

DIRECTING THE HORNS.

J. S.:—"Is there a way of causing the horns of an animal to turn as you wish? Will scraping on the under side turn them down?"

[The course of an animal's horns can be directed, or at least influenced, by scraping upon the side in which they are desired to turn. The writer has operated a file to good effect for this purpose. The generally accepted theory explaining it is that the side which is cut or scraped is checked in growth, while the opposite side continues to grow and thus curves the horn in the desired direction.]

DOUBLE-COMBED LEGHORN.

MR. RODER, Middlesex Co.:—"I have a Brown Leghorn hen that has two perfectly developed combs. They are separate from the head to the top of the combs. I would like to know if any other poultryman has anything like it?"

DOG-POWER.—RAPE IN OATS.

READER, Muirkirk:—"I could some of the readers of the ADVOCATE furnish the paper a description of a tread power, so that I can make my dog do the churning with a dairy churn? (2) What is your opinion of sowing rape with oats in the spring to make fall pasture? How much should be sown per acre?"

[(1) We trust some reader who owns a dog-power will favor us with a description of the same. (2) A number of good farmers and shepherds have practiced sowing rape seed among oats, and report themselves well satisfied. About two pounds of seed per acre is sufficient. If "Reader" tries this plan we trust he will report results to the ADVOCATE for the benefit of others.]

SOWING BUCKWHEAT, GRAIN, AND MANGOLDS.—TROTTER COLT.

SUBSCRIBER, Meaford:—"1. Is it better to sow buckwheat in drills or broadcast? 2. Which is better, deep or shallow sowing for all kinds of spring grains? 3. Would you advise sowing mangolds and carrots in the same land that grew these crops last year. I have very little manure this year and the ground I propose sowing is very rich. Upon taking my selected mangolds to the show I had one of them weighed which tipped the beam at twenty-four pounds. This was a first prize winner. Can any of your young subscribers beat this? 4. What is the cause of cracking in the limbs of young horses as they step about in the stable? 5. At what age is it safe to try a trotting horse's speed without injury?"

[1. Generally speaking, buckwheat does better sown with the drill, as then the depth and covering of the seed is more uniform than when sown broadcast. It comes up more regularly, each plant holding its own throughout the growing season. 2. The depth of sowing spring grains varies with kinds of grain, soil and condition of the soil. In wet or heavy soil, shallow sowing should be practiced: wheat, oats, and barley, from one and one-half to two inches; peas a little deeper. In light dry soil from two to three inches is shallow enough for barley or wheat, while peas and oats do well an inch deeper. 3. It is always preferable to follow a certain rotation of crops as far as practicable, but in this particular case the proposed plan of sowing upon the same land as last year should answer well. It may be well to sow mangolds where the carrots grew and *vice versa* so far as possible. 4. The joints of young horses are often somewhat loose until maturity is reached, when the muscles and ligaments become more firm and bracing. 5. We take it that "Subscriber" wishes to know at what age it is wise to commence to develop a colt's speed. This is a question that cannot be answered definitely. A horseman with good judgment may commence driving out a colt even before one year old, and before he is two have him going rapidly without injury. A great deal of judgment is necessary to be exercised in matters of this sort. We would say, speaking generally, that a colt showing evidence of speed should be hitched and jogged when two years old, though many trotting horsemen do so earlier. He should be worked along gradually, fed well, and never driven to excess or weariness. Many a good colt has been ruined by allowing him to run until three years old, then, considering him a mature horse because he has size, his owner gets him shod and drives him to the utmost limit of his speed. Such treatment often sends them over on their knees and fetlocks and breaks them down into common plugs before they are six years old.]

CREAM SEPARATORS.

O. M. DOANE, Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"Kindly give me, through the columns of your paper, the names of firms handling cream separators?"

Write the Canadian Dairy Supply Co., 327 Commissioner St., Montreal, who handle the Alfa de Laval; and the Waterloo Mfg. Co., Waterloo, Ont., who are now turning out the Alexandra.]

HOTBED.

FRED YOUNG, York Co.:—"Please let me know, through your valuable paper, the best idea in constructing and heating a hotbed, and oblige."

[See Mr. Garner's article in another column.]

LOSSES IN THE SILO.

Bruce Co., Ont.:—"We used to take the ADVOCATE, but for a time dropped it, we regret to say, as one often comes across in its pages an idea about stock raising alone or stable building that would save many times the subscription. Last year we erected a frame silo, 20 x 22 feet, with 10-inch joist; 1 ply of rough lumber, tar-paper and block siding on the outer side, and 2 ply of lumber, 2 ply tar-paper

and block siding on inner side; on a stone foundation. We cut the corn with an ensilage cutter, and tramped it every day for a fortnight, but when we commenced to use it we found that there was almost eight inches of a crust on top that was rotten, and also some in the corners. Is there any way to prevent this waste? We find ensilage excellent food for stock so far, and very cheap."

[We do not think it possible to perfectly save the top layer of six or eight inches, but it may be kept better by covering with a foot of cut straw (wetted) or swamp-grass. This spoiled ensilage is not usually so bad but what animals will eat it all. Some simply tramp the surface well, and wet the top ensilage thoroughly, which forms a close mouldy covering two or three inches thick, completely shutting out the air. If it be convenient to begin feeding a few days after, the silo is filled there will be no loss. The trouble in the corners arises from imperfect settling. The inside boards of a silo should invariably be dressed, so as to facilitate settling, and there should be a bevel or "cut-off" of say a foot in the corners. Of course it must be air-tight.]

JERSEY SCALE OF POINTS.

W. H. RYAN, Grey Co.:—"I am desirous of knowing the points or marks of high-class, pure Jerseys, such as color or otherwise. I am about buying and have not the requisite knowledge so as to depend on my own judgment. Would you kindly describe such Jerseys in the ADVOCATE and give me address of Recording Secretary?"

[The following is the scale of points adopted by the American Jersey Cattle Club at the annual meeting held May 6th, 1885:—

POINTS.	COUNTS.
1. Head small and lean; face dished, broad between the eyes and narrow between the horns.....	2
2. Eyes full and placid; horns small, crumpled, and amber-colored.....	1
3. Neck thin, rather long, with clean throat, and not heavy at the shoulders.....	8
4. Back level to the setting-on of tail.....	1
5. Broad across the loins.....	6
6. Barrel long, hooped, and deep at the flank.....	10
7. Hips wide apart; rump long.....	10
8. Legs short.....	2
9. Tail fine, reaching the hocks, with good switch.....	1
10. Colorness of hide; inside of ears yellow.....	5
11. Fore udder full in form and not fleshy.....	13
12. Hind udder full in form and well up behind.....	11
13. Teats rather large, wide apart, and squarely placed.....	10
14. Milk-veins prominent.....	5
15. Disposition quiet.....	5
16. General appearance and apparent constitution.....	10
Perfection.....	100

In judging heifers, omit Nos. 11, 12, and 14.

FOR BULLS.

The same scale of points shall be used in judging bulls, omitting Nos. 11, 12, and 14, making due allowance for masculinity. Secretary, J. J. Hemmingway, No. 8 West 17th St., New York, U. S. A.

The usual colors are: Fawn, silver-gray, dun or cream, in addition to specimens which are more or less black. Solid colors—that is, destitute of white markings—are preferred. Notwithstanding this preference, the World's Fair (Columbian) sweepstakes winner, and also the winner in the cheese test, bore white markings.]

FEATHER EATING.

JAMES FELL, Victoria Co.:—"Can you tell me what is the matter with a flock of hens who, though they are well fed on grain and hot feed, have commenced to devour the feathers of each other, commencing under the front part of the necks and leaving large spaces of the breast bare? Would you kindly let me hear of a remedy, or what is the cause of this, through the columns of your paper?"

[The habit of pulling and eating feathers is common among fowls confined. It is exceedingly difficult to cure the fault when once acquired, and it is best to kill the fowls for table use at first sight, as they quickly teach others to do the same. The cause is doubtless a need or appetite for something contained in the feathers, or a sheer want of something to do. A mixture of dried flesh and bone, with a small quantity of sulphur, will act as a preventive. Bits of fresh lean meat, or scraps, or ground fresh bones will answer. It is also well to scatter grain among litter to employ their time in scratching for it. Slightly paring back the top part of the beak with a sharp knife, it is said, will usually stop feather picking.]

COW-STABLE FLOORS AND VENTILATION.

WM. HORRICKS, Renfrew Co., Ont.:—"In reading the speech of Mr. John Gould, of Ohio, at the Dairyman's Association of Western Ontario, in 1895, I notice he says: 1st, that an earth floor is the best cow-stable floor that can be built; 2nd, that the air that does the damage falls. (I suppose he means foul air or gas.) He says that the holes to let in the good air should be at the top. I would like your opinion on these points? What do you think of cement concrete for cow-stable floor; also the cost as compared with plank? I have been a subscriber to your paper for scarcely a year, but it has been a great help to me already."

[Except for roomy box-stalls or large pens, we decidedly would not recommend earth floors. In ordinary stalls they would be found most objectionable, wearing into holes in rear and becoming filthy. Carbonic acid gas exhaled by animals in breathing is heavier than pure air. However, at night especially the air of the stable becomes heated from the breath and bodies of the cattle, and naturally rises; hence the advantage of an exit

above, which may be kept open unless the weather becomes exceedingly cold. Pipes or tiles from outside down and underneath the feed-alley floor, with small openings into each manger, are found very effective in bringing in fresh air, which keeps up a circulation as the heated air rises. We notice this plan illustrated in a pamphlet recently issued by Isaac Usher & Son, Thorold, and which can doubtless be got by dropping them a post card. We prefer a properly-constructed cement concrete floor to any other for a cow-stable. The writer has had one in constant use for five years with complete satisfaction. It is not only comfortable both for animals and attendants, but saves all manure, liquid as well as solid, is durable, and costs probably one-third (or even more than that) less to build than a good plank floor, which soon wears out. The cost will vary according to circumstances.]

HENS EATING EGGS.

W. D.:—"My hens, which are well fed in a small, comfortable house (part of bank barn) without a run, are laying regularly, but they eat more eggs than I do. What is the cause and cure?"

[Lack of exercise. Provide them a run in the barnyard.]

EGG-BOUND HENS.

SUBSCRIBER, Chater:—"Would some of your readers be kind enough to tell me what to do for my hens? They are fat and look rosy and healthy till they begin laying, and then their trouble begins. In many cases they will only lay two or three eggs (sometimes one), and then the first thing I know they will make for the roost at any hour of the day, and sit there until better, but often they cannot even get that far. Generally when affected this way they lay a thin-shelled egg, and then quit for a few days. When sick they drop wings and tail, half close eyes, and become completely stupid. They have an abundance of fresh grit. No frost in their quarters, which is a cattle and hog barn, 30 x 50 feet, and they have full run. The barn is well ventilated, and has lots of light. It is somewhat damp. Get about a half-dozen eggs per day. Think they would lay well if rid of this trouble? They had the same disease last year."

[Your hens get their food too easy, and would have no trouble if they had to scratch harder. They want lots of exercise and less stimulating food. In your building you seem to have everything necessary for success, with the above exception. You probably feed your cattle and hogs grain, and of course the hens get a lot of food with very little trouble. When in the half-paralyzed condition you describe they are egg-bound, being unable, through excessive fat and probably large size of eggs, to lay. They take to the roost to avoid the attentions of the rooster. When in this condition shut the hen up in a box or coop, give a large teaspoonful of castor oil, also an injection of castor oil by pressing the neck of the oil-bottle into the egg cavity, but be careful not to break the egg by rough handling. Half an hour will usually give relief. Thin shelled or shellless eggs are often caused by over-stimulating feed, especially this time of year, when it is often hard to collect all the materials necessary to form perfect shells. Broken oyster-shells, old lime, and even cinders are a great help. Cabbages contain lime and all other egg-forming elements. You must be careful to collect those thin-shelled eggs as soon as possible, or your hens may begin eating them, which is a bad habit and hard to cure. M. MAW, Winnipeg.]

CHANGING SEED.

HUGH ROGERS, Grey Co.:—"Do you think seed grain runs out if kept on the same soil for a number of years, and what kind of land would it be best to get seed from to sow on gravelly or loamy soil? Would it be best to get it from heavy red clay or sandy soil?"

[No; not when a selection of the best is made for seed. Select for seed well-matured, large, plump grain, then your samples may be improved. There is an impression that seed for heavy soil should be taken from light soil, and vice versa, but this is a fancy, not a necessity. A. E. SHUTTLEWORTH, O. A. C., Guelph, Prof. of Chemistry.]

NOTE.—If Prof. Shuttleworth's advice with respect to the selection of the seed were strictly and generally carried out it would probably add millions of bushels of improved quality to the grain product of the Dominion. But the question is the expression of so general a conviction that it seems worth while that it should be made the subject of careful experiment. There is no doubt that for the several kinds of seed or grain certain kinds of soil are much better adapted than others. The vigor and quality of seeds, other things being equal, should depend upon and vary with the suitability of the soils upon which they are grown; hence it is probable that if a farmer has a second or lower quality of soil for producing a certain crop, he should, if possible, obtain seed raised on the most suitable soil; but the question whether the farmer having the optimum soil should sow seed from an inferior one is open to doubt. Yet, many believe that there is something so beneficial in "a change of seed" that the gain, even in the latter supposition—that is, sowing seed from inferior soil—compensates by the change itself for the possible inferiority of the seed sown. If any readers of the ADVOCATE have made experiments, or have had experience throwing light on the subject, we shall gladly publish the results.—EDITOR.]