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FARMERS' COLUMN.

PLASTER and MANURE.—"If," says a writer in Field notes, "a farmer neglects stable and yard manures, and attempts to make up the deficiency by the use of plaster, the latter will soon fail him, for this mysterious mineral needs vegetable remains in the soil to enable it to act efficiently. In other words, it only helps a soil that is able to help itself!"

FEEDING UP FOR WINTER.—There are two critical periods through which farm stock is called to pass, viz, when grass gets short and frost-bitten in the fall, and again when winter begins to let go his hold, and spring approaches. Digestion suffers after the frost bites the grass, because it becomes innutritious, and stock becoming more hungry as cold advances, they eat greedily of it. It ferments in the stomach, produces flatulence, a starting coat, and sensitiveness to the cold. No animal can stand cold and wet whose digestion is impaired. In such a condition the stomach and bowels become irritable, the blood rushes to them from the surface producing chilliness, even though the weather be not cold. From the moment that this condition sets in, the animal begins to shrink from the absorption of such flesh as had been accumulated in summer and early fall. These form the principal reasons why approaching winter is a critical period. To avert these tendencies, farmers should provide a patch of blue grass, according to the amount of stock kept, and turn the stock on this for a portion of the day, when other grass begins to fall. This, holding its vitality well into winter, even in the north west provides against the sudden change and consequent strain upon the digestion otherwise sure to follow. Farmers would do well to place light rations of bright hay within the reach of stock, as early as the appearance of the first frosts. A small amount of this, they will find, will be eaten with avidity and evident relish, and much will be added to the ability of the animal to battle with the coming cold and exposure, by replacing the want of succulent grass, and preparing the digestive organs for the steady used dry fodder and hay during winter.

How to FATTEN CHICKENS.—By particular request of a subscriber to the Herald, we copy the following from an English publication, our friend assuring us that its suggestions are equally good here as among the fowls of Albion. It is hopeless to attempt to fatten chickens while they are at liberty. They must be put in a proper coop; and this, like most other poultry appliances, need not be expensive. To fatten twelve fowls, a coop must be three feet long, eighteen inches high, and eighteen inches deep, made entirely of bars. No part of it solid—neither top, side nor bottom. Discretion must be used according to the sizes of the chickens put up. They do not want room; indeed, the closer they are the better—provided they can all stand up at the same time. Care must be taken to put up such as have been accustomed to be together, or they will fight. If one is quarrelsome, it is better to remove it at once: as, like other bad examples, it soon finds imitators. A diseased chicken should not be put up. The food should be ground oats, and may either be put in a trough or on a flat board running along the front of the coop. It may be mixed with water or milk; the latter is better. It should be well slaked, forming a pulp as loose as can be, provided it does not run off the board. They must be well fed three or four times a day—the first time as soon after daybreak as possible or convenient and then at intervals of four hours. Each meal should be as much and no more than they can eat up clean. When they have done feeding, the board should be wiped, and some gravel may be spread. It causes them to feed and thrive. After a fortnight of this treatment you will have good fat fowls. If however there are but four or six to be fattened they must not have so much room as though there were twelve. Nothing is easier than to allot them the proper space it is only necessary to have two or three pieces of wood to pass between the bars and form a partition. This requires attention or fowls will not keep fat and healthy. As soon as the fowl is sufficiently fattened it must be killed, otherwise it will get fat but it will lose flesh. If fowls are intended for the market, of course they are or may be fattened all at once; but for home consumption, it is better to put them up at such intervals as will suit the time when they are required for the table. When the time arrives for killing, whether they are meant for market or otherwise, they should be fasted, without food or water for twelve or fifteen hours. This enables them to be kept some time after being killed, even in hot weather.—London Cottage Gardener.

SELECTING DAIRY Cows.—A good constitution is important. This may be judged of by the lustre of the hair and the brilliancy of the eyes and horns. Constitution depends mostly upon the heart and lungs, the size of which may be determined by the depth and breath of the thorax. They should have a good development, enough to secure health and vigor, but the lungs, in particular, should not be excessively large. When very large, they burn up, by increased respiration, the fat forming material. By the extraordinary energy they create, they induce unusual exercise and motion, which make a rapid waste of tissue, and a rapid assimilation to repair it, and thus divert nutriment from producing milk. If too small, the animal may be an excellent milker while she lives, but will be feeble and short-lived. The capacity of the lungs corresponds with the size of the apertures, through which they are filled. Large, open nostrils indicate large lungs, and vice versa. In the same way, the indication of the mouth corresponds with the size of the stomach. The chin is regarded as an index to milking capacity. When it is double it denotes breadth of vertebrae, which corresponds to the broad, open structure, which is favorable. It is an accompaniment of broad hips, and these in turn denote a large cavity, which is essential to good milkers. The milk mirror, or escutcheon, of Guenon, is one of the leading indications of milking capacity. It consists of the peculiar appearance of the hair on the udder. Looking at the hind part of the cow, more or less of the hair which covers the udder and adjacent parts, will be seen to turn upwards and outward. This reversed hair forms the so-called escutcheon. If the space occupied by the upturned hair especially the lower part of it, is very large and broad, so that it extends far outward on to the thighs, it is regarded as a large flow of milk. If the upper part of it is broad and smooth, it is regarded as favorable to a prolonged flow. The manner in which the inverted hair connects with the hair adjacent, is supposed to have significance. A gradual blending, rather than abrupt connection, is preferred. The connection of the escutcheon (or scutcheon) with the flow of milk, is accounted for by Magne, who says that the hair turns in the direction it which the arteries ramify, and that the reversed hair on the udder and adjacent parts indicates the termination of the arteries which supply the udder with blood. When these arteries are large, they are not confined to the udder, but extend down through it, and upward and outward, ramifying on the skin beyond the udder giving the hair the peculiar appearance which distinguishes it from the rest of the surface. If the arteries supplying the udder with blood are very small, they are not likely to extend much beyond the udder, and hence form a small escutcheon. Hence, a small escutcheon indicates a feeble supply of blood to the udder, and consequently but little material to make milk out of, and hence a small flow of milk.

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CANADIAN ITEMS.

SHOCKING TREATMENT of Boys.—Horrible disclosures have been made as to the treatment of boys in the Government reformatory at Kingston. They were getting bread only on Sunday, and one salt herring to eight youths. Whenever they got liberty they rushed to the pig's trough, and savanously eat the putrid offal. The superintendent was a Plymouth Brother in religious belief. The old officers were all discharged, and his own and his wife's relations appointed, being brought from New Zealand to fill the office of schoolmaster.

TO TRIUMPH.—The Kingston News says of General Robinson:—He felt proud that he was one of them who went to Montreal. They didn't expect to get off so scot free as they did. They were prepared to take the front of the battle had trouble arisen. A more determined set of men never left Kingston than those who went to the funeral. When Orange and Protestant principles had to be maintained there would be found in Kingston men ready and willing to take the lead. After condemning Sir Francis Hincks' letters, he referred to the letter of Mr. Hugh MacMahon, of London, and to the address of Father Stafford. Whether these gentlemen acted through fear or favor he did not know, but they deserved credit for what they had done. He was surprised that none of the Grand Officers were present at the funeral. It was not what he expected. If the Orangemen of Montreal would walk next 12th, it would not be sixty or seventy that would go from Kingston but an immense number. Referring to the expressions of the True Witness he was somewhat afraid that if the Catholics of the Dominion would only speak out their sentiments in regard to them the Orangemen would have to endorse them. He had heard one Roman Catholic gentleman say that after what had transpired in Montreal he was almost ashamed to look an Orangeman in the face.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY, RICHMOND, P. Q.—The St. Patrick's Literary and Benevolent Society of Richmond and vicinity, organized and now numbering one hundred and fifty members, held its first public meeting in Murphy's Hall, Richmond, on Saturday evening the 4th instant. A large and intelligent audience attended. On the platform were Mr. James Murphy, President, in the chair, and the Rev. Fathers Quinn, of Richmond, and Salmon, of Montreal, and the Rev. Mr. Desautels, of Melbourne, and Messrs. Mayor Hart, Dr. Duple, Barry, Graham, Kennedy, Secretary of the Society, Jones, &c. Messrs. Dillon, Maher, Sullivan, John Murphy, Jr., and others were assiduous in their attention to the auditors. An eloquent address which was exceedingly well received and frequently applauded, was delivered by Mr. W. J. O'Hara of Montreal on "The Irish in America," their success and its causes." At its close a well deserved vote of thanks was passed to the talented lecturer, and brief remarks in approval of the lecture were made by Rev. Father Salmon, and by Messrs. Jones, Scarry and Graham, and a hearty vote of thanks, was tendered to the chairman. The society deserves to be congratulated on its auspicious organization, large membership, the excellence of its officers, and its well directed efforts to promote systematic benevolence, and social and intellectual improvement.

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