

AMONG THE FARMERS.

"SPREAD THE PLOW."

Correspondence on practical agricultural topics is solicited. Address all communications to the Editor of the South Paris, Maine, Edition of the OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

GLUTEN MEALS.

VARIATION OF DIFFERENT BRANDS IN AMOUNT OF FAT AND PROTEIN.

The dairy feed known as gluten meal, of which there are now four brands, manufactured by many different corn starch factories, which are situated in the western states in the midst of the corn growing region, was first introduced in New England in 1882 by a well known Boston firm which was appointed selling agent. The pioneer brand was the Chicago gluten meal. The sale was slow at first, but it has since become a fairly well known to dairymen. It was necessary to induce some well known parties, interested in dairying and agricultural matters, to make a test of the quality and amount of fat and protein in the different brands. Mr. W. R. Sessions made a trial with very satisfactory results. The meal early came under the name of Dr. C. A. Goodwin, and the careful analysis and feeding tests made under his supervision at the state experimental station, clearly demonstrated its value as a valuable supplement and high percentage of protein, that he called attention to this new feed and recommended its use in the ration of stock fed to the home-raised flocks which are deficient in protein.

For several years the Chicago gluten meal has been in the market for fifteen years and some of the other brands several years, it is doubtful if dairymen fully appreciate the point of difference between them. Evidently the officers of the state board of agriculture are of this opinion, and so incorporated in the bulletin of 1894 a very able report on concentrated feed stuffs, prepared by Dr. J. B. Lindsey of the department of food and feeding at the agricultural college, which is well worth reading. By referring to the analysis of four gluten meals referred to in Dr. Lindsey's report, it will be seen that the amount of fat is less, the amount of protein (milk-producing element) is greater than that of the other brands, and the amount of attention of dairymen, that a feed in which there is a large amount of oil constituent is liable to become rancid and affect the health of the stock as well as the milk and butter. In case of the other brands, the amount of fat is double that of the Chicago, and another has three times as much, and all of them have less protein—in case of one, the difference is thirteen per cent.

Another point of much interest to farmers in connection with the use of gluten meals as dairy feeds, to which Dr. Lindsey calls attention, is the fact that gluten meal is a very rich source of nitrogenous material. It can be directly applied to the land, but if first fed to farm animals, all but from ten to twenty per cent of the nitrogenous material is absorbed in the manure, provided the latter is carefully preserved. Manure of pure corn meal is only \$3 per ton, while that of gluten meal is \$10 per ton. There are plenty of corn. There is only one corn.

There is no evidence that fruit growers in this State are in any degree discouraged over the experience of last year. About the usual quantity of fruit are being delivered by the agents for planting this spring.

There are considerable quantities of good apples and pears in the fruit markets of the State, and out of the way of shipping centres, that have not found a market. Russets are still being shipped in large quantities, and are finding ready market.

With a goodly share of wisdom the Ploughman says that for a business orchard select a business apple, the rule is to select a tree that will bear a good crop of fruit, and that the fruit will be of good quality and of good size.

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BARN VENTILATION.

ISOLATION OF BAD AIR AND TUBERCULOSIS. MISTAKES IN PROVIDING FRESH AIR.

The cattle commissioners are now pursuing a sensible course in looking after poor ventilation, which is the prime cause of tuberculosis. They are having the local inspectors record the condition of barns where inspected herds are kept. If any barn is reported as ill-ventilated, let the commissioners state to the owners what they must do if they wish to keep their cows healthy. If they do not comply with the condition, that they should go on from receiving any compensation from the state; no one should receive any pay after the first testing. This would make farmers more careful about ventilation. Within the last year I have visited several barns where the stock has been tested the second time, usually finding about the same as on the first test.

In one case the cows were kept in a "model barn" (1) in which the plan for ventilation is good, only the cows can not get half enough fresh air to meet their wants. There is a cold-air box one foot square for 30 cows. This box is placed in the middle of the barn, and the heavy north wind air, but when we get the light, moist, eastern air, in the east to obtain the same amount of oxygen, it would require a cold-air box of twice the size of the one in the cold room with pure air than in a warm room with impure air. I always sleep with my window open, and I never hear of a cold, but I never had the grippe, nor can I remember when I have had a cold; staying in ill-ventilated rooms causes these diseases and many others. I have never heard of a farmer having tuberculosis; but put them under the same conditions we see the cows and they would have it just the same. The fact that they never have shows that fresh air is the great factor in preventing, yes, and in curing tuberculosis, before the animal has become diseased.

There is no objection to making barns warm; but they should be well ventilated even if the temperature is just as low as that of the outside air. By referring to the analysis of four gluten meals referred to in Dr. Lindsey's report, it will be seen that the amount of fat is less, the amount of protein (milk-producing element) is greater than that of the other brands, and the amount of attention of dairymen, that a feed in which there is a large amount of oil constituent is liable to become rancid and affect the health of the stock as well as the milk and butter. In case of the other brands, the amount of fat is double that of the Chicago, and another has three times as much, and all of them have less protein—in case of one, the difference is thirteen per cent.

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FROM PARIS, MAINE, TO PARIS, FRANCE.

No. 28.

THE PALACES OF KINGS.

(From our Special Foreign Correspondent.)

The cottage leaves the palace far behind.

That Paris has a peculiar influence over people, you will be surprised to find if they reach it in the winter season, they have to undergo a hard struggle to see it through a haze of fog and rain. It is not disturbed by the causes which make the saying true that "The city of the future is the city of the past." St. Germaine is the next of the royal residences we visit, eleven miles from Paris. This time we go by tram-car, and the view of the suburbs of Paris, which also suffer in comparison to the environs of our own New England cities, in that the houses in point of architecture are most unimpressive, and the gardens and grounds so extremely artificial as to destroy all natural beauty. The castle of St. Germaine was built by Louis XIV. in 1682, and is still standing in all its gloomy strength—a strong stone fortress, surrounded by a deep moat, which can be seen in its best advantage from the gardens and grounds so extremely artificial as to destroy all natural beauty. 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