

Irish Review (Dublin)

Melutovna by Hannah Berman

The Irish Review (Dublin), Vol. 3, No. 36 (Feb., 1914), p. 664

Published by: [Irish Review \(Dublin\)](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30062998>

Accessed: 16/06/2014 08:39

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THE IRISH REVIEW

ENSILAGE AND THE PRODUCTION OF MILK AND BEEF DURING THE WINTER MONTHS. By Digby Hussey De Burgh.

Maunsell and Co. Price 2s. 6d.

The preservation of grasses by ensilage has long been prevalent on the American Continent, and it is a matter for surprise that in our own country, which is so closely connected with the United States, and where the early autumn weather is so uncertain, the practice has not been widely adopted by farmers as an alternative to hay-making. We should therefore welcome a book on this subject by an Irish farmer. We fear, however, that Mr. Hussey De Burgh's book will not have much influence in inducing his neighbours to take up the new methods. In the first place, it is too dear. If the author wished to produce an effect on the farmers of the country he should have published his fifty-three small octavo pages of fairly large print in the form of a pamphlet and sold it at sixpence. In the second place, he does not give us very much definite information on the subject. True, he tells us that his farming operations were unprofitable when he worked on the old system, and from the fact that he is still in full swing, he leaves us to assume that he has been successful since he adopted the new method in 1906. But we are in some doubt as to whether his later success is to be attributed to the adoption of ensilage or to the settlement of his affairs with his grandmother. A statement in tabular form showing the cost and the result of using silage, together with a similar statement for other methods of feeding, would perhaps have made the book of some value to the farmer.

MELUTOVNA. By Hannah Berman. Chapman and Hall. 6s.

In "Melutovna" we are given a striking study of life in a Jewish village situate in the heart of Russia. The narrative, wandering, aimless, and at times disconnected, is at all times interesting, for we are shown a complex community, alive and throbbing, gossip-loving, spiteful, honest and dishonest. The conventional characteristics of Russian tyranny are here; the body-snatchers removing the able-bodied youths to serve in the army, the greasy-palmed official asking for and taking bribes; the landlord, to whom the tenants are merely slaves; the lash of the whip is heard, and Siberia is presented as a dreadful reality. The theme of the book is the resignation of the Jews in the face of every torment that a hateful government and a hostile people could devise.