

PIGS ENRICH A DAIRY FARM.*E. R. Towle, Vermont.*

One object in keeping swine on the dairy farm is the making of manure. Where the dairy is an average sized one, and especially where there is milk the year around, the keeping of swine can be made fairly profitable. The farmer thus situated should keep one or more breeding sows, at least enough to raise a sufficient number of pigs for his own use. Have them ready for the market at six or eight months.

These are the kind most generally wanted, and to supply the demand it is necessary to keep the animals thrifty and growing from the first, and to secure the most profitable results, it will be necessary to feeding care for them in the most approved manner. They must be kept warm and dry in cold weather and comfortable at all times. In winter this means good quarters and plenty of bedding. Where much milk or other liquid food is given it will be astonishing to see how soon the bedding will become saturated and require additions or change. This will require a large amount of material for the purpose, and it may seem to some that the manure thus made, containing so much of strawy material, would not be very valuable as a fertilizer, but experience proves that it is. The rations of the pigs should contain a proper amount of grain in addition to the skim milk if suitable growth and maturity are expected. Consequently this adds to the value of the manure made.

A common practice is to allow swine to work over the horse manure. Rightly managed, although it may contain much straw or coarse material used for bedding, it will become thoroughly worked over and come out the best of fertilizers. But there should be enough of this material to keep the pigs busy and still not become too wet or muddy. I have a small building adjoining the horse barn in which the

manure is put as rapidly as made. There is a separate apartment in which the pigs eat. This is a good arrangement for the purpose. At another log house there are small yards attached into which any coarse manure or refuse material can be put for the pigs to work over. I find that the manure made and worked over by the pigs adds very materially to the fertilizing resources of the farm, and the effects are becoming more and more apparent in better crops and improved condition of the soil.—NEW-ENG. HOMESTEAD.

The Flock**SELECTING THE RAM**

As the time is come when the sheep-breeder is about to mate his ewes we presume he has or is taking great pains in securing a good sire suitable for his ewes. There are farmers and breeders who have to send to other breeders in order to get fresh blood into their stock. As we receive many orders from a distance, let me give a word of advice to those sending for rams, etc., so that the breeder may have a chance to please you. Last year we had one correspondent, after getting prices, writing as follows: "Enclosed please find cheque for ram lamb. We have a flock of very high grade Shrops. and wish to increase size." We sent him a compact, heavy boned and heavy bodied lamb with close, well-covered fleece. About a month ago he wrote me, saying he never had such lambs, and realized a high price for them from the butcher. I could relate many similar instances. Then we get many orders after this fashion: "Enclosed find ways send a good lamb, but if we knew cheque, please send good lamb." We all the particulars we might send a better ram for that particular flock. If a customer cannot describe minutely the kind of ram he wants he had better describe his flock and state what points he wishes to improve upon or keep prominent.