the Moslem cemetery to weep and to pray over her dead husband. We were offered coffee and cakes, Etiquette required that we should drink four cups of coffee and eat as many cakes. Our visit was made very early in the morn-

The poor wives seemed glad to see us. They admired our dresses and called each other's attention to what took their fancy in the way of jewelry. They were dressed gayly, but they had a slovenly look and had an ungraceful walk. - Tangiers Cor. New York Sun.

A Parisian Novelty.

Leaders of fashion in Paris deserve the rare praise of having discovered-not, indeed, a new pleasure, but a new variety of an old one. This is the very heart of the dancing season, Paris being in all things a month earlier than London; and after Cinderellas, fancy balls, and costume reunions, in which inventive eccentricity was to be confined entirely to (the outsides of) the heads of the guests, it seemed that nothing new in that line could be devised. Something new has been devised, and is now in the full swing of Parisian patronage and popularity. Dances are given in which the hostess assumes a nationality. The Parisienne is content for the night to be a Spaniard, a Pole, a Neapolitan, and as is the hostess so must be her guests. The mise en scene is rigorously correct. In one salon you might fancy yourself in Madrid, especially if you had ever been there. You have the sarabande and the bolero, the short petticoats, the gay flounces; and, where nature (or art) can supply them, the olive complexions, the lustrous locks, and the rather wanton eyes of the country of bull-fights; dark beauties are much admired and Spanish lace is in high request. A few doors off you are in Poland, Cnopin's dreamy waltzes giving the music and the slow, swinging step so inexplicable to a Frenchman accustomed to teetotum gyrations. German manners and customs are not yet very popular; but there seems a craze for the Russian mode. On the whole, the boulevardier boasts with reason that after it has struck 12 he can make a tour of the world in forty minutes.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Nothing New Under the Sun.

A discovery has been made which again lays the honesty of our ancestors open to serious suspicion. The jerry-builder, it seems, was not unknown in the middle ages; in fact he must have flourished and waxed mighty, seeing that he occasionally got such a job as the building of a cathedral into his unclean hands. In the course of "restoring" Peterborough cathedral some insight has been gained into the ways of the builder of the "Norman" and "early English" periods. Like his successor, he was an adept at concealing the practices by which he, no doubt, amassed a considerable fortune. The walls of the lantern at Peterborough being carefully examined, it appeared that, though the outside facing was The change from these rude customs into | scribed at the hear of the list of 1,100 mem- | of good Barnack stone, beneath this thin surface there was nothing but rubble and "pit mortar." So, too, with the great central tower and the piers which support it, or rather do not support it any longer. The core of these piers "was nothing but dust," and even their foundations were of the shallowest and poorest kind. Under the circumstances it is astonishing that the work should have lasted so long .- St. James' Gazette. (2) +0--(-(2))-)-++(m)

> A Canadian farmer, who recently lost a small pig, after long search found him drowned in the crean can. "So," he said, "poor piggy's creamated."

DUELING IN GERMANY.

An Interchange of Opinion on Various Phases of University Life.

A Berlin telegram to the London Times says : In connection with the debate on the estimates of the ministry of public works in the Prussian chamber of deputies there were some interesting interchanges of opinion on various phases of university life. A prominent clerical member, Herr Reichensperger, opened the discussion by complaining of the idleness, the drinking and duelling habits of students, of the academic system of cramming, and of the clique existence led by the professors at some univer-

But it was on the subject of duelling that the conversation mainly turned, and it was not difficult to divine how the tacit sympathies of the great majority of the house tended. Even the remarks of Herr von Gossles, the minister of public worship, drew from Dr. Windthorst an expression of surprise that "while duelling had been made penal by law it was nevertheless defended in this place." The ultramontane leader here referred to a decision of the supreme court of Leipsic, according to which, as one speaker put it, a duel with sharpened blades or rapiers might, but not of necessity must, be held to be a combat with mortal weapons-which was opening a door of escape with a vengeance. And it was plainly a matter of secret satisfaction to most that this indulgent door of escape had been created. Dr. Windthorst, it is true, displayed more than the half-heartedness of his colleagues when he declared that "in contrast to the opinions of the herr minister uttered last year, he regarded duelling as a decided evil, and in no way beneficial to the human character," But other members openly and boldly advocated a moderate encouragement of the barbarous and brutalizing practice of the national universities.

To this very practice Prince Bismarck once ascribed the prevalence of that combative and party spirit in parliament which had caused him so much woe-a spirit that men learned and brought away with them from the fencing ground; but in legislative quarters the practice is still countenanced as much as ever, and when the legal decision above referred to was issued, there was even a movement among the members of all factions. as Minister von Gossler reminded the house, for mitigating the effect of the judge's dictum. Most deputies have them. selves been students, and look back with affectionate remembrance to their university life with all its swaggering and militant pleasures; and they still continue to have a sneaking sympathy with a habit which has been discarded by most civilized countries except Germany.

The foundation of duelling is the feeling of honor, but the Germans have not yet come to see that the honor of a man can only suffer a taint by the actions of his own and not by the words or actions of another, or that the sure foundation of dishonor is not without, but within a man. Duellists, however, think otherwise, and so do the Germans, and as long as they do so, it is no wonder that they are so sensitive of criticism, (especially from France), and so quick to resent it.

Tyndall on Rainbows.

"I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a covenant between me and the earth." The sublime conception of the theologian exceeded that desire for exact knowledge which was characteristic of modern science. Whatever the ultimate cause of a rainbow might have been, the proximate cause was physical, and the aim of science was to refer a rainbow to its physical principles. The explanation of the rainbow was due to Descartes. Descartes looked at he drops of rain; he pictured one liquid sphere falling in the air; he pictured the rays of the sun falling upon a liquid sphere. he saw that certain portions of the light would be refracted, would be driven to the other side of the drop, back again, and would be again refracted an their emergence from the drop. He took a pen in his hand, and calculated the entire course of the rays through the drop and their direction after their emergence from the drop. He found that the vast body of the rays, after quitting the drop, diverged at one particular angle ; they came out as a parallel sheat. There was a certain form of emotion called intellectual pleasure. It might be caused by poetry, literature, nature or art, but he, (Prof. Tyndall) doubted whether there was a pleasure of the intellect more pure and concentrated than that of a scientific man, who looking at a difficulty that had challenged the human mind for ages saw that diffleu!ty melt before his eyes and recrystallize as an illustration of a law of nature. Such pleasure he thought must have been that of Descartes when he succeeded in uncovering the laws which ruled the appearance of the most brilliant meteor in naure.

Elegant New York Homes.

New York is full of elegant homes, hardly excelled in the world. All our American cities abound in noble homes, but here, where wealth has been so bountiful, these homes are upon a scale hardly to be found in the world. The merchants and successful men of New York live like veritable kings and princes. In other countries society is organized round men: here the men serve the women, not only for seven years, like Jacob to Laban's daughter, but for seventy and seven. This is the golden age of women. Nowhere else are women without rank or quality maintained as if they were descended from princes. New York homes are replete with everything that money can buy. Almost every house hold has its special devotion; some run to prints, some to coins, some to elegant bindings of books, some to antique and venerable editions of books, some torugs, some to placques, some to paintings. I venture to say that in this city if the private houses could be thrown inside out we would stand amazed at our own treasures. Sometimes the most magnificent tastes and qualifications are found in the most modest New Yorkers Self-made men feel like ornamenting their homes with the treasures of their own occupations, pleasures, or origins .-Gath.

A fool may have his coat embroidered, but it will always be a fool's coat.