

over, it is comparatively unknown. The difficulty with anthrax lies in its diagnosis. It is a disease passing the comprehension of ordinary mortals. The only advice the experts of the Board of Agriculture can give regarding it is that in every case of sudden disease among cattle, anthrax should be suspected. Veterinary surgeons cannot diagnose the disease until they have examined the blood. A farmer cannot do this, and he is liable to a heavy penalty if he sends a carcass to the public market which on examination proves to have been affected with the disease. He is thus in a tight corner, and many a decent, respectable man has been convicted of sending a diseased carcass who had no thought of wrongdoing.

Agricultural education grows in favor here. The N. D. A., or National Diploma in Agriculture, examinations attract a large number of students, and the work done by them is yearly of an increasingly valuable nature. The examinations are held annually at Leeds. They are controlled by a joint board, nominated by the two National Societies of England and Scotland. There is no restriction on the lines of education followed by the students, and competitors can enter from all quarters. All the agricultural colleges are shaping their courses of instruction along the lines of the N. D. A. examinations, and this makes for uniformity in our now numerous agricultural colleges. The work is of a high order, and the standard set for the diploma that which only students of approved merit and sound education can hope to attain to. That the farmer of the future must be well educated goes without saying, and the high level set by the N. D. A. ensures a high standard of merit in all the colleges and schools. The examinations of 1904 have been by far the most successful of the series which was only begun in 1899. Alike in respect of numbers and the quality of the work done, the reports are highly favorable.

When Dr. Koch threw his bombshell three years ago, everyone set himself to discover whether the learned gentleman was talking sense or the reverse. The British Government appointed a Royal Commission, to investigate the subject of tuberculosis, and especially to examine Dr. Koch's statement that the disease in the bovine and in the human subject is not identical. The commission has been at work for a long time, and has now issued an interim report. Its findings are fatal to Dr. Koch's positions. They are not based on opinions, but on experiment. Cattle have been dosed with tuberculous matter from the human subject; the result has been the infection of the cattle. Tuberculous matter from these cattle has been given to guinea pigs; the result has been the infection of these innocent sufferers in the cause of humanity. Tuberculous matter from these has again been given to cattle; the result, the infection of these cattle. The investigators have been unable to find any reason for believing that there is any distinction between tuberculosis in man and in the lower animals. At any rate, safety lies in adopting this view. Immense danger may lurk in adopting its opposite.

"SCOTLAND YET."

One Article Worth 25 Years' Subscription.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—It gives me great pleasure to send you the following:

Early in April we had a valuable farm mare foaled in. When the colt was two weeks old it showed lameness, as though the mare had trod on it, but as the lameness was followed by general debility, we began to look for another cause. We were fortunate in having your issue of April 6th, with an article by your excellent contributor, "Whip," on "Navel Ill." As the symptoms described tallied exactly with the colt's trouble, we without delay adopted the remedy he prescribed, and although the attack was a severe one, both knees, both hocks and each stifle joint being badly affected and swollen, by following to the letter Whip's direction, and persevering with it, the trouble gradually disappeared, the colt being able after about two weeks' sickness to get up by himself, and now, saving a slight stiffness, which is getting better daily, he seems quite himself again. As the sire was also a well-bred horse, we should have regarded the loss of the colt as equal at the lowest to \$30 or \$40. As we, beyond doubt, should have lost it without the information gained from your paper, we regard the value of that information as equal to at least twenty-five years' subscription.

Wishing you every success with your valuable publication,
GEO. LANGLEY.

Rosthern, Saskatchewan.

One of the Family.

I am so pleased with your paper that it is like a man losing one out of his family to be without it, for there is anything and everything that a man or woman wants to know, from a mosquito to an elephant. The farmer that does not read it is not a stayer; he is merely a visitor.

Peterboro, Ont.

M. Metchnikoff, a member of the Pasteur Institute, at Paris, has advanced the theory that senility is due to the ravages of a microbe, which, he claims, he has been successful in isolating.

FARM.

Thinning Sugar Beets.

The success of the sugar-beet crop depends very largely upon proper and timely blocking and thinning. If this work is properly done, and at the right time, it will not be found exceedingly troublesome, and can be done with comparative rapidity. If neglected, the work increases at the rate of about thirty per cent. per week, compound interest, while the crop prospects decrease at about the same rate.

Beets should be thinned when the majority of them show four leaves, while the root is yet a mere thread; as soon as you are sure they are all up, in fact. Now is the time; do not hesitate or delay. You would not think of allowing your clover or wheat to stand three weeks after it is fit to cut, and should not allow yourself to pursue a different policy with this more valuable crop. Do not become impatient with your sugar beets because they require care at the proper time. They are not half so particular in that respect as hay or grain, and will pay you four times as well for your attention. And the crop that can be handled now at a cost in labor of from \$5 to \$6 per acre, with a yield of from \$70 or \$80 worth of beets, will, if neglected for three or four weeks, cost \$10 to \$12 to thin, with a yield of \$30 to \$40 per acre. Two persons can easily



Lawrence A. Walch.

Manager Cooper-Walch Land Co., Winnipeg, Man.

block and thin half an acre in a day at the proper time, and when that is finished you have the satisfaction of knowing that all the tedious work is done, that the balance of the work on your sugar beets will be no more than the labor on any ordinary farm crop, and the cash returns will be from three to five times as great.

In blocking, use an ordinary hoe, six or seven inches wide. If it is your first year with sugar beets you will be tempted to buy one of the many kinds of hoe, double or single, that are advertised as being specially designed for this work. Nearly every old beet-grower has a variety of them stored away in his tool shed as mementos of early experience, but he is using the common six-inch hoe in his beet field. The hoe should be kept very sharp all the time, with the corners kept perfectly square, and should not strike the ground too flat, but should draw a little of the surface earth out of the row, so that the operator can see just what he is doing at each stroke, and so that the person thinning can see at a glance which beets are cut off and which are left standing. If the hoe strikes the ground too flat, you can bend the blade backward by taking hold of the shank with a monkey-wrench.

There is a knack in blocking with a hoe, just as there is in chopping a tree down with an axe. It is easily learned, but you must start right. The hoe is a very simple tool, but it has im-

mense possibilities. Don't be afraid to take hold of it; it is as easy to handle as the pitchfork, and will make you rich a good deal faster. Stand astride one row while blocking the next. At first you will have to watch where you are putting your feet; they will take care of themselves after a while. Don't walk backwards, but face the way you are working. Now grasp the hoe with your hands far apart on the handle. Get your eye on the beet you intend to leave—keep it there. Make one single stroke close to your plant. Now make the very next stroke close to the other side of the same plant. Then, and not till then, select the next beet to leave. Strike one single stroke close to that plant. Sometimes it will so happen that while you are working at number one, your hoe will cut close to number two; if so, you can save a stroke, but if not absolutely close, remember that what you don't do with the hoe the thinner will do with his fingers, and, in dirty ground especially, you must block very close to the plant. Now plant the very next stroke close to the other side of number two. Now select number three, and repeat. Follow this rule absolutely. Make the blocks extremely small. In many places there will be only one beet left. Always stand so that your hoe cuts square across the row. Don't chop, but draw the hoe with a firm, decided, quick movement towards you. Cut deep enough to CUT OFF ALL BEETS AND WEEDS BELOW THE CROWN, or they will grow up again. Do not be afraid if the beets topple over, and do not waste time propping them up with earth; they will straighten up in a day or two. Cut out the whole width of the hoe with each stroke. You will feel tempted to dabble with the corner sometimes—don't do it. Remember that if the beets stand from six to ten inches apart they are all right.

The person thinning should get down on both knees astride the row, and use both hands. Do not pick out the beets and weeds to be removed one at a time, but, holding the earth about the beet to be left with the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, remove all the other beets and weeds in the bunch with one movement of the right hand. It will not do at all to merely pull off the leaves; the roots must come up, or the plants will grow again. And you absolutely must not leave more than one beet in a place. You should be able to keep up to the blocker if he has done his work well, and if he has not, you must insist on his doing so. You are expected to keep up to him, and he must give you a chance. Do not stop to prop up the plants that have fallen over; they are all right.

Sugar beets should be cultivated at least once before thinning, and a couple of days after thinning the cultivator should again be brought into use, and at frequent intervals afterward, until the tops are too large to admit of walking between the rows. On reasonably clean land that has been well prepared beforehand, no hoeing will be required after the beets are blocked and thinned.

E. E. DADSON,
Agriculturist Wallaceburg Sugar Co., Ltd.

Haying.

When the weather is favorable, it does not require much ingenuity to manage a crop of hay. All that is required then is to so arrange details that a very large amount may not be in the swath or cock, or ready to haul in at once, but, rather, to have a succession of the different stages of haying. It does not do to cut a few acres, then let the mower stand until the land has been cleared, then cut another strip. Such a plan would be too wasteful of time, unless there is only a small area to be taken care of, and the weather very catchy.

In poor haymaking weather, the plans of the day may require frequent changes, and one must be constantly on guard against having a large amount of hay in the swath. In such weather, the ground being damp and constantly giving off moisture, the hay should not be left long in one place, but should be frequently stirred or turned. Stirring hay has a great deal more to do with rapid haymaking than most of us are aware of.

Many, no doubt, will this year try the method of green-curing of clover, so frequently discussed in the "Farmer's Advocate" and at Institute meetings. The advantages of the system are quite apparent, but as the practice is not always followed by successful results, according to all reports, we would recommend the novice to not experiment on too large a scale until he has attained considerable efficiency in handling clover in this way. The successful advocates of this system caution against handling the clover when there is the least particle of extraneous moisture present, to spread each load around in the mow, and to tramp it solid. All this seems simple enough, and no doubt has proved satisfactory with many. On the other hand, reports are not wanting of those who handled their clover in the manner described by those who claim to have been successful with green curing, yet with results the