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### SEPTEMBER 7, 1916

soon followed by rupture. The hernia may be congenital or appear at a varying age. Over-crowding of pigs, causing them to pile up on each other and strain themselves, often acts as the exciting cause. Chronic constipation or chronic diarrhœa, either of which causes excessive straining, may cause it. Injuries caused by crowding through door-ways, gates or holes in fences may also cause it.

in fences may also cause it. Symptoms.—The principal symptoms are the appearance of an abnormal and somewhat soft enlargement in one or both sides of the scrotum. This may remain about the same size, in which cases it does not appear to cause inconvenience, while in other cases it gradually becomes larger, and in extreme cases may nearly, or quite reach the ground. The swelling is painless and can be pressed back into the pelvic cavity, but reappears when pressure is relieved. When quite large it causes inconvenience and may cause digestive derangements, and interferes with movement to a greater or less degree, according to size. If the rupture be carefully manipulated, the loops of intestine can usually be felt, and the testicle can usually be located at the bottom of the sac, under the mass.

Treatment.-There are two methods of operation,

### THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

one called the covered operation, and the other, the open operation. The operator must provide himself with an operating knife, a pair of scissors, a surgeon's needle and a suture. All of these should be made sterile by boiling in water or soaking in a good antiseptic, as a 5 per cent solution of carbolic acid. They should be kept in the antiseptic except when in use, during the operation.

The pig should now be held up by the hind legs, with the head down, and the intestines pressed back into the cavity, unless they disappear without pressure. The scrotum should now be washed with the antiseptic, or a like solution of one of the coal tar disinfectants. It should then be washed off with alcohol and thoroughly painted with tincture of iodine.

painted with tincture of iodine. If the covered operation is to be performed, an incision of considerable length is very carefully made through the walls of the scrotum, care being taken to not cut the coverings of the testicle. The testicle, still enclosed in its coverings, is then drawn out through the opening in the scrotum. The needle, with a doubled suture is now passed through the coverings and cord, as near to the animals body as convenient. The needle is now removed, which leaves two strands of suture in cord and coverings. These are tied, one on each side, and the loose ends cut off. The cord and coverings are now severed between the testicle and suture and the testicle thrown away. A couple of stitches should now be put in the wound of the scrotum, the wound again washed with the antiseptic and the patient given its liberty.

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For the open operation the same antiseptic precautions are taken. The incision is made through the scrotum and coverings of the testicle when the latter will pop out into view. It is then drawn out, and if the patient be young sufficient tension should be gently but firmly given to break the cord. If the patient be of considerable size and age it is well to either ligate the cord or sever it with a scraping motion of the knife. A few stitches should now be put in the muscles surrounding the external opening of the inguinal canal and the wound in the scrotum stitched except a small opening on the lower part, for the escape of serum or pus, the wound washed with the antiseptic and the patient given its liberty.

When thorough antiseptic measures are observed, it is seldom that the patients do not do well. WHIF.

# Putting New Floors in Old Stables.

During the summer and autumn months many farmers find time to make some necessary changes in their stables, particularly with regard to fittings, light, ventilation and flooring. When these features are up-to-date the chores are lightened, and the animals, allowed to breathe purer air and enjoy surroundings bathed in sufficient sunlight, thrive better and show more satisfactory returns for the feed and labor expended on them. It is impossible to add improvements nowadays

without a considerable outlay of capital, but when the changes are consistent and of a permanent character the expenditure can be considered a wise investment. The old, filthy, unsanitary, wooden floors were tabooed years ago and cement took their place. The concrete floor has been a boon to the industry and to farming in general, but it has some disadvantages as a flooring material which have led to the adoption of other manufactured commodities for the purpose. There has been great advancement during the last decade in the methods of equipping stables, and we purpose to set forth here a few points that are worthy the attention of anyone who considers building, remodelling or refitting the stable. Reference will be made only to the floor, which is an exceedingly important feature in the construction or fitting out of a place for live stock. Every individual has ideas of his own, and he is pretty sure to give expression to them in the way he builds. The amount of light provided, the system of ventilation installed, and the degree of cow-comfort the finished stable may show depend upon the inclinations and ideas of the builder. Seldom would be during for the first or even of detail for would he duplicate his first efforts in every detail, for experience generally shows where this or that might be improved. We shall endeavor here to set forth only the principles in stable floor construction, and leave the minor points to be introduced by him who has the work to do.

#### The Concrete Floor.

Cement is the farmer's friend, and thousands of stables are made more sanitary and comfortable through its use every year. However, a great number of farm buildings throughout the country can be still further improved by doing away with the earth or wood floors and replacing them with something more in keeping with cleanliness, serviceability and modern requirements. Concrete has two disadvantages, it sometimes gets slippery, and udder trouble is induced by the cows' quarters coming into direct contact with the floor. Ridges or grooves in the walk behind the cattle will prevent many accidents, and plenty of litter will make the cows comfortable, but the fact remains that the possibilities for accidents and diseased conditions exist and must be guarded against. A stone filling beneath the floor and drains to carry the moisture away will tend to keep the over-lying cement drier and warmer than it otherwise would be, and prevent trouble in the dairy herd. The different operations in laying a cement floor may well be ex-plained at this juncture. However, before anything is done the builder should have a complete plan of the work, and the specifications should be definite.

the stable where the animals may stand, but 3 inches of cement-concrete is enough for the feed passage, which is not generally subjected to any severe concussions. The manger and gutter may be laid with about the same depth of material as the passage. In remodelling an old stable, one must sometimes

In remodelling an old stable, one must sometimes gauge the stands, passages and walks by the space available, but, where possible, it is well to have the feed passage 5 to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, if it serves one row of cattle, and 6. to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide if it must serve two rows. The manger should be approximately 20 inches wide, the curb 5 to 6 inches, and the stands should vary in length from 4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet or 5 feet 2 inches, according to the class of cattle to be accomAfter the plan of the stable has been arranged and adapted to the existing conditions, one may then start the excavating or filling, and level the foundation down till it corresponds with the general contour of the finished floor, but leaving sufficient depth for the concrete covering over all parts. This is the opportune time to make provisions for the water supply and ventilation system. Even if the builder does not intend to install a water system at the time, it would be wise to lay a few pipes before the cement is put down, and in such places as will be most convenient for future connections. The importance of thorough drainage is now being realized, for a few tile under the stand and gutter make a wast difference

> cases a tile is placed below the gutter and a gutter trap installed to carry away the liquid. With a herd of cows, it is some-times difficult to pro-vide sufficient bedding to absorb all the liquid manure, and the stable remains damp. Where a gutter trap is used, the tile should be laid one foot beneath the bottom of the gutter and the "tee tile" of the trap will connect with it. When this leads to a well or cistern, the effluent can be dipped or pumped out and applied to the land. Some farmers have found this an economical scheme, and they have even adopted the plan for their concrete barnyards. The trap at the end of the gutter also allows the moisture to get away rapidly when the stable is flushed. A fall of 1 inch should be allowed from the curb to the gutter and the entire floor should have a drop of

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### Excavating or Filling.

The foundation for the floor must, of course, be prepared first. A good filling of broken or sharp stones makes a suitable bed upon which to lay the concrete, for the water can get away leaving the floor dry and warm. Mark on the walls or on stakes the level to which the finished parts shall reach and then excavate or fill, making allowance for the floor, which will vary in thickness for the different parts of the construction. When the passage behind the cattle is left wide enough for a team to be driven through, and the intention is such, it would be well to lay a floor 6 inches thick, otherwise 5 inches will be sufficient. A thickness of five inches is also ample for the cow stands and feed passage. We have seen floors that were laid only 4 inches thick, and they are in perfect condition after several years of wear. However, the general practice is to lay 4 inches of grout and finish with three-quarters to an inch of cement-concrete, mixed 1 to 3 or 4. This is adequate for all parts of



modated. For the gutter, 18 inches is the width most commonly installed, and frequently it is 6 inches deep next to the stand and 5 inches deep on the side adjacent to the walk. With regard to the walk itself, one can safely say, the wider the better. Between two rows of cattle, 8 feet makes a suitable width. A 6-foot walk is a convenient width behind one row, but, when a team is to be drawn through, 8 feet or more should be allowed. The space left behind the cattle must be determined by the lay-out of the stable and the space available. Each cow is usually allowed 3 feet 6 inches as a stand. 1 inch in 20 feet towards the end of the stable where the gutter trap is placed. With this information in hand, the workmen can then proceed to finish off the foundation. Where field stone have been used, it would be well to cover with a layer of coarse gravel or cinders, and this should be wet and tamped down. An earthen foundation should likewise be frequently wetted and thoroughly tamped. It is folly to lay a concrete floor on a loose, boggy or unfirmed piece of ground.

Figure I shows the contour of a bed prepared for the concrete. It will be noticed that the walk slopes gradually into the gutter, which, when completed, will have only one perpendicular side, as illustrated in figure 5. This type of gutter has one advantage, viz., it is easy to clean out. It also has one disadvantage when the sloping side is wet—the cattle often slip into the gutter when going up to their stanchions, and for this reason the gutter with both sides perpendicular is more popular. In figure 2 the end view of a well arranged and constructed stable is shown.

When starting to level off the foundation for the floor, it is often found that a stake, cut the correct length to reach from the joists above to the proper level below, is, in a rough way, a very handy way of measuring. Before the grout is applied, however, the spirit-level and straight-edge should be brought into use to verify the results.