

The Farm.

DICKINSON MERINO SHEEP.

The accompanying engraving portrays Wonderful, No. 700, which is to-day the most remarkable sheep in America. If the sheep were present, the reader would look him over carefully and continually ask himself, "Is not this the best sheep I ever saw?" Thousands saw Wonderful at the World's Fair, and went away satisfied that America, like France, had a mutton Merino sheep in every sense worthy of the name. The Dickinson sheep is a thoroughbred from the Humphrey exportation of 1803, a full cousin to the world-wide-famous Atwood Merino sheep of Vermont, which as a wool sheep will forever remain without a rival. It is believed that the wonderful will remain the champion of a mutton and wool sheep, as "Sweetstake's" has long been as a breeder of wool-bearing sheep. The name Dickinson was proudly and generously given by Mr. James McDowell, who for sixty-



"Wonderful," the champion sheep of the world.

four years gave his time and best abilities to his development—first, as Mr. Dickinson's trained and confidential shepherd, and later on as the proprietor of a wisely selected flock, at Mr. Dickinson's kindly suggestion some time before his death. This fine strain of Merino sheep has been bred carefully, never going outside a flock for a ram for 74 years, and being always under the direction of a McDowell. This is indeed a proud record, and Mr. H. G. McDowell is in every way a worthy successor to a wise and patriarchal shepherd father. It is no empty claim that the Dickinson Merino is a mutton sheep.

Wonderful at his best, before he was three years old, weighed 250 lbs., and sheared 46 lbs. of wool at three years old, that was good enough to capture the prize as a single fleece at the World's Fair, in 1893. Ewes of this breed at two years old weigh 175 lbs. and range 200 lbs. often much more, as in the case of Wonderful. The reader will notice the width of carcass indicated by the distance between both fore and hind legs; also the short legs and springy rib, the square quarters, and the vigorous style indicated all over. It is not necessary to tell the experienced sheep raiser that these sheep can live out of doors like other Merino sheep, that they are prolific and have flock qualities of the very best order. There is a charming uniformity in these sheep which have set the pattern most admirably for the mutton Merino sheep of the future, and it is claimed that there is no better delaine wool grower in existence. —H. M. Bell.

Comparative Merits of Bees.

The pure Italian bee (Apis Ligustica) does more work and lives 10 to 15 days longer than the German black bee (Apis mellifica). But don't use the highly praised golden, fine banded Italians, because they are bred for color and are decidedly apt to be weak in constitutional vitality. The true Italian is more of a leather color than yellow; they show two distinct bands around the abdomen up next to the throat (the part to which the wings and legs are attached). The real superiority of the Italians is a tongue four one-hundredths of an inch longer than the black bees have. They are more persistent workers and they cling to the combs closer when being handled, also protect their combs from the ravages of the bee moth more completely. —H. L. Jeffrey.

To Ventilate a Warm Cellar.

The majority of cellars, perhaps, need provision for keeping out the cold rather than letting it in. Still there are many that are much too warm for the proper keeping of fruit through the winter, and where such is the case ventilation must be had. The diagram shows an example of a naturally warm cellar can be easily controlled during the winter, and fruit kept fresh and free from shriveling.



The casing coarse cotton cloth is drawn and tacked. This keeps out snow and any animals that might otherwise enter, but permits some circulation of air. With this arrangement the temperature of a naturally warm cellar can be easily controlled during the winter, and fruit kept fresh and free from shriveling.

About the Farm.

Soil, location and management have a marked influence on same variety.

What farmers are looking for to-day is something that will yield an income outside of their farm. Bees would make quite an item in the income of the farmer, and would be received from what is going to waste every year. Do not start on a large scale, but let your apiary grow. Start with about four or six swarms the first season. You may lose some skeps, but you must expect loss. Bees will die as well as horses or cattle, but perhaps not so often, and then there is not such a large sum invested. Take some reliable bee paper if you intend going into it very strong. Many a farmer's wife is in the bee business to stay. They find it a light employment, and many a little article has been purchased with the bees' money. Use the frame hives, as more money can be got from them than any other. Use one pound section, as they look neater and are more in demand, as those who buy the sweet nest-like to have the combs so they can place them on the table and not out them.

FRUIT INSECTS.

The burning of fallen leaves or other rubbish in or near fruit plantations of any kind will prevent many insect pests from obtaining winter shelter near their food-plants and those pests already in hibernation will be killed. Many of our worst insect pests, as the plum curculio thus hibernate in rubbish.

It is a good practice to scrape off the rough bark from the trunks and branches of fruit trees, for many caterpillars of the codling moth (then in their little cocoons of silk), the hibernating adults of the pear psylla, and the hibernating eggs under the scales of the oyster-shell bark-louse and the scurfy bark-louse, will be dislodged or killed. A coating of whitewash or some similar wash will tend to keep the bark clean, thus rendering it less attractive as a hibernating place for insects.

If fruit trees are pruned at any time during their dormant period the pruning should always be burned. These prunings will often bear the wintering eggs of the different kinds of plant lice (as the apple and the cherry aphides, and the hop aphids, whose eggs are laid on plum trees) that appear in such great numbers on the trees in the spring and summer. The half-grown caterpillars of the cypress-knee-beetle (Coleophora detrita) are also then snugly tucked away in their little curved cases attached to the bark of the twigs and many thus perish on the prunings. This insect has recently come to be a serious apple pest in Western New York.

Trees infested with the oyster-shell bark-louse, the scurfy bark-louse, the San Jose scale (now practically confined to Long Island in New York state, but which has been widely disseminated since its spread from California) or any other scale insect, should be thoroughly washed with whale-oil soap, using one or two pounds to a gallon of water. Remember that the wash must come in contact with the insects to kill them. With this wash, or with a strong kerosene emulsion, many of the adults of that dreaded pest, the pear psylla, then in hibernation in sheltered places on the bark, can be killed.

The New York plum scale, which has recently wrought such great destruction in Western New York plum orchards, can be fought to the best advantage only when the trees are dormant, as the scales are then young, tender, and its exposed on the bark. Early infested trees should receive a thorough spraying with kerosene emulsion (Hubbard-Riley formula diluted four times) in the fall, in the winter, if possible, and another very thorough application early in the spring before the buds swell.

Why Rain and Snow Injure Highways.

The two cross sections of country roads shown herewith are in the nature of object lessons that tell their own story. The first (Fig. 1) is that of hundreds of country highways—ditches at the sides, a high grass-grown edge or "shoulder" on either side of the wheel track, and a concave roadbed. When the rain falls on such a highway how can it do otherwise than run along the center of the road, wash away all loose soil in its course, until it finds a chance to escape into one of the side ditches? Where such a road is



FIG. 1—BADLY SHAPED ROADWAY

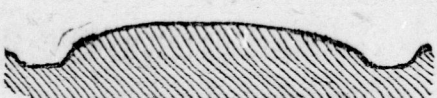


FIG. 2—PROPERLY SHAPED ROADWAY

upon rising or falling ground, the washing is especially severe, because the force of the water, which on steep hills often becomes a perfect torrent, pouring down the middle of the highway. The proper form of a roadway is shown in Fig. 2. The "shoulders" have been moved and carried into the middle of the road, the whole surface being nicely rounded from one side to the other. Rain falling upon such a road will run off at once into the ditches, leaving the roadbed firm and dry.

Feeding Hogs.

There is always considerable difference between the best and the poorest pigs of a litter. This shows itself at birth, and almost invariably the pig that is largest, and best then will, other things being equal, make the best hog. It is sometimes said that the runt pigs can be made better by better feeding. This is true to a certain extent. But the reason the pig is a runt is usually because digestion is poor. Feeding a runt pig too much injures its digestion still more, or if the food is digested it goes to make fat rather than growth. For the reason the poorest pigs in a lot should be put up for early fattening, giving longer feeding to those that will best pay for it.

Wintering Hens.

I winter 200 hens; they are kept in warm but ventilated houses, and do well. For the morning meal I feed hot corn and a pudding made of corn meal seasoned with salt and pepper. They have plenty of straw, all kinds of small grain, which they must scratch for, and all the fresh water they can drink. My hens are fat in winter, and I keep them so and have eggs in plenty at the same time. I keep the lice from interfering with my business by using Carbolineum Avenarius. It also prevents disease. —Mrs. M. S. Fuller, Eaton County, Michigan.

Make the shelter sufficiently warm, so that the hogs will not bed too closely together.

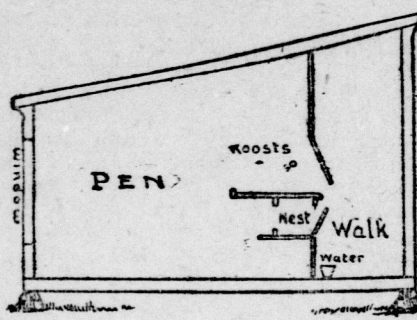
American Sheep Breeder says they have compulsory sheep dipping in South Australia for lice and ticks as well as for scab. It also says that drench in New South Wales has enhanced the price of meat in Sydney.

The Red Poll, formerly called the Suffolk Dun, comes from the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk on the east coast of England. This breed is one for which its friends especially claim good merit as both beef and milk production, or as a double purpose cow. It is of medium size, some specimens being quite large, solid red in color, of course hornless. The breed is in the home counties have had decidedly different ideas in mind, and specimens of the breed frequently differ much in form, size and dairy quality. As a breed the cows give a good quantity of milk above the average in percentage of fat.

Many men have credit for wisdom when the quality they possess is nothing more than "cuteness," which has no regard for right and utterly ignores the thought of doing unto others as they would have them do to them.

CHEAP POULTRY HOUSE.

The diagram herewith shows one of the best cheap poultry houses that can be constructed, the inside arrangement being especially excellent because of its labor-saving character. The sketch shows a cross section, from which it will be seen that, contrary to the usual plan, the higher side has the walk, the pens being under the lower part of the roof. If one can stand erect at the center of the pen, this is sufficient height for all purposes, as most of the work of caring for the fowls is done from the walk. The roosts are at the front, with the platform below that projects out into the walk for several inches. Raising the hinged door, one can thus scrape off all the droppings from the walk into a box or basket. The nests



below the platform are also reached from the walk, while below the nests is an opening in the partition, through which the fowls drink from a dish in the walk, no water being spilled or made filthy by this plan. The windows are on the lower side of the house, a great sufficiency of light being secured in this way. This construction permits a much lower, and consequently warmer, house than is the case where the walk is on the lower side. Such a house may be built of rough boards and covered with heavy roofing papers, then basted, when it should be warm and last for years. When the covering does begin to give out, single or clapboard right over the tarred felt or paper.

Live-Stock Notes.

A sow to obtain best results should be in good flesh and gaining, not overfed or fat, when bred.

The feeding of heifers at this time of the year is by no means attended with so much danger as older cows. Practically, heifers coming fresh soon should have a good feed of grain twice a day.

Horses that work in cold and more especially in stormy weather need to be rubbed and dried as soon as they come to the stable. After the sweat on their coats has been rubbed thoroughly, the horse should be blanketed until the hair has become entirely dry. This will save the horse from many colds, which are liable to develop more serious diseases.

Sheep can endure cold without injury, provided they are sheltered from storms. This is especially true of fattening sheep, which will feed much better when they can breathe air that is cold and bracing. Such air has a greater proportion of oxygen in it, and this uses up the carbon in the blood, and thus promotes a vigorous appetite. But when sheep get wet their wool holds the moisture, and it is very much like a person sitting in the cold with wet clothing on. Old sheep quickly succumb to conditions like these. In fact, it does not pay to keep sheep that are past their prime.

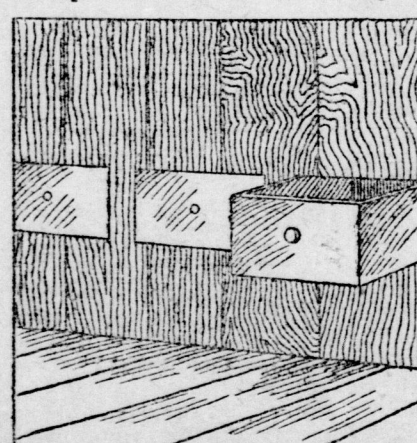
The Ayrshire is the leading dairy breed of Scotch origin, coming from the shire or county of the same name on the west coast of Scotland. The cows are of small medium size, averaging perhaps 1,000 pounds; varying much in color, almost always having some white in combination with red, yellow or brown. The best specimens of the breed are almost ideally perfect in form of body and udder. They give a good quantity of milk slightly above the average in percentage of fat. Outside of parts of New England they are not numerous in the dairy districts of this country.

The hog has less hair than other domestic animals, and it is especially liable to be injured by dampness. Where a number of pigs are kept together, they will pile over each other, and if the quarters are at all damp, they will be reeking with sweat and wet in the morning. In most places the feeding place is much less protected from the wind than is the sleeping pen. We have often seen hogs roused from their warm bed and standing shivering with cold while eating their breakfast. In this way many fattening hogs take severe colds, and what is even more important, the pork made from such hogs will not be healthful for those who eat it.

A question that will be of interest to the dairymen is "how much water will a cow drink?" Of course, the amount differs with different individuals, with the varying heat of different seasons and the amount of salt and character of feed, but an average amount for average cows of different breeds has been decided upon by repeated experiments at the New York Experiment Stations. It was found that during lactation, or the milk-giving period, the average for month was 17,000 pounds, and 774.8 pounds of food was consumed. The pounds of water drank for each pound of milk produced were as follows: Ayrshire 4.34, Guernseys 5.07, Holsteins 4.43, Jerseys 5.24, Shorthorns 5. Holderness 3.95, Devons 4.82; an average of 4.68 pounds. It is an interesting fact, as above noted, that those breeds of cows giving the richest milk, like the Jersey and Guernsey, require the most water to each pound of milk produced.

Movable Nesting Boxes.

The sketch shows a convenient plan for arranging nesting boxes where the poultry quarters are within a building, and separated from the remaining space



by an inside partition. In this partition are arranged drawers of the proper size, as shown in the diagram. These project into the poultry house, where they are supported by a light framework with grooves in which the drawers run smoothly. One can thus gather the eggs without entering the poultry quarters, and without soiling one's shoes and frightening it may be the fowls. The nests being unfastened can be removed and cleaned at any time, as permanent nests cannot be

TESLA'S HEALTH-GIVER.

The Famous Electrician Proposes to Drive Out All Bodily Ailments.

Nicola Tesla, the electrician, has invented an apparatus with which he says it is possible to cure any organic disease, including consumption. Hereafter nobody need die except as a result of old age or accident, for the invention of Mr. Tesla will be within the reach of everybody, inasmuch as the inventor will, he says, present the world with the fruit of his labors.

The cures will be effected by means of a thorough shaking of the human system. Mr. Tesla calls the treatment a system of mechanical vibrations, and his apparatus he calls an oscillator. He said that he had not yet tested the apparatus upon a consumptive, and therefore did not wish to give public expression to his conviction that it would infallibly cure that disease. What made him believe, however, that it would be productive of such a result was that he had received the assurance of an Austrian professor, who had tried it, he said, successfully upon several consumptive patients.

The principle upon which the apparatus is based has been enunciated by Mr. Tesla several years ago, and was immediately taken up and put into practice in a crude sort of a way by the professor in question. Even though he had not been able to develop the principle to the same point of perfection which Mr. Tesla has now attained in his apparatus, the professor did not hesitate to assert that the "vibrations" had the inevitable result of killing the bacteria which prey upon the lungs and constitute consumption.

A typewritten pamphlet, in which the Austrian professor acknowledged the debt which he said humanity owed to Mr. Tesla, perished in the flames with many valuable papers and instruments when Mr. Tesla's laboratory was burned last year. Mr. Tesla can no longer recall the name of the writer, nor has he learned what progress the latter has made since that time. But although Mr. Tesla is able to speak of the efficiency of his apparatus in cases of consumption only on the authority of another, he says that he knows of his own knowledge and from personal observation and experiments that it cures all other organic diseases. When a person's ailment, for instance, is caused by torpidity of the liver, Mr. Tesla says, the physician or the patient to take much violent exercise, such as riding. Now, according to Mr. Tesla, if the patient will just take a seat on his apparatus he will get in half a minute the equivalent of a whole day's ride, and all of all he will not be subjected to any jolting such as he gets on horseback, nor does he experience any of the fatigue incident to riding. But notwithstanding the absence of these characteristics, the patient will have received as thorough a shaking up as if he had been trotting for dear life all day long. The apparatus accomplishes this by means of a series of none the less powerful, electric shocks, at the rate of one hundred per second, and distributed so evenly through the system that one scarcely perceives any alteration on his condition.

The New York Journal says that ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt, who recently visited Tesla's new laboratory and complained that he was troubled with his liver, "I think I can fix that; just sit down here and excuse me a minute," replied Mr. Tesla, pointing to a chair and handing Mr. Hewitt a newspaper. Then Tesla went out, ostensibly in search of a prescription blank, but in reality to turn on the electric current. When he returned, in a minute or so, Mr. Hewitt seemed an entirely changed man. He said, after Tesla had explained that the chair whereon Mr. Hewitt had been sitting was loaded with electricity, that he had felt a sort of creeping sensation, but of a rather pleasant nature, and not at all associated with the ordinary notion of the way in which electricity manifests itself. And as to the illness, Mr. Hewitt acknowledged that it seemed to have entirely vanished.

Unless Mr. Tesla's hopes are visionary—and there seems to be no reason why they should be considered so—persons who need exercise and have no time to take it need only step upon the new apparatus and take a hundred-mile spin, so to speak, in a minute or so. Should anybody suffer from sleeplessness on account of lack of exercise, he can sit down, light a pipe and read a paper until he has taken the equivalent of a run around the globe, and then go to sleep as soundly as if he had actually performed that feat.

A STORY OF BRET HARTE.

It is said that when Bret Harte came east his western friends said, "How will he go over the autumn leaves?" Yet the very first letter he sent home contained very little but an enthusiastic account of a waitress who came to him one morning in Concord, and said: "Coffee, tea, hats and eggs. I enjoyed your lecture, Mr. Harte. You had a lovely audience." He had never seen a female table waiter before, and perhaps that was why he did not mention the autumn leaves.

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