

the point of the tail will slough-off, owing to the stoppage of the circulation.

Sometimes, one of the testicles does not descend into the scrotum; in this case, unless you want your flock to be worried out of their lives, eat or otherwise dispose of this *chaser*, as he is called in shepherd's parlance.

In the South of England we used to consider a fair fall of lambs to be 125 to the hundred ewes. We have had, from our Hampshire-down flock of 245 ewes, 320 lambs, born alive; many were lost, owing to the abortion of the ewes from having been kept too long on turnips without nitrogenous food. The ewes were all "full-mouthed"; had they been "two-toothed" when put to the ram their prolificness would not have been so great.

*How to tell if a cow is in calf.*—The ear is the best judge; if your ear is not very sensitive, borrow a *stethoscope* from your friend the doctor; by its use the existence of pregnancy may be detected at as an early a stage as six or eight weeks from the date of service. By that time the beating of the calf's heart—a double-action beating—may be distinctly heard.

A trifling quantity of linseed-cake, or of crushed linseed which is better; a pound of the latter or two pounds of the cake; given daily for a fortnight before and the same after calving, will keep the bowels of the cow gently open, and go a long way to prevent milk-fever.

*Milking.*—Look sharply after your milkers; they are mighty apt to avoid the trouble of drawing off the last drops of the milk, by which the milk becomes too thick to flow—the last drops being, as every dairyman knows, by far richer than the rest,—and soon produces inflammation, ending by the closing of one or more of the teats. This closing of a teat is very commonly observed in what are called "family-cows," i. e., the cow kept for the supply of the house, when the cook is the usual milker, and naturally does not like her task.

*Crushed linseed*, added to skim-milk, is by far the best substitute for the natural milk of the cow. Boil the linseed, in lots of water, and stir it up in the warmed milk. If you prefer ground oats,

sift out the husks, as the irritation they set up (peristaltic action) often produces diarrhoea.

Again, we repeat: don't let the cow see the calf after it is born until it is weaned.

## FARMING IN CHINA.

### PROVINCE OF SWATOW.

The chief expense of tillage is in fertilizers, beans and sesamum-seeds from which the oil has been expressed being commonly used, at an outlay of from six to forty and an average of twenty-four dollars upon every acre of land. Besides this, potato-peelings, hair from shaven heads, and all other vegetable and animal refuse is carefully husbanded and methodically applied to the soil. The clods of the field are laid up into little ovens to retain and be enriched by the smoke of the stubble burned underneath them. Adobe houses, whose walls have for many years absorbed the fumes of a kitchen and the exhalations of human inmates, are pulverized and added to the ever-hungry earth. Each growing plant separately receives distinguished consideration, a scrap of tobacco-stalk being sometimes put beside its root to destroy underground grubs, while its leaves are frequently examined and sedulously freed from vermin. The rotation of crops is always practiced.

### AN EXAMPLE.

Pong Hia lives in a village of three hundred persons, in which about thirty men are land-owners, having altogether forty-five acres of land. Pong Hia owns two acres, inherited from the father who adopted him. His land is worth one thousand dollars. His family consists of ten persons. He is himself forty-six years old, his wife is forty-one, his son is twenty-two, his son's wife is twenty-one, his four daughters are from ten to seventeen, and his two grandchildren are three and seven years old. He and his son till the land, hiring help at harvest-time, and weaving

*Note.*—Just as in Gloucestershire (Eng.), where any night in September, a thousand heaps of earth and stubble used to be seen smouldering away; on the heavy land, though, not on sandy soils. This was called "Stifleburning," *stifle* being the diminutive of *stive* to repress; akin to the French *étouffer*, to smother; from the Latin *stipare*, to press together.

We say "used to be seen," because, nowadays, the use of the reaper, in place of the sickle, cuts the stems too short to leave enough stubble to burn the clods. Ed.