cellular tissues of the leg become infiltrated, the swelling diffused and pitty. With a change of feed, the action of a purgative followed by diuretic, hot fomentations, bandaging, and when the pain abates, moderate exercise, the swelling usually disappears; but it leaves the vessels weak, dilated, and prone to subsequent attacks.

Cracked Heels.—Debility of the absorbents of the legs tends to induce congestion and inflammation of the sebaceous glands of the legs, particularly in the thick skin covering the hollow of the heels. The tendency, of course, is aggravated by exposure to wet and cold, and the reaction induced by leaving the heels wet to dry spontaneously by evaporation in the stable; but in most cases the direct cause is the plethoric condition owing to high feeding and insufficient exercise.

Thrush is, in many cases, another cause of dietetic errors, although in some it is due to neglect or mismanagement of the feet themselves.

It consists of a subacute inflammation of the sensitive frog, whereby, instead of the tough, elastic horn, a soft pultaceous substance is formed, and discharged from the clefts of the frog, which gives off a most offensive odour. It is attended by tenderness, if not by positive lameness, and may, if neglected, lead to more extensive disease.

We have had frequent enquiries of late respecting pigs, and there is evidently a desire for improvement in many parts of Nova Scotia. The following article from the *Thoroughbred Stock Journal* may be read with profit:

All breeders who desire to improve their pig stock or keep up their herd to a high state of excellence, must be careful in the selection of a sire. A certain amount of laxity may be permissable in the females of a herd, when the sole object is to breed for slaughter, but even then a high-class boar is of prime importance, and much more so when the formation or maintenance of a pedigree herd is the breeder's aim.

It is to the male in a very considerable degree we must look to the good qualities of the future herd; and were it for no other reason than the comparative ease with which a common herd is improved by the judicious use of a few well-bred males, this would be of paramount consideration. It must be remembered, however, that a faulty or undersized sire has as much, or even greater, prepotency to deteriorate the progeny of a herd of, say, twenty well-bred sows as a high-class one has to improve those of twenty under-bred ones. Consequently, while the introduction of an inferior dam to a herd may result in comparatively small loss, the selection of a faulty boar may do almost irreparable injury. The boar should be of perfect symmetry, and show in a marked degree all the attributes of the most improved types; carrying, with a masculine appearance, a head far removed from coarseness, and whose broad jowl and sharp face betoken great aptitude to fatten. He need not necessarily be upon an extra large scale. Indeed, the short, level-backed animal, of equal thickness at shoulders, loins and hams, and generally a compact form, is my choice. Fine in bone, with hams and shoulders almost down to the ground, well covered with long silky hair, betoken good constitution, resisting both the extremes of heat and cold, and whose fine quality is a guarantee of their careful breeding. Such is the typical sire.

Coarse bristles are the accompaniments of coarse hides, and *vice versa*; and it is a matter of importance, though frequently overlooked, whether the breakfast rasher is, as sometimes, nearly one-fourth rind, or whether the latter is almost as thin as parchment. In addition, the quality of the meat is always finer in the latter case than in the former. Most of the improved Essex I have met with have had, in a marked degree, this high excellence alike of skin and quality of meat.

Having found an animal that individually combines the essential good qualities, it is necessary to enquire about his progenitors, and especially his dam. I have found, that, as a rule, the young male perpetuates in marked degree the characteristics of his dam, and the young female of her sire. It follows, then, that, however expedient it may be for the pork-producer to breed from inferior or faulty female specimens of the family, the boar-breeder must only rear from not only a well-bred but a good shaped sow of the highest quality and characteristics; not only so, but her nursing powers must be duly considered, as they are of the greatest importance. It is as requisite that the pig should be able to nurture her offspring, and be gifted with a plentiful supply of milk, as it is for the dairy cow to be so, while there is as much difference in this respect between individuals of the one tribe as the other. Yet it is only from a dam so constituted that a young boar should be selected, as this milking gift is to a very large extent inherited.

The difference between a sow whose milk is plentiful and one who has but a scanty supply is very apparent in their offspring. Those of the former grow with rapidity, and lay a foundation for future thrift and early profit, whilst the latter's never fully recover their early stint. I strongly advise, then, that boars should be selected from dams possessing good milking properties. As fecundity is a matter of great importance in the pig, and the capability of nursing a numerous litter of quite equal importance, it is well to see that the sow has a full complement of teats, for Master Piggy does not brook any partnership in the one he has selected. Therefore a sow should have from twelve to fourteen well developed teats, and then she has a chance of rearing a good litter. In like manner I prefer a boar selected from large litters and from a prolific sow.

In selecting sows for the general stock, breadth and depth of frame are of paramount importance. With this should be allied as many of the characteristics of high quality as can be obtained, when a breeding herd is intended; coarseness, either of hide, hair, or head, should never be condoned, and though it is not absolutely necessary to adhere to the compactness of form, as in the boar, still the sow should be built upon level lines, and be quite even and symmetrical. When it is desirable to increase the size of a herd, a boar upon a larger scale may be selected or introduced; but, as a rule, the symmetry and quality should be the prominent features of the boar, and frame, united to as much symmetry and quality as possible, be those of the sow. Taking the White breeds as examples: to improve the quality of the Middle breed or give greater scale to the Small, select a Middle sow and Small boar; and, in the same way, when it is desired to increase the size of the Middle take a well-bred sow of the Large breed, and a good Little boar, and from these, with careful breeding, a class of pigs with all the frame and fine growth of the Large, with the feeding qualities and hair of the Middle, might be obtained. This, it appears to me, is not sufficiently appreciated; at least, the great majority of the Large White pigs I see lack early and profitable aptitude to fatten. When pork or bacon is the sole aim of the breeder, I am free to confess that the produce of what may be designed Medium-bred sows are as profitable as any, and perhaps crosses, as between the Large Middle White, and the Berkshires, are most profitable of all; but after the first cross these are comparatively valueless for breeding purposes. Some breeders of White pigs, when grazing is resorted to, find it more economical to keep thickset sows of Middle type and a lengthy large-framed boar. They say that the Middle class of animals are kept more economically than the Large, consequently it is cheaper to keep twenty small eaters, and one large eater, than *vice versa*. Their reasoning is correct, and when all the young are consigned to the butcher it is a plan that has its advantages, But the sows should be the selected ones out of litters having a