

species. The distinguishing features of each division are the formation of the bill, and the general habits of each species. Those which exhibit rapacious tendencies are placed in the first family of this order, and for this reason I will place among the *Dentirosters* several species, as the crows, jays, and blackbirds, which are generally placed in the family of the *Conirosters*. Those genera which possess strong bills, in some cases curving at the point, are *Dentirosters*; those which are furnished with short, wide bills, as the swallows, are *Fisirosters*; those which have round, thick bills, as the sparrows, are *Conirosters*; those that have long, straight bills like the woodpeckers, are *Tenuirosters*; and those which are furnished with long, stout bills and short feet, as the kingfisher, belong to the family *Syndactylia*. Some ornithologists divide and sub-divide the Order *Passerinae* (Insectivores, or *Perchers*) into over twenty families; but I think the present arrangement the best, for at least young students, and for similar reasons I will also omit the scientific terms by which birds are usually designated by professional writers, and in these Sketches only use their common English names.

#### CHOKED CATTLE.

Probangs for choked cattle may be obtained from any outler who makes a specialty of veterinary instruments. All cattle owners ought to know that a very efficient instrument may be extemporized by taking a new inch rope six feet long, opening it out for an inch at the end, and laying the strands back and tying them down on the end of the rope, so as to make a cup-shaped end. This should be kept straight, being laid on a shelf or hung on three or four nails in the wall when not in use. When used, the mouth should be held open with a gag about three inches in diameter, and perforated in the centre by a hole large enough to receive the cup-shaped end of the rope. The nose is raised and the head brought into a straight line with the lower border of the neck, then the tongue is well drawn out, and the probang passed with steady pressure through the whole length of the gullet into the stomach. There is more danger of stopping short of the stomach by six inches than of passing it too far. Two feet extra introduced into the stomach will do no harm.—*Professor James Law, Ithaca, N. Y.*

#### BULLS.

Colonel F. D. Curtis, in a recent contribution to this department, urged the importance of working bulls instead of allowing them to remain the dangerous loafers of the farm, a system which is not in accord with the spirit of our civilization, outside of Utah. The *N. E. Farmer* takes up the topic, saying:

"If it were the fashion to work bulls, more might be kept. Many farmers who now keep but one bull, and that under constant fear of some sort, would keep two, and have them earn their living by their labour, leaving their service as breeders, and their carcasses when grown, as clear profit. A pair of three-year-olds in our hornless herd were yoked for the first time a few weeks since, and drew a drag load of stones a half mile at the first lesson, and ploughed a half day the second time the yoke was put on, which is certainly behaving better than some steers we have known. Although hornless cattle must be much safer than those with horns, a great deal depends on how animals are treated when young. Every calf should be halter broke before it gets too strong to be held easily, and it should be so kindly treated at all times that it will follow its keeper and allow of being handled with perfect confidence."

#### DON'T LET THE COWS GO DRY.

A long even season of milk is absolutely necessary to be a profitable one. There is nothing that the dairyman needs more exhortation upon than that of giving a full ration to his herd at all times during the milking season. There is less excuse for feeding a good milch cow stingily than any other farm animal. She does not ask any credit; she makes prompt daily payment; and her product is a cash article. If he has not the food at hand, prudence and good judgment, as well as humanity, requires him to furnish her full rations at all times, without regard to a favourable or unfavourable season. We always counsel dairymen to make an earnest effort to produce all the food for their herds upon their own farms, but the first principle of profitable dairying requires that they give abundant food to keep up an even flow of milk, whether they produce or purchase the food.—*Live Stock Journal.*

#### MILK FOR FOWLS.

Since milk is the only article of food known to contain within itself all the elements necessary to the perfection of growth and vigour in an animal, it is not strange that it should be found to be one of the very best egg-producing materials that can be supplied to poultry. Given two flocks of fowls, and treatment, location, and original stock being equal in all respects save one, it will be found that those having skimmed milk as a portion of their daily food or drink will give more eggs weekly, and for a longer term of weeks, than those whose treatment is exactly the same, with this single exception. In cases where milk is very plentiful, and only a portion is needed for fowls, it would be well, say once a week or oftener, to give the milk in form of curd, by heating it until the whey separates from the more solid portions. This is very nutritious, and its constituents so nearly resemble the white of the egg, that egg formation must naturally follow its use. Let no one hesitate to take from his waste milk whatever his hens will use, assured that they will yield five times over the returns that swine or any other stock would give for the same amount.—*American Poultry Yard.*

In Ohio earthquakes are more frequent, hot springs are appearing in many places, and the island is continually sinking.

Good milk is not to be had from half-starved cows. Those who object to high feeding may do well to remember that good, rich manure also comes only from well-fed cows.

The man who makes the business pay is the man who carefully selects his breeding ewes, annually culls out the old and inferior stock to fatten for the market, and constantly keeps at the head of his flock a thoroughbred male, if he cannot afford to start with purely bred ewes. No other kind of stock-raising pays so liberally at present as sheep growing, if properly attended to. To be a successful flockmaster you must keep your flock young, feed well, and breed with judgment.

A FARM can be stocked with sheep cheaper than with any other animals. Sheep will come nearer to utilizing everything which grows on the farm. Less labour will be required for getting feed and stock together. The returns will come in sooner and oftener than with any farm-stock except hogs. Less money is required for shelter and fencing, and less labour is required in herding, when outside pasturage is accessible and preferred. And finally a handsome income on the investment can be had without the sale of the animals themselves.—*Boston Cultivator.*

DURING 1880 there were disasters to 198 steamships. Of these 99 were stranded, 40 foundered, 30 sunk by collision, 7 burned, 11 are missing, 6 were abandoned at sea, 2 sunk by ice, 1 broke in two, and 1 was destroyed by explosion.

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