

## HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC, being entirely devoted to the interests of the farmers of the Maritime Provinces, we cordially invite contributions or information on any and every branch of agricultural topics from practical farmers. If their wives and daughters would also make it a medium for the interchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them, much mutual benefit might be derived.

Continuation of extracts from the Pamphlet of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty:—

**CALVES.**—In the slaughtering of calves it is not a common practice with us, as it is with France and other countries, to render them insensible before bleeding, for fear that the brain may be made less inviting as an article of food by being torn and stained with blood. By using a broad mallet this may in a great measure be avoided, and even if these results do follow they do not in reality alter the quality of the brain for edible purposes. Objections to the humane destruction of an animal on such grounds are as unreasonable as those which are made to juicy and wholesome red veal by people who prefer that which has been rendered white, dry and unnutritious by repeated bleedings, which have reduced the calf, before death to a lingering condition of faintness and debility.

The calf should be first stunned by a blow upon the head by a broad mallet or hammer, aimed at a spot relatively the same as in the full-grown animal. This is to be followed by immediate bleeding, by severing the throat at a point corresponding to the upper portion of the windpipe, using a sharp knife and doing the work thoroughly and at once so as to open all the arteries and veins of the neck.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS.**—Sheep and lambs should be rendered insensible by blow upon the head, to be followed subsequently by severing the throat, as just advised in the cases of calves, or by plunging a sharp-pointed knife through the blood-vessels at either side of the neck between the bones and the wind-pipe.

The place to be selected for a blow is the centre of a line drawn across the head, about two inches above the eyes, the brain in the sheep occupying a situation posterior to what at first sight would appear to be the natural one.

Nothing is more dangerous than the practice of using the lamp-filler to hasten the kitchen fire. "One of these occasions furnished," as a writer in the *New England Farmer* observes. "not long since the heading to a fire record: 'Fools not all dead yet,' and in that case both the builder and the house were burned."

The same writer goes on to suggest a simple method of obviating this terrible risk. Keep a six quart tin pail, with a close-fitting cover, and pack your kindling sticks upright in it. Then pour on them half a pint of kerosene, which will be at once absorbed, and you will have sticks enough to kindle a dozen fires, at a cost of about a cent for oil. The most stupid ignorance will yield to this method, because it better and more easily does the work required.

**G F**—Butter should not be allowed to stand 24 hours between the two workings in cold weather. We have seen a case of the mischief sometimes caused by this practice. A sample of very nice-looking butter was, after churning and salting, set away for three days waiting for a new mould. It became very hard, and when brought into warmth to soften it, part of it was overheated. When worked the second time the deteriorated exposed surface, which had acquired an unpleasant smell and flavor, became mixed with the mass, which of course became deteriorated. An hour is long enough for the salt used to dissolve, and long enough to wait between the workings.

Simple mutton suet, heated to a liquid state, is an efficient ointment for chapped lips and hands. It is also excellent for cuts and bruises. For the lips and hands apply at night.

An exchange says:—Four small islands near Yarmouth, comprising 75 acres, have recently been purchased by a gentleman for the purpose of sheep raising. The owner will have the islands stocked with sheep, and go extensively into that branch of farming. Alexander Campbell, a practical Scotch sheep raiser, will take charge of the farm. It is strange that this branch of industry has not been extensively prosecuted in this Province. Where are there lands more admirably adapted for this business than are to be found in Cape Breton? Besides being so favorably located for shipment to the European markets.

The following paper on the "Treatment of Permanent Pasture," recently read before the Farmer's Institute, of Albany, N. Y., seems so practical that we extract it from the *N. Y. Cultivator and Country Gentleman*:—

"Pasture is often benefited by a change in the kind of live stock kept on it, and it must be remembered that such is the beneficial effect on certain pastures in destroying weeds, in improving the texture of the soil and encouraging the growth of some of the permanent pasture grasses, that a certain number of sheep, perhaps not less than the number of the cattle, may be kept without diminishing the number of the cattle. Sheep will eat and destroy the white daisy and wild carrot. Confine them in early spring, as soon as vegetation starts, till July, in a daisy-infested pasture, and they will clean them out better, and vegetation will be encouraged.

The tread of the sheep has a marvellous influence on the physical condition of certain light lands, giving them much needed firmness. Horses may be profitably changed around with cattle, consuming much rank growth that is refused by neat stock. Young cattle may be advantageously pastured in

connection with dairy cows, which have a habit of spending their time about the entrance to the pasture. It is well to have trees in the more elevated parts, thus encouraging the animals to leave their droppings when they are most needed.

Bushes of all kinds must be eradicated. They not only occupy space, but by their shade and roots weaken vegetation.

There must be no weeds. Some kinds may be utilized and kept in check, or perhaps exterminated, merely by rotation in pasture with different animals.

The way in which pastures are fed, whether closely or otherwise, has much to do with their permanence in value. It is possible to feed a pasture so closely as to dwarf the grass roots and kill the large growing species. Too light stocking favors the growth of coarse and useless vegetation, choking out sweeter and richer grasses. Dairy cows, unless fed some grain, improve pastures more than young stock or fattening animals. The fields are apt to be too flush in June, and too bare in August. Rather than these extremes, feed some grain or sowed corn in the scant season, and do not allow pastures to run into seed in June.

For a real permanent pasture we must cherish and retain the very best grasses that are fitted to the soil, the climate and the treatment our pastures receive. Sometimes plowing and reseeding is the only resort. But consider other remedies first. Cut the bushes, trees, and destroy such weeds as can be banished without plowing. Drain and irrigate. Dress with bone or ashes, and do not expect very sudden improvement. If neglect has gone too far, and all the good grasses have disappeared, you must plow, and the effect of turning up the soil to the sun and frost is sometimes marvellous. Sprinkling the manure to act as a ferment, liberates the elements of growth, and a proper seed bed is furnished for the best grasses. The soil should be thoroughly tilled. A crop of buckwheat or sowed corn may be utilized in subduing a tough sward. Fertilizers should be applied. And then comes seeding. Do not try to get a grain crop in connection, but give the whole strength of the soil to the future pasture. The seeding should be principally of the grasses which make up our best native permanent bits of pasture. The seed should be rolled in with the lightest brush harrow. Moderate feeding may be allowed whenever there is sufficient growth. But beware of close grazing or treading, till the roots are established. If any large weeds appear, cut them down. Better pasturage should destroy ragweed, pigweed and other annual weeds, so that we may look a second season for a clean pasture that will endure, and grow better with age."

Considerable discussion as to the best means of destroying weeds followed. The penning of sheep and pigs on the infested tracts was highly recommended, and also, for certain obstinate kinds, the free use of salt—enough to make the ground white and destroy all vegetation of every name and nature. Prof. Lintner recommended trying gas lime, applied in the autumn, fresh from the works.

## OUR COSY CORNER.

The great dressmaker Worth is said to refuse decidedly to fit a waist that has been reduced by corsets, and his patrons must allow nature and not the corset to adjust the size of their dress bodices. If he shall succeed in making his work a law in this respect, as it is in many other among the ultra-fashionable, he will have had a great mission in life. It is only from such a source that reform in dress can come. The whim or deliberate intent of a great fashion leader will do more than the combined power of argument towards the abolition of unhealthy dress or customs.

A physician writes in the *American Magazine* that it is a good plan to have a warm pair of slippers always close to the bed, that may be slipped on quickly before one's feet touch the floor; made loose enough to be kicked off when climbing into bed again. For one who is liable to be called up frequently, as in cases of illness, this slipper hint will prove valuable if followed. These crocheted slippers are very convenient for the use here mentioned.

The red bonnet is really a feature of the season, and it appears in many materials and various shapes. Cloth, velvet, felt and fancy fabrics are shown in the brightest of reds, and also in a deeper tone of cardinal. The first shade is what is known as "dress" wear, while the other is in taste for any day-time occasion. When made of cloth the bonnets are nearly always pinked and folded in handkerchief fashion. The edges are pinked in sharp points, and all over the surface of the squares are tiny holes, also made by the pinking machine. The brim of the bonnet is of cloth laid on very smoothly, and the square is drawn loosely over the crown, two corners being fastened down smoothly at the sides, while the other two stand up in front behind loops of black moire ribbon, and are stiffened with wire. The ties are of black moire ribbon. Such a bonnet may be worn with a black wool costume, or, indeed, with any costume in which red or black is at all prominent.

Saleratus is excellent for removing grease from woodwork which has not been painted. Spread thickly over the grease spots, moisten, and after it has remained a half-hour wash off with tepid soap suds.

A box holding a half-bushel or more of dry white sand will furnish almost endless amusement for the little ones during stormy or cold days. Give them a corner of the kitchen with plenty of spoons and pails.

For hoarseness, bake a lemon in the oven until it is soft all through, then cut a piece from one end, fill with sugar, and take the sweetened juice before going to bed.

A flannel bag, stuffed with hops and wrung from hot vinegar, laid on the ear is one of the quickest and surest cures for earache.