

which delights in the absence of all disturbing influences when laying. All the ranges of nests should be placed cheque-wise, in order that the inmates when coming out may not startle those immediately under. Those designing to hatch should be near the ground (where instinct teaches the hen to choose her seat), and so arranged that the hen can easily enter them without disturbing the eggs. Wheat or rye straw is the most approved of for the hedging, being cooler than hay, and less subject to produce lice in the hens, which often annoy them."

We shall in future numbers give the most approved modes of managing poultry, so as to insure profit.

ALTERING MALE QUADRUPEDS.—A correspondent of *The Cultivator*, says:—After commencing operation as a farmer, I observed with regret, the barbarous method of operating on domestic animals, particularly upon swine, and in filling the bag with salt or ashes; but those who were accustomed to this method could not be persuaded to adopt any other practice. The salt and ashes applied on such occasions act as a styptic and prevent bleeding, but they excite inflammation and endanger the life of the animal. I have noticed the agony and uneasiness of pigs after such applications, and have recommended milder ones. In 1840, I lost a large shoat in three days after the operation, and came near losing a steer by bleeding from the cord. The method which I consider preferable, is exhibited in the following instances:—

September 15th, 1842. Altered a large Berkshire boar 34 years old, one that no person would undertake to castrate, lest he should die after the operation. I found a man, however, who was willing to act under my directions; he used a sharp knife and made a smooth cut, and after laying bare the testis, I applied a ligature on the cord, as a surgeon would to a bleeding artery, and then cut the cord below the ligature; the second testis was removed in the same manner, and the wound dressed with a mixture of tar and grease. The operation was soon performed, there was no bleeding from the wound, and the animal seemed to mind it no more than a kick; he eat his allowance daily afterwards, and never fell off in flesh from the operation, and is now (November) a fat hog.

On the same day nine boar pigs which had been weaned some time, were altered without tying the cord, and the wounds rubbed with the mixture of tar and grease. They never lost a meal nor appeared to suffer pain or inconvenience from the operation, and all speedily recovered.

October 7th, 1842. Altered a two year old Galway bull by the same method. Having prepared a waxed thread, the cord was tied, and the testis removed as in case of the boar, with the loss of only a few drops of blood in cutting through the skin. The wound was rubbed with the tar and grease, and the animal after being kept in the barn-yard a few nights was suffered to run in the field. The ligature comes away by the sloughing or rotting of the lower end of the cord, and then the wound heals.

On the same day, another stout Berkshire boar one year old, was operated upon in the same manner, without the loss of blood or flesh. He recovered rapidly, and is now (November 9th) in a fair way to make a heavy porker.

A large quantity of salt taken into the stomach at once is fatal to all animals.

GREAT OX.—The Albany Cultivator presents the engraved likeness of the Syracuse Ox, exhibited at the New-York Fair at Albany, September 28th, 1842, and then said to weigh 4,200 lbs. He is eight years old; his live-weight, February 18th, 1841, was 2,360 lbs. January 16th, 1842, he had gained to the weight of 3,400 lbs. In eight months afterwards he gained 900 lbs. An animal of this kind of the most beautiful proportions—with flesh and fat so laid on as to leave but a mere trifle of offal when the animal comes to be slaughtered—with a glossy skin whose feel is like that of soft silk plush—a delicate head and horns—an eye so mild and intelligent as to assure us that he is an ox of sense and good feeling—presents to the amateur farmer of wealth ample pay for rearing and attending him even though he may have never earned his livelihood in that labour to which other faithful oxen of less body and less beauty are destined.—*Monthly Visitor*.

PREPARATION OF NIGHT SOIL.—The value of night soil, and its preparations, consists in the great quantity of ammonia or nitrogen it contains, in which it exceeds all other animal substances, bones excepted. The following, which we find in *The Farmers' Magazine*, is a plain and easy method of preparing this manure in such a manner that its value shall be fully retained, while the offensive odour is effectually destroyed:— "To every 100 lbs. of night soil, add 7 lbs. of sulphate of lime (gypsum) in powder; a double decomposition will ensue, and the result will be, instead of sulphate of lime and carbonate of ammonia, carbonate of lime and sulphate of ammonia, the latter a soluble salt that cannot be volatilized. It may now be mixed with other compost, or dried any way thought proper, and applied to the roots of the vegetable, to be again transformed into bread, butter, cheese," &c. It is probable that the mixture of the gypsum, as recommended above, thoroughly with the night soil, and then incorporating it with compost, will be found the best method in which it can be used by the farmer.

USEFUL RECEIPTS.

CHEAP PAINT.—A subscriber wishes us to give a recipe for cheap paint. We have never had much experience in the painting line, whether cheap or dear. The following is laid down in Smith's Art. of House Painting, which is highly recommended. Take off skimmed milk nearly two quarts; of fresh slacked lime about six ounces and a half; of linseed oil four ounces, and of whiting three pounds; put the lime into a stone vessel, and pour upon it a sufficient quantity of milk to form a mixture, resembling thin cream; then add the oil a little at a time, stirring it with a small spatula; the remaining milk is then to be added, and lastly, the whiting. The milk must on no account be sour. Slack the lime by dipping the pieces in water, out of which it must be immediately taken and left to slack in the air. For pure white paint, the oil of carraways is best, because colourless; but with ochres the commonest oils may be used. The oil, when mixed with the milk and lime, entirely disappears, and is totally dissolved by the lime, forming a calcareous soap. The whiting, or ochre is to be gently crumbled on the surface of the fluid, which it gradually imbibes; and at last

sinks: at this period it must be stirred in. This paint may be coloured like distemper or size colour, with fevigated charcoal, yellow ochre, &c., and used in the same manner. The quantity here prescribed is sufficient to cover twenty-seven square yards with the first coat. The same paint will do for out door work by the addition of two ounces of slacked lime; two ounces of linseed oil, and two ounces of white Burgundy pitch; the pitch to be melted in a gentle heat with the oil, and then added to the smooth mixture of the milk and lime. In cold weather it must be mixed warm to facilitate its incorporation with the milk.—*Mec. & Far.*

DISTEMPER IN DOGS.—We published in a late number a remedy for this disease, copied from the Southern Planter. We have often succeeded in curing the disease, by administering doses of salt as recommended therein; we have, however, whenever we discovered a constipation of the bowels to supervene, given every other day boluses of castile soap, with the very best effect. If castile soap cannot be had, brown soap will answer equally well, the object being action upon the intestinal viscera. In obstinate cases, where the discharge from the nostrils is obstructed, or the cough heavy and tight, we have always found the patient greatly relieved by introducing a seton in the loose skin just back of the head; which operation is performed by threading a coarse darning needle with a double thread of coarse yarn, and running it through the skin and confining it by a tie. The thread must be moved every morning to keep up irritation, and encourage a discharge of the viscid matter, which should be daily washed off with a little warm water and soap.—*American Farmer*.

TO PRESERVE BACON FROM FLIES.—*Messrs. Editors.*—My simple mode of preserving bacon may be of use to some of your readers. I lay it down in charcoal, I find it preserved from the fly and kept perfectly sweet, without any further trouble than putting the coal between the several layers. I do not even pound the coal up fine, but take it from the coal heap just as it comes, coarse and fine together. When I want a cut of bacon, I take it off, and put the remainder back, or throwing some of the "fine" charcoal on the fresh cut surface, hang up the remainder, and so cut from it until it is all consumed. The flies will not touch it. The coal dust is easily washed off before cooking, and the coal in which it has been packed, is as good for burning as ever.—*Alb. Cultivator.* R. JUNIOR.

TO WASH WOOLLEN GOODS.—The art of washing woollen goods so as to prevent them from shrinking, is one of the desiderata in domestic economy worthy of being recorded, and it is therefore with satisfaction that we explain this simple process to our readers. All descriptions of woollen goods should be washed in very hot water with soap, and as soon as the article is cleansed, immerse it in cold water, let it then be wrung and hung up to dry.—*Sel.*

TO MAKE YEAST.—Two middling sized boiled potatoes, add a pint of boiling water and two tablespoonfuls of brown sugar. One pint of hot water should be applied to every half pint of the compound. Hot water is better in warm weather. This yeast being made without flour will keep longer, and is said to be much better than any previously in use.—76.