

true only when he is the more intensely bred. It is not enough that he be purebred, it is important that he come of a line of ancestry, on both the male and the female side, that are remarkable for uniformity, and individual merit. If he be the chance result of a line of indiscriminate breeding, he is not likely to prove an impressive sire. His stock can scarcely fail to be irregular in type. This point cannot well be overemphasized, for it is just here that the novice in breeding is most apt to make mistakes. It is a too common practice to select and buy breeding stock from among the winners at our exhibitions, taking care only to stipulate that they be eligible for registration. Frequently a phenomenal show yard animal is an accident of birth, and, even though he is registered in the herd book, is none the less a "scrub" in point of breeding, and can reproduce his good qualities only by accident. It is unfortunately true that a certificate of registration is not always a certificate of merit. The only safe way to select breeding stock, is to visit the long established herd of some breeder of repute, and buy after seeing the sire and dam, and, if possible, the grandsire and granddam of the animal selected. Choose a hog from a large, even litter; fecundity is an hereditary trait and is essential to profitable hog raising; and the evenness of the litter is a valuable guaranty of the excellence of his breeding, and of his consequent prepotency.

The offspring of immature should seldom or never be used for breeding purposes. They are apt to lack in constitution and vigor; this is especially the case in the offspring of an immature dam. Few things will more quickly and surely deteriorate a herd in size, vigor, and fecundity, than the continual use of immature females.

In conformation, the boar not only must be of the approved bacon type, but must have that distinct and unmistakable masculinity of appearance; this is easily recognized but not easily described. Masculinity does not necessarily imply undue coarseness; it consists rather in a bold, fearless, "come on, who's afraid" expression of countenance than in any peculiarity of conformation. A certain amount of coarseness is unavoidable, especially in an aged boar; but he must not have such excessive roughness as would indicate poor feeding qualities. Nor is it desirable that he be of extreme size. Mr. Sanders Spencer, the noted English breeder, says on this point: "Although some persons make mere size a great point when choosing a boar, our experience leads us to consider this to be a mistake; a very large boar seldom lasts long; he becomes too heavy for the sows; he probably proves to be slow and his litters few and small in number. A very large and heavy boar is also more likely to suffer from weakness of the spine or hind quarters, and is frequently weak in his joints and crooked in his legs. These latter failings especially should be avoided, as they are hereditary, and will frequently crop up for several generations. Weakness of ankles and roundness of bone, two qualities which should be avoided in a sire, are often allied with great size. A medium sized compact boar, heavy in the hind quarters, and light in the fore quarters will frequently continue fruitful for at least twice as long as will the heavy shouldered and coarse-boned boar. Nearly all of the most successful pigs have been on a small rather than a large scale."

Another thing to avoid is a boar that sires many ruptured pigs, a tendency now acknowledged as hereditary."

Warts.

Warts may be described as excessive growth of the tissues of the skin in consequence of local irritation. With regard to the causes of the growth very little is known. Our ancestors attributed them to evil spirits, and their cure was supposed to be effected by various mystic performances. In these more prosaic days we suggest as the cause of warts pressure or friction; but the fact remains that they frequently appear where no friction can possibly exist, and that with some animals no amount of pressure or attrition would result in the formation of the growths, while with others the slightest rub of collar or harness is followed by the appearance of these unsightly excrescences. There can be no doubt, therefore, that constitutional tendency to the complaint is the strongest factor in its development, and where any animal shows itself to be a likely subject, great care should be exercised to remove as far as possible all predisposing causes.

Warts vary very much in size and character. Occasionally they are limited to a few small

excrescences which are practically of no consequence; in other cases they assume considerable proportions, having a large base, and, even when carefully removed, are likely to recur. They are found on almost any part of the body, the eyelids, skin of the nose, the belly, the sheath of the horse, and the udder of the cow being favorite situations, while mucous membrane is not exempt, and the mouth of the dog is often found to be covered with small growths. Treatment must, of course, be regulated according to the position in which the wart exists, and when they occur in delicate places the difficulty of curing or checking their invasion is very much increased.

Of the various kinds of warts, perhaps the most usual is filbert shaped, with the lower part inserted in the skin, in much the same way as an acorn fits into its cup. These are easily disposed of, and may be pulled out of their places by a piece of string looped round them. Another form of wart has a broad base and flat surface, and is dealt with by various applications of a caustic nature. A third variety consists of a pear-like tumor, which hangs from a small pedicle or stalk, and are treated with ligatures, and a fourth kind assumes the form of grape-like bodies, and as a rule, is found on the surface

thigh of horses, and are apt to recur after removal. They consist chiefly of fusiform cells, instead of the ordinary fibrous tissues, with a dense cuticular covering of the simple wart. Persistent treatment, however, usually results in their disappearance, but they have sometimes to be removed two or three times before this result is obtained. It is a popular belief that warts in a human being are contagious, and that the blood flowing from one will bring others wherever it touches. There does not, however, appear to be any certainty about the matter. Some human subjects, like some animals, seem to be extremely subject to the growths, and this tendency may be all that is necessary to account for the extension of the complaint over a large surface.

There is little doubt that the young both in human beings and other animals are most liable to the invasion of warts, and that as the subject grows older the tendency decreases. Treatment by the knife or the application of caustic should undoubtedly only be undertaken by a practiced hand. The incautious use of caustics may result in serious sloughing of the parts. Before applying the remedy, the hard surface should be scraped from the centre of the growth, and



A SOUTHERN ALBERTA WATERING PLACE.

of mucous membrane in clusters. The œsophagus is sometimes obstructed by these accumulations, with serious results.

In cases where the growths attack the lining membrane of a dog's mouth and similar delicate positions, the use of the ordinary remedies is naturally impossible, and one of, at any rate, a perfectly harmless character was some years ago recommended, and has been tried with remarkable success. The simple process of immersing the parts covered with warts into fresh blood, which may, of course, be obtained in any slaughter house, is all that is necessary. If the inside of a dog's mouth is the part that has to be dealt with, he will, after his head has been thrust into the warm liquid, naturally lick off all that he can reach with his tongue, carrying it back, so that the whole of the mucous membrane will be covered. This treatment should be pursued three or four times at intervals of a day or two. The warts become yellow and shrivelled, strangled, in fact, by the rapid coagulation of the blood, and correspondents who have tried the method state that the warts do not recur as is the case after they have been cut off.

Warts assume sometimes a malignant character, and may perhaps be more properly termed fibrous tumors. They occur frequently inside the

a small portion of the agent applied to the exposed parts. Arsenic made into a paste with honey, vaseline or lard is very efficacious, though, as has been said, it must be used with discrimination. Some authorities suggest in place of the scraping mentioned the soaking of the hard surface of the growths with an alkali, such as washing soda or soap powder, which materially assists the action of the caustic agent. It must be remembered that any caustic must be applied to the center of the wart only. Should any be inadvertently placed on the surrounding skin, it will probably produce sores. With regard to the treatment of warts in such positions as eyelids or lips, should the visit to the slaughterhouse recommended above not find favor in the eyes of the owner of the afflicted animal other methods must be sought. The daily application of strong glacial acetic acid is advocated by one authority, or a saturated solution of washing soda in water four or five times a day for a few days. The removal of the encysted warts or fibrous tumors should certainly not be undertaken by the amateur. They must be treated by the scalpel, and as they are often of considerable size and supplied with large blood vessels, the knife of the tyro might lead to disastrous results.—*The Field*.