February, 1881

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Stock,

Scotch Cattle.

The frequent successes of cattle sent from the North of Scotland to the fat stock shows in England, may make a few remarks on the subject interesting to some of your readers. Probably the great taste and natural love for knowledge of cattle is tho real secret of the goodness of the animals sent from the district. Every farmer and cattleman in it is a sound, shrewd judge of the merits of an animal and is constantly comparing notes with others, and trying to keep up with the times in any improvement in feeding, &c. In England an animal is called a "Shorthorn,"

In England an animal is called a "Shorthorn," although it may have only a single known cross of the breed. In Scotland it is very different; a "cross" is understood to mean any animal belonging to a family which has not been registered in the *Herd Book* as a Shorthorn; consequently some crosses are black or gray polled animals; and some, such as Mr. Morson's young cross ox, exhibited at Birmingham and London, have the general ap; pearance of a Shorthorn; the latter are much the most frequently met with. Many ordinary stocks of cattle kept for producing feeding oxen to consume the produce of the farm may have six, eight or ten successive crosses of pure-bred Shorthorn bulls; but as no pedigrees have been kept, the owners still call them "crosses." Many of the most remarkable show cattle are got by pure shorthorn bulls and from black polled cows without any recorded pedigree, and of doubtful purity of blood but of compact frame, good quality and plenty of lean flesh. The pure Shorthorns, also in general use, are shorter in the leg, better covered with flesh and mellower to handle than those more usually seen in England.

The ordinary cows of the district are not very good milkers, as a rule, and their dairy properties do not receive the attention which is the case in some districts; but the quality of the milk is rich, and particularly suited to the rearing of the calf, which is often done by allowing it to run with the cow until it is from five to seven months old ; almost all the animals intended for competition at fat stock shows are reared in this way. The land is not naturally very fertile, nor is it highly man-The land ured, but the grass, turnips and straw produced on it are of excellent quality, and of a feeding nature. On most farms there is no permanent pasture, the seeds are allowed to lie two or three years, and are grazed each season by cattle. The seeds are followed by oats, which will average from 4 to 6 qrs. of grain per imperial acre, worth about 23s. per qr.; turnips come after the oats, and are drilled from 25 to 27 inches wide, and are generally manured with from 12 to 16 tons of farmyard manure, with the addition of ground bones, superphosphate, or similar manures to the value of from 20s. to 40s. per acre. In a fair season, and on an average farm, 18 to 22 tons of turnips will be produced, and these are all carted to the steading and consumed by cattle-few, if any sheep are kept. The cows usually calve from December to April, the cow and calf are turned out to pasture early in May, and they receive no further attention until the beginning of October, when the grass season is over; the calves are then weaned. Those intended for ordinary feeding receive a moderate supply of turnips three times a day, and oat straw. Some farmers allow $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 lb of linseed cake in addition, but this is not usual. The next May they are turned out to grass, and are again housed early in October, and fed on turnips and straw. Many farmers sell these animals fat in May or June following, and when this system is adopted an allowance of cake or meal is given for eight or twelve weeks at the finish, and in this way an average price of £23 for heifers and oxen will be readily obtained. If the farmer prefers to keep on the cattle longer, they receive kindly so many turnips and no cake, and are placed on the best of the first year's seeds, until the middle or end of August, when most feeders house and feed on tares and early turnips, followed by turnips, only giving a little cake or meal for a few weeks. These cattle are usually sent up alive to the Christmas market at London, and bring from £28 to £40, according to the amount of care and expense for artificial food which may have been bestowed upon them. The cattle are kept during the winter in byres. Straw being valuable as fodder, no boxes or yards are used. A cattleman can attend to thirty feedng animals in this way, or, if he has a mixed stock

of cows, young cattle and a few feeders, frequently upwards of fifty are alotted to one man. Almost all the Shorthorn bulls used by farmers are bred in the district, and these are of a thoroughly useful character. Sometimes a black Polled bull is used for one cross, so as to enable the farmer to have a little of the native Aberdeen or Angus blood introduced into his cattle, but this is not very common; the more general plan being to bring in a few black Polled heifers and serve them with a Shorthorn bull.

The animals prepared for the fat show are usually selected when the calves are weaned, as being more promising than usual, but they do not as a rule get any greater amount of feeding during the first winter than a small allowance of cake. As the spring advances the allowance may be increased a little. The future mode of feeding is carried out by different feeders in different ways, as their experience may lead them. There is more in the attention than in any particular mode of feeding. There is considerably less "black Polled" blood in many of the winners of this season than may be supposed. Mr. Colman's champion is out of a pure bred Aberdeenshire cow, and the son of a Shorthorn bull, whilst Mr. Dunn's Birmingham champion is out of a colored Polled cow having a considerable dash of Shorthorn blood, and Mr. Reid's Hull champion is decended from an old line of cows descended originally from a black cow marked very much like a Hereford, and whose daughters were got by Shorthorn bulls. Both these oxen are sons of Shorthorn sires.—[Banffshire.

Thumps in Pigs----Paralysis.

I have been experimenting for years in trying to cure the disease known as thumps in pigs. The symptoms are palpitation or heaving of the sides, which increases to such an extent that pigs thus affected will not eat, and rapidly become emaciated and soon die from weakness. I have examined a number after death, but never could find any of the internal organs that showed evidence of disease. I am of the opinion that it is caused by the accumulation of fat about the heart. Several pigs affected with this disorder this fall, when about four months old, recovered by being given a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine for several days in succession. The spirits of turpentine were diluted with milk, and turned down their throats from a bottle. Usually this disorder affects pigs when confined in a close pen, and rarely when as old as mine were, although I had one die with it when a year old, I have lost nearly a whole litter, and had the disease arrested when the others were turned out where they had plenty of exercise. It generally originates in close continement, which would naturally cause an accumulation of fat. Turpentine seems to be a natural medicine for pigs, in relieving this spasmodic action of the heart, and also in destroying parasites, which sometimes affect the kidneys and cause lameness or partial paralysis of the hinder parts—another form of disease which is quite common with pigs. An application of spirits of turpentine across the loins will sometimes effect the cure of the latter. It is such a powerful penetrative that it extends to every part of the system, reaching those internal organs which no other medicine I have ever tried does so effectually. I have never known any injury to result from administering it. The cases cured by spirits of turpentine were the only ones I ever knew in which there was a recovery after the thumps had begun. It is not a contagious disease, as I have lost only one pig in a litter, and then again have lost all but one. Early pigs, and especially those born in the winter. while the sows are confined in pens, are more liable to be affected with it than when the sows are running out and have access to the ground. Paralysis from worms in the kidneys, or, as it might perhaps be better described, soreness across the loins, which makes the pig unable or unwilling to move its hinder parts, is the next most fatal disease. I have always succeeded in curing this by external or internal use of spirits of turpentine as spoken of above.-Cor. Country Gentleman.

Stabling Stock and Stables,

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In a recent article J. S. Woodward says: In stabling cattle have them as compact as possible; instead of stringing them in a single row in a long stable I prefer the stable as near square as may be, and to put the cattle in two or four rows; the more in a body the less labor to care for them, and the warmer they will keep. There is no material so good for a stable as brick or stone, but where we must use wood the sills should be well bedded in mortar upon a good wall. The boarding should be sound, put on close, battened outside and well nailed, battened inside with laths, and on these put tarred sheeting paper (not felt), and again put on strips of lath and another thickness of paper, and over this sheet with matched lumber. This is much better than double boarding and stuffing with straw, chaff or sawdust; it is entirely wind-proof, and much warmer, and there is no harbor for rats or mice, and it is much more cleanly. Over head the floor should be matched; I much prefer having the cattle stand on the ground, providing there is plenty of straw for bedding.

The subject of ventilation is as little understood for stables as for dwellings; it is next to impossible to open windows or ventilators at the sides of the stable without some animal's taking cold or suffering from a draft; a much better way-the best of all ways-is to place upright trunks or tubes, say eighteen inches square inside, reaching from the roof down a foot belew the ceiling of the stables. These should be protected on the roof by a slatted hood or cowl, and should have a slide at the bottom that can be opened and closed at pleasure. In a stable thirty by forty feet, there should not be less than three of these. In secure positions in different parts of the stable place thermometers; by means of the trunks mentioned above (by opening aud closing the slides) we should maintain a temperature as near 50° as possible. In very mild days it might be necessary to open some windows, but they should be always on the side away from the wind. This mode of ventilation will always keep the air pure and wholesome and will create no drafts or currents of air.

If there is no convenience for watering in the stables (which I would prefer), I would only let the animals out just long enough to drink. If at any time I thought they needed exercise, I would let them out, and have them driven about so as to get the needed exercise as soon as possible and immediately return them to the stables. Remember that all exercise takes food, and if the stables are kept clean, well littered and dusted every day with a little plaster, the cattle can be kept all winter perfectly healthy without an hour's exercise. Another fact we should remember; every day we keep a young animal with no growth, and every day a mature animal is allowed to get poorer, we are keeping them at a loss and can't afford it; we

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Several facts and experiments reported go to prove that the milk of a cow in high flesh will yield more butter in proportion to the yield of milk than one in low flesh,

should see to it that they are constantly thriving, and to this end we should feed plenty of good, nutritious feed, and plenty of some sort of roots or other green food. But above all, keep them warm.

CORNS IN HORSES' FEET.—Corns are almost invariably caused by bad shoeing or from wearing the shoe too long. As a rule they cause lameness, though occasionally, where they assume something the form of tumors of a hard, horny nature, the horse does not appear to mind them to any extent. Remove the shoe, and if there is indication of inflammation, poultice the foot until the parts are soft, and then by an opening let the accumulated matter out. Pare the seat of the corn, being careful not to cut out portions of the bar or frog of the foot. For a corn plaster, mix together one ounce verdigris, two ounces oil of turpentine and half a pound of yellow wax. Apply on a piece of leather.

POISONED WITH EPIZOOTIC.—A singular case of poisoning, arising out of the disease called epizootic, is attracting the attention of the medical fraternity at Virgil, Ont., where it is under treatment. George Wilson, resident of that place, was suffering from a small sore on his hand. The discharge from his diseased horse's nose was by some chance rubbed into the sore; the poison infected his system and his body swelled to an alarming size. An immense abscess formed in his side, which when opened discharged large quantities of fetid matter. Up to within a few days, although suffering very severely, he seemed to be recovering, but since he has had a relapse and his recovery is now extremely doubtful. His chief symptom, as he describes it, is a burning sensation all over the body, as if he had been close to a red hot stove,