

Stock.

STOCK GRAZING ON THE PLAINS AROUND THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

Those of us who are familiar only with the habits of stock on the small farms in the States, and have never had the opportunity of studying their dispositions and ways when left to themselves in large herds in the open country, form most erroneous notions of their wants, their inclinations, their capacities, and their modes of living. Accustomed to be cared for and have their wants supplied on the farm, they learn to look for protection, and depend on their owners for food and comfort. They acquire artificial habits, and lose something of their natural sagacity and hardihood. And we are apt to suppose that they require assistance under all circumstances; because they have learned to depend on it in the confined life they lead under the fences and buildings of a small farm. But let them grow up by themselves and take care of themselves, and they ask no more favor from the hand of man than the deer or the buffalo. "To be let alone" is the extent of their petition. They know better than any one can tell them where the richest food is to be found, and will walk many miles to get it. They know where the clear sweet water is, and will not stray so far from it as to suffer from thirst. They can always find the warm, sheltered nooks where the winds and the storms will not harm them. Obviously, then, the first lesson the grazier must learn in coming here, is to let his stock take care of themselves. There must be some limit to this remark of course. Stock must be kept on its range, and different herds kept separate in some measure. But even that amount of interference will be an injury, and in no case can it benefit the individual animal.

The hardest lesson, however, for Eastern men to learn, and the most difficult one to understand, is this, that feeding hay to stock in winter is a positive injury, and will insure an actual loss of more cattle than will die without such feeding. Strange as it may seem, this has been proven over and over again. As soon as the cattle learn that they can get a meal at the hay stacks, they refuse to leave them, and gradually give up all attempts to graze. They trample on and waste much of the hay that is given them, and never thrive as well when fed, as when grazing. Do the best you can for them, they invariably fall off in condition, and in the spring, when the grass is starting, many of them will die, that would have done well if left entirely to themselves. It must be remembered that this is not a natural hay country, and large quantities are not easily obtained; that our herds number several thousand each, and that to feed more than a few weeks, during the roughest of the weather, is out of the question; while the grazing is always abundant, unless it may be partially covered with snow. Our snow is almost always dry and light, however, and it is not uncommon to see cattle grazing through it where it is up to their eyes.

CARE OF CALVES.

A celebrated Irish farmer gives this advice to those who are young in this business:—"As a breeder you must be careful not to lose calf-flesh. If you do so by starving the animal at any time of his growth, you lose the cream—the covering of flesh so much prized by all our butchers. Where do all those scraggy, half-fed beasts come from that we so readily buy in our markets, and what is the cause of their scragginess? It is because they have been stinted and starved at some period of their growth. If the calf-flesh is once lost, it can never be regained." The above remarks are quite as applicable if the calves are raised on the farm as when intended for the butcher. Calves can be raised by the hand and make as rapid growth as when allowed to run with their mothers. One gallon of skim milk moderately thickened with middlings, and when eggs are plenty, one or two broken into it, is enough for a feed in quantity, and will keep a calf in growing order and with a smooth coat.

EFFECTS OF SHELTER.

An experiment made in England shows that one hundred sheep fed under shelter, on 20 pounds of Swedish turnips each per day, at the end of a few weeks had gained three lbs. each more than another hundred which were fed 20 lbs. of the same kind of turnips each, but in the open air or field. Five sheep were fed in the open air in November, the temperature being at 44 degrees; they consumed 90 lbs. of food per day, and at the end of ten days they weighed two pounds less than when first exposed. Five other sheep were then placed in a shed, the temperature being 49 degrees; at first they consumed 82 pounds per day, and at the end of the same time they had gained 23 lbs. This is proof sufficient of the advantages of sheltering stock in winter.

MONTHLY CATTLE FAIRS.

Although we have previously given the list of the established Monthly Cattle Fairs, applications are still made to us for the dates; we therefore quote the list again with additions, as follows:—

Guelph—First Wednesday in each month.
Harriston—Friday before Guelph Fair.
Bosworth—Saturday before Guelph Fair.
Elora—The day before Guelph Fair.
Drayton—The day before Elora Fair.
Clifford—Thursday before Guelph Fair.
Teviotdale—Friday before Guelph Fair.
Listowel—First Friday after Guelph Fair.
New Hamburg—First Tuesday in each month.
Stratford—First Thursday in each month.
Berlin—First Thursday in each month.
Elmira—Second Monday in each month.
Waterloo—Second Tuesday in each month.
Mount Forest—Third Wednesday in each month.
Durham—Tuesday preceding the above.
Fergus—Thursday following Mt. Bridges.
Orangeville—Second Thursday in January.
March, May, July, September, and November.
Mono Mills—Third Wednesday in January, April, July and October.
Erin—First Monday in January, April, July and October.
Masonville—First Tuesday in February, May, August and November.

Horticultural.

STRAWBERRY GROWING.

In reply to the enquiry of a subscriber, we give the following advice on Strawberry growing:—

First. Let your soil be suitable; a deep sandy or gravelly loam is best; some prefer clay, but it requires more labor; but any soil, well cultivated, and not too wet, will do. A suitable soil, well manured and thoroughly tilled, will give the best returns for your outlay.

Plow the land in the fall and prepare a compost of manure and peat to be thoroughly worked over before the time of planting. Put about ten loads of this compost to the acre. In April, if the ground be in good order, plough or dig this manure into the soil. Harrow well, and prepare the ground so that no water will lie on it.

Having your plants prepared, with the roots well pruned and kept moist, stretch your line along the ground, the rows at such a distance apart as to allow cultivation between them, varying from 2 to 3 feet, less or more. Open a drill neatly along the line, deep enough to allow the plants to be set so that they will not be under the surface, nor raised above it. Press the earth gently to the root of the plant. Keep the earth stirred from time to time as much as needed. Keeping the earth fresh has the effect of fertilizing it, besides keeping it free from weeds. You may allow two runners from each plant to remain and take root. If you allow more, it will interfere with their fruitfulness, and with the facility of keeping the soil in good till.

For hardiness and good produce, and safe keeping in carriage, we would recommend the Wilson strawberry. These are objects of consideration to the cultivator; though other varieties are of finer flavor.

To preserve strawberry plants in winter.—Cover them with straw, before the heat has quite left the ground, nearly one inch deep, or with stable litter. We have used for the purpose leaves raked up in the woods. There is, perhaps, no better covering for plants in the winter. It serves as a manure, becoming a vegetable mould, but it is apt to be blown off, unless kept on by branches strewn over. A cultivator of strawberries sows oats in the fall, between the rows. This is killed by the frost and falls on the ground, giving to the plants sufficient protection.

RINGWORM REMEDY.—Take one half teaspoonful of pulverized gunpowder, one half as much lard, mix well together. Apply once.

J. S. A.

The Household.

HYGIENIC TREATMENT OF SMALL-POX.

Dr. Trall, who has some reputation as a writer on hygiene and hydropathy, writes the following letter to the Philadelphia Evening Star in view of the fact that small pox was very prevalent in that city, and it was afterwards copied in the Health Reformer. This statement that he never lost a patient from this cause, or had one scarred or marked by pitting, renders his letter worthy of attentive consideration.

"Anciently, small-pox was treated with heating appliances, stimulants, sudorifics, warm rooms, abundant bedding, etc., on the theory that by such means 'nature' would be assisted in the work of purification. This practice was very fatal, the majority of the patients so treated being lost. Physicians then went to the opposite extreme, adopted the 'cold regimen,' and gave antiphlogistic medicines. This was the lesser of two evils, but still the mortality was great. The treatment usually prescribed at the present time by 'regular' physicians is intended to be a compromise of the two plans; it may be termed the 'alterative' method, and the average mortality is about one in five.

"It seems to me that a common-sense view of the nature and cause of the malady will at once suggest the proper treatment. Whatever may be the character of the virus, or contagion which causes small-pox, the disease itself is, obviously enough, an effort of the vital organism to purify itself by expelling the noxious matter through the surface of the body. If this process is successful, the patient will recover; if not, he will either die at the crisis, or become a chronic invalid. Whatever, therefore, favors this remedial effort is useful; and whatever retards or prevents it is injurious.

"Can medicines of any kind assist this process? I say, No. Why? If they are stimulants, they aggravate the fever. If depletants, they determine the process of depuration from the external skin to the internal mucous membranes. If alteratives, as the mercurials, they induce local inflammations, complicate and embarrass the remedial effort, and endanger the whole living machinery.

"Now, the hygienic or rational plan of treatment is as simple as it is sensible and successful. It consists in keeping the external temperature of every part of the body as nearly as possible to the normal standard. This rule of practice is universal and infallible, and applies to all forms and stages of the disease, and all conditions of the patient, nor need there be any difficulty in carrying it out. All that is needed is water of a proper temperature—warm, tepid, cool, or cold, applied in the form of ablu-tion as often as may be necessary.

"A single consideration is enough to show the propriety of this treatment. The patient's life depends on the successful expulsion of the small-pox virus through the skin. It cannot be done through any other emunctory. If the surface is either too hot or too cold, depuration is arrested, and the virus retained. If the capillary vessels of the skin are constricted by the cold, the virus is either retained in the blood, disorganizing the vital fluid, or it is deposited in the internal viscera, destroying them. And if the vessels of the skin are over-distended by heat, the virus is retained there, inflaming and corroding the cutaneous structure, as is seen in the confluent or malignant form.

"If, however, the temperature is maintained at about the normal standard, the circulation of the blood is constantly balanced, and congestion, the immediate cause of all danger, is prevented or removed. Neither the internal organs nor the skin is so overloaded with accumulated blood as to be unable to perform their functional part in the process of elimination, and the remedial action goes on successfully everywhere in the organism. The principal mortality, in all febrile diseases, is owing to the medicines or other measures which destroy the balance of circulation, inducing fatal congestion in some particular organ or part.

"I have myself treated scores of cases of small-pox, mild and malignant, hygienically, and have never lost a single case, nor has any one of my patients ever been marked or scarred by 'pitting.' During the winter of 1867, the small-pox was very prevalent in New York city, the death-rate sometimes exceeding fifty per cent. Among the students of our 'Hygienic Therapeutic College,' numbering more than fifty, were fifteen cases of small-pox. All were treated without medicines, and all recovered. Only one had the slightest pox-marks, or pitting, and that was occasioned by eating improper food during the eruption.

"One of the graduates of our school, being in the city, had the disease, and, not having convenience for hygienic treatment at his boarding house, went to the hospital on the Island, took medicine (whiskey punch principally), and died. Another graduate of our school fell into the hands of his 'friends,' who induced him to take medicine; he died also. But no case treated in New York hygienically, during my residence there of twenty-five years, was ever lost.

"But I am not alone in this testimony. A few years ago, Dr. Snow, Health Officer of Providence, R. I., reported in the Boston

Medical and Surgical Journal, that he had treated all of the cases of small-pox which prevailed epidemically in that city, without a particle of medicine, and without losing a patient.

"I could fill your paper with similar statistics, but 'enough is as good as a feast.' Of course, while ablu-tion is the only medical treatment required for small-pox, it is important that all hygienic conditions be attended to.—The apartment should be kept clean, well ventilated, as cool as the patient can bear without discomfort, and well lighted. Light and air are the best disinfectants yet discovered.

"R. T. TRALL, M. D.

"Florence Heights, N. J., Nov. 4, 1871."

[The above we transcribe from one of our exchanges. When medical advice cannot be at once obtained, it is always well to know some simple method of treating dangerous diseases. But no man in such cases should, in reliance on himself or others unskilled, delay in calling in a good physician, having his diplomas from some of the best schools.—Ass't Ed.]

TAKE ENOUGH SLEEP.

Said one of the oldest and most successful farmers in this State: "I do not care to have my men get up before five or half-past five in the morning, and if they can go to bed early and sleep soundly, they will do more work than if they got up at four or half-past four." We do not believe in the eight hour law, but nevertheless, are inclined to think that, as a general rule, we work too many hours on the farm. The best man we ever had to dig ditches seldom worked when digging by the rod, more than nine hours a day. And it is so in chopping wood by the cord; the men who accomplish the most, work the fewest hours. They bring all their brain and muscle into exercise and make every blow tell. A slow, plodding Dutchman may turn a grindstone or fanning mill better than an energetic Yankee, but this kind of work is now mostly done by horse power, and the farmer needs above all else, a clear head, with all his faculties of mind and muscle light and active, and under full control. Much of course, depends on temperament; but as a rule, such men need sound sleep and plenty of it. When a boy on the farm, we are told that Napoleon needed only four hours sleep, and the old nonsense of "five hours for a man, six hours for a woman, and seven hours for a fool," was often quoted. But the truth is that Napoleon was enabled, in a great measure, to accomplish what he did from the facility of sleeping soundly of sleeping when he slept and working when he worked. We have sat in one of his favorite travel-ing carriages, and it was so arranged that he could lie down at full length, and when dashing through the country as fast as eight horses, frequently changed, could carry him, he slept soundly and when he awoke at his destination was as fresh as if he had risen from a bed of down. Let farmers, and especially farmers' boys, have plenty to eat, nothing to "drink," and all the sleep they can take.—N. Y. Agriculturalist.

AUSTRALIAN CURE FOR SORE THROAT.

—A correspondent of the Queenslander gives the following cure for sore throat:—"It cannot be too generally known that all forms of sore throat, whether simple, ulcerated, quinzy, diphtheria, scarlet fever or otherwise, can be totally or greatly alleviated by wearing a soft oil silk kerchief twice around the neck, high up and next to the skin, especially if worn at night when the pain is first felt. Not only does the silk cure the sore throat, but it prevents a recurrence of it. I was formerly a martyr to quinzy and ulcerated sore throat, and used to have a whole month of it regularly every winter, and in spite, too, of all the usual battery of pills, gargles, etc., it run its course till I tried the silk; the sore throat then took the hint and left me alone ever since as a bad customer. I invariably killed it in an hour of any attempt it made upon me; an old sore throat will take a day to cure. Mind, I do not pretend to say that the silk will cure fever or any other symptom or complication that may accompany sore throat, but this I do say, that it will cure and remove all pain and difficulty of swallowing in the throat without the aid of any local remedy, or it will do it in spite of them, if you do apply them and it both, but without it, cure comes only by nature, not physic, as far as the sore throat goes; other remedies are neither good nor harm, except as they keep you from trying the infallible silk."