

bushels of good compost, per annum, can be raised to the hand, at but little cost. And every one can do it in the following manner: Let the horse, cow and hog lots be kept well littered with frequent and bountiful supplies of pine straw, oak leaves, cotton and corn stalks, muck, woods mould, &c. Put up the stock every night in these lots; and three or four times during the year, when wet, after rain, the materials thus trampled and saturated should be raked up clean and put in pits or pens—supplying new materials abundantly every time. The stable manure, cotton seed and green weeds collected after laying by crops, will help to make noble compost heaps in the fields. In this way an astonishing amount of manure may be raised in the course of the year. And this will make black-jack ridges produce equal to some of the “crack” lands of the South. Keep, then, a constant eye to the growth of the manure heaps.

W. C. B.

Franklin, April 10, '57.

MILK COWS AND ESCUTCHEONS.

When Guenon's theory of determining the value of milk cows, by the growth of hair on its thighs, above and adjacent to the bag, was first introduced, the idea was received with a good deal of scepticism. Time has wrought changes. At a late convention by the legislative club of the State of New York, one of the speakers gave the evidence in relation to Guenon's theory.:

“M. Guenon, a French writer, has discovered certain indications which he claims to determine the milking qualities of cows. This he calls “escutcheons,” being the hair which grows upward's (contrary to the general rule, on the udder, thighs, and hinder part of the body. It is easy to distinguish the escutcheon by the upward directions of the hair which forms them. I cannot go into detail here upon the system, but worthy of notice, I will allude to the testimony of those who have given attention to it.

Mr. John Haxton, in a work publish-

ed in 1853, entitled “How to choose a good Milk Cow,” in reference to the indication of a good milk cow, p. 178, says, “The writer has examined many hundred of dairy cows in Britain, and the conclusion arrived at in regard to Mr. Guenon's test of judging of the milking properties of a cow, by the development of the *ecussion*, is that in a very large majority of the cases, it is borne out by the facts.” In a London dairy, belonging to Mr. Riggs, 31 Edgware road, where about 400 cows are kept, and where nine-tenths of them are far above average milkers, the *development* or *upward* growth of the hair on the posterior part of the udder, thighs, and perinæum, was too remarkable to be accounted for by accidental causes. As well might it be said that all other tests, such as length of head, softness and flexibility of skin and wide quarters, were accidental, and had no reference to the milking properties of a cow. When a phenomenon presents itself over and over again, accompanied in a majority of cases by certain results we may be certain that it is not accidental, but natural; and while we may be unable to account for these results upon satisfactory grounds, it is neither philosophical or prudent, to deny or ignore the connection between the one and the other, and thus to forfeit the advantages which the fact itself is calculated to afford.”

The late Mr. Phinney, of Massachusetts, a very careful and critical observer, made examination of a large number of milk cows, and found in a majority of them that were good milkers, these developments well marked. He conversed with a large number of intelligent gentlemen when he was abroad in 1851, in Great Britain and France, and found but one opinion as to the general character of the animals which possessed these developments. And so far as we have learned the views of gentlemen in this country who have given attention to this subject, the result has been the same.

“I think it may with safety be affirmed that this ‘one principle’ is established