

THE TREATMENT OF FARM TEAMS is a matter of great consequence to the farmer; for the same principle which requires that the driver of the steam-engine should keep every part of his machine well oiled and in good adjustment, and that he should keep his boiler well supplied with fuel and with water, should actuate the farmer in keeping this most valuable and really expensive assistant to his labors in efficient condition by careful grooming, judicious feeding, and attentive oversight.

HORSES, properly kept and regularly worked, are but little liable to disease, and where the team force of the farm is neither too small nor too great, their work is performed at an economical rate; but where they are either overworked or allowed to stand long idle, they are exceedingly expensive and hazardous property. Properly kept, properly managed, and properly used, horses are, in the main, much cheaper than oxen, because they perform their work with so much greater celerity; but, in the ramshackle stable system that prevails on a majority of farms, oxen, which are too slow and too stupid to be easily abused, and which will keep in condition on less nutritious food, are generally most esteemed. One important effect of their selection, however, in place of horses, is a great waste of the labor of the farm-hands. The difference between plowing an acre a day or an acre and a half, between traveling ten or fifteen miles in the same number of hours, is one of those differences which are constantly undermining our calculations for profit. Good and profitable farming necessarily implies brisk and active work on the part of every man connected with it; and it is only with the aid of two horses, kept in the best condition, performing their work with alacrity, and stimulating their attendants to activity, that we may hope to accomplish the best results.

ON BUTTER-FARMS, where there is a large quantity of skimmed milk that it is not considered worth while to make into cheese, almost the only means for disposing of this valuable material is to feed it to swine. And it should be the care of the farmer to regulate the number kept as closely as possible by the quantity of milk that can be supplied to them, unless his circumstances would justify his feeding them largely with grain, or purchased food, which is not always the case.

Where the supply of skimmed milk is depended upon as the chief food of these animals, it will be better to keep breeding sows, coming in at different times, so that, for as large a part of the year as possible, there may be young pigs to be fed, as these convert the milk more rapidly into flesh than do older animals. Generally, in well-settled neighborhoods, and in the vicinity of towns, the price paid for weaning-pigs is much greater in proportion to their weight than that paid for fat hogs.

CONCERNING THE BREED OF FOWLS which it is most profitable to keep, opinions vary so much that it would be well for each man to experiment for himself. After a careful consideration of all that has been said on the subject during the past few years by writers for agricultural papers, and after a considerable observation of different flocks, we decided upon a cross between the Brahma Pootra and the Gray Dorking, breeding only from Brahma hens and Dorking cocks. The progeny of these birds are quite good layers, and arrive early at maturity, growing to a good size; while the quiet disposition that they inherit from their mothers, and the domestic habits that these teach them, especially adapt them for confined localities. When fattened for market, they are of good size and particularly good appearance.

AMPLE EXPERIENCE, the world over, has clearly demonstrated the fact, that, with proper facilities for exercising in the yard, cattle, fed regularly with nutritious food only in their stalls, are in better condition, and live longer in good health, than do those who are exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather, and to the more precarious subsistence that natural herbage usually affords.