

take into consideration the prepotence of the pure blood over the scrub, you would have an animal as near perfection as it is possible to get. Where are the excellences of the Short horn but his merit and power to transmit that excellence and merit to his progeny? I recognize also, the value of strains of families. The value of a strain is that that particular family produces the best Short-horns. We often find that, by reversion, a very homely or inferior bull, if he be of good family, will breed back to some of his ancestors and produce them. The principle that like begets like seems to be the true doctrine. —*Michigan Farmer*

Feeding Calves.

Some years ago I extracted from the Useful Projects in the *Annual Register* the following on feeding calves on fresh wort; there are no directions how to make the wort; but having repeatedly used it for fattening calves, I have generally put about three quarts of water, a little below boiling point, to one quart of dry crushed malt, leaving it to stand all night, and in the morning pour off the wort, and squeeze the grains in a strong cloth, so as to get all the liquor. You must gradually accustom the calf from its first week, increasing the quantity of wort, so as not to purge the animal. The quantity of course must vary, according to what you want, fattening or rearing. A little fine flour, or rice dust, well boiled, is a good addition, and prevents extreme purging. I have this week sold a seven weeks' old calf fed on milk and wort; for the last four weeks it has had three quarts of strong wort a day, in addition to new milk; it weighed 30 lbs per qt., it was bred out of an Irish cow by a farmer's bull; no pedigree. I am satisfied that an infusion of salt with skimmed milk, and grain of some sort or cake, will wean calves better than anything else I have ever tried. I trust some agriculturists will try this plan, and I be able to give a more detailed account than I can, for I have not kept any records. —*Cor. Agricultural Gazette*

The Breeding of Oxford Downs.

I have been often asked about the history of my flock. Some gentlemen connected with the press and others interested in sheep breeding have often put some questions to me, which I have perhaps never satisfactorily answered, and I do not know of any better opportunity than now for doing so. I may say that about twenty years ago I commenced exhibiting Leicester sheep. I won't dwell upon that subject beyond saying that I believe I never exhibited a pen of Leicester shearling ewes at our Bedfordshire Society without taking a prize. I believe I always took first prize, and if I went in for two I won both. As far as my memory serves me that is correct as to the Leicesters. When I came here about thirteen years ago I had an impression that although Leicesters were nice playthings to breed for the showyard, they were not exactly what the late Mr. Druce called "rent-paying sheep." I had no opportunity at that time of comparing notes with my friend, Mr. Charles Howard, of Biddenham, my friend Mr. Druce, and others, and came to the conclusion that Oxfordshire Downs were the coming sheep, or rather that they had already come. I therefore made up my mind to go in for them. The first thing to settle in my mind was the type of them which I should breed, and in visiting at Mr. C. Howard's, just before one of the Royal Shows, I fixed upon a sheep which as nearly as possible came up to my notions as to what a sheep should be, combining as it did the symmetry and the touch, and to some extent the wool of the Leicesters, or at any rate the quality, with the dark face and the Down mutton that people liked to eat. I hired the sheep and used him freely, and I told Mr. C. Howard I should never send him back again. The only difficulty I had was to get Mr. Howard to mention the price, and when I wrote him to know what I should have to pay he said, as he only would be likely to say, "if you accept the sheep I shall be very happy to give it to you." I need not tell you that I did not like to be rude, and not liking to refuse a generous offer, I at once accepted that sheep and used him very freely as long as he lived. This is an answer to one of the questions that have been put to me, "How is it that in your flock you have got such uniformity of character?" It is this, that I started with a definite idea of the sheep I wished to breed; I kept that in view, and that is the secret of the uniformity of character in my sheep, and to some extent the secret of my success. I am one of those who think it is not well to be always jumping about to different places, simply because sheep of different characters may happen to be in fashion at a particular season. I think if you mean to be successful you must have a pretty correct idea of what you want at the beginning, and never mind what anyone thinks, stick to it. When I began I was not so successful as I have been within the last few years, but if one got commended or highly commended, or second or even third prize, it was something to begin with. —*Cor. North British Agriculturist*

Parsnips for Pigs.

I would suggest the feeding of roots to swine, especially parsnips, and beg to quote from British sources two ways of using them advantageously for store-hogs, as well as for fattening, the only variation needed being the quantity and adjuncts.

First: my mode has been to boil the parsnips, and mix with a small quantity of meal when hot. Where many hogs are fattened through the summer and early fall months the parsnips might be boiled and put away in casks or cool vaults by the end of April at the farthest, and mixed with meal when wanted. They will keep several months when well-boiled and pressed or rammed into clean casks standing in a dry, cool cellar. Second: R. Hartland, of Cork, Ireland, in March, 1848, had seven pigs killed, fattened entirely upon parsnips in the raw state, cut up in small pieces. No other sort of food or any cooking was had. The butcher stated expressly that he never had met with healthier intestines. The flesh was firm and peculiarly white, the fat beautifully thick, solid and clear. The bacon proved to be deliciously flavoured without any taste of the parsnips fed.

Why should not roots be given to hogs, seeing that they increase the appetite without unduly stimulating? The gases evolved by the parsnip, ruta-baga, amber globe, the Russia turnip, the early horn carrot, seem to drive off and prevent parasites, like worms, grubs, &c., and consequently the animal cannot help gaining. Roots ought to be used more for hogs, also neat stock, including horses, (for the latter carrots and parsnips are the most suitable), as affording a salutary variety not only, but causing a larger consumption of provender by fattening stock just when this is most desirable, and enabling one to feed more concentrated articles without crowding.

I found from experience that in fall and winter I could fairly balance an ample supply to milk cows of amber globe, by corn-meal, cotton-seed meal, oil-cake, &c., and vice versa. This course I believe to be safer than stimulating the appetite by extra salting. Roots make more juicy and tender beef, mutton and pork than anything else in cold weather. So long as pork must be a staple article were it not well to so feed and generally keep hogs as to insure their exemption from parasites like trichina, &c., or measles, enlarged liver, mange, &c.? Besides it is far more easy to market bulky produce like roots, by transforming them into sound pork, plump sides of bacon and hams, &c. Try it on, increasingly. —*Cor. Germantown Telegraph*

Wool on a Live Sheep.

The *Trade Journal* tells us that generally the finest and softest wool is on the shoulders of a sheep. But not one person in ten thousand is aware of this fact. Let us watch an expert when he is about to pass judgment on a sheep concerning the value of the animal for producing wool, and it will be seen he always looks at the wool on the shoulders first. A writer of extensive experience in rearing fine wool sheep and in handling wool, communicated the following suggestion for selecting a fine-woolled sheep:

"Always assuming the wool to be inspected is really a fine wool, we first examine the shoulders at the part where the finest and best wool is usually found. Thus we take as a standard and compare it with the wool from the ribs, the thighs, the rump, and the shoulder parts, and the nearer wool from the various portions of the animal approaches the standard the better. First we scrutinize the fineness, and if the result is satisfactory we pronounce the fleece in respect to fineness very 'even.' Next we inquire into the length of the staples, and if we find that the wool on the ribs, thigh and back approximate reasonably in length to that of our standard, we again declare the sheep, as regards length of staple, true and even. We next desire to satisfy ourselves of the density of the fleece, and we do this by closing the hand upon a portion of the rump and of the loin wool, the fleece at these points being usually the thinnest, faulty, and if it again gives satisfaction, we signify the fact by designating the wool 'even' as respects density. Now to summarize these separate examinations: If you find the fleece of nearly equal fineness from the shoulder to the thigh, of nearly equal length on shoulder, rib, thigh, and back, and density on shoulder and across the loins, you may conclude that you have a perfect sheep for producing valuable wool. Selecting sheep for valuable feeders, is quite another thing."

Shelter for Cattle in Winter.

One-half of our farmers are in debt, and cannot afford to build regular barns. This is particularly the case in the prairie districts, where timber is scarce; yet even here they can do much toward alleviating the sufferings of the poor brutes, besides saving much feed. When corn is raised plentifully a rude shed can easily be put up without the aid of nails. On the fence on the sides of the barn from which the prevailing winds and rain came

during winter, set additional stakes, so as to cross the middle of the rails; on these lay strong rails; parallel to these, and about two or three feet less than a rail's length, set in the ground strong poles with forks, so as to lay poles or rails, but have them about three or four feet higher; now lay rails on these like rafters on a building, not more than four feet apart; tie down with strong wire or hickory withes, upon these lay light rails lengthwise, like lay upon the rafters; tie down also. Then tie the fodder in small bundles for roofing; first set upright against the fence, fodder thick enough to keep off the wind; then roof with bundles of fodder, with the butts uppermost, like shingles on a roof, occasionally tying the band of the bundles to the lath, and if heavy rails or poles can be laid on the top to keep the wind from blowing off the roof, so much the better. A few days spent at this work in the fall will be labour well spent, in the saving of feed, as well as the comfort of stock, which, if they could speak, would praise their master. When the wintry winds howl, the snow and sleet come down, cutting and smarting whoever it hits, it will do you good to see the stock snugly resting underneath. If the roof is well made, it will keep off a long and heavy rain.

Now, how many will try this? If, in our rambling around, we should see some of these simple but effective structures, we will believe this has not been written in vain. When we were farmers, we always had these fixings, although our from 30 to 40 head of horned cattle were in a warm stable from four in the evening until ten the next morning. But then we had a barn 76 by 50 feet—a thing you may not see in these parts in a 100 miles of travel. Try it, farmers, and report in the spring. —*Cor. Rural World*

COWS AT CALVING TIME.—A correspondent writes to the *New England Homestead*: "Some farmers are always having bad luck with their cows at calving time, and they seem to think Providence is against them. Care and experience will prevent a great deal of our bad luck. Two or three of my neighbors lost cows by allowing them to drink all the cold water they wanted soon after calving. One lost a cow in this way: He put his cow in an underground stable to calve, very damp, the walls covered with ice; the cow never got up and soon died. She had cold chills, and weakness; no medicine did any good. A German had a cow about coming in, he thought she needed strength, and so gave her all the corn meal she would eat; he came very near losing his cow. I have used strong bone-set tea with red or black pepper in it for some of these troubles with success. The better way when your cow's time is about out is to put her in a stable by herself, loose at night; especially I would give but very little meal for a week before calving; bran, potatoes, roots, etc., are better; after calving give no cold water for two or three days; take off the chill with hot water; stir in a little bran, a prillful three times a day; after that you can gradually increase the meal without danger."

BRICK STABLE FLOORS.—We would not make stable floors of brick, nor of stone, if plank or any soft timber could be obtained. But, in regard to horse stalls, John Moore, of Illinois, writes as follows: "It is a very common thing to read in agricultural papers discussions on the best materials for floors in stalls. I have my stalls floored with brick, and, after experimenting with plank, clay, and cinders mixed with gas lime, I find that brick is the best and cheapest. The method of laying is as follows: First, spread over the dirt about four inches of sand, and lay the brick—the hardest that can be obtained—on edge. After laying them take a piece of plank, say four or five feet long, and lay it on the floor, and with a heavy hammer pound it well to make it even, and, if it is properly laid, a stable floor that is rat-proof, and not liable to wear out in a generation, will be produced. —*New York Herald*

STOCK RAISING.—One thing should be borne in mind by farmers, who raise their own stock—and every good farmer ought to do this—and that is always to keep the best of their own animals for that purpose, no matter what temptations there may be to sell them. By adhering to this at all times, except where a fresh strain may be necessary to introduce, there will be no difficulty in always possessing a satisfactory supply of horses, cattle, sheep and swine. Breeding in-and-in for a long period may not be advisable in all cases, but any farmer with a grain of practical sense can see this and judge for himself. Sell all your "scrubs," of every kind, and by keeping and propagating from the best, the best will always be found on the farm.

MOTHERING A LAMB.—A contributor to the *Germantown Telegraph*, writing about rearing sheep, says: "It is sometimes the case when a sheep has twins that she owns but one, unless she or they have help. Usually if she is put in a very snug pen immediately after the lambs are dropped, she will accept the situation. If one stubbornly refuses to own her offspring, just put her head between two stakes driven into the floor of the pen and let her be there. I never knew one I could not subdue. By all means have a nursing bottle on hand and feed the lambs just enough to keep them hungry and smart; and if the sheep are poor milkers, give them shorts and potatoes with plenty of salt, sulphur, and water. Cut the tails pretty short at three days old, if the lambs are smart, but within the first week usually. Keep off the ticks and the lamb will be fit to sell in season for the dam to get in good order for the winter, and a sheep that comes to the barn fat is about half wintered."