

The measurements may require to be adjusted to suit boxes of a certain size. The cutting of such an amount of parchment entails much waste, but this is justified by the time saved and the neat result attained. Too much paper always makes a poorer parcel than just enough, and there is no reason why parchment for butter-packing should not be cut by the makers into the shape required, and so save the labour of all folding. The cube box was dressed with a 12 in. by 48 in. sheet, and if double parchment was required one sheet was put round the four sides on its edge and no cutting or folding was required.

The best method to follow if cutting the sheets in this manner is to make a wooden gauge the size of the folded sheets. Stack the sheets on a bench and place the gauge on top, then cut off the corners with a sharp knife, or with a hammer and a broad sharp chisel.

Finished boxes dressed by the two methods described are shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

One of the earliest methods of dressing butter-boxes was to have envelopes made which just fitted the box, and from the packer's point of view they were very satisfactory. The drawbacks were the expense and the difficulty of finding a paste that would not develop mould. It was also found that two thicknesses of parchment gave better results. Should the packing-machines now on the market—which mould the block of butter in the same way as a pounder shapes pats—be successful, these envelopes may again come into use.

It may be remarked here that the general care of parchment in factories leaves room for a good deal of improvement, and should receive more attention, even if only as a safeguard against butter-moulds. The cover should be left on the opened ream while it is being used, and if mould trouble occurs the parchment should be soaked in brine-formalin solution.

WEIGHING.

Butter which has been churned at a low temperature and has been lying on a table long enough to set presents no little difficulty in cutting it into pieces of convenient size for packing. Much labour can be saved by cutting with a wire across the rolls in lengths to suit the box. This can be done either on the table or by laying the wires across the unloading-truck before it is run into the churn. The old method of weighing the empty box, filling it with butter, and then reweighing is now seldom seen. Experience has shown that more accurate weights are obtained by weighing the butter before packing.

A careful man at the scales is a valuable employee, and the check weighings from some factories would be a revelation to others not so fortunate. Although scales of a very old type which have seen over twenty years' service are in use to-day in some factories, no fault can be found with their weights.

Provided two correct 56 lb. weights are available, or even one in some cases, any scale can be adjusted to weigh off 56 lb. of any commodity correctly, even if they are incorrect at other weights. Having adjusted the scale, it is then only a matter of care to keep the weights right. Admitting that the amount at stake warrants the provision of the best of appliances, expensive appliances do not ensure correct work unless care is taken in using them. The man doing the work counts for more than an elaborate scale.