

**Care of Lambs.**

In our May number we gave the treatment lambs should receive as long as they remain with their dams. All lambs, except very late ones, should be removed from their dams the first of this month, and will need special care.

The first thing to be attended to is to remove the ewes and lambs as far apart as possible, that they may not be able to hear each other cry. The ewes should be put on a poor, dry pasture for a few days until the milk dries up, and it will be found of advantage to examine the ewes, and when necessary to milk them a few times at intervals for a few days. If this is neglected, inflammation or garget may attack some of the best milkers. After the milk has disappeared entirely the ewes should be put on a good, fresh pasture, and if this cannot be obtained, give them green food in racks, or anything that will cause them to lay on flesh and recruit their system after sucking. Those intended for breeders should not be excessively fat, but will be the better of being in good condition. The management of the lambs will depend on the manner in which the farmer means to dispose of them, but, at all events, the pasture should be very good, and they should be so fed that they will not miss their mothers' milk. A field of rape well grown would be excellent, but care must be taken for some days when they are first turned on. Do not let them stay too long, or they will gorge themselves and very likely die. At first they should not be allowed to feed on it when it is wet; the same may be said of clover. A great deal of caution needs to be exercised here to guard against over-gorging, at the same time the lamb must be so well fed that it will not decline in flesh or grow less rapidly. At this time lambs may suffer from diarrhea, especially if high fed. Nothing need be done for them, except washing the hinder parts well with cold water, freeing them from all filth. This should be done frequently while the disease lasts, but if the beast loses any vigor, seem languid or sluggish, or the disease lasts more than twenty-four hours, danger is apparent.

In such cases a cordial is recommended by Mr. Youatt in his work on sheep, and is prepared as follows:—Take of prepared chalk one ounce, powdered catenach half an ounce, powdered ginger two drams, and powdered opium half a dram. Mix them with one-half pint of peppermint water. The dose is from one to two tablespoonfuls morning and night. Lambs that are to be kept for breeding purposes need not be forced, but should be kept thrifty; but those which are intended for the show yards, for the butcher, or for sale, should be forced along as fast as possible. The lambs should now be examined, and if any ticks are found they should be destroyed.

**How to Deal with Rats.**

We clear our premises of these detestable vermin, writes a correspondent of the Scientific American, by making whitewash yellow with copperas and covering the stones and rafters in the cellar with it. In every crevice where a rat may tread we put the crystals of the copperas and scatter the same in the corners of the floor. The result was a perfect stampede of rats and mice. Since that time not a footfall of either rats or mice have been heard about the house. Every spring a coat of yellow wash is given the cellar as a purifier and rat exterminator, and no typhoid, dysentery or fever attacks the family. Many persons deliberately attract all the rats in the neighborhood by leaving fruits and vegetables uncovered in the cellar, and sometimes even the soap is left open for their regalement. Cover up everything eatable in the cellar and pantry and you will soon have them out. These precautions, joined to the service of a good cat, will prove as good a rat exterminator as the chemist can provide. We never allow rats to be poisoned in our dwelling, they are so liable to die between the walls and produce much annoyance.

**Hundreds of Cattle Dead.**

THE FARMERS DO NOT KNOW THE CAUSE OF THE DISEASE—NO CURE AS YET KNOWN.

(For description of disease see January No. of this year.)

July — Arrived at Pictou and went to see the President of the Agricultural Society, Mr. D. Mathewson. He appointed a time to take us for a drive in the country. As we drove out of the town we called at Mr. Foot's residence. Mr. Mathewson enquired of him how many animals he had lost from the disease. He said fifteen. "There is a cow that has it now," he said, pointing to a good healthy-looking cow. The cow appeared to us healthy; her nose was damp, her coat sleek, and she was in good, fair condition. We asked the owner how he knew she was unwell. He replied: "By the color of the eye and by her milk; we always know the symptoms by the milk first." He ordered some milk to be taken from her. We smelt it, but could not notice anything particular about it; but he said that by adding a little warm water we would soon find it out. A little warm water was then poured into the milk, and the most nauseous smell arose therefrom; it was extremely sickening, and immediately set us retching almost to vomiting. Mr. Foot said he expected her to die, as nearly every beast dies that is affected in this manner; everything had been done that could be devised, and yet the animals would die. He believed the disease to be contagious, and said it was spreading, although it had been in existence in that locality for 23 years. He thought it was imported by a tanner who brought hides from South America 23 years ago, as the first beast that died was near that tannery.

We next called on Mr. Campbell, about a quarter of a mile distant. He had a cow lying in a shed; she had not been on her feet for three days. He said he had paid \$60 for her; she was a pure Ayrshire. He had already expended \$5 on her, and being sure she would die, he would do no more for her. He said he had lost 20 head, and the disease was ruining him.

We next went to Mr. Fraser's, the Vice-President of the Agricultural Society. He has a fine farm, but he had lost all the horned animals he had on his farm; he had replaced them, and now his animals appeared healthy.

We were pointed out the late residence of the person who was said to have been the most energetic and persevering farmer in that part of the country. We were informed that the continued losses of his stock by this disease had ruined him, and caused his death.

So numerous were the outbursts of this unknown disease that we deemed it our duty to inform the Governments of Nova Scotia and of the Dominion. The local authorities appear to have no power to act in such instances. We tried drugs on one of the cows, but have not heard the result.

We next went to New Glasgow, where the only legal veterinary in that part of the country resides. On enquiring of him he said that a man called on him that morning to go and attend six cows that were sick, two having died; but the veterinary informed us that he was not going to see the cows, that they were sure to die. He said that the disease was caused by the farmers letting their cattle get too poor in the winter, and then having a sudden change to abundance of food. This reply we did not think consistent with reason, as we have never seen or heard of any cattle acting in such a manner, and numerous farmers attend their stock worse than these farmers have attended to theirs.

At Truro we met Col. W. Blair, M. P. P., and President of the Agricultural Society at that place.

He informed us he had heard that Mr. David Lynds, of Salmon River, had lost within the past week five cows, one ox, two three-year old steers, one horse and one hog, all from the same disease. This we telegraphed to the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, adding: "See particulars of disease in January No. of FARMER'S ADVOCATE," to which our readers can also refer for full description. We received the following reply: "Telegram received; investigation ordered."

At Pictou we walked over the pastures and inspected the water. There were many mineral substances found in the land, and the water was impregnated with mineral matter. We collected samples of the minerals, soil and water, and sent them to Ottawa for analysis, and to be returned to us. Mr. McEachran, of Montreal, has been instructed to investigate the cause of the disease. Our impression is that it is caused by mineral poison, as we find the water bad. We think that the farmers who have suffered from these losses should be relieved from taxation for some time, or in some way encouraged, especially those who have suffered since the publication of the existence of the disease, as they have done everything in their power and all that the Government Veterinary could suggest, but to no purpose. We, and indeed any farmer, must feel for those who have lost their stock, whatever may be the origin or the cause of the disease.

Our veterinary surgeons, Messrs. Rudd & Tennant, of this city, informs us that it is Anthrax or Blood Poisoning. We have not yet received the official report from Mr. McEachran.

**Fall Wheat.**

Wheat is the staple crop of our Ontario farms especially. A good crop of wheat brings in more money in return for labor and expenses than any other crop. Breadstuffs are always in demand in the market, even if crops be abundant and the price of all agricultural produce low. All other operations on the farm are, by a proper rotation in farming, directed to the producing good crops of wheat, and they can, by good cultivation, be at all times obtained, unless under exceptional adverse circumstances.

The favorable reports of the fall wheat now saved, will, no doubt, produce the usual result, the sowing a greatly increased acreage with this crop this season; and much of it we fear on land so badly prepared, and some of it, perhaps, lacking the requisite elements to produce a good return, that we may dread light crops the ensuing harvest, and light crops, of course, imply light profits.

Experience has proved that the best preparation for fall wheat is a well prepared summer fallow, and especially so on heavy soil, rich in lime and phosphates. Lime in some form is necessary to the growth of a good crop of wheat. When deficient in the soil it should be applied, spreading it on the land and harrowing it in just before sowing the wheat. A light dressing, even twenty bushels per acre will make a great improvement in the crop; or superphosphate, from 100 to 200 pounds to the acre, would be very beneficial.

The seed bed should not be too loose and fine, as is too often the case. If too loose the heavy fall rains will compress the soil and the growth of the plant will be impeded. Wheat always succeeds better in a tolerably compact soil that is not too loose. It does better if the surface be somewhat rough and cloddy. The clods will crumble down from the action of frost and rain, and they will help to prevent the heaving of the roots, from which many wheat plants are winter-killed.

In order to have the land in the best condition for wheat, it should be plowed deep for the pre-