

FARM-FIELD AND GARDEN

IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.

To the farmer who has his land in good condition to furnish what is necessary for the proper care of live stock, and has become convinced that it would be to his advantage to make a start in the work, the next question is, how shall I begin? This looks like an easy question to answer, but it is not, as it must be settled with due regard to his financial standing and other circumstances connected with his surroundings. If he does not have capital to buy good stock, he at least has time to grow it, so that he must determine which he shall depend upon most in his work. If he decides in favor of time he will, as a rule, find it the safest plan, as very few men can go into the market with a sum of money, purchase freely in any line of stock, and feel entirely satisfied with the result. We have seen a good many herds and flocks started in that manner, and many proved failures. Those that did not were saved by changing their breeding stock after they had learned to buy what they wanted and not what the other man wanted to sell. To the man who starts in slowly, and studies the business carefully, there is little danger of loss and good opportunities for doing

A PROFITABLE BUSINESS.

If the farmer has some ordinary native, or unimproved female stock on hand, progress is comparatively easy and not at all expensive when the returns are considered. He purchases or uses the improved sires owned by his neighbors of the particular breed he thinks most suitable for his purposes. Having made the first cross he should stick to the same breed, selecting each time some of the best females to add to his flock or herd, and replace others that are not up to his standard. If sires are carefully chosen each succeeding cross will show an improvement, and by the time he has females with four straight crosses of an improved breed, he has animals that are practically as useful to the farmer as if they were pure bred. His added cost to secure such animals, compared with the unimproved stock would have cost him, would be in a little better feeding, the cost for use of improved sires, and better shelter than is usually given scrub stock. This would only be a small part of the benefit he would receive from the improvement he had made. Whether the improvement had been made in cattle, sheep or hogs the results would be equally good. Meanwhile he had learned the business of caring for the stock, making the best selections for carrying on the work of improvement, and at a minimum of cost. This is the safest plan for the new beginner, and substitutes time, which he has, for money that he does not have. He does not run in debt and have to pay interest. The danger is that he will not persistently follow the course

FIRST MARKED OUT

and will shift from one breed to another so that his stock becomes mongrelized, and no better for practical purposes than when he first began its improvement. Or he may get a half-blood male that looks so good that he decides to breed to him, and a greater mistake could not be made, as the progeny is nearly certain to show more of the scrub dam than of the half-blood sire.

It should always be borne in mind that unimproved animals, or scrubs, are strongly bred, as they are the result of their environment. They have been neglected, and nature, which never makes mistakes, adapts them for their surroundings. The more they

are neglected the more worthless they become to man, and the better fitted they become to stand hardships and privations. Thus the improved heifer if turned loose in the woods, in a few generations becomes a razor-back, the Shorthorn or Hereford lean, gaunt and muscular as a Texan long horn, and the mutton sheep gains in speed and activity at the expense of fleece and mutton. The tendency of all live stock is to revert to its natural condition when left care for itself, and the Holstein Jersey that gave milk nine or ten months in the year, in a few generations dries up as soon as its calf weaned. It has been the skill of the breeder, added to shelter and generous feeding that has given us the improved breeds of live stock, and made them so valuable as producers of

FOOD AND CLOTHING.

As soon as the feed becomes scant and no shelter is provided, the animal reverts to its natural form, and while enabled to maintain itself unable to do any more. The conditions that produced the improvement in the first place must be continued or all that has been gained will be thrown away. It is therefore important that the farmer arranges to provide food and shelter before starting to improve his stock, for if he does not he will never realize much benefit from his work.

Good live stock on a farm has a moral influence that should not be ignored. Its tendency is to make better farmers, and to interest the farmer and his family in improving their surroundings. It also develops sociability, for good cattle or sheep, or hogs, will always draw the attention of neighbors. It also acts as a strong incentive for the farmer to improve their stock also. Good stock, therefore, is always doing missionary work in a neighborhood, and is a benefit to the entire community. A good farmer will not long be content with scrub stock, nor will a scrub farmer ever keep improving stock. If he starts in, one or two things will happen, either the farm improves or the stock deteriorates and soon becomes worthless. The kind of stock a farmer keeps is the surest proof of the kind of the kind of farming he is doing.

FERTILITY OF ORCHARDS.

From an article on fruit growing by a correspondent, we take the following remarks on the necessity of keeping up the fertility of the soil in orchards:

"We have often heard the question asked as to what would be the best fertilizer for orchards, and I know many cases the answer has been brains. Now in the use of brains as a fertilizer I think we would do something more expensive than commercial fertilizer, as we call it. We cannot make a free use of their brains in studying out what they shall do. The soil and the plant food it contains are something like a bank. As long as your deposit is good your checks are honored, and the larger your deposit the better your credit. We can see from this that the soil is a kind of storehouse for plant food to be taken up and used by crops. The soil where we grow trees has been mostly derided of by the breaking down of the rocks, although there is an immense amount of plant food there, very few of which are in available form food more than enough to last two or three years and give maximum crops. The thing for us to do is to learn how to get the most food out of this soil and how to have at all times an ample supply. You have many times been told what kind of food plants need. Chemists have told us we want some potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen, and of course these are required. We find, however, something more than this in the soil, and the fruit grower calls it humus.

THE NAME HUMUS.

Humus has been applied to decaying plant

MOST OF THIS PAGE IS MISSING

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The case of Mrs. Husband is not unlike scores and hundreds which are related to us. There can be no better evidence as to the thoroughness and effectiveness of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills.

Mrs. E. Husband, Moore street, St. Catharines, Ont., states:—"I was seriously afflicted with indigestion and stomach trouble for sixteen years. Finally I became so bad that I could scarcely eat anything without suffering terrible distress. Gradually I grew weaker and

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"After a time a pain began in the right side, which medical men said was liver trouble. I never got relief until I began the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and they helped me at once. By using about a dozen boxes I was entirely cured. I owe my cure entirely to this treatment and make this statement with hope that some poor sufferer may benefit by my experience."

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