

SHEEP AND SWINE.

PIG PENS AND YARDS.

The pigs have never had the credit as manure makers that they are entitled to, and yet they are capable of producing far more manure, and of most excellent quality, than any other kind of farm stock, where they are kept in comfortable and roomy pens and are liberally supplied with material to work over and convert into manure. From a herd of ten porkers we have annually taken ten large loads, on an average, and of course we had to keep them penned almost constantly, the entire season to secure this, but it paid us well to do so. It may cost less, in cash and labour to run the pigs in a good clover pasture during the summer, and in many cases it pays to do so, as far as healthfulness is concerned; but the manure is a very important item on many farms. When the pens and yards are substantially constructed and are roomy, there need be no fear of unhealthfulness amongst the porkers. In the construction of the pens we have found it to be desirable to raise them up about two feet above the level of the yards and the surface of the ground underneath the pens, so as to insure freedom from dampness, which adds much to the cleanliness and healthfulness of the animals. By raising them from eighteen inches to two feet, there is no danger of rats finding a safe harbour underneath, as the cats or the dogs can soon dislodge them. The face or front of the pens should be towards the south or south-east, and should be well-covered to protect from wind and weather, made of rough inch pine boards, the troughs made of two-inch pine plank, rimmed with iron to protect them from the teeth of the swine. The floors should be made of two inch pine or oak and about three-fourths of an inch should be left between each plank, to secure drainage, or else the floor can be made tight and inch auger holes bored in different places along the floor, to secure the same end. The floor should slope from the trough to the yard at the rear, while immediately under the trough there should be a narrow space, running lengthwise of the trough, to drain off any surplus moisture which would otherwise collect there, to rot the floor. Eight feet by eight feet make very good sized pens, and two or three such pens (or more if needed) can be arranged in a row. To facilitate cleaning the pens, we only roofed over about six feet of the pens, from back to front, sloping the roof to the rear and yards. The height of the pens depend very much on circumstances, though we found four feet to be a very good height, and three feet high frequently sufficing, the front of the roof being about two feet or eighteen inches higher at the highest point, and boarded down in front to the level with the top of the pens, to keep out the wind and weather. For bedding, in the pens, we consider cornstalks much the best that can be used, as it is soon crushed by the porkers, so as to make a good bed, but does not mat down and become so filthy in a little while as does straw. The yards should be made very substantially, and sliding doors should be made between each pen, to facilitate the removal of pigs from one yard to another. There should also be sliding doors made at the end of each yard, so the pigs can be taken out or put in quickly and with but little trouble. We have found it a decided advantage to have the yards open into the barn-yard. Not only does this make it handy to fill up the pig yard with litter, straw, etc., but the pens can then be more easily and quickly cleaned, the manure being thrown into the barn-yard. A yard eight feet wide by eight or ten feet long is of very good size, and if two or three good sized pigs are kept in each pen (they will hold more), and plenty of leaves, straw,

cornstalks, and trash from the place is kept constantly supplied to the yard, there will be a large lot of manure to take from the pig yard each season, and it is frequently removed only once or twice each year. To make the porkers work over the manure better, it is a good plan to throw a full handful of shelled corn in the yards, when the pigs will soon turn over the entire mass in their eager search for the covered grains.—*Farm and Garden.*

ABOUT SHEEP.

Jason, the hero of the Argonaut expedition not only obtained the golden fleece, but won a fair lady also. The sheep figures prominently in his story, and the story of Jason, whether true or not, has given rise to many poetical reflections. Nephelo, queen of Thebes, provided her children, Phryxus and Helle a ram with a golden fleece, with which to escape from those who sought their lives. The rapid motion of the ram in his aerial flight caused the head of Helle to swim, and she fell from his back into the Hellespont and was drowned. Phryxus arrived at Colchis, but was murdered by his father-in-law who envied him his treasure. To recover this valuable fleece, Jason encountered many dangers in the Argo, said to be the first ship which ever ventured on the sea. Not only have the sheep given a great impulse to navigation and commerce, but shepherds, as a class have been noted for astronomical calculations and poetical reflections. And the reason is plain. The flockmaster had leisure both by day and by night, which was favourable to study and the contemplation of the heavens.

Shepherds on the plains of Bethlehem first beheld that wonderful star which betokened the advent of Christ into our world. There is no animal which gives rise to so many interesting figures of speech, or which is so frequently used by the inspired penman as the sheep. When God's people had wandered into forbidden paths, what were they in the view of the sacred writers, but the lost sheep of Israel. David, the greatest warrior and poet of the Hebrews, was a shepherd boy, and it was in defence of the "gentle animal" that he slew the lion and the bear, and from the experience thus gained, he was able in after years to overcome the boasting Philistines, and like Jason, obtain the hand of a king's daughter. But for the aid of the fair princess Media, the hero of the Argonaut expedition would have failed in his magnificent enterprise, and David without Michal, Saul's daughter, could not have been the founder of a long line of kings. Had David also not been faithful, as the guardian of his father's sheep, rescuing the tender lambs from the jaws of the beasts of the forest, he could never have attained to that prominence that distinguished him as a poet and a ruler, and which paved the way for all that wealth and grandeur enjoyed by Solomon, his son and successor.

Job, who was known as the most patient man on record, was the most successful wool grower of ancient times. Though he lost all his possessions by a series of calamities, and was attacked by such a dire disease that his wife called on him to curse God and die, yet he did not complain; but was able by his skill in sheep husbandry to retrieve his fortune, so that it was said of him that his last days were better than the first. Though reduced to poverty at an age when most men would have given up in despair, he continued at his old occupation, and not only recovered the wealth he had possessed, but doubled it, having in his last days 14,000 sheep and 1,000 yoke of oxen, as the result of his patience and perseverance. Job owed his success mostly to sheep, which give both the wool and the increase. By no other animal could he have so soon regained

his lost wealth and power. If he had relied upon cattle he might have died poor and unknown to fame. Had he invested in horses, his sons might have all been ruined, and spent their time at the races or in lager beer saloons. As it was, they were steady going fellows, became experienced flock masters, and helped their father to speedily regain all his former property and glory.—*Correspondent in Rural Home.*

BERKSHIRES AND POLAND-CHINAS.

For some years past I have been breeding both Berkshires and Poland-Chinas, and have often felt at a loss to decide which I preferred. I have just been asked this question, and it has set me to thinking over the matter once again. Of course much depends upon the comparative excellence of the specimens of each breed. One may have good pigs of one breed and poor of the other. We have, I think, good specimens of each. Our Berkshires are of middle size, maturing to 400 or 450 pounds. They are neat, smooth, and weigh well for their looks. The best looking hogs we have are yearling Berkshire sows. On the other hand, the Poland-China pigs, almost without exception, out-grow, out-fatten, and look much better than the Berkshire pigs. We have more "runts" among the Berkshires, and the litters are not usually large. Fully matured, I must give my preference to the Berkshire; but I come round to the conclusion that with us the Poland-China is the more profitable general-purpose hog. I have not noticed perceptible difference in vitality, except that the Berkshire pigs do not seem to thrive as well after weaning, and they are clearly more active and energetic; perhaps too much so. Either breed is good, but if compelled to choose, I would take the Poland-China on an average.—*Correspondent in Breeders' Gazette.*

A SICK SHEEP.

A sheep is peculiar in respect of eating well and retaining the brightness of the eyes while it is gradually wasting by sickness until it dies at the feed-trough. When a sheep loses flesh and becomes very thin without exhibiting any other marked symptoms of disease it is probable that it is suffering from tuberculosis of the intestines. If the skin is pale and the eyes unusually bright, this is still more probable. If the eyes are yellowish and the skin of a yellow cast, the disease is in the liver. If the dung is soft and of a fetid odour, the digestive organs are involved. If the urine is thick or of an unusual appearance or odour, disease of the kidneys or of the liver may be suspected. All these disorders would be accompanied with loss of flesh and gradual wasting, but it is impossible to advise any treatment without knowing precisely what is the matter.

HOG CHOLERA.

A Kansas Farmer says: "When the cholera got among my hogs I put corn on a brush heap and burned it. The hogs ate the ashes and the charred corn. Then I put coal-oil in milk, a few spoonfuls to every hog and fed that to them. I have not lost a hog." The hogs were sick with the cholera, and recovered under that treatment.

ACUTENESS of the sheep's ear, says the Ettrick Shepherd, surpasses all things in nature that I know of. A ewe will distinguish her own lamb's bleat among a thousand, all braying at the same time. The distinguishment of voice is perfectly reciprocal between the ewe and the lamb, who, amid the deafening sound, run to meet one another.