

The Farm.

Willow Trees.

There are at least three valuable varieties of the willow family. There are other varieties of little value. The variety of greatest value, in our estimation, is the Scotch or grass leaved. This is a rapid grower, reaches a good size and makes a fine looking tree. Next, the white. This was very generally introduced thirty-five years ago, and was found to be a rapid grower. It did not prove "the thing" for fence (the purpose for which it was recommended), but it produced and is yet producing many cords of good fuel. It was not a failure as a fence, but few farmers are willing to lose the use of four to six rods of good land to maintain a fence. Either of the varieties named provides a good windbreak. The most beautiful of the willows is the drooping or weeping. Indeed, there are few more beautiful trees for the city lot, the suburban lawn or country home. I have them, growing from cuttings of last year, five feet in height. Were we asked from what source can fuel for a family be grown most readily and the supply maintained, we would reply without hesitation, from the willow. It affords a fairly good fuel. The bark of the willow is equal to that of the hickory or sugar maple. The wood is not their equal.

On all wet, moist or waste lands willows may be grown with profit. They will be found to be a wonderful absorber of water—almost equal to an underdrain. The willow should be propagated along all water courses, especially where banks are liable to wash. The roots are a strong defence against the floods. Willows are first green in the spring and latest green in the autumn. What I have said of the willow may with equal truth be said of the cottonwood, the great drawback to which, however, is its prolific downy seeding.—(New-England Farmer.

Drugging Animals.

The sheep editor wants it particularly understood that he is not in favor of an indiscriminate drugging of sheep or any other animals. Health is the normal condition of animal life, and barring contagious or epidemics disease in flock or herd is due to abnormal conditions of feeding and care. Improper food, too much or too little of it, improperly combined food, long continued feeding on one kind of food, impure water, enforced exposure to storms or cold, or intense heat, are in nearly every case responsible for sickness or want of thrift in animals. If they get sick, show an indisposition to eat or begin to fall off in condition the matter of feeding should be first thought of, and in a large majority of cases change of diet alone will restore health and condition.

If in such cases a tonic seems to be necessary to hasten the correction of past errors on the feeder's part, give to sheep the following: Pulv. sulphate of iron, 2 oz; pulv. gentian root, 1 oz; pulv. ginger, 1/2 oz. A teaspoonful twice a day for three or four days will probably be sufficient. If colds are indicated, learn the cause and see that it does not occur again, when nature will soon effect a cure, though pine tar in feeding troughs will assist, especially if there is some coughing. But when sheep are sick do not think of drugs first, but of change of food and care, and if you must give drugs know what you are giving; do not buy nostrums that you know nothing of.—(James Arnold, in Farm, Stock and Home.

The Hog Pasture.

Every swine grower knows that success in pork production is best promoted by having an abundance of good pasture. The hogs thrive best and make pork cheapest on grass and clover, for, by nature, the pig feeds on grass as well as grains, notwithstanding the small size of its stomach. Pigs like blue grass pasture well, and it comes early, but brood sows that are nursing should be turned on it with caution and gradually get accustomed to it, otherwise it will effect the milk, and the swine grower will be wondering what is the matter with the young pigs. Blue grass is also fine fall pasture for brood sows, after the clover has been nipped by the frost. Clover is a fine summer pasture, hard to improve upon, and coming in when blue grass has become a little dry and unpalatable, and both the sows and pigs can almost live upon it until fall. We say "almost" advisedly for pigs feed naturally on grass as well as grain, and not on grass exclusively at any season. Clover should be managed so that pigs will always have it young and tender. When it becomes woody larger stock should eat it down or it should be mowed, so as to allow the new growth to come on. Rape is also being more largely grown for hog pasture, and it makes a very good one, especially in the fall, and early fall sown rye serves an excellent purpose after it has made a good growth. With reasonable forethought it is no very difficult matter to provide good pasture for the hogs the whole season through, and they will be all the better for it as well as more cheaply grown. No one should try to raise hogs without plenty of pasture throughout the season, but remember also that it takes grain to make a marketable hog and to keep brood sows up to their work.—(Western Swineherd.

There are comparatively few places where the milking is now done by women and children. Their hands are not strong enough to do the work effectively, and a slow milker tires the cow so that she is apt to hold up the last milk, which is richest. This dries the cow off. It is to the interest of the farmer to hire only men who are used to milking, who are kind to all animals, and especially when they are milking. Whoever beats a cow, or even speaks loudly to her as to frighten her lessens her product in the milk pail.—(Live Stock.

Medicine or Poison?

The sorrows of life come to all, though they seem to come in very different measure; but the point for us to observe is how differently they affect the wise and the foolish. Some men murmur against God's dealings, and even against his just punishments; they resent his chastisements with an unsubmitting anger as mad as it is impotent. Others accept all God's dealings with them, knowing that what he doeth is well. They accept them, it may be, with bowed head and weeping eyes, yet with the heart of a weaned child. To these the miseries which God sends come as a healing medicine; to the others they come as a maddening draught.—F. W. Farrar.

The Montana Stockgrowers' Journal says: "More range horses were shipped from Wyoming during the past year than ever before for the same period, and the coming season will witness a shortage of these animals in not only that State, but in Montana and Idaho. Hundreds of ranchmen who for ten years past have paid no attention to horses, are now breeding and increasing their horse herds, improving the stock and preparing to rear animals which will bring them more profit and more credit.

We have all passed by many places where the only ornament about the house was a long row of weeds or unsightly bushes along the dooryard fence, sure refuge for worms and insects of various kinds. Why not cut these out and put in their stead a few flowers. We must learn to do all we can to make the home attractive if we would keep our boys and girls on the farm, and flowers will go a good way toward doing this. For the money and time expended upon them, nothing will return greater reward than flowers.

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