

Farm and Garden.

Address all inquiries or communications in relation to agriculture to Dr. T. H. HOSKINS, Newport, Vt.

Editorial Notings.

THE proprietor of a leading Chicago hotel secured for his guests meat of Shorthorn, Hereford, Galloway, Holstein and Jersey cattle, exhibited by the Michigan Agricultural College at the latest fat stock show.

"THEY BEGIN TO COME IN," says an exchange, quoting the account of a man's being killed by a dehorned bull. Does our contemporary think its readers such fools as to believe that a hornless bull can not kill a man—or would he not prefer to take his chances with such, rather than with a horned bull?

"A VETERAN" says: "I fight shy of all the novelties till I have some practical assurance of their usefulness. The introducers are generally a little prejudiced in favor of their debutantes; it is human nature. But the older I grow the more skeptical I become of alleged improvements on fruits and vegetables."

MUTTON SHEEP.—We have believed (and we mean to know by experience) that a good profit may be got out of mutton sheep on our New England farms. Beef is out of the question, but fancy mutton brings a much higher price than beef, if we find the right market and furnish the right goods.

LAND TOO RICH FOR CORN.—The Mirror and Farmer tells its readers that "poor crops of almost anything else may be laid off upon the season or some other excuse, but a poor corn crop means poverty of soil and poor cultivation, or both combined."

"FEEDING VALUE."—It is stated that experiments in feeding pigs, instituted by the Danish Agricultural Society, go to show that skimmed milk has double the feeding value of butter-milk; that rye and barley are of about equal value, with a slight percentage in favor of rye, and that six pounds of skimmed milk have the same feeding value as one pound of rye or barley.

A Clay Meadow.—During the last sessions of our Dairywomen's Association I judged from your remarks that you had used large amounts of commercial fertilizers. Also having read your very sensible article in your issue of April 3, I venture to ask you some questions regarding the use of phosphates in reedoming a clayey meadow which has not been plowed or had any manure

for some twenty years. I have recently bought the same, and wish to renew its fertility at the earliest day possible. I have thought to wait till after haying—say in August—and plow and harrow it, with the addition of some 500 pounds of phosphate (Buffalo) per acre, seeding down, with the expectation of getting a good crop of hay the following summer.

REPLY BY THE AGRICULTURAL EDITOR.—The question of renovating a clayey soil with artificial fertilizers is a difficult one, unless the nature of the particular soil is understood. Thus, some clay soils are very rich in potash, and need none in a fertilizer, while there are clays that call for that element as strongly as most sandy soils.

The Dairyman's Meeting—No. 5. MR. DOWKER'S PAPER DISCUSSED. At the conclusion of Mr. Bowker's paper, questions were asked:

MR. MACHPHERSON—Will you state the comparative value of bone-black and bone-meal per pound applied to the soil?

MR. BOWKER—The value of bone-meal depends upon its phosphoric acid and its ammonia.

MR. MACHPHERSON—That is ground bone, is it not?

MR. BOWKER—Yes, it is the same. When the bone-black has been burned in a retort, and its ammonia thrown off, it is only valuable for phosphoric acid.

MR. MACHPHERSON—What is the relative value of bone undissolved and bone-black in its direct application to the soil?

MR. BOWKER—I do not think there is any comparison. I should not apply the bone-black to the soil undissolved.

MR. MACHPHERSON—Are there any experiments on record?

PROFESSOR COOKE—We made experiments on thirty-five different farms, and did not meet any success with it.

DR. HOSKINS—Mr. Bowker has done what I have long wanted manufacturers or fertilizers to do, and I think he has earned the thanks of farmers here by his statements in respect to the making of fertilizers, etc.

MR. BOWKER—From 400 to 450 pounds of plant-food, about twenty-five per cent. The balance is organic matter, composed largely of carbon and hydrogen.

who do not understand the chemistry of the subject to undertake the use of "floats." They had better stick to the complete fertilizers of reliable makers.

MR. NEWTON of Dummerston—What do you say to the use of potash alone? DR. HOSKINS—One element might be of use if the other two were in the soil, but all the materials should be combined to get good results.

MR. WALKER of Woodstock—The use of stable manure places the land in a condition so that the plant can draw more from it. It makes the land porous, and makes the manurial matter in the soil more soluble.

PROFESSOR COOKE—I wish Mr. Bowker would give us some light on the relative cost of the manufacturer dissolving the South Carolina rock and the farmer doing it—that is, the cost of the sulphuric acid to do it.

MR. BOWKER—Sulphuric acid costs \$25 per ton in the form of oil of vitriol, and \$1.50 for each carboy, which carries about 150 pounds.

DR. HOSKINS—Sulphuric acid is a dangerous thing for persons to use who are unaccustomed to it. The smallest drop falling on the eye will destroy the sight, and it will burn holes in your clothes.

MR. MACHPHERSON—Would it not be well to use barn-yard manure with the fertilizers, say half of each in proportion?

MR. BOWKER—Fertilizers will supplement manure. Barn-yard manure can only be used to advantage where you do not have to haul it a long distance.

MR. PECK of Hinesburgh—How much plant-food is there in a ton of your standard fertilizer?

MR. BOWKER—Our Hill and Drill phosphate should contain from 300 to 350 pounds of plant-food.

MR. BOWKER—From 400 to 450 pounds of plant-food, about twenty-five per cent. The balance is organic matter, composed largely of carbon and hydrogen.

MR. WHEELER of South Burlington—Is not the quality of cow manure dependent upon the quality of the feed?

MR. BOWKER—Yes. MR. SESSIONS of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture—The liquid manure is the best plant food in the matter of commercial fertilizers.

MR. BOWKER—Mr. Sessions' theory is: "Feed the land, and the land will feed you." My theory is: "Feed the plant, and the plant will feed you."

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PRESIDENT TINKHAM—Six or eight years ago experiments were made by the Agricultural College. Samples of potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen were sent out, with directions as to use.

MR. DOWKER of Whiting—I seem to me the important thing is to find out what your soil needs, and supply the deficiency in that element which is lacking.

DR. HOSKINS—Farmers who use stable manure with the fertilizers will not need much potash, if any at all, in them. We used fertilizers before this German potash was discovered.

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Moral and Religious.

George Washington's Reliance on God.

During the session of congress a gentleman residing in the city of Philadelphia, anxious to learn the chief of the strangers who had assembled from the several colonies, observed to Mr. Secretary Thomson that he had heard much of Mr. Washington from Virginia, and would be glad to know how he could distinguish him.

The Christian Boy.

If a boy is a lover of the Lord Jesus Christ, though he can not lead a prayer-meeting, or be a church officer or a preacher, he can be a godly boy, in a boy's way and in a boy's place.

Go Yourself.

A pastor's church is his force, not his field. I am tired almost to pieces of this everlasting preaching to saints. In my congregation are many saints top-heavy with gospel truth, and it has got to be wrung out of them by hard Christian work.

What is Life.

The mere lapse of years is not life. To eat and drink and sleep; to be exposed to darkness and the light; to pace around in the mill of habit and turn the wheel of wealth; to make reason our book-keeper and turn thought into an implement of trade—that is not life.

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THE Bible is to us the storehouse in which the Lord has laid up the treasures of seed.—Calderwood.

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