

etc., besides having an offensive odor, will attract fleas and parasites.

Burrs and thistles must not be allowed in or near the enclosures, as they not only get into the fur and tail, but also destroy their beauty.

The character of the coat is a good indication of the condition of the fox. In a healthy animal the skin is soft and elastic, the fur thick and glossy and soft to touch. There are many things that influence the fur, such as the effect of exposure to cold, heat, moisture and shelter; also the character of their food.

BREEDING FOR IMPROVED STOCK.

Hope for increased profits in fox raising lies almost entirely in improving the stock by selective breeding. The darker the animal, the more valuable its pelt. Hence the object of every breeder should be to produce pure black foxes, or as nearly pure black as possible. To do this he must retain his darkest and most valuable animals for breeding, selling only the poorer ones. The temptation to sell animals of high value is often very great, but in the long run such animals are likely to be more profitable if kept for breeding. The possibilities of modification and improvement by selection are fully as great with wild animals as with domestic, and already have been demonstrated in the case of foxes. Some of the highest priced fox skins ever put on the market have been from animals reared in confinement and improved by selective breeding.

Since the silver fox is only a color phase of the red fox, its progeny might be expected often