

### Wooden Horn Knobs—How Put on.

The ends of the horns of some cows and oxen are so pointed, that unless mounted with knobs, serious wounds are easily inflicted. We have seen the flesh of neat cattle laid open several inches in length by pugnacious bullocks, and horses and colts with dangerous and even fatal wounds given by the horn of some hooking beast. The small brass knobs which are screwed on the horns, are worth but little, as they are too small. In order effectually to prevent injury, the balls should be as large as a man's fist. Moreover, when vicious cattle have such large knobs on their horns, they will soon get completely over their propensity to hook, and large and small will herd peacefully in a small yard, where it would be dangerous to keep them, were there no knobs on their horns. We once owned a hooking cow with long, sharp-pointed horns, that was a terror to every other animal in the yard, until large knobs were put on her horns, when she shortly became peaceable and harmless as a lamb, permitting small cattle, that once trembled with fear when a rod distant, to feed close by her side. We have been long accustomed to use large wooden knobs, for the horns of every animal more than one year old, if the horns had attained sufficient growth to admit of boring a gimlet hole near the small end, without entering the quick. In the horns of some cattle the quick extends to within half an



FIG. 2.—KNOB.

inch of the tips, until they are, perhaps, two years of age, and the horns of some cows and oxen may be bored, without touching the quick, three inches or more below the ends. To make these knobs, select a few well seasoned, sound sticks of some tough wood, which will not split easily, like yellow locust, iron wood (or hornbeam,) river beech, or pepperidge. A piece two feet and a half long and 4 inches thick in the clear, will make six knobs, 4 inches in diameter and 4½ inches long. They should be shaped like fig. 2, above, and an expert woodturner will get them out in a few minutes at a cost of about two cents a piece. Soon after they are turned, they should be sawed apart and bored through with a ½-inch bit, to prevent unequal drying and cracking. The pin-hole (seen in the cut) should be bored ¾ of an inch from the tip-end, using a sharp nail bit. Then the hole should be reamed out with a bung-hole borer, shown in fig. 3, making a tapering hole, as indicated by dotted lines in fig. 2, about an inch in diameter at the lower end of the knob. Soak the knobs thus made, several days in linseed oil or coal tar, to prevent shrinking and cracking when on the horns. If the animal to be adorned will not allow its horns to be bored, make it fast by the horns to a bar or pole fastened securely in a gate or doorway, which has strong posts. Ream out the holes to fit the horns well. Then crowd on the balls, mark

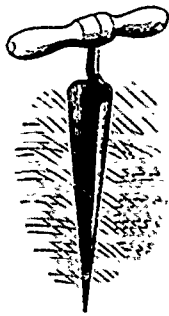


FIG. 3.—REAMER

each horn on both sides with a square-pointed awl, and, removing the balls, bore the horns half-way through from each side, using a small gimlet having a sharp screw. Use pins of No. 11 or 12 steel wire, 3 inches long, filed to round points. The holes in the horns should be bored "drawing" to keep

the knobs from working loose—that is, they should have the effect to spring the pin down in the middle, but not more than one-fourth of its diameter. When the holes are so bored, the pins must be driven in with some force. To do this, a heavy

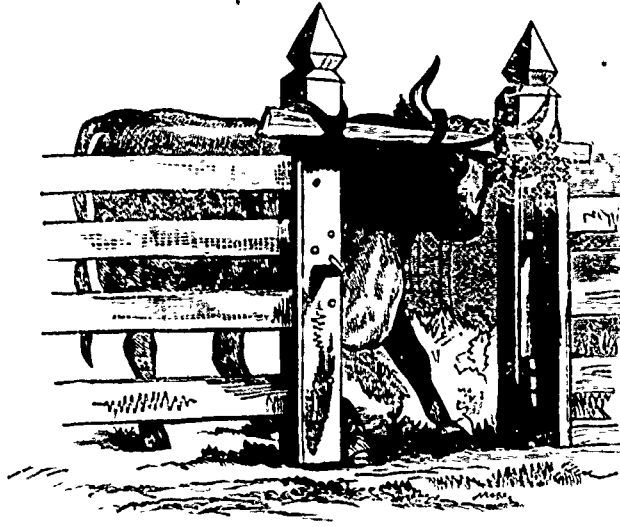


FIG. 1.—METHOD OF HOLDING AN ANIMAL.

sledge hammer, or stone weighing 20 or 30 pounds, should be held against the knob to prevent all jarring, as cattle are extremely sensitive to any blow upon their horns. Drive each pin about a quarter of an inch beneath the surface.—*American Agriculturist.*



FIG. 4.—WOODEN KNOBS ON CATTLE.

### A Bull on the Ice.

The *St. Louis Republican* is responsible for the following narration:—

"About nine o'clock yesterday morning, a large bull, which had become separated from a herd on the other side of the river, stepped forth on the ice and made for the city of St. Louis, walking straightforward with a dignified mien, and a look very much like that of a Numidian lion. His neck was about a yard wide and a foot in thickness, and the firmness with which he trod the brittle highway on which he embarked, clearly indicated to the beholder that he was a bull with a will. At the same time that the bull set out for this side of the river, a serious looking, heavy-set gentleman from Illinois, set out from this side for the Illinois shore. He saw the bull approaching at a short distance, and liked his looks; thought he was a bull that behaved himself on the ice, molesting no one, and showing by the sober expression of his countenance that he had sense and pluck. He calculated that the animal would turn aside a little when they met; but on approaching very closely he found that the monster was lowering

his horrid head for an attack. Being thick-set and short-legged, he was not naturally a good runner, but the foaming wrath he saw in the bull's eye, the uplifting of his long, straight tail, and the shaking of his terrible neck, sickened his heart and he turned to flee. As the bull turned to give chase, the perilous situation of the fugitive produced a feeling of intense anxiety and excitement on the part of spectators at a safe distance. The wild beast was upon him in a second, and the manner in which he was lifted from his heels and hurled aloft some ten feet into the air, presented itself as a ludicrous and amusing spectacle to the crowd, though the unfortunate victim, no doubt, had his eyes closed, and was uttering a prayer for his own salvation, while undergoing the lofty tumbling. Taking the seat of the man's pantaloons squarely between his horns, the mad animal tossed him helplessly high overhead, to the distance, as stated by some, of three or four times the man's perpendicular height. Alighting in the same posture in which he went up, he sat for a while the picture of utter dismay. He soon recovered his wits, however, and strangely enough was found to be only slightly bruised. The bull rushed madly on, and presently encountered another man, whose name we are informed is J. E. Miller, who received serious injuries. Instead of running, he tried to take the bull by the horns, and give battle. One of the horns of the infuriated beast was thrust directly into his eye, tearing it from its socket. The animal finally reached the levee, and instead of being shot was driven out Elm street, and thence out Clark avenue, to some stock-yard. Miller was picked up in a partially insensible condition, and was taken to a room on the levee, where he was attended by Dr. Vanzader."

**FATTENING CALVES.**—A sensible practical farmer told us the other day that he had often noticed that calves would thrive better on milk that was not rich in butter, than on what was commonly called very rich milk. That is a fact in accordance with what we recently stated, that the nutritive elements of milk reside chiefly in the caseine. If you have a cow that gives particularly rich milk and one that gives a quality poorer in butter, it is better in every way, to feed the calf on the milk of the latter. The calf will thrive better and you'll get more butter, from the milk of the first cow.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

**BEDDING AND VENTILATION FOR STOCK.**—Every farmer should see to it himself; however trustworthy may be his boys or other assistants, that his cattle, sheep, horses and hogs are well bedded as well as well fed and watered; also, that his barn or barns, where his stock is kept and fed, is or are well ventilated. Domesticated animals, as well as man himself, need fresh air, and when compelled to breath a tainted and therefore irrespirable atmosphere, it is at the expense or risk of health and the highest purposes which one has in stock breeding and keeping. Any observing farmer can tell on opening his barn in the morning whether the ventilation thereof is ample.—*Boston Cultivator.*

**BONAPARTE AS A SHEEP MAN.**—Napoleon said, "Spain has twenty-five millions of Merinos; I wish France to have a hundred millions." To effect this, among other administrative aids, he established sixty additional sheepfolds to those of Rambouillet, where agriculturists could obtain the use of Spanish rams without expense. Visiting the establishment for printing calicoes of the celebrated Oberhampf, Napoleon said to him, as he saw the perfection of the fabrics,—"We are both of us carrying on a war with England, but I think that yours, after all, is the best." "These words," says M. Randoing, "so flattering and so just, were repeated from one end of France to the other; they so inflamed the imaginations of the people, that the meanest artisan, believing himself called upon to be auxiliary of the great man, had but one thought, the ruin of England.—*J. L. Hayes.*