

AUTHORS' PREFACE.

This work is especially designed to supply the need of the busy American farmer and stock owner. It is somewhat remarkable that in this book-making age there is no well authenticated, systematic work accessible to the farmer in which the known facts and principles of the art of improving and breeding domestic animals, and of the causes, symptoms, prevention and cure of diseases, are presented in convenient form for study and reference. Yet such is the fact, notwithstanding the paramount importance of live stock to the farmer, and the wonderful progress that has been made in its improvement. The present effort to supply this want has been made in response to frequent solicitation, and especially suggested by oft repeated inquiries, received as journalists, for such a work covering safely the ground occupied by this volume. The importance of the subject cannot well be overestimated when we consult statistics giving the millions of dollars invested in live stock, in this great country, and it becomes especially important, when we consider that the bulk of this immense value is distributed among those of minor wealth, as the farmer and small stock owner, who have no access to educated veterinary practitioners, and who are not fully informed as to the practical principles applicable to the most successful and profitable breeding, training and general care of domestic animals. In this volume the effort is made to furnish such facts in systematic form, thus enabling the farmer everywhere to turn the business of stock raising to more profitable account. Long experience and observation leads to the belief that a carefully arranged and classified work giving the facts in the art of breeding and general care of live stock, derived from the experience of the practical and most successful stock men, will be of incalculable benefit to every owner of domestic animals.

In the following pages the value of kind treatment has been urged with marked frequency, and the fact is mentioned with no apologetic intent. It is urged as a policy both humane and profitable. What can be done to improve the condition and advance the comfort of these true friends of humanity is in the interest of economy. There is a much needed reform in the breeding, care and treatment of domestic animals, and the endeavor is here made to direct the way and point out its advantages.

In treating of the various breeds of live stock, it has been the purpose to give the special characteristics, with the excellences and defects in

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