# FARMERS' COLUMN.

How To TELL THE AGE OF A SHEEP,-A sheep's front testh the first year are eight in number, appearing all of a size; second year, the two middle pearing an of a size, second year, the two middle one's are shed out are replaced by two much larger than the others; third year, two very small ones appear—one on either side of the eight; at the end of the fourth year there are six large teeth; fifth year, all the front teeth are large; sixth year, all begin to show wear—not till then.

GATES IN CHICKENS.—The easiest way, and in fact the only way, to cure a well developed case of gapes is to pull off the chickens head. Swabbing out the throat with a feather, or injecting black pepper, or anything else, is both difficult and doubtful. The best way is never to have the your flock. Give your hens with broods access to ploughed grounds, let them scratch; and the chickens will never have the gapes. Make a moveable coop, and cover the hen with it—having no bottom right in the midst of your garden; and the chickens will keep off the ants and the bugs, and keep off the gapes at the same time.

MARING Sour HAY.-The Austrian system of making sour hay is very simple. It consists in digging long graves or trenches, four feet in depth, by six or eight in breath. The newly cut clover and grass is crammed into the trench and tramped tightly down. When the trench is quite full, so that the contents are a little above the surface, the whole is then covered up with a foot or fifteen inches of earth, just as a heap of potatoes is covered. Professor Wrightson states that the preservation is complete, and the wetter the fodder when it goes together the better. No salt is mixed with the grass. He further states that this "sour hay" affords a capital winter fodder,

WINTER VIEW OF TREES .- Few people think, at the time of planting trees in the spring and fall, how they will look in winter. There are some species of trees that appear very beautiful when clothed in their foliage, but when this is gone they look ill-shaped, and anything but graceful. We should remember that frees are to be seen in winter as well as summer, and their appearance at both seasons should be taken into consideration at the time of selecting the varieties for planting. In our northern states it is often far more pleasant in winter to have our dwellings exposed to sunshine than shadow; consequently large evergreens should not be placed so near as to make our house look gloomy. Deciduous trees are far preferable to evergreen near the house, for at the time shade is wanted they give it, and in winter the naked stems but slightly obstruct the rays which bestow both light and heat on our dwellings.

DAIRYING A BENEFIT TO LAND .- In most sections of the country farms are much improved by dairying. The great quantity of manure made enables the proprietors to heavily fertilize any field that they desire to plough up; and in a few years they have their entire farms in splendid condition, and worth double or treble what they were when the dairy business was commenced upon them. My advice to farmers every where is, keep all the cows you can profitably. Not to buy many at first; but to obtain a few very choice ones, and raise your own dairy by degrees. Don't begrudge the original extra expense that superior stock may cost. It may make you feel that you have made a mistake in paying from \$70 to \$100 a head for a few cows that give twenty quarts of milk 'n day; but with the right bull you will soon have all your money coming back for you in the splendid young stock that you will soon have.

HENS IN WINTER.—In order to keep hens laying through the winter they must be furnished with a warm house and a warm diet. Many flocks of hens consume, during the winter, most of the profits of the summer, as they eat and make no return for eggs. They are not to blame for this. If we wish our hens to lay in winter, they must have nitrogenous food, such as eggs are made of. They pick this up in the summer in the form of worms and insects, but in winter grasshoppers and angle worms do not abound, and the hens must have pork or beef scraps, liver, or some cheap meat diet, as the raw material from which to maunfacture eggs. If to this be added some warm much and potatoes, and a few fresh cabbage leaves cut up flue, the hens will lay with gratitude, and cackle with thanksgiving Some fine bone meal added to the corn meal will make a mush that will tickle the palate of hens, redden their combs, and make them sing for joy.

THE ADDRESSED OF A FARM HOUSE.-I have read so many articles on the adornment of homes, and directions for so doing, that it seems an easy mat-ter to tastefully furnish a house. It would seem as though one's brothers could not harbor any desire to exchange such pretty homes for a drinking saloon. Now, I am a sincere admirer of nature and besuty in all their forms; though only a country girl, I trust I have a keen appreciation of the good, the true and the beautiful; but who can imagine the hungry void caused by the absence of the beautiful trifles which possess the power of contributing a deal of happiness to many temperaments. Perhaps these trifles cannot be obtained in consequence of the perversity and whims of an old fashioned man. I know of more than one home from which house plants, birds, fernerics, aquariums, and pretty useful articles might, be fashioned by tasteful fingers of the daughters are excluded as nui-sances, and waste of time and money. Many unframed pictures that lie in the house useless might adoin the barren walls. If the well-to-do farmer could only be brought to think so, money would not be thrown away in purchasing some pretty chiniz, upholsterer's fringe, etc., which, with a small amount of ingenuity, would transform the solitary "spare room" into a tasteful drawing room. This may be a small matter to many who have never had like experience. I do not expect the sympathy of those who possess that wand of power, a full purse, and have but to wave that wand and their homes are furnished. in the

GROOMING CATTLE.—It ought to be the duty of the stockman to see that all cattle that are kept constantly tied up should receive a thorough brushing daily. Stock that are accustomed to have their heads tied get very dirty about the head and shoulders unless they receive a careful " grooming" Cleanliness is very essential for cattle always under cover, not only because disease is thereby prevented from making its inroads, but also because stock thrive better and reach maturity a great deal quicker when they are carefully tended than when they are not. Cattle kept in hammels or loose boxes do not perhaps require so much attention as those whose heads are tied to the stall, as they can with freedom lick themselves, but they should not be neglected on that account; and the careful stock farmer will do well to see that his stockman gives them proper attention. It frequently happens, however, that ther from neglect or a natural predisposition to get dirty it is unnecessary to consider. In such cases.

Of Tindgett Ontonio a good remady is to apply to the affected parts a . mixture of fish oil and flowers of sulphur, in the proportion of four ounces of sulphur to a quart of oil. This mixture should be vigorously rubbed into the body, and about three days after this has been done the affected parts must receive a good washing with soft soap and warm water. The oil and sulphur may be applied once more in the same manner as before, the mixture; being made a little strongersbould there be a little observable improve-ment from the first washing; This, mixture applied twice generally suffice to effect a complete cure of the ailment.

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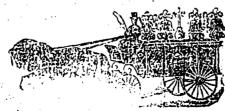
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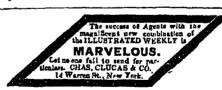
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