

THE SHEEP FOLD.

An English Opinion on the Most Popular Breeds.

The London Mark Lane Express has some remarks under this head which may be of interest for the hints they afford as to the characteristics of the different breeds and the localities in which they are most popular in Great Britain:

Taking statistics of showyard exhibits into consideration, foreign agriculturists visiting this country might be excused for forming the conclusion that the Shropshire is propagated in England to a greater extent than any other two breeds put together. But it would not be right to base such a supposition on this evidence, because, as most show frequenters are aware, the Jersey breed of cattle is often found by far the most numerous in showyards, even in districts where it is well known other varieties very much predominate. While, then, the numbers entered for exhibition, and which appear in showyards form very good evidence of the popularity of breeds of sheep and other stock, too much must not be drawn from facts and figures of this nature. Southdowns, next to Shropshires, are often the most numerous in the Royal and other leading showyards, even in localities where the generality of farmers have little or nothing to do with them. The Shropshire is undoubtedly a popular breed even beyond the Midlands, where there are very few others. But Southdowns beyond their native hills, the chalkwolds of the south of England, are certainly not popular, being regarded as a gentleman's breed, adapted for the parks of the nobility and country gentry to supply the best quality of mutton for their tables, but by no means what is termed rent-paying sheep. On hill farms girt with an extensive area of chalk downs they are probably more remuner. ative for the tenant farmers than any other kind, but for all the deeper and richer soils they are too diminutive. Their mutton yields a higher price than most other mutton, no doubt, and from not eating so much they can be kept thicker than larger sheep; but this does not fully compensate, and it is found in such cases most remunerative to keep either Oxfordshire-Downs or flocks of the Hampshire or Shropshire varieties, which yield both mutton and wool in greater bulk, while the joints of meat, although larger and not worth so much per pound, are still juicy, with a considerable proportion of lean to fat.

Thus the most popular breed in one district is very far from being so in an other, and the wider we take our survey the more perfectly shall we be convinced of the truth of this. In Devon and Cornwall we find long wooled sheep predominating, and, in fact, no others worthy of the name, either Devon longwoodlands and high fences, and consethe late Col. Luttrell tried an experiment in West Somerset on some of the rich low-lying moorlands not far disrequiring naturally more air, and probably a colder temperature.

In Scotland and the north of England, they have also a large prependerance of long-wool sheep, the Border-Leicesters or the Cheviots, and in Yorkshire the purer Leicesters or the Wensleydale sheep of the Lincoln breed suit the locality more than any other, haps give better satisfaction to the three weeks the bands should be cut on all popular. The eastern counties go in for the Down breeds most, but there are some long wools in the richest and most lowland districts, Norfolk Cotswolds in some and Oxford Downs in others, while for grazing purposes the lastmentioned breed has extended itself into Scotland. In fact, in all districts where that useful and preeminently wealthy cross of a Leicester Cotswold or Lincoln ram on Down ewes has been found to answer, Oxford Downs will be sure to do so. The breed originally was derived from a Cotswold-Hampshire cross, its present fixity of type having been derived by continuous high selections carried on in a lengthy succession of years.

This is especially worthy of a deep and attentive consideration, now that the mutton of most varieties of English long-wool sheep is only slightly more valuable than New-Zealand mutton in London shops and those of many provincial towns. Many of the districts which have in the past been deemed best for long-wooled sheep, would no doubt be equally well adapted for Oxford-Downs. These supplanted Cotswolds very profitably for farmers in the counties of Gloucester, Oxford, Bucks and Berks, and Major Staveley finds that they thrive just as well on his large hill farm in the Yorkshire Wold district as the Leicester and long-wool varieties most generally kept there. The mutton f the latter does not command anything like so high a price as that of the Oxford-Down; therefore Major Staveley is increasing his flock of the latter!

Grade Cows. Grade cows that have been forced to horoughbreds.

TO MAKE A HORSE LIE DOWN. an Illustration of Rarey's Method As Shown in "Tachyhippodamia." The Kansas Farmer says in answer to

correspondent who requested a method of making a horse lie down gently: We have had an illustration of Rarey's method made from "Tachyhippodamia," by Willis J. Powell, and published by the Dayton, Ohio, Historical Publishing Company. Mr. Rarey explains his me-

thod as follows:

To make a horse lie down, bend his left fore leg and slip a loop over it, so that he cannot get down. Then put a surcingle around the body and fasten one end of a long strap around the other fore leg. just above the hoof. Place the other end under the surcingle, so as to keep the strap in the right direction; take a short hold of it with your right hand; stand on left side of horse, grasp the bit in left hand, pull steadily on the strap with right hand, and bear against his shoulder till you cause him to move. As soon as he lifts his weight your pulling will raise the other foot, and he will have to come on his knees. Keep the strap tight in your hand so that he cannot straighten his leg if he rises up. Hold him in this



HORSE WITH RAREY'S EXTRA STRAP ON. bear against his side with your shoulder, with a steady, equal pressure, and in about ten minutes he will lie down, when he will be completely conquered and you can handle him as you please. Then take off the straps, straighten out his legs, rub him gently about the face and neck; handle all his legs, and after he has lain ten to twenty minutes let him get up. After a short rest go through the same operation again, and repeat it three or four times. The next day give him two lessons, and the following day two more. By this time he will lie down by taking hold of one foot. When he is well broken this way, tap him on the opposite leg with a stick when you take hold of his foot, and in a few days he will lie down from the mere motion of the stick.

We know two farm boys who trained a two-year-old colt by this method until he would lie down at the word of command. This was accomplished by saying "lie down," every time they took hold of his foot and tapped the other leg with the stick, and the horse soon got to associate the words with the act. After that the command was all that was nec-

The Composite Test.

As it is impossible in large factories to wools, or Leicesters, or South Hams, or day without a great deal of extra exmake a test of each patron's milk every Dartmoors; and if an inquiry be made pense and labor, the best method to puron the point, it will be found that no sue is that of composite sampling. This Down variety suits the country. The is done by taking a sample of each pafields are either too much bounded by tron's milk each morning, say one ounce, and put in a glass jar or sealer quently not breezy enough for the along with about 5 or 10 grains (or Downs, or there is something in the about what will lie on a ten-cent piece) character of the soil better suited for of bichromate of potash. This quantity the native breeds than for those of other is sufficient to keep the milk in a perdistricts. There is a fact published that | feetly liquid condition for one or two weeks, at the end of which time the test can be made in the usual way, care betant from Bridgewater, and he found and milk thoroughly mixed before taking taken, however, to have the cream that he could fatten three sheep of the ing the sample with the pipette. The Devon long-wooled breed before he result will be the average per cent. of fat could make a Southdown fat. He at in all the milk supplied by each patron tributed it entirely to the hot, close at- up to the time of making the test. Then mospheric influences, the Southdowns to find the amount of fat which each delivered, multiply the total amount of milk sent by the percent of fat and proceed as in the example given above.

In this way tests can be made once every one, two, three or four weeks with equally good results, as samples have been kept for two months and variety. In the fens and marsh districts longer which tested as well as when of Lincolnshire, the more wealthy kept only one week, but where conven-

Observe carefully the following

1. Get a fair representative sample of milk each morning.

2. Shake the sealer or jar with a rotary motion each time a new sample is put in, being careful not to churn the

3. If samples are kept for three or four weeks, use a correspondingly larger quantity of the bichromate. 4. If cream should gather on the sam-

ples and become thick so as not to readily mix with the milk, before testing, stand the jars in water for a few minutes, shaking frequently, when the cream will quickly dissolve again.—Ontario Dairy School.

Home-Cured Pork. Any enterprising, intelligent farmer, says Breeder's Gazette, who lives near a good-sized town may, with very little effort, persistently followed up for a year or two, work up a trade in home-butchered, home-made and home-cured salt pork, bacon, hams and sausage. It will almost always pay better than selling it on foot if the work is done as it ought to be, for the product sent by the great city packers to the country towns and into the market generally is at best but a sorry substitute for what the farmer who "knows how to do it" may easily

Dear Experience,

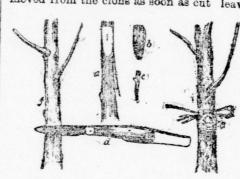
A good farmer of our acquaintance says that he will never pasture a field of fodder again. He tried this on seven acres, the past season, to save the expense of cutting up the corn, and found that he received only a small proportion of the usual benefit from the fodder. their best work in the dairy are After this he will cut and feed properly nuch to be praised over run-down every stalk of corn he grows.—Buffalo



BUDDING PEACH TREES.

Object Lessons in Budding Peaches by Michigan Expert.

The necessary materials for budding are the seedling stocks, bud sticks or cions cut from trees of improved varieties, a budding knife, raffia (the epidermis of the leaves of one of the palms), and yarn, or the bast layer of basswood bark to bind on the buds. If but little budding is to be done, a sharp pocket knife will serve the purpose of a budding knife very well. Usually a number of seedling stocks come up by chance about every farm home, but should a large number be desired it is well to secure pits taken from seedlings of natural fruits. The pits should be first subjected to the action of frost in order to secure prompt germination. This process is known among nursery growers as "stratifying the seed." The seed is frequently planted in the spring before it sprouts, by scattering the pits and covering them with light soil to a depth of about two inches, following with the roller or other tool to firm the soil. The young stocks should be cultivated often to secure an even and vigorous growth; especially is this necessary in dry seasons, These seedling stocks often get a half inch in diameter by September of the first season, and are then of a good size for budding. Budding should, as a rule, be done two weeks before the growth stops; a favorable time is during the latter part of August and the first balf of September. Good results have, however, been obtained by budding as late as October. Buds from bearing trees are most reliable, yet buds taken from younger trees are preferable, being more easily obtained and more reliable. The buds from near the upper or lower end of the cion should not be used. Care should be taken to select only healthy, plump, and well-ripened buds. The leaves should be promptly removed from the cions as soon as cut leav-



ing only about one quarter of the leaf-stem as a convenient handle to use in inserting

A T-shaped cut is made in the bark of ches from the ground, taking care not to with numerous stout prickles. injure the bark more than is absolutely necessary. Workers differ as to their method of making this cut, but it is of little consequence whether the horizontal cut is first made or the vertical one. In either case the insertion should be made so as to loosen the edges of the bark in order

to easily slip in the freshly cut bud. In cutting the bud take the bud stick in the left hand, resting on the forefinger, with the upper end toward the body. The knife should be inserted a half-inch, or a little less, below the bud, and a cut is then made under the bud and deep enough to take off with the bud a thin shaving of wood, extending about a half inch above the bud. The knife is then taken out, and the bud severed from the cion by a straight, horizontal cut. Budders are about equally divided as regards the question of removing the wood from the bad. The bud is now ready to be placed in the seedling. Take the leaf stalk-left on the bud for this purpose-between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand and insert it in the cut in the bark of the stock, pushing it down until the upper edge of the bud is slightly below the horizontal cut of the stock. The stock should now be wrapped snugly with raffia, two to four times around the stock below the bud, and about three times above it. Unless this is thoroughly done the air is not excluded stocks where the buds have taken. This the stocks should be cut back with a slanting cut, of about a slope of forty-five degrees, and commencing from the opposite side from the bud, and about half an inch above it. This completes the operation, except that all suckers which start up from the stub should be removed,-Herbert W. Mumford, in American Agriculturist.

Correct Tree Planting. As long as planters, in procuring trees, give more attention to large size than to good, evenly expanding roots, they will be likely to see trees in their new of other influences, except a certain amount orchards that are distorted out of shape, bent by the wind or twisted by insufficient support. The rule should be adhered to of giving the roots sufficient length to support the trees when strong winds strike I would, therefore, impress on the public them. A well removed tree should have enough strong and bracing roots to need no extraneous bracing. A tree of straight growth will be worth more if held firmly by its long roots than if supported by artificial propping. Those who set their trees some months ago with insufficient roots, may now improve matters by light, skillful pruning, bringing the tree gradually into its natural straightness.

Washing the Bark of Trees.

In spite of the many professional theories about the nature of bark and the injury to it from being coated with outside material, the German farmers of Pennsylvania have extremely healthy apple trees by washing the bark with lime. No cleaner or healthier bark may be seen on apple trees anywhere than those German trees present. The white color of the lime is of course objectionable, but this may be readily obviated by putting a little yellow clay or even coal ashes in.

SMALL FRUITS WISDOM. Suggestions Respecting Their Growth and

Care by One Who Knows. Mr. A. M. Thayer is in the habit of issuing monthly bulletins that contain crisp sentences of advice in relation to the growth of the small fruits. We have collected below sections of several bulletins that for the most part are timely for these who are expecting the agent of fruit plants along a little later or who may be contemplating putting out stock for this fall or caring for old stock:

All plants on which orange rust, curly leaf or other diseases appear, should be dug out, root and branch, and burned. Winter covering should be raked between rows for summer mulch.

Old cares should be cut out and burned as soon as done bearing. Winter protection is necessary for small

fruits here. The cheapest and best protection is to cover with fresh earth.

With a little practice, bushes may be laid down without breaking. Plants should be purchased only of re-

sponsible dealers. New, high-priced plants are generally disappointing.

A garden of small fruit gives health of body and peace of mind. Leave high-priced novelties to the professional grower. They are generally disappointing. Never buy poor plants. The best are cheapest.

The space allowed for different plants should be determined by the varieties grown, the quality of soil and the method of trimming and training.

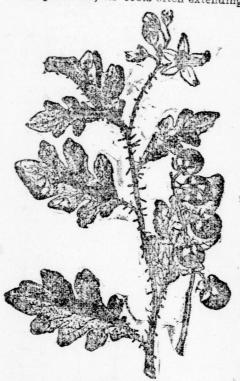
The following distances give best results in most cases: Strawberries set in rows three and one-half feet apart and about two feet in the row; blackberries and raspberries in rows seven feet apart and three feet in the row; currants and gooseberries in rows five to seven feet apart and three to five feet in the row; grapes eight to ten feet apart each way.

The Horse Nettle.

The troublesome weed, the well-known Horse Nettle (Solanum Carolinense), is apparently spreading north, though not so fast as some annual ones. Horse nettle is a native from Connecticut south to Florida and west to Texas, but it will soon be indigenous much further north if it spreads as it has done lately. It is now often seen in the streets of Canadian cities, on vacant lots and too often in cultivated fields, where it does great injury to crops.

Its common name does not indicate that this weed is closely related to the cultivated potato, but the botanical name of the genus shows close relationship. An examination of its flowers will show that they much resemble those of the potato, being bluish or whitish in color. The berry, commonly called the "seed" also resembles that formed on the potato. The leaves have large prickles on the midrib and some of the larger lateral ribs. They are also slightly hairy. The stem is beset with numerous stout prickles. the seedling stock, about three or four in- are also slightly hairy. The stem is beset

Many of the related plants of this genus are annuals but horse nettle is a deeprooted perennial, its roots often extending



THE HORSE NETTLE. three feet or more into the soil. This fact makes it a very tenacious weed, very difficult to exterminate. For this reason the weed grows in dense patches, which are carefully avoided by stock in pastures. Plow the land at this time, allowing none is generally all the precaution necessary be kept down the succeeding year. Plow the ground again next summer. Sow thickly with rye and keep watch of the nettle, allowing none to grow. Careful work for two seasons should remove it.

Evergreens Healthful. Dr. Alfred L. Loomis of New York gives this interesting scientific testimony to the value of evergreens: "It is stated that whenever the pine, with its constant exhalation of turpentine vapor and its neverfailing foliage can be distributed in a proportion to the population, the atmosphere can be kept not only aseptic, but antiseptie by nature's own processes, independent of sunshine and moisture. It is not possible for everyone to take his weak lungs to an antiseptic air, but it is possible to render the air of most localities antiseptic. the importance of preserving our evergreen forests and cultivating about our homes evergreen trees."

About Celery Raising.

The claim that it requires contact with earth to remove the acid properties of celery is said to have little foundation. The quality of brittleness and fine nutty flavor which is so much appreciated can be acquired by forcing the plants to a quick growth in a moist coal atmosphere. Celery blanched while stored in cellar is often of superior quality and in this process no soil is brought in contact with the stalks. Heat and dryness are probably responsible for the development of that strong, bitter taste which is often objectionable.

An Excellent Hint, Flowering plants, such as asters, chrysanthemums, etc., which are being grown for fail or winter blooming will flower better if given a heavy mulch of fine manure DOW. X

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