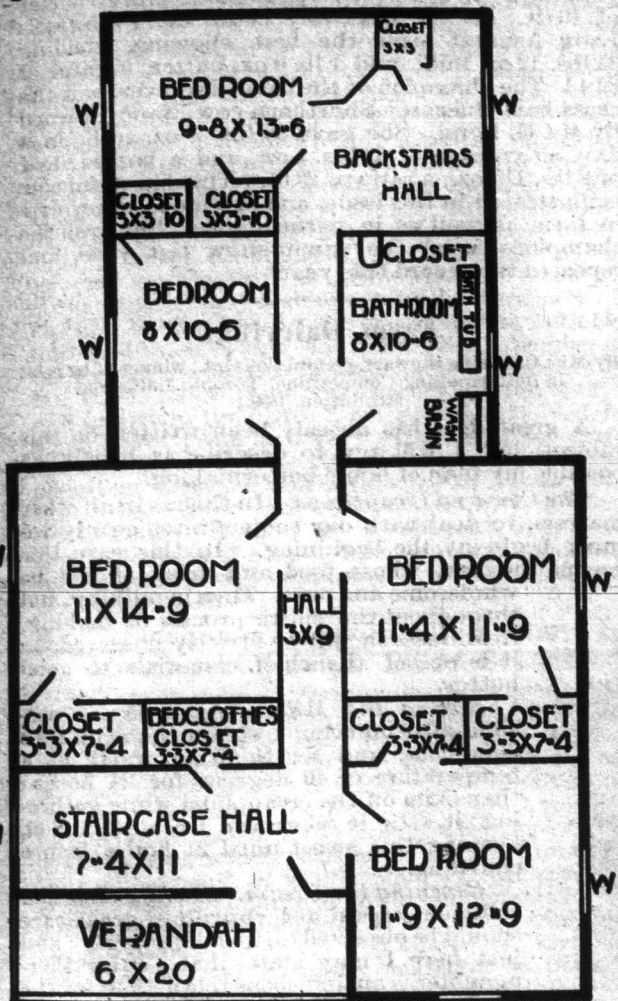


know about a house, and he said that the windows should slide into the wall, so it was done; but it was wrong, for it is difficult to open or shut them—the dust and dirt gets in the slides, and there is no way of getting it out. I think they should swing inside. Another thing about the cellar, I think the chimneys ought to be built right from the cellar floor. It would be a safe and cheap way of ventilation. By having openings left in them the foul air would escape, or, in times of severe frost, a stove could be set up.

Let the living rooms, the kitchen and dining-rooms be the pleasantest spots in the house. How often we see a bedroom, and that the guest chamber, in the front and sunniest corner, while the dining-room is behind it. By all means, have one bedroom downstairs, but it ought never to be the guest chamber—said guest may be a nervous



woman, having never slept in that house before, and it is positively cruel for all the family to go upstairs, and leave her alone downstairs. The man of the house is the one for that room, where he can be on hand in case of emergencies. Don't have many steps at the back door; a woman goes in and out many times a day; it will be easier for her without the steps. Don't build the house behind the orchard—the place for the orchard is at the back or on one side of the house. Having built the house, see that the surroundings are neat and tastefully laid out—trees, grass and flowers are about the cheapest things in the world. All that is needed is a little time and labor, but the pleasure of seeing them repay for the work, and, as the women and children on the farm have to work hard, it is only fair that the father should help them in making the home attractive and pleasant to dwell in.

Huron Co.

MRS. EVERGREEN.

A Portable Forge.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I am thinking of building a portable forge, for use in sharpening plow shares, etc. As our land is stony, we often have to sharpen them every day, which takes a lot of time if you are two or three miles from a blacksmith.

I would like if you or some of your subscribers would give me a description of a fan for the purpose, giving size and speed of fan, also manner of conducting the blast to the fire. Also any other hints which would be of use in constructing same.

Your paper is exceedingly well liked in this section, where it has a large circulation.

Oxford Co., Ont.

W. C. S.

[We shall be glad to hear from any of our subscribers who can give information on this subject.—Ed.]

Secrets of Success in Pig Keeping.

Mr. Saunders Spencer—and he ought to know—lays it down that one of the secrets to success in raising young pigs is to feed them often, and “give them a little at a time.” When about to be weaned, he advises giving them a mixture of sharps and meal, made into a mash with skim milk. Mr. Spencer is a strong advocate of feeding pigs liberally from the outset, and keeping them improving and putting on flesh from day to day. Bacon curers put a much higher value upon pigs so fed than on those which are well fed one week and half starved the next.

One of the Newest Swindles.

A new swindling scheme that is being practiced in the States is reported by one of our Minnesota exchanges, as follows:

A stranger approaches a farmer with a proposition to buy his farm. After the usual negotiations and bantering, terms of sale are agreed upon, the price to be, say, \$10,000; the stranger pays \$50 down to bind the bargain, and departs to return in a given time and complete the transaction. A few days later another fine and intelligent stranger appears at the farm and asks permission to examine the soil, which is granted, and an apparently critical examination of portions of the farm follows, with the result that a proposition is made to the farmer to buy his place. The latter states that the farm is already sold, or bargained for, and he cannot sell it again. The stranger regrets this, for he finds the soil to be impregnated with a substance that is valuable for certain manufacturing purposes, and is therefore worth much more to his company than to anybody for merely agricultural purposes, and he concludes by asking how much he sold the place for, and to whom. The last question is asked in the hope that he may be able to buy the farm from its new owner, for he would rather pay \$15,000 for it than to fail in securing it. This moves the farmer to say that he does not know the address of the purchaser of his farm, but he hopes that when he returns he can be induced to waive the contract, when he will be at liberty to sell to the gentleman present. The latter then gives a name and address in full, so that he can be reached readily if he can have the farm, and departs, expressing the hope as he goes that he will soon learn of a satisfactory arrangement with the holder of the option so that he may come into possession of a place so desirable for his purpose. The rest of the story is soon told. The first buyer appears on the scene as agreed, and after much talking and figuring is induced to surrender his right to the farm in consideration of \$500, which the farmer pays by negotiating his short-time note at bank. The second stranger is at once notified of his great good luck, he can have the farm at his own price, \$15,000, but strangely enough he does not show up, but rumor has it that both strangers were subsequently seen in a not distant city having a splendid time at a first-class hotel. It is needless to say that both strangers were consummate actors in their line, and well calculated to deceive men who are more familiar with the vain ways and dark tricks of the world than the average farmer, hence the farmer in this case should not be unduly blamed, but his fate should be an effective warning to others who may be similarly approached.

Horse Breeding for Profit.

Mr. Robert E. Turnbull, in the *English Live Stock Journal*, gives the following article on “Horse Breeding for Farmers, and What It Pays to Breed”:

“In the United Kingdom there are at present about 2,450,000 horses kept for business purposes and for recreation, and about 610,000 unbroken horses, or 3,060,000 horses. About four-fifths of the whole number are horses that have been broken to work on the land and for farm carting, and 1,415,000 for riding and driving, and for trade purposes; having regard to the large number of horses employed by railway companies, brewers, and in other businesses for heavy traffic, and the number of horses required for land work and for heavy traffic, and 715,000 for riding and driving and for light traffic.

“More heavy draft horses are required in this country than any other description; that being the case, farmers who give their attention to this class of horses, and who breed first-rate animals, can always find buyers who are prepared to pay a remunerative price for high-class horses suitable for railway and heavy town traffic. Young draft horses of the best type, that have been carefully reared and judiciously fed, can, without any disadvantage, be broken in and put to light work on the land when they are two years old. From that age till they are five years old, when they are ready for sale, they amply repay the cost of their food by their labor. If a young draft horse has the misfortune to meet with an accident that unfits it for town work, it may still be usefully employed on the land, whereas, if a young hunter become unfit for the purpose for which he is bred, his services cannot repay the cost of keep. All experienced farmers are agreed that, taking into account the value of the labor performed by young draft horses, they can be kept to the age when all horses command the best price at a relatively lower cost than other breeds. It is true that a considerably higher price can be obtained for a well-bred weight-carrying hunter, or for a high-class carriage horse, than for a good draft horse; but for one man who has the necessary qualifications to ensure success in breeding carriage horses of the best class, there are ten who are capable of breeding good draft horses, and except, perhaps, in Yorkshire and in some parts of Ireland, for one farmer who can breed a first-class weight-carrying hunter, there are fifty who can breed good draft horses. In the long run, capital invested in well-bred Shire or Clydesdale mares that are intelligently managed, gives, as a rule, a more certain return than capital employed in breeding either riding or driving horses. But if a man is a good judge of hunters, Hackneys or carriage horses, and is a born breeder, naturally endowed with the qualities that are necessary for success, chiefest among which

are sound judgment, patience, and the finest powers of discrimination, he may safely breed the kind of horse in which he takes the keenest interest, provided he has suitable land and buildings. There is no depression in the market for high-class hunters. The demand for high-class carriage horses exceeds the supply, and good Hackneys can be readily sold at remunerative prices. At the agricultural show at Trentham lately, the Duke of Sutherland stated that, according to figures he had received, 100,000 horses, in value \$7,000,000, are annually employed in connection with fox hunting. The love of sport shows no sign of diminishing. In the last few years wealth has rapidly accumulated in this country. In the great business centers the number of well-to-do people has lately largely increased. Under the circumstances, good carriage horses are likely for some time to come to be more in demand than ever.

“It does not pay to breed cab horses or omnibus horses. These can be more cheaply bred abroad. It does pay to break high-class horses for riding and driving, and for agricultural purposes and heavy traffic. In this field home-bred horses of the best type are unrivalled.”

Vitality of Draft Stallions.

The importance of breeding horses from strains which are known to be sound, healthy, and long-lived, cannot be too much insisted on. There is a tendency in these days to sacrifice a good many things for showyard honors, and among them not infrequently the constitution of a valuable stud horse. The law of heredity works with great force in the equine race, and, therefore, defects and weaknesses, either of conformation or constitution, which appear in the sire or dam, are pretty certain to be reproduced in the offspring. A sound mare bred from sound parents and grandparents mated with a stallion bred likewise will, in the ordinary course of things, produce a sound horse, and sound horses are always salable; if not for the showing, at least for the shafts.

In horse stock it is curious to notice the certainty with which little peculiarities of sire or dam appear in their progeny. For instance, a rat-tailed parent will almost invariably breed stock which are thin-tailed, and the writer knew a mare whose stock could be identified by a peculiar shape of the points of the ears. The strain imposed on the fashionable sires of to-day is very great, and especially so if they are exhibited to any extent. The feeding-up process, railway travelling, and showyard drafts, all tend to have an injurious effect on the health and life of the strongest horse; and yet there have been, and are still, sires which have stood this for years, and proved themselves capable of producing sound and valuable stock. The most notable instance of a long-lived Shire stallion is unquestionably that of Lincolnshire Lad II. 1365 (he was a son of the late Mr. Drew's Lincolnshire Lad 1190 or K.). This grand stock horse was, I think, twenty-four years old when he died, and was a success at the stud up to the very end. It is hardly necessary to say that his descendants literally “hold the stage” for prizewinning, for real worth, and, I think, for vitality. Through his son Harold, strength of constitution and vigor have unquestionably descended on the stallion Markeaton Royal Harold and the great mare Gloaming. Surely if ever any mare had a strong natural

