

next month or two, and close up early, if you would get good cheap hay. Calf-paddocks certainly require to be dressed with lime, and in this case, for obvious reasons, preferably with ground burnt lime.

SEASONAL PREPARATIONS.

The lambing season and the beginning of the milking season are close upon us, and common-sense suggests that suitable pastures should be cleared of stock, thoroughly harrowed, and allowed to freshen for the purpose of starting off cows or lambs, as the case may be, in good style.

CARE OF DAIRY STOCK.

Amongst dairy herds some extra attention is advisable as the calving season becomes more imminent. Particularly is this the case with heifers coming to their first calving. It is unfortunate that with a definite milking season the dairy-farmer is often compelled to choose between the least of two evils—mating heifers at a rather immature age, or retaining them as heifers for an extended unprofitable period, during which they are liable to develop beef tendencies, and perhaps eventually to prove barren. The former course is the one invariably adopted, and every effort should be made to minimize the evil of early breeding by good treatment prior and subsequent to parturition. This cannot be too strongly emphasized. Roots and good clover hay, at any rate, should be forthcoming during July on all but the best pastures; and where roots and hay are not available the grass should be supplemented by an allowance of good oaten chaff.

This recommendation does not arise out of any theoretical consideration of the nutrition of dairy stock. It is a statement of fact that such treatment will pay handsomely in higher yields and better progeny. It has been proved by careful experiment that condition at calving-time in true milking-strains is essential for satisfactory production during the milking season. In the case of mature cows, however, especially with those which are deep milkers, high condition before parturition is well known to be conducive to milk-fever. The customary preventive of this trouble—1 lb. Epsom salts and 2 oz. ginger in a drench, given about a week before calving—should not be neglected in such cases.

Injudicious feeding of roots and green fodder to dairy cows during the winter and early spring is the cause of considerable losses annually. At this period large numbers of the animals are in an