

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
Miscellaneous.

MANURIAL VALUE OF CORN COBS.

What amount of manurial value is there in corn cobs, such as come from an elevator? What kind of soil would benefit most by them, sand or clay loam?

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—We are unable to give any information as to the manurial value of corn cobs. We are of the opinion that they can be more economically utilized as fuel than as manure. Dry cobs burn well, but when spread on the land, decompose slowly, and tend to leave the soil too loose and open. They would have a more beneficial effect on clay than on sand.

POLAND-CHINA HOGS.

Could you let me know anyone who keeps Poland-China pigs? Also how do they compare in point of growth with the Berkshire or Yorkshire breeds.

A. I.

Ans.—We do not know of any Poland-Chinas in Canada at present. As bred in the United States, where they are fairly popular, they are comparatively short-bodied, and are disposed to run to lard rather than flesh. They do not, as a rule, meet the requirements of the Canadian or British markets for pigs of the bacon type; that is, having long sides, with a large percentage of lean meat.

CROSSING BREEDS OF SWINE.

Which way would you prefer to cross in breeding for bacon purpose, so as to get best results, Berkshire sow to a Yorkshire boar, or a Yorkshire sow to a Berkshire boar, or is there any preference either way?

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—While we do not approve of crossing breeds, believing that by selection of suitable sires of the same breed a desired type and quality may be developed and maintained, we would prefer mating the Berkshire boar with the Yorkshire sow of lengthy type rather than adopting the reverse mating, provided both are pure-bred, for the reason that the lengthy sow is likely to produce larger litters, while the Berkshire sire will probably transmit easier-feeding qualities and earlier maturity. While crossing produces some good animals, the cross-breeds cannot be depended upon to reproduce stock of uniform type.

RHEUMATISM.

I have a valuable sow a little over one year old. She has had one litter of pigs. The other morning she could hardly get up, and her hind legs seemed very stiff and sore. She is a little better now, but she still walks lame, and it seems to hurt her to move. She has been running out through the day, and I have fed her grain night and morning (peas). What is wrong with her, and what can I do to help her?

J. H. R.

Ans.—This is, evidently, muscular rheumatism, which may be caused by over-feeding with strong, rich food, as peas. Preventive treatment is important, which means providing dry, comfortable quarters, and the avoidance of exposure to cold drafts or rain. Salicylate of soda is the most useful drug to give. The dose is 20 to 30 grains, according to size and age of sow, in the feed, or as a drench, three times a day. Rub the joints and loins well with liniment made of 4 ounces alcohol, 1 ounce oil of turpentine, 4 drams camphor, and water to make a pint.

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BOOK REVIEW.

PLANT AND ANIMAL IMPROVEMENT.

In the introduction to his remarkably valuable new work, entitled "Domesticated Animals and Plants," Prof. Eugene Davenport, dean of the College of Agriculture, and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Illinois, justifies giving more attention to the study of plants and animals in the schools, for the potent reason that agriculture engages the lives of one-third of the population, and provides the food for all. And who can demonstrate that the educational value of such subjects is less than that of more orthodox, academic curricula? In teaching the youth how to do things, and how to live, may such means not be of even greater service? The volume under review deals with the origins and means of improvement of domesticated plants and animals, expressed in simple, popular phraseology, and we have rarely seen as much intelligible data packed in the small compass of 320 pages. The author deals with natural selection, and the use made by man of its principles. He explains very simply how it is, that, while crossing will produce some good animals, they will be worthless as breeders. He describes the three methods of improvement by the breeder of plants or animals: (1) Selection in imitation of nature, (2) Crossing and improving the new strains upward by selection; (3) Mutation, the fortunate mutants being seized upon and made the most of as a free gift of nature, as has been elaborated in De Vries' book. An excellent feature of Prof. Davenport's volume is the chapter summaries and practical exercises for scholars suggested, and equally good the hints on stock judging, use of score cards, and the glossary in the appendix, giving students an excellent working idea of technical terms commonly used. The mechanical execution of the work and illustrations are admirable. Publishers, Ginn & Co.; ordered through this office, \$1.50.



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