

there are seasons of the year when the farmer has feed going to waste—they would now be independent of the adverse weather-conditions, while they would at the same time be able to maintain their cattle in excellent condition. With silage there is no need for the dairy-farmer to be ever short of feed for his stock. Not only should he have sufficient silage for the immediate season, but he should have a reserve stack always on hand in view of any unexpected failure of pastures or of adverse weather-conditions.

The advantages of silage feeding may be summed up thus: It keeps young stock growing, while it enables the cow to produce milk and butter-fat more economically; it increases the production of milk and butter-fat; more stock can be kept on a given area; and it is the most economical scheme of supplying feed for milch-cows during the summer months. A supply should always be kept on hand, as it is the most valuable asset the farmer can possess.

## ESTIMATION OF GRASSES.

E. CLIFTON.

THE Agrostologist of the Union of South Africa has recently published a list of the best winter-pasture plants introduced and thoroughly tested in that country. Of these, New Zealand tall fescue (*Festuca arundinaceae*) takes the first place.

Tall fescue is described as the most hardy of all the introduced grasses. It has proved resistant to both frost and drought. It is found to prefer a heavy clayey soil, and flourishes with a copious rainfall. It thrives remarkably well with irrigation, grows vigorously under varied conditions, and is highly appreciated as a stock-food.

Here is a remarkable illustration of the value of a grass in another part of the world in contradistinction to its estimation in the country from which a large quantity of its seed is obtained and from which it even takes its name.

In South Africa the Agrostologist describes cocksfoot as an excellent pasture grass where conditions favour it, but it is found difficult of establishment as a pasture in that country.

**A**LL nature is variable; but few things in it are more variable than the soil covering of the globe. The first step, therefore, in successful farming is for the individual farmer to learn as much as possible of the peculiarities of that part of it under his particular care.