

disease is not contagious. An approved preventive is to keep the above-mentioned issues open, and to give the pigs plenty of charcoal, or some anthracite coal ashes, which absorb the acids of the stomach and consequently correct indigestion. Against the apoplectic tendency there is no protection so long as the pig is forced in less than twelve months from birth to weigh 200 pounds or upwards. In the treatment of blind staggers, bleeding and purging are the only remedies relied upon. Pigs under such attacks, however, generally die before any prescriptions can take effect.

COLIC OR STRETCHES IN SHEEP.

Colic or stretches in sheep is generally caused by costiveness or stoppage, which results from constantly feeding dry hay, straw, or other similar fodder. It is most prevalent during the latter part of winter or in early spring, before the grass starts. The actions of a sheep attacked with colic indicate that it suffers intense pain at times, followed by intervals of rest. During the spasms the animal lies down and rises frequently. When on its feet it stretches almost incessantly, and frequently elevates its nose and twists its head. Unless some treatment is adopted which gives relief, it finally dies. An examination after death will show that a part of some one of the intestines has been drawn into or folded upon itself after the manner of a telescope, or the finger of a glove partially inverted. The remedy suggested, say half a pint of melted lard to which one-fourth of a teaspoonful of cayenne pepper has been added, is a very simple one, and can usually be administered without delay, as nearly every farmer has the ingredients. Our remedy is to grasp the sheep firmly by the hind legs, as near the body as possible, and hold it up, head down, from two to five minutes, keeping the back of the animal next to the operator, to prevent being struck by its legs. This position causes a movement of the intestines and restores them to their natural position, so that when released the animal appears as well as ever. We have tried this simple remedy many times, and never know it to fail in a single instance. These attacks can always be prevented by giving a feed of potatoes or turnips every day during the winter season. If a supply of roots cannot be obtained, cut hemlock boughs and place them where the sheep can have free access to them. Sheep fed upon ensilage will probably never suffer from stretches.

COMING BREEDS OF SHEEP.

In a paper read before a Wool Growers' Association, V. P. Richmond, of Illinois, says:—As "the world moves," we must conform to the movement. If the Englishman says, send us big sheep with brown legs and faces, we grow them for him; and if the Shropshire is not too lazy to glean our wheat fields, or eat our burrs, weeds, and briars, he is the coming sheep for the present time. The Southdown must not be ignored by any means, for on hilly farms he will be at home, and grow more pounds of mutton than the Shropshire. The Shropshire bears a long, thick fleece of medium wool that is always saleable, and usually at better prices than either very long or very fine wools, and is therefore preferable to the Southdown, whose wool is rather short and not very heavy on the sheep.

There are several other families of the Down sheep which are coming into notice. The Hampshire Down is making quite a stir among some breeders—I saw three or four at our last State Fair, but had not the time I would have liked to give them attention. They are larger than the Shropshire, and coarser, said to be of quicker growth; did not show so good wool, nor the mild,

quiet way of the Shropshire. The Oxford Down is said to be still larger, and more prolific and of quicker maturity than any other breed, as I have heard and read. I am not familiar with them. At present it is best to let fancy breeders work up other breeds, and as they are developed we can observe the comparison with other sheep, and govern ourselves accordingly. While I would advise grain growers not to dip much into new or fancy stock, I would also say, breed the best breed pure, and cross nothing.

A CAP FOR THE HEAD IT WILL FIT.

"Twas in a barn-yard, snug and clean,
Where shuffling stacks and sheds were seen;
Where happy cows, with eyes so bright,
Might eat their fill from morn till night;
Where sheep and oxen, well content,
Found out what peace and plenty meant;
Where troughs well filled with careful hand,
For pigs almost too fat to stand,
And scattered barley, oats and peas,
Made pleasant work for hens and geese—
You'd say as you might look about,
Within the stables, and without,
"Here is a paradise indeed,
For pig and poultry, sheep and steed
Yet here, alas! there may be found
A wretched cumberer of the ground.
It was a porker, tall and slim,
With dreadful length of snout and limb.
Altho' quite old enough to know
That pigs were meant in flesh to grow,
He'd grunt about from morn till night,
And keep himself in woeful plight,
And fret, and worry, and complain,
About the price of roots and grain;
He'd take his food, and then he'd sigh—
"Alas that peas should be so high!
If next year's crop should turn out ill,
Ah, then will cease this pleasant will,
And when a few more years are gone,
What shall we poor pigs live upon?"

The farmer, leaning on the fence,
Makes merrily at the brute's expense:
"Well, now," he cries, "how very fine,
To hear such wisdom from a swine!
Who finds your food, both wet or dry?
Is it yourself, my friend? or I?
You'd better make the best of life
Before you feel the butcher's knife;
For, ere another winter's snow,
He, without doubt, will lay you low:
And then all these good things will be
For him that cometh after thee."

MARIE.

Warton, Ont.

A BREEDER'S OPINION OF ESSEX SWINE.

Mr. William Smith, a well known citizen of Detroit, who has imported, bred, and improved many of them in this country, besides being thoroughly familiar with them in England, says:—
"They are invariably black; should have short, dished face, soft, fine ears when young, though with age they will begin to grow heavier and droop somewhat. The body should be of medium length, broad, deep, and straight; with a heavy ham, well let down, and bone fine, but strong enough to support the carcass in good style. When in condition the proportions will always be symmetrical and pleasing; medium well-haired, with a fine and comparatively soft coat. They mature early, their meat is excellent, and a year at most should suffice to feed them to the most profitable condition for pork, which is one of their merits, and when fat the carcass should yield a large proportion of lard. They possess powers of transmitting to their progeny an excess of their own good qualities when crossed upon common and coarser swine; and the first cross upon our natives will improve their qualities almost above recognition. As breeders and nurses they are very fair, though not equal to the Berkshires."

Mr. William Hyde, of North Easthope, has a ewe which gave birth to twin lambs, and fifteen days after gave birth to another. The first two were white and the other black.

CREAM.

A WESTERN newspaper advises those who use postal cards to write their messages distinctly, as the time of a postmistress is valuable.

"SEE, mamma!" exclaimed a little one, as puss, with arching spine and elevated rudder, strutted around the table; "see, Kitty's ate so much she can't shut her tail down."

A WOMAN has suggested that when men break their hearts it is all the same as when a lobster breaks one of his claws, another is sprouting, and immediately grows in its place.

"Won't you ladies tell me what you are talking about?" said a fop. "I'm all ears." One of them looked at him sharply, and said, "So you are; you ought never to get your hair cut."

"SAMBO, me b'y," exclaimed Pat, a rollicking Irishman, to a jolly darkey, "tell us what makes your nose so flat." "Dunno, Mars Pat," answered Sam, "but I spec' it's to keep me from pokin' into udder people's business."

CLEAR ENOUGH.—First English gentleman (looking at railroad time table): "Bill, why do they say p.m.?" Second gentleman: "That means penny a mile." First: "And what does a.m. mean?" Second: "Why, 'apenny a mile, of course."

I SAID to my little girl one day: "What a large forehead you have got! It is just like your father's. You could drive a pony carriage round it." To which her brother, five years old, said, "Yes, mamma, but on papa's you can see the marks of the wheels."

HAPPINESS is like manna. It is to be gathered in the grains and enjoyed every day; it will not keep, it cannot be accumulated; nor need we go out ourselves, nor into remote places to gather it, since it has rained down from heaven, at our very doors, or rather within them.

Make channels for the streams of love,
Where they may broadly run;
And love hath overflowing streams
To fill them every one.
But if at any time we cease
Such channels to provide,
The very fountains of love for us
Will soon be parched and dried.

—R. C. Trench.

A SMOOTH sea never made a skilful mariner; neither do uninterrupted prosperity and success qualify for usefulness and happiness. The storms of adversity, like the storms of the ocean, arouse the faculties and excite the invention, prudence, skill and fortitude of the voyager.

ONE of our friends advertised for a serving man, and the next day appeared a stout person of grave air, wearing enormous blue spectacles. "Have you weak eyes?" said our friend. "No, sir," said the applicant, "but I scour pots and things so thoroughly that the glitter of them hurts my sight."

A YOUNG man who thought he had won the heart, and now asked the hand in marriage of a certain young widow, was asked by her, "What is the difference between myself and Mr. Baxley's Durham cow?" He naturally replied, "Well, I don't know." "Then," said the widow, "you had better marry the cow."

WOULD that we could all imitate the pearl oyster! A particle of sand intrudes itself into its shell, and this vexes and grieves it. It cannot eject the evil, but it covers it with a precious substance extracted out of its own life, by which it turns the intruder into a pearl. Could we do so with the provocations we receive from our fellow-Christians, there would be bred within us pearls of patience, gentleness, long-suffering and forgiveness, by that which else had harmed us.—C. H. Spurgeon.