

Rural Economy.

THE DAIRY.

[We know many lady friends in the rural districts who will smile at the insinuation that dairy work is hardly to be called work. Still they will all be pleased to read the following passage from a new romance in verse, under the title of "Granddole. A Vermont lady is the author.]

Didst ever see a dairy, gentle friend? A dairy kept as dairy should be seen? And didst thou ever know a sweeter place?—As grateful, for the impress it doth bring Of cleanliness unrivalled, as the smell—Perfume or odor are expressions odd For such aroma—as the smell, a well-kept, Well-conducted dairy yields. And now all The new, sweet milk in glittering pans bestowed, Our Amy, with a pearly shell in hand, Proceeds to where another sister band Are waiting, her approach. How soft she skims The thick, rich cream! how gently! firmly too, That scarce a drop of thin, discarded milk May venture to intrude. This labor done, If labor it can be, will she permit Our prying spirit just to take a peep Within that inner sanctum? Ah, the door Is opened now, and what a rich array Of golden beauties deck the snowy shelves; How above row in order all arranged, With each a beautiful green leaf pressed Upon its pure, round, tempting, ample face. 'Tis Amy's signet—she delights to cull These gems of nature, as they ever seem To her own delicate and native taste, And place them where the beauteous form of each Seems more observable than when they wave, Together nestling, from the shrub or tree. Now, if thou lovest rich, tender, creamy cheese, The very nicest and the very best That can be manufactured, do request Of our obliging Amy, a good slice. For but a moment she will disappear; And then, with plate in hand, again she comes. Ah, there is what will make the cheese a feast, That piece just severed from a wheaten loaf. Now with thy cheese and bread do take a seat Beneath yon ancient, venerable tree; Or thou mayst rest with the porch, So fair and pretty with its drooping vines, And cheer thee with the light of Jamie's eyes, And pleasant smile of welcome. But not yet, Stay but a moment, we entreat of thee, Merely to give one little glance within That very broad and massive stony jar That Amy opens. "What! oranges?" Oh no! Be not so hasty with my bread and cheese; Of larger size, my friend, these yellow balls. Ah, now thou mayst rest them well; and look again, Another jar is opened. Didst thou'er See roses blooming half as temptingly As do those golden ones impressed with care On every unctuous ball?

CHEMICAL EFFECT OF UNDERDRAIN-AGE.

A paper on drainage by the well-known agricultural engineer, Mr. Bailey Denton, has a forcible paragraph on the results of this process, worth remembering:—"Every one must have observed how our cultivated plants, our crops and trees, dislike stagnant water, and how their roots travel along its surface underground, directly they reach it. The existence of stagnant water implies the absence of air, which is as essential to the development of vegetable growth in the soil as it is to our existence above the surface, and we can therefore readily understand how essential it is to render the depth of the soil which our plants require for their perfect development, permeating, or permeable, free or active. This is not only required because roots will not penetrate a bed of stagnant water, and will prosper in a deeper feeding ground, but because there are in soils organic and inorganic ingredients which require alteration only to be effected by the absorption of gases from the atmosphere. By drainage you not only afford to plants the deeper bed to sustain them, at the rate of 100 tons per acre for every inch of depth gained, but you correct the influence of injurious constituents of the soil; what more, you carry into the deepened bed those fertilizing ingredients which are constantly associated with fresh air and moving water.

THE VALUE OF A TON OF STRAW.

"People don't know the value of straw," said my plowman to me to-day, "and so careless are folks about it, that I have considerable difficulty in preserving mine free from damaging rains. Taking the country generally, straw is looked upon as only fit to spread about open barn-yards, to sop up the rains which have lately been carrying away the farmer's profit in the shape of strong tea, leaving him only the tea leaves. As straw can be thatched for sixpence a ton, it does appear to me a grievous neglect and waste of valuable property to allow it to stand unroofed, and become rotted by the weather. I produced on my farm of one hundred and seventy acres, about two hundred tons of straw annually, and whether I realize five shillings, ten shillings, fifteen shillings, or twenty shillings a ton of it, makes a considerable difference. I wish our agricultural society would offer a prize for a correct and practical, as well as scientific, estimate of the value of straw of all kinds as food, as manure, or as litter. I am convinced, by my own practice, that straw (particularly bean, wheat, and oat) has a considerable value for feeding purposes, when rendered available as feed. My laborers often say, 'Ah, master, you could not keep half so much stock as you do, if you did not consume your straw.' Of course, near large towns, farmers will sell their straw and back manure. So important is straw considered as an animal food in Spain, that Messrs. Garrett are making machines, driven by steam power, for 'straw-pulping,' so that it is rendered soft and silky—in fact, duly prepared for animal digestion. I am assured that in all warm Eastern countries, straw is always used as food for animals. 'This said, 'wise men come from the East, and in this case I am sure that our English farmers have something to learn.' Let us see what straw is composed of, and why it should be valuable as food, and especially as a substitute for hay, so as to set free for the growth of corn and root a larger area. The late Mr. Horsfall said, in that excellent paper of his, (the best, in my opinion, that ever was written,) on feeding stock and dairy management: (See Jour. vol. 18, p. 173.) 'I am satisfied that the most economical use of food rich in albu-

minous matter is together with straw or other materials which are deficient in this element." This I had proved to be true. He especially commends bean straw. He says, "In wheat straw, for which I pay thirty shillings per ton, I obtain for one shilling and sixpence 32 pounds of starch, (reduced as oil, eighteen and one-half pounds from 100 pounds of straw,) available for the production of fat or for respiration." I have long since adopted straw for food, and should consider myself foolishly unprofitable to waste it uselessly in an open and wet farm-yard. I believe that cabbage would have been much more extensively grown, had farmers known how necessary it is to give with the cabbage a large quantity of straw chaff, without which much of the cabbage is wasted.—J. J. Mechi, Aug., 1865.

Scientific.

CHOLERA—ITS HISTORY AND LOCALIZING CAUSES.

The pressure of other matter has hitherto prevented our referring to a carefully-prepared pamphlet upon the subject of epidemic Cholera, issued by the Council of Hygiene of the Citizens' Association.

Cholera and commerce have this much connection, that the former follows the path of the latter and keeps most easily along water-sides. At Alexandria, it began last May in a filthy suburb occupied by a dense crowd of Arabs, Maltese, and Greeks, and there strengthened itself until it killed 200 a day. It also traveled to Cairo and other places along the Nile. It passed around the eastern coast of the Mediterranean, reaching Beyrout, Jafa, Alexandretta, and Smyrna, and by the middle of July was taking a thousand lives daily in filthy Constantinople. The island of Malta, the province of Palermo, the cities of Modena, Ancona, San Paulo, Valencia, Toulon, Marseilles, Gibraltar, Madrid, Odessa, Paris, and Southampton, were reached, proving that the epidemic does follow water lines. It traveled to Bagdad and the borders of the Persian Gulf, and to Damascus and Jerusalem. At the same time, Mecca and Medina, and the caravans of pilgrims, were most severely attacked. Out of 700,000 pilgrims visiting Mecca in May, it is estimated that 40,000 perished by cholera. Out of a single shipload of devotees from southern India, arriving at the Arabian port of Moculla in Midwinter, 80 died before their companions left the ship. And, generally, it may be remarked that the relation of human agency in the transportation of the epidemic was unusually marked, and that the epidemic has followed the laws previously deduced from its history: That the season was exceedingly hot and damp; that the first and chief epidemic centres were by the water sides and in the most humid localities, and that the epidemic earliest and most fatally "afflicted the persons and classes who dwell in foul air, and who are most negligent and reckless in their diet, who indulge in excesses and abuses of the appetites, and who are generally most subject to diseases that arise from bad diet and the neglect of self-care."

This country has had four visitations of cholera. In June of 1832, it was found in an emigrant vessel in the St. Lawrence River; it reached Quebec a few days later, New York two weeks later than Quebec, and soon afterward cases were found in Albany and other cities along the water line of the Middle States. In this city, it then killed 3518. On the 2d of December, 1848, it again reached New York in the emigrant ship New York, having killed 14 passengers during the voyage of three weeks from Havre. About the same time, it arrived at New Orleans, killing there 1400 during January; in a fortnight it was at Memphis; another fortnight carried it to St. Louis; and another to Nashville and Cincinnati. On the 11th of May, it reappeared in New York, finding a home awaiting it at the Five Points; and during that year 5071 deaths occurred in the city by it; and in the summer of 1851, it claimed 2509 more.

Dr. Snow, the Superintendent of Health in the city of Providence—than whom a more careful and efficient health officer is not to be found—in a recent report to the Providence Board of Health, declares that he "can point out the precise localities in the city where the cholera will prevail if it visits us again; can show the houses in which it will do its worst work; can name the families and almost the individuals who will have the disease; can show what there is in those localities, houses, families, and individuals which will cause the disease; and can show that those causes might be removed and the disease prevented by the proper action of the authorities, of the owners of the houses, and of individuals." The General Board of Health of Great Britain declared that, as was anticipated, in 1849 the "cholera returned to the same countries, and the same cities and towns, and even the same streets, and houses, and rooms, which it ravaged in 1832; and furthermore, it is stated that "but very few indeed who suffered then have escaped now, except in those instances in which sanitary measures have in the meantime been effected." The city of Worcester, on the Severn, which had twice been scourged, having performed a thorough cleansing, escaped the following epidemic, which swept the neighboring cities. The cholera of 1849, with insignificant exceptions, prevailed, out of 500 towns noted, in those previously known for their local impurities; in 68 towns where it raged severely, the Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons found the localizing causes of pestilence prevailing; and in 51 out of 53 quarters where it first appeared, in as many districts, the well-known and preventable causes were found. Thus the medical officers report that "in the town of Jewsbury the cholera was first announced in an alley containing a slaughter-house, pig-styes, and a bone deposit; and for more than a month it lingered there, spreading thence over the town. In the city of Hull, it was at first limited to the ill-drained localities. In St. Giles's Parish (London), it commenced in Church Street, where the drainage and ventilation were bad, cleaning defective, and population dense. In Islington, malaria from bad drainage and ventilation was the general cause. In Chatham, the disease was chiefly confined

to the narrow lanes and allies which are crowded, deficient in cleanliness, and where fever is more or less prevalent. In Liverpool, the disease was confined for the most part to the worst-ventilated, low, and ill-drained courts. Lodging-houses of this character were sometimes alone attacked." That class of lodging-houses in England that has been brought under sanitary regulations, with an aggregate population of 80,000, was almost totally exempt from cholera during the last epidemics. The report of the General Board of Health for 1849 states, that in the great tenement-house called the Metropolitan Buildings, in which health regulations were complete, with a population of 500, not a case occurred, although the epidemic was very fatal in that district. And the report of the same Board in 1851 states, that "in the Metropolitan, every efficient sanitary improvement has been followed as directly as cause and effect by a corresponding decrease of sickness and mortality. There is no exception to this rule. It applies to the courts, alleys, and houses occupied by the industrious classes; it applies to public institutions of every kind; to prisons, to hospitals, to lunatic asylums, and, above all, to establishments specially erected to test the value of sanitary principles—to the model lodging-houses of the Metropolitan. In our report on epidemic cholera, it is shown that only one out of 795 persons, inmates of these model buildings, had been attacked by the disease, whereas among the population of London generally, one person in 75 was attacked"—N. Y. Tribune.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW STOCK FOR PAPER.

If we are to credit the papers which reach us by the late English mails, a substance has at last been discovered which will take the place of cotton and rags in the manufacture of paper. It is found in the Southern provinces of Spain, and is known as "esparto grass." The London Economist speaks of this discovery as follows:—"The important position which the lately discovered article of petroleum has rapidly taken in commerce is very interesting in itself, as suggesting how quickly the discovery of any new principle of motion would exercise an important influence on the present state of our industry. Another discovery has lately been made, which, though of less importance than that of petroleum, is still so interesting in character, and so useful as regards an important article of manufacture, that we think our readers would be glad to receive the following information on the subject. We allude to the discovery lately made of the applicability of the Atocha, or, as it is called in Spain, 'esparto,' to the manufacture of paper.

Mr. Lloyd, of the Walthamstow paper mills, is stated to have had a great share in the merit of this discovery; and Mr. Mark, the British consul at Malaga, has drawn up an interesting report on this subject, which has lately been made public in the commercial reports. This grass is the produce of waste lands—it requires no expense in cultivation and little in collecting. It is best propagated from the roots and not from seed. It is perennial and propagates of itself, and improves by a regular yearly gathering, if plucked with sufficient care. Mr. Mark has devoted great care in his endeavors to ascertain the climate and soil which are favorable to the development of the plant; and it appears that the Atocha requires a decidedly hot and dry climate; that it grows equally well in the plains and in the mountains to a moderate elevation, and that as regards soil, it flourishes both in calcareous and argillaceous soils, or when these soils are blended in the form of marl.

"The greatest quantity is shipped from the provinces of Almeria and Murcia; but it is found, though in less abundance, in all the southern provinces of Spain. It is also said to be plentiful in some parts of the opposite coast of Africa, and shipments are made from Oran to England. Prior to the discovery of its being available for the manufacture of paper, the esparto had been used in Spain as fuel, in the manufacture of ropes for mining, and rigging, and for making baskets and matting. But the discovery of the valuable properties of the grass has made a complete revolution in the districts where it grows. Fortunes have been realized by individuals who were the proprietors of the land which produce it. The price has more than doubled, and is now estimated by Mr. Mark at £4 2s. per English ton on board. The greater part of the exports have as yet been directed to England, where in the brief space of three or four years the article has become a requisite of the highest importance, 160,000 tons having been, as it said, imported into England in that period; and Mr. Mark estimates the present rate of annual export at 50,000 tons. Mr. Mark estimates that even at its present enhanced price the Spanish grass will take a place with cotton, hemp and wool, as one of the staple and essential bases of manufacturing industry; and if this anticipation should be realized, in addition to the valuable resource which it seems likely to prove to our paper manufacturers, it will form an important element in trade between this country and Spain."

This is a matter of peculiar importance to us in this country, in view of the enormous price of paper. Why may not this "esparto grass" be naturalized at the South, where the climate and soil correspond with that of Southern Spain? This is a matter worth investigating.—Exchange.

IT IS STATED that a papyrus in the Museum of Leyden contains the following passage, indicating the state of the Hebrews as bondmen in Egypt. The Scribe Kautsir addresses his superior, saying: "May my Lord find satisfaction in my having complied with the instruction my Lord gave me, saying, Distribute the rations among the soldiers, and likewise among the Hebrews (Apuru) who carry the stones to the great city of King Rameses-Miamun, the lover of the truth," etc. Similar distinct indications of the people and of their serfdom are said to be found in another Leyden papyrus, and even in the long rock-inscription of Hamamat.

It is wise and well to look on the cloud of sorrow as though we expected it to turn into a rainbow.

Miscellaneous.

HINDU CASTE.

It is impossible to speak of native society without taking into account that withering institution—caste. From the mouth of Bramha the Supreme, came forth the Bramhins, to whom Hinduism accordingly assigns the first rank. From his arms sprang the Khetriya, or warrior caste; from his loins, the Vaisya, or trading caste; and from his feet, the Shudras. These castes never commingle. The Shastras teach that all intermarriages are unnatural. We believe that God has made all nations of one blood, and are wont to trace the origin of the whole human family to a common parentage; to us, therefore, the Hindu classification seems unnatural. But in the belief of the Hindu, God made not one race, but four races; and any intermixture of blood is a foul crime against nature. What effect such a doctrine must have on the society that accepts it, may be conceived. In the sense in which we use the term, that of a grand unit, society is unknown among the Hindus. As there are four races as different from one another as is the genus cat from the genus dog, so there are four societies: not one society divided into four sections, but four societies radically and essentially different from one another. The Hindus, therefore, have no common sympathies except those of a religious kind. Each caste accepts the Divine origin of the other, and respects the limit imposed by the Shastras on its intercourse with them. Europeans and other nations are regarded as the offspring of the unnatural intermarriages of people of different castes. Bramhins, Khetriyas, Vaisyas, and Shudras may, and do, form business relations with one another, and even friendships; but there is always a sharp and well-defined limit to the interchange of social amenities. They cannot entertain one another in their houses, or eat with one another; they belong to different orders of being, and the gulf between them cannot be bridged. The dying Bramhin, friendless and successful, may be longing for a cup of cold water in his extremity; but should that water be brought to him by some pitying Shudra, he will turn away from it as a polluted thing, and rather accept death. A Shudra may eat food prepared by a Bramhin; because, coming from the hands of one to whom he has been brought to render divine honor, it comes sanctified. But no Bramhin dare eat what a Shudra offers; it comes defiled.

Caste has broken the bands of Hindu society; it is the axe which has been laid at the root of all community of feeling, and action, and aspiration; and if God's providence has brought us into close relation with the people among whom the system prevails, it is clearly the Divine intention that we should set ourselves to the discovery and application of those means by which alone the segregated element may be re-fused into a social unit. Caste originated, not in any necessity of the human constitution, but in a religion of carnal ordinances. From this religion the moral element is practically banished. There are Shastras which contain wholesome moral truths; but they are not regarded as having any bearing on the soul's welfare. The discipline of the heart does not enter into the scope of Hinduism. It exacts no moral obedience, and contemplates no moral reformation. To keep his caste inviolate, to observe certain ceremonies, to propitiate the gods with offerings, and submit un murmuringly to the yoke of the Bramhin Thakur, is the whole duty of the Hindu. He knows of no authority beyond that of the Bramhin, who reads the Shastras for him, interprets the will of the gods, prescribes offerings, and imposes penances. Beyond this, he neither thinks, nor has a conscience. Obviously, the only way to perpetuate the distinctions of caste, was to ignore, and as far as possible to obliterate, the moral sense, and place a stern veto on independent thought and action. This Hinduism has succeeded in doing for long ages, nor would its power even now have become impaired, were it not for the entrance of a light which is fast dispelling the darkness of ignorance. Christianity, Western science and literature, and growing commercial interests, are the forces now arrayed against it; and the humiliations it has suffered within the last half century may be safely regarded as prognosticating the final issue of the contest.

Caste is only a part of the larger system of Hindu idolatry; and it would be strange if the truth, which has in the case of so many thousands of earnest converts, broken the power of idolatry, had not, to even a greater extent, loosened the hold of caste. A battery brought to bear on an enemy's stronghold may make a breach only in one spot; but the ceaseless cannonading may have had the effect of so shaking the walls of the fortification as to render them, thenceforward, useless for purposes of defence. In like manner, the damage which Christianity and education have done to the ramparts of Hinduism is not to be regarded as only 'co-extensive with the breaches that have been made. These forces have shaken the whole fabric—a fact which its defenders are foremost to acknowledge. Superstition cannot flourish in the light of knowledge, and it may be readily conceived how the enlightenment that is fast becoming general among the upper classes should lead to the total rejection of the Shastras.—Christian Work.

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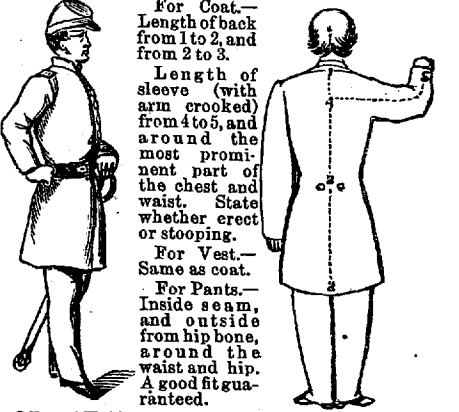
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