

FEEDING STEERS IN TEXAS. No Necessity Now of Sending Their Steers North.

The recent meeting at Denver of the stockmen's convention demonstrated the fact that the breeders of Texas are holding their cattle at much higher fig-nres than heretofore, and it is thought that these high prices are demanded not only because of the scarcity of cattle, but because the Texas experiment station has shown the stock breeders and feeders of the state through its publications that the supply of feed stuffs in Texas is ample and that there is now no necessity for shipping thin steers to the north and to the northwest to be fed, while at the same time the cottonseed mills and the producers of hay are exporting their products to other states and to foreign countries.

ing cattle as well as toward raising better stock in the Lone Star State. It will not be long before Texas breeders will cease to turn over a large part of their annual increase to the feeders and range people of the northwest. Earlier feeding will be the rule, and the steers that are fattened upon meal and hulls will have a smaller ration of cornmeal given them, which will enable the feeder to extend the feeding period from 100 to 150 days, completing the fattening process and deriving the highest prices for beeves on foot when delivered at the Kansas City, St. Louis or Chicago stockyards. Such a practice will be more profitable from every standpoint. Texas cattlemen have been raising the cattle and allowing a second party to finish them off and to make a handsome profit, entirely overlooking the vast amount of foodstuffs produced in the state, much of which is destroyed by weevil or is shipped out at very low prices through the port of Galveston or by northern trunk lines to the cities of the north and east.

Texas cattle are worth as much to the Texas people as to the people of the north and west because of the abundance of foodstuffs. Undoubtedly it costs less in Texas per ton to raise hay or 100 pounds of dry matter, as found in cottonseed and cottonseed meal or the hull, than in any other portion of the Union. It is therefore encouraging to know that Texas breeders are holding their cattle for higher prices, and it is certain that by intelligently feeding the crude steer the crude feeding products can be so combined as to afford the largest possible profits in this branch of stock raising.

Fatal Horse Disease. A rather fatal horse disease exists in some parts of Illinois. The disease is a form of cerebro-spinal meningitis and is caused largely by an error in diet, but unfortunately the error is not discovered till more or less loss has been sustained. Investigation into the outbreak has resulted without exception in the discovery that the horses afflicted had been fed unripe or unsound corn, a favorable condition for the production of fungi. The first indication of the disease is that the horse does not have good vision, perhaps only one eye being affected, more frequently both. Delirium soon after sets in, and if not restrained the animal will go through fences or other obstacles, being apparently unconscious of its actions. In from 5 to 12 hours, sometimes longer, the horse loses power of locomotion, when death soon follows. The disease is so acute that

treatment is of no avail. Sap Injuring Sheep Sheep are exceedingly fond of the sweet of the maple, and if allowed it to excess. One of its effects is to make the sheep stagger, or, as people say, "become drunk." This, however, is a misnomer, for in the maple sap while it remains sweet there is no intoxicating quality. The real effect of to weaken the sheep. So much liquid causes the sheep to urinate enormously, and it also prevents the animal from eating as much nourishing food as it requires. It has been said that sheep advanced in pregnancy will abort if they get at the sap troughs. This may come from making them too weak, so that they lie on the cold ground and are chilled. After a chill, then, of course, a fever naturally follows, and both the sheep and its unborn

lamb are lost. - Boston Cultivator.

Fecundity In Swine. The impression is prevalent among farmers that pure bred swine are uncreases fecundity decreases. The question of the fecundity of improved breeds of swine was investigated recently by the Indiana station. The humber of pigs farrowed and raised in the first and the last 200 litters recorded in the registers of Berkshire, Pound-China and Chester White pigs were compiled. In comparing the litters 100 litters were selected in which the sows were recorded and 100 in which the boars were recorded. The dates of farrowing of the first 200 litters varied through a number of years. The last 200 litters were almost all farrowed in 1896. The popular opinion was not confirmed by this investiga-

High Class Wool. The last American clip is one of the cleanest, lightest and brightest in a decade, the range clip never more so, and if only it could be put on the market in the same high condition as Australasian wools it would not need to take second place to any of the ranking wools
of the world.—Live Stack CARE OF HORSES.

Daily Misuse Which Leads to Inevi-Harm is frequently done from want

is too frequently the victim, says a correspondent of the London Live Stock Journal. The attendants upon horsesat least a section of them-appear to have the idea that a horse is of iron construction, something in the nature of a machine, in place of being built up pretty much on the same lines as the human frame. Where these erroneous ideas prevail the horse is treated as a machine, its days of utility, its years of work and service are materially curtailed, and many sudden deaths occur. It would well repay owners of horses to have hung in their stables and to bring before grooms and drivers some such rules as the following: Never kick a horse in the belly. Remember that a horse has organs to be injured just as has man, wind to be broken, bowels to be ruptured, heart and lungs to be affected, limbs and tendons to be broken, injured or sprained. To prevent this, use the animals as you use yourself in regard to drafts and chills. Whether in saddle, conveyance, cart or wagon, never start a horse with the whip antil previously signaled by the The tide is now turning toward feedvoice. In the ascent of a hill never put on speed until the summit is fully reached, a few yards allowed to recover wind and strength. The bulk of drivers start their horses when 10 or 15 yards from the top. Exhausted and puffed by the ascent, the call upon exhausted energies at the very worst time leads to ruptured bowels, broken wind, sprained tendons, wornout legs, etc.-a horse spoiled for life. It is not one call, but the daily calls which lead up to the

> Angora Goats. H. T. Fuchs of Texas has this to say of Angoras: "Any part of western and central Texas is good for goats where you find plenty of brush, herbs and weeds, with clean water and rough, hilly, rocky country. A well graded



ANGORA BUCK.

flock will produce four pounds of mohair per capita each year. The muttons can be easily sold to Texas butchers, as everybody is fond of Angora mutton. They pay as well as sheep or better, and do not need as good range as sheep. These goats will do well where other stock will starve. In kidding time you should keep the does that bring kids in a separate small pasture that is not too brushy, so you can find and bring home the kids at night. About the only kind of feed I ever give my Angoras is cutting down some live oaks in the winter in case of snow and sleet. Where we have plenty of range inside of a wolfproof fence we can raise these most profitable and beautiful animals as cheap as or cheaper than chickens."

High Feeding Causes Garget. As the cow or other breeding animal approaches time of parturition, high feeding, either to stimulate milk flow or to make it richer, should for the time be suspended. Of the two, the kinds that tend to make the milk richer, or, in other words, to fatten the cow, are worst. But we should not advise any farmer to feed heavily with grain, which will cause fever and make the animal feverish, though this may be nature's effort to lessen the milk flow so that the udder can hold it. The food should be laxative rather than constipatwhere trees are tapped they will drink ing. Ensilage and roots of all kinds are good if not given in too large amounts. The only grain given should be three or four nubbins of corn daily until the calf is dropped. The cow will eat these readily, and they will cleanse the stomach preparatory to the time when parturition begins. - Boston Cultivator.

Risks In Feeding Alfalfa. It is one of the risks of feeding alfalfa that it may act in too stimulating a manner on the kidneys and after a short time produce a soft, watery swelling under the jaws which indicates a bad condition of the blood, and whatever the special cause of it may be, whether from the liver or the kidneys, immediate treatment is called for. This should be four ounces of epsom salts dissolved in some warm thin gruel of oatmeal or linseed. Fifteen grains of podophyllin should be given in some soft feed or gruel. Give it mornings and evenings. profitable for breeding purposes, as it Alternately with this give three scruis thought that as purity of breed in ples of iodide of potassium for three ples of iodide of potassium for three days. Feed moderately of oats with one-fourth the quantity of linseed .-Live Stock.

Porcupine Grass. Several hundred sheep in Indiana which were presumed to be suffering from a new disease, baffling the veter inarians, and which carried off many of the animals are now found to be suffering from punctured hides, due to spears of porcupine grass, a product of the prairies. In some places they had penetrated the flesh to the depth of an inch, and inflammation and decay set in, resulting almost invariably in death. The animals, it is found, were shipped in from the west, and the discovery of the queer affliction was made by a scientist from Purdue university.

Twenty Consecutive Foals. There is on record the statement that crossbred mare in Scotland was breeding at the advanced age of 32 years. She had given birth to 20 foals in 20 Virginia and the latter in New Eng-

thought, and in this respect the horse

HOW TO GROW ANNUALS. Make the Soil Rich, Seed Freely and

Study Color Effects. The annual flowers of the seedsmen are those which give their best bloom in the very year in which the seeds are sown. The true annuals are those plants which complete their entire life cycle in one season. Some of the so called annual flowers will continue to bloom the second and third years, but the bloom is so poor and sparse after the first season that it does not pay to keep

Prepare the ground thoroughly and deep. Annuals must make a quick growth. See that the soil contains enough humus or vegetable matter to make it rich and enable it to hold moisture. If the ground is not naturally rich, spade in well rotted manure or mold from the woods. A little commercial fertilizer may help in starting off the plants quickly. Prepare the land as early in spring as it is in fit condition and prevent evaporation by keeping the surface loose by means of raking.

If the flowers are to be grown about the edges of the lawn, make sure that the grass roots do not run underneath them and rob them of food and moisture. It is well to run a sharp spade deep into the ground about the edges of the bed every two or three weeks for the purpose of cutting off any grass roots which may have run into the bed. If beds are made in the turf, see that they are three feet or more wide, so that the grass roots will not undermine them. Against the shrub borders this precaution may not be necessary. In fact, it is desirable that the flowers fill all the space between the overhanging branches and the sod.

Sow the seeds freely. Many will not germinate. Even if they do all germinate, the combined strength of the risng plantlets will break the crust on the hard soils, and in the thinning which follows only strong and promising plants are allowed to remain. Better effects are also often secured when the colors are in masses, especially if the

There are groups of standard or general purpose plants which are easily grown almost anywhere and are sure to give satisfaction. The groups which most strongly appeal to the writer (Pro-161,) as staple or general purpose types are: Petunias, phloxes, pinks, or dianthuses; larkspurs, or delphiniums; calliopsis, or coreopsis; pot marigold, or calendula; bachelor's button, or Centaurea cyanus; clarkias, zinnias, marigolds, or tagetes; collinsias, gilias, California poppies, or eschecholtzias; verbenas, China asters, sweet peas, nemophulas, portulaccas, silenes, candytufts, alyssum, stocks, morning glories and nasturtiums, or tropæolums.

A Superb New Plum. Mr. Luther Burbank, the originator of a large number of new and noted plums which are being largely planted, pronounces the October Purple the best of them all, according to American Gardening, which quotes him thus in illustrating the fruit: "The October Purple is a splendid grower, ripens up its wood early to the tip, bears every season and fruits all over the old wood



branches, like many other kinds; fruit very large and uniform in size. It is a

superb variety."

The fruit is described as measuring a trifle over seven inches in circumference and shows long keeping quality. The fruit is round in form, color a reddish purple, a little darker than the Bradshaw; flesh yellow, stone small and in quality superb. The tree is a strong, erect grower, forming a nice, shapely head, something like Abundance in this respect. It is, however, a more symmetrical and shapely grower. Its season of ripening is about a month later than Abundance or Burbank, or from the middle to last of September. Its large, even size and beautiful color, late season in ripening, long keeping and superb quality will make it a very desirable variety for the garden or for

The Country Gentleman presents remarks made before the Eastern New York Horticultural society by Mr. Charles Foster, in which occurs the following: Let me say that the time has come when our growers recognize the necessity of coming together on this estion. Our barrel manufacturers are ready for the change, and there is today no widespread opposition to legislation that will place us in fair competition in the markets of this country and Europe with the larger barrel now in general use in the western states, Virginia, New England and Canada. What we desire is a package of the capacity of the flour barrel, which is 171/8 inches diameter of head, 281/2

inches stave and 64 inches bulge. There

is nothing in our bill which precludes

the use of new or secondhand flour

barrels—the former so largely used in

A Uniform Apple Barrel.

USERS OF MORPHINE.

THE DRUG RAPIDLY ENLARGING ITS CIRCLE OF VICTIMS.

Women In New York, Says a Physician of That City, Are Worshiping at the Shrine of the Death Breeder In Great Numbers.

"The amount of morphine used by women in New York is increasing at an alarming rate," said a physician. "I do not give the drug at all, save in extreme cases, for I believe we doctors are largely responsible for the spread of the evil. It seems such an easy, merciful thing to relieve acute suffering by a dose of morphine, and it would be all right if the patients couldn't get the drug themselves. They can get it. There's the trouble.

"I was called to see one of my patients last week. She is a wealthy woman. She developed the morphine habit two years ago, when she had a serious illness. Since then she has had periodical sprees with morphine, in spite of all we could do to prevent her. She always says that the deplorable state she gets into is due to other causes, but I can tell, as soon as I see her, whether she has been taking morphine. Last week, when I went to see her, she was a nervous wreck and said she had been agonizing with rheumatism. Rheumatism is a handy thing. A doctor can't swear that a patient hasn't got it. I accused the woman of having been on a morphine spree. She denied it. I appealed to her husband. He searched her bureau and chiffonier and found 200 morphine pills. She had bought them all at one time, but wouldn't tell who sold them to her. "Of course there's a law against sell-

ing morphine except on prescription, but a morphine fiend can always get it if he is persistent, and generally he is so. Any physician can tell a habitual morphine taker at a glance. So can a druggist. The latter reads the unmistakable signs in a man's face and, if he hasn't a conscience, will sell the morphine victim what he wants. The druggist knows that the purchaser will guard the secret quite as closely as he could. But, if a person with no symptoms of the morphine habit wants to buy the drug, he will probably have great diffidowers are thrown into the bays of culty in getting it. No pharmacist, even if not particularly reputable, wants to take the chances of being hauled up for a breach of the law. "I am constantly running across

fessor L. H. Bailey, Cornell, bulletin lead when active socially uses up their nerves and they take mornhine for neu ralgia until they can't get along without it. Usually they are ashamed of the habit and conceal it carefully, but sometimes they are quite open about it, take their morphine regularly and will not listen to reason. Not a month ago a beautiful young woman showed me a new chatelaine ornament she had just bought. It was a remarkably hand gold case, studded with jewels, and looked like a vinaigrette. The top opened, and inside were a tiny hypodermic syringe and tube of morphine. I said something more forcible than polite and tried to make her see the insanity of the thing, but she only laughed and told me she carried morphine pills in her chatelaine bonbonniere, so that she would be all right if she happened to be where she couldn't use the hypodermic, which she preferred. I threatened to tell her husband, but she said he knew about it and didn't care. She didn't bother him, and he didn't bother her. I on spurs instead of away out on the went to the husband, and he merely shrugged his shoulders and said he never interfered with his wife. Then I relieved my mind again and told him what I thought of him—and now there is one family less on my list of patients. "That was an exceptional case, I ad-

person who takes morphine do everything possible to break up the habit, but a morphine fiend is remarkable for cleverness. A great many women who don't want any one to know that they have the habit work the physicians for morphine. I know women of good famtries morphine. If he is clever enough to see through the thing and too conscientious to help out the little farce, he gives up the case. Another doctor is called in and another, until one prescribes what is wanted. That's an old, old game. Many a struggling young doctor has thought his fortune made because a wealthy woman in his neighborhood called him in, but when she is seriously ill she goes back to her old writing." Miss Jane Barlow sent a doctor She only wants the new one to prescribe morphine for her neuralgia. "There's no excuse in the world for

a doctor acquiring the morphine habit He knows better Yet some of the doctors do it. One famous old New York doctor used to take his morphine as whenever he gave a hypodermic injection to a patient, he took one himself while he had the syringe out, just for sociability, I suppose. He never went to pieces under it, but I presume he would have done so in time.

"No one but a physician can realize how this special vice is increasing and how serious a problem it presents. As a class the medical profession takes a strong stand against it, but I confess I'm feeling rather discouraged. The person who takes a dose of morphine for anything within the limits of endurance is a fool—but the world is full of fools."

An Illustration. Teacher-John, illustrate the difference between sit and set. Bright and Patriotic Boy - The United States is a country on which the sun never sets and the rest of the world never sits - Detroit Journal.

THE BALKY HORSE.

A Simple Scheme of the Motorman That Made Him Go. People near the New York entrance of the bridge saw a balky horse frustrated with delightful ease the other day by a man who openly confessed that he had no practical or theoretical knowledge of horsemanship. He was the motorman of a Fourth avenue car bound toward the terminal at the bridge. The horse was one of those angular, cockeyed, ungainly beasts that no amount of currying and feeding could make respectable.

It had stopped square in the middle of the track and had spread its feet apart as though its mind was made up to hold the street against the world. In a few minutes four trolley cars were backed up behind the cart and more were in sight down Center street. Motormen, conductors, truck drivers, assorted citizens and a policeman stood around and gave the usual advice. The driver kicked the horse and two or three men called to the policeman to stop him. Then they in turn made humane suggestions about starting a fire under the beast's stomach. A woman said that it would be easy enough for any one to coax him along with a lump of sugar.

The motorman of the fifth trolley car, which had by this time reached the end of the blocked line, walked up and surveyed the situation.
"Whose car is this?" he asked, point-

ing to the first car that had come up behind the wagon to which the balky horse was attached. "It's mine," said another motorman, who was fingering a brass motor handle

as though he would like to brain the horse with it. The motorman from the rear hoisted the car's front fender and strapped it in place, folded against the dashboard.
"Now," he said to the motorman who had claimed the car, "go ahead,

very easy." Then, turning to the disconsolately profane driver of the horse, he said, "Get up and take hold of the The car ran forward until the fender reached the tailboard of the wagon. "Now," said the self appointed master of ceremonies to his fellow motorman, "start up as fast as you durn please, and don't stop until you get to the

bridge." The car started. The wagon started. The horse in the shafts simply had to start. He slid and shoved back for a few inches and then broke into a helpless gallop. The car came banging along change his mind and balk again. The of it. spectators cheered. The ingenious mo-

"Say!" he said. "Say! Some people are dead slow, eh?"

THE MODERN ENGLISHMAN. An Incident Which Aptly Illustrates

To illustrate the deliberateness of the modern Englishman let me tell of a hat which blew off a mechanic's head on the top of a bus crossing Albert bridge. A stiff breeze blew up the Thames, and the hat was whirled against the side of the bridge and then went spinning down the footway in the opposite direction from that which the omnibus pursued. "I say," said the mechanic, reaching over and touching the driver on the shoulder; "me 'at's blowed off." The driver fidgeted a moment at this sudden interruption, then took a tighter grasp of the reins and clucked to the horses to quicken their pace. The hat and the vehicle spun along in opposite ways. "I say, driver," said the mechanic; "me 'at's blowed off." The driver fidgeted again, but now his mind grasped the situation, though most unwill-

ingly.
"It 'as, 'as it?" he said, turning to mit. Usually relatives and friends of a the man. "Well, then, that'll teach you to buy 'ats to fit your 'ead. I 'ad a 'ole lot of 'ats blow off before I made up me mind to get 'em to fit me 'ead. After that I 'ad no more trouble.'

The hat was still bowling along and was now at the farther end of the bridge. The mechanic looked at it ily who never go more than two weeks dully. I was in a fever of gratuitous without terrible attacks of neuralgia or impatience for the bus to stop or for rheumatism or something else that the man to climb down. The driver causes excruciating agony. The doctor turned back to his work and clucked to is called in and tries to relieve the wo- his horses, who quickened their gait. man, but nothing relieves her until he Just then a vagrant stopped the flight of the hat and ran and caught the bus and got a penny for his pains. So every one was happy, even L—Julian Ralph in Harper's Magazine. Payn's Fearful Writing.

James Pavn's chirography is some thing fearful to contemplate. It is simply execrable. The Academy tells a nice story about Payn's "bewildering handpoem as a first contribution to The Cornhill when Payn was its editor.

Think of the lady receiving a brief line which she interpreted as follows: "I have no use for silly verses. Of course Miss Barlow indulged in copious tears. There never was such an regularly as he took his breakfast, and, ill mannered snub. Then she commenced to study the scrawl. Now came a gleam of light, for she dimly made out what it really was, "I hope to use

your pretty verses.' Alas, when you are, as a poet, "declined with thanks," there is today no possibility of error, for the fatal missive is always typewritten.

Feminine Features. "While woman may have her face on the dollar," said the cornfed philosopher, looking thoughtfully at the coin, "yet, to tell the truth, she is more apt to have her eye on the 38 cents."-Indianapolis Journal

The depth of water affects the speed of steamers very considerably, the vessels moving more slowly in shallow than in deep water.

About one German woman in every 27 works in a factory.

THE PHONOGRAPH.

Some of the Puzzles That the Interesting Invention Presents. "There are lots of mysterious things about the phonograph that puzzle even those who are most familiar with their mechanism," remarked a gentleman who has had long experience in the talking machine business. "As a matter of fact, no scientist has ever been able to explain exactly why the thing talks. They say a 'duplicate vibration' is set up, but when you pin them down they all are obliged to admit that they don't know why the operation of the transmitter should produce any such result. Then, again, the difficulty in recording certain tones has always been a

"The most improved form of the machine has, as you know, an extremely large cylinder, nearly four times the size of the ordinary one, and for some unknown reason it very materially increases the volume of sound. It would seem, then, to be a logical inference that the bigger the cylinder the louder the tone, and, proceeding on that theory, a very bright young electrician of this city started the other day to build an instrument that was really gigantic.

"He put it together without much trouble and made an experimental cylinder nearly a foot in diameter. I was present when it was tested. Every part of the machine worked perfectly, and a beautifully engraved record was secured, but when the transmitter was attached we were astonished to find that the sound was barely audible. As nearly as we could figure it out the tone was magnified up to a certain point by making the cylinder larger, but beyond that the process was reversed, and it was progressively diminished. Queer, wasn't it?"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

THE FRENCH MENAGE.

Complaint That It Is Not the Model Affair Claimed For It.

An English writer who has evidently uffered inveighs rather severely against the long extolled thrift of the French housekeeper, which, if it be thrift, is, according to his notion, pernicious economy. He considers th messes served and reserved until the last scrap is consumed which make up the course dinner of the French people most unsatisfactory and far from appetizing. "It has been said," he quotes. "that a French housekeeper will serve a grilled chicken foot, making it a substantial course." This he denies-not behind, giving the horse no chance to the service, but the substantial part

As to the soup of the provincial erts it is not a thing to be described by the uninitiated, and it is certainly not meant for a delicate palate. It tastes like hot water in which quantities of cabbage have been boiled. "Then," he goes on to affirm, "the only dish of meat will often consist of that which has been used in the making of the soup."

This testimony is borne out by American travelers, who get very tired of soup meat as a dinner dish. For the flavoring and finishing of a dish the French are doubtless unsurpassed, but the allegation that the sauce is made more important than the substantial and that the garnishing takes precedence over the dish it surrounds is not without considerable foundation. The well known story of the French cook who won a wager by serving a boot heel scraped and stewed and simmered and finally served with an entrancing sauce is a good illustration of much

Census Taking In China. In china census methods are simple. They don't have much trouble to take a census there. When the time for making a count of the families and their individual members comes around, the head of each house is compelled by law to write on a slip of paper the number of individuals living with him and the name of each person. The authorities lay particular stress upon correct spelling, and there is a severe penalty attached to any misrepresentation either as to the number of persons or their names. This obviates in the beginning the wrestling with unpronounceable names, which helps to make life interesting for the American census taker, and reduces the enumeration of the population of a Chinese city to a very simple process.

Sensitive Clocks.

A Lewiston (Me.) merchant has in his store an old fashioned clock which is peculiarly sensitive. It sometimes stops, and if any one steps into the store or goes by it will start again, and if a horse steps on a certain spot in the street it will start. A man who happened to notice it and

who had one like it himself said that his would not run after he had started his furnace in the fall. In the spring, after he ceased to keep a fire, it would run all right.

Great Lovers of Water. The Siamese are more devoted to the water than any other nation in the

world. They are nearly always bathing, generally with their clothes on, and they never go anywhere by land if they can possibly go by water. The streets of Bangkok are like those of Venice, and the inhabitants say that their idea of paradise would be a town with canals where there were currents in both directions, so that they might be spared the effort of rowing. Do Not Fear Sharks.

In his book on Australia, Richard Semon declares that the prevailing ideas of danger from sharks are greatly exaggerated. Individual sharks may possibly, he thinks, develop cannibal tastes. but such are exceptions, rarer than man eating tigers and crocodiles. The divers and fishermen in the Torres strait, where big sharks abound, do not show the least fear of them.