

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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A Judge's Reasons: How Should he State Them?

One of the tendencies as the result of the educational work done in live-stock judging is for the onlookers at the ringside to ask the judge or judges for reasons. Unfortunately, such are not always given, or, if given, are unsatisfactory to the hearer, even if satisfactory to the judge.

To illustrate, the following are the utterances over a decision given a short time ago: "It has a better front, a better underline, and more breed character." All of which, while probably satisfactory to the judge, were far from convincing to his hearers, for the following reasons: The judge failed to make plain to his questioners wherein one "had a better front"—better in such a case might mean anything; it might mean a stronger crest, a more prominent brisket, a fuller neck vein, a wider front, and so on; and, with respect to underline, better might mean straighter, lower, fuller in hind or fore flank, etc.; and a judge's remarks in which he uses the term "better" are rightly termed "excuses," such are not "reasons!"

At the big stock-judging competitions the bulk of the competitors fall down when it comes to the paper part of their work. Instead of giving "reasons" for their decisions, they give excuses in the use of such terms as, this animal has a better loin, and that has a better back, in place of stating that the loin of the one was more thickly covered with meat and was wider than the other, or that the back of the one was straighter, wider, more evenly covered with flesh, etc. It is by the observance of this particular that Prof. Kennedy, of Iowa, cinched the Spoor trophy at Chicago year after year, for the simple reason that his students won because he was a teacher who would not allow the use of such a lame generalization as "better."

To all young men, college men or not, we

THE FARMERS ADVOCATE.

would say, then make your reasons so plain that the veriest novice cannot misinterpret you. Anything short of the above, and you have not given reasons. The object in giving one's reasons are to convince the other fellow that you know whereof you speak, and the plainer and more logical your statements are, the greater your chances of convincing him and others.

The Lightning-rod Agent.

The risk of damage by lightning has been investigated by a committee of the National Fire Protection Association, and the conclusion arrived at is decidedly favorable to the adoption of lightning-rods. This accords with the results of very careful enquiries which we have made from time to time during recent years, as our readers are aware. The Toronto Globe seems rather apprehensive that there is now prospect of a lightning-rod revival, and that the persuasive agent may once more enjoy an era of easy profits. Fortunately, farmers need not depend on the lightning-rod agent. They can put up more efficient and very much cheaper rods themselves by following the directions very fully given by Mr. Thos Baty in the issues of the "Farmer's Advocate" for September 8th and 15th, as well as an article previously published.

Trust Companies.

[The Trust Company Idea and its Development. By Ernest Heaton, B. A., Oxon.; of Osgoode Hall, Barrister-at-law. Cloth, price, \$1. Toronto: The Hunter-Rose Co., Ltd.]

This short treatise is timely, well arranged, clearly written, and upon a subject of general interest. In the space of some forty short pages, the subject is treated very comprehensively. In this connection, however, we would remark that, while the utility of the trust corporations is emphasized, their defects receive scarcely any attention. Some of the space devoted to repetition of commendatory sentences might, we think, in the interest of the trust companies, as well as of the public, have been usefully employed in criticism of their make-up, methods and apparent policy. Undoubtedly, the corporate trustee has come to be regarded as a necessity, and, generally speaking, when it keeps its business confined within reasonable bounds, has capable and alert management, and directors who are not merely respectable, but are competent and really direct, it merits public confidence. This substitution of a corporation and its successors for an individual (and his personal representatives, in cases of executorship) as executor, administrator, guardian or other trustee, is, indeed, in very many cases, practically indispensable. But the corporation trustee might be considerably improved upon, and this competent writer might do excellent public service were he to expand his work somewhat, and add some wholesome, practical criticisms of the trust company, as seen in its actual management of matters and estates with which it is entrusted.

One Hundred-fold Better.

When the late Mr. Weld commenced the "Farmer's Advocate," he brought a few copies to Lindsay and showed them to the County Council. I subscribed for it then; I am taking it still. I have long wished it to become a weekly. I think its value is increased one hundred-fold. Some years ago, if it hurt the Grits, they shouted "Tory," and if it hit the Tories, they shouted "Grit." I always thought the man who leaned so far to both sides (as they said) must walk pretty straight. I think so still. I like independence in a farmer's paper.

Yours respectfully,

Reaboro, Ont., Sept. 21, 1904. J. W. REID.

Appreciation from a Distant Colony.

Having come across a copy of your paper, I have been so pleased with it that I wish to become a subscriber. I subscribe to a paper of the same name in New Zealand, and I think that you can give the N. Z. editor a few wrinkles in the way of conducting such a paper. I herewith enclose a subscription for one year, with postage added. W. K. CHAMBERS.
Repongaere, Gisborne, New Zealand.

HORSES.

Incised Wounds.

(Continued.)

When bleeding has been arrested, as discussed in a former issue, or in cases where bleeding has not been excessive and required no special treatment, all blood clots, dirt and foreign bodies of all kinds should be removed from the wound, by carefully sponging with warm water, to which has been added a little carbolic acid, zenoleum, creolin, phenyle, or other good disinfectant. In sponging a wound, care should be taken to not injure its surface by undue pressure. It is quite sufficient to squeeze the water out of the sponge and allow it to flow gently over the wound, the sponge not being brought into contact with the tissues. If any materials are firmly imbedded in the tissues, they must be carefully removed with the forceps or the finger. Cleaning wounds with a coarse brush cannot be too highly condemned. The wound should be carefully examined, and if the instrument that inflicted it has penetrated the muscular tissue to a lower point than the skin is severed, thereby forming a sac or pocket from which serum and pus cannot escape, the opening in the skin must be enlarged to the lowest point of the wound in the muscles; or if the difference be considerable a counter and independent opening should be made through the skin and tissues to connect with the lowest point of the wound, in order to allow effective drainage. It is seldom this condition exists in incised wounds. Having observed the above, the wound is now ready to be sutured or stitched. The materials used for sutures are many. The best is carbolized catgut or silk, which can be purchased ready for use from dealers in veterinary supplies, but for suturing the skin ordinary shoemakers' hemp, slightly waxed with beeswax, answers the purpose well. A suture requires to be strong, and at the same time soft; as fine, hard sutures more readily cut through the skin and tissues if there be any considerable tension. The needle should be a curved suture needle, but where one cannot be procured a large darning needle can be used. Various forms of sutures are employed, as the uninterrupted, the interrupted and the quilled. The first, as the word indicates, is that in which the whole wound is stitched without the suture thread being severed, as a person would stitch a rent in a garment. This form is not used except in some cases in suturing an internal organ. The interrupted suture is generally employed. This is where each stitch is tied and the thread severed, thus rendering each independent of the others. This is the favorite suture, from the fact that one stitch may be severed or torn out and the others not thereby interfered with. When the wound is a transverse one, and the gaping considerable, the tension on the sutures will be in proportion, and in some cases this is so great that there is danger of the sutures tearing through the tissues quickly. In such cases the quilled suture is often employed. This consists in a double thread being used; they are tied together, the skin pierced by the needle about an inch from the edge on each side, and when the suture is pulled up a piece of cane, whalebone or wood is passed through the loop made by the two ends being tied together, and the other ends cut off, leaving two or three inches of the double suture, which are tied to enclose a quill on the other side of the wound; each stitch is used this way; the same quill may answer for two or more stitches. This causes the tension to be exerted to a great extent upon the quills, rather than on the suture thread, and the stitches are more likely to withstand the tension without cutting through the tissues.

Having decided upon the form of suture to use, the operator will proceed to close the wound. Precautions must be taken to secure the safety of the operator. One of the most essential points in veterinary surgery is to observe these precautions. The patient must be secured so that he cannot kick the operator, and at the same time not be liable to injure himself. In rare cases it is necessary to cast and secure the animal in order to dress and stitch a wound, but in the majority of cases if a twitch be applied to the upper lip, and a strap, to which a long, strong rope is attached, buckled around one hind pastern, the rope passed between the fore legs, around the neck, and drawn until the hind foot is brought so far forward that it cannot touch the ground, and the rope tied there, it is all that is necessary. When the hind foot is in this position the patient can neither kick, strike with fore feet or rear. He may throw himself, and if so can be secured when down and the operation proceeded with. When a fore leg is held or tied up it exerts some restraint, but he can either rear, strike or kick, and the operator is not safe. Having secured the animal, the hair should be clipped off closely on both sides of the wound, in order to prevent any of it being pulled through the tissues with the sutures, and retarding the healing process. The wound is then sutured, a stitch being inserted every three-quarters of an inch to an inch; a portion of the lowest part of the wound must be left open for drainage, except where a counter opening has been made, in which case the whole wound is stitched. The patient is then placed in a comfortable stall, and if possible tied so that he cannot bite or rub the wound, which must be kept clean by sponging with warm water frequently, care being taken to not rub the sutures, and after bathing it should be dressed with about a five-per-cent. solution of one of the antiseptics already mentioned. If the sutures hold