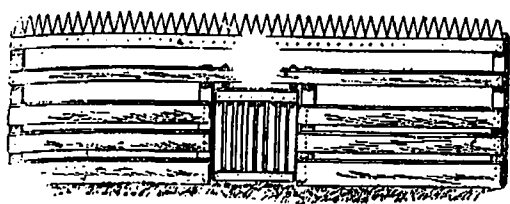


Swinging-Door for Hog-Yard.

A VERY simple and effective arrangement to protect swine from constant raids of poultry while feeding is shown in the accompanying illustration. Pickets are nailed to the top boards of the fence all



round the yard or pen. A slatted door, made of light material, is hung by stout screw-eyes, as shown in the engraving. The pigs can pass readily through the door, which closes by its own weight, while it is too heavy for the fowls to move.

A FARMER gives the following warning: "Cows coming in on grass should be closely watched, and if udder is caked or milk is red they should be milked before calving. Neglect of this ruined a good dairy cow for me last year."

BROOD animals should always be in the soundest and most vigorous condition, receiving the kindest and most gentle treatment, and the young should be well fed with the best and most suitable food, so as to secure a continuous and rapid growth from birth to maturity.

BRAN is one of the best foods for cows that are expected to calve in a month or more. Bran abounds in phosphates, and will largely contribute to the growth of bone of the embryo calf. Many cases of abortion in cows arise from lack of a proper supply of the necessary food elements that support the dam and young.

ALL sheep are subject to both external and internal parasites. Feed them occasionally a little hard-wood ashes, or finely pulverized tobacco, which will free them from worms and improve their general health. Turn off the sheep while young that you do not wish to keep. Fatten the sheep as it grows, and when it has reached mature size sell it; it is then at its best, is really "spring lamb," regardless of season, and is a quality of meat that will popularize itself and make everybody big mutton eaters.

To make the greatest profit from pigs they must be pushed and got into market at from six to eight months old, and to do this they must be fed for at least five months on bone and muscle-making food rather than on corn. The best possible food is milk, and even a small amount of it for each pig mixed with the other food will be a great help, and so if the pig raiser can combine dairying with pig growing it will be good for the pigs. Next to milk is a slop made from bran, ground oats and oil meal mixed at the rate of one bushel of bran to one bushel of oats and one gallon of oil meal. Some shorts and a little corn meal added will not be objectionable, and after five or six months old, these should be substituted for the oats.

SOMETIMES milk has a "cowy" odour and the cause is little understood. Cows drink large quantities of water and not half of it passes off through the kidneys. When in health and the skin clean, by far the larger part finds an outlet through the pores of the skin and takes along with it effete matter and offensive odours, which are thrown off through the fine capillaries with the perspiration. Proper action of the skin is as necessary for the purification of the blood as is the healthy action of the lungs. When milk has a cowy odour, it is certain that the skin is not working right, allowing the impurities to be thrown back into the blood, whence some of them find their way into the milk,

making it smell of the cow. This suggests that to have pure milk and sweet butter, the skin must be kept clean and free from scurf which fills up the pores. Frequent grooming is the easiest way. Clean cows do not give "cowy" milk.

SOME breeders practice mixing a little pulverized copperas with salt and placing it in boxes where the colts can help themselves as they like, as a preventive of worms. Two tablespoonfuls of pulverized copperas to a pint of salt is sufficient. Horses suffering from worms can be cured in time by feeding a tablespoonful of powdered gentian every night for two or three weeks. It can be mixed with oats or turned down the throat from a bottle. Copperas and gentian is an excellent tonic. It is well to keep a small quantity on hand. Get the druggist to put up four ounces each, compounding them in his mortar so as to mix thoroughly. Put the powder in a small box or wide-mouthed glass jar, label it, and when needed give to a grown horse a teaspoonful in feed at night. A yearling will require about one-third as much as a grown animal, and weanings a much smaller quantity.

COLTS until they are put to work require no shoes, but their feet must be occasionally attended to in order to prevent deformity arising from irregular wear. It sometimes happens that when pastured on soft ground the wear of the ground surface of the hoof is disproportional to the growth, and this occurs chiefly at the heels where the natural slope of the wall is more nearly perpendicular, and a tendency to contraction is thereby induced. If neglected, this is likely to lead to permanent contraction or deformity of the hoof. The remedy consists in removing the excess of growth at the heels with a knife and restoring the hoof to its proper proportions. The opposite condition does not often occur in unshod colts, the growth at the toe by its direction in reference to the ground tending rather to spread outwards and lead to vertical cracks or fissures. To prevent the extension of these to the soft tissues above, it is necessary to trim off this superabundance occasionally, either with the knife or a chisel. These abnormal conditions are most common in the fore feet. Colts object to having their feet and limbs handled, and therefore their education should be begun early so that their timidity in this respect may be gradually overcome. When the colt is put to work on the farm, it is customary to leave the feet unshod for some time, and, unless the ground is hard and stony, this practice has advantages. It enables the colt to acquire command over his limbs while at work, and to obtain a steady gait before being cumbered with shoes to which he is unaccustomed. After a little experience in work, the fore feet should be shod while the hind feet in ordinary soil may be left bare during the summer. There can be no evil results from this unless the colt is used on graveled roads, in which case shoeing all around is imperative.

The Poultry Yard.

EXAMINE the little chickens for lice. Dust pyrethrum over the hens.

DON'T feed rice pop-corn to hens. The points are too sharp and will irritate their throats.

By making new nests often and burning the old, you foster cleanliness, and prevent the parasites of the poultry germs from gaining a foothold.

A "SCURV" hen that will lay 150 eggs a year is worth more than a "thoroughbred" that will not lay 75—that is, if you are in the egg business.

INCUBATOR-HATCHED chicks do not require food until twenty four hours after they are hatched. Keep them in a comfortably warm brooder away from light or drafts.

"TURN the chicks in the garden," doesn't mean the old fowls. The young ones will destroy bugs and insects, but as soon as they are old enough to damage the growing crops, they must be hustled out.

DON'T try to doctor or force a hen into laying: it is easily done, but you will regret it when you review your season's hatch. A mild tonic sometimes does a world of good, but, like many other things, it can be carried to excess.

THE following plan is recommended to country poultry breeders who suffer from ravages of hawks: Tie a bunch of feathers on the tongue of a steel trap, set it and tie on the top of a ten or fifteen foot pole and set it up high among the outbuildings. It is said to prove a great decoy and a good way to catch hawks.

Now is the time to do a little cultivating of the ground where fowls are confined. Spade up the yards—turn up a portion of them every day, and if the hens need encouragement to scratch, sprinkle a little grain among the earth. If you keep them hungry enough, they will find every grain and be the better for the exercise.

MAKING the feed of young chicks one-third sand is said to be a sure preventive of gapes, and prevention is the best remedy. Protect the chicks from the rain and dew, give them dry quarters at night, and see that all their surroundings are clean and wholesome. Keep them so busy growing that they will have no time to get sick.

ONE of the best uses to which the hens may be applied, is that of scratching in the manure heap. They not only find worms, grubs, grain and much other edible matter, but they render the manure fine, and keep themselves in needful exercise. If the fine manure be removed occasionally so as to expose the under layer of coarse material, the hens will make it much more serviceable for garden purposes, especially where fine, small seeds are to be sown.

EGGS selected for hatching should be symmetrical in shape, neither under nor very much over in size—round eggs being preferable to those that are unusually long, which are said to hatch ungainly or misshapen chicks. When the eggs are from mixed breeds, those indicating by their color and size the purest blood should be chosen. The fresher the eggs the better; if only 24 hours' old, it is said the chicks will hatch in 20 days. On this account it is important that all the eggs given to one hen should be of one day's laying, as the chicks will then break the shell within a few hours of each other.

SHADE will now soon be a prime necessity in every run, for when the sun will pour down its fierce rays, the poor birds need shelter of some kind. Place the coops under shade trees or shrubbery. If you have none on the place, fix up a temporary shade with old boards, green branches, hay or old canvas. Make it high enough, so that the air will pass under freely, and if rain-proof, so much the better, as it will prevent dampness and sourness of the earth where the fowls congregate. Secure the coops at nights from prowling enemies, as there is much danger on warm nights, owing to the openings for air being much larger, and the habit of the chickens sleeping close to the front.

Medicinal Vegetables.

SPINACH has a direct effect upon the kidneys.

Tomatoes act upon the liver and asparagus purges the blood.

Common dandelion used as greens is excellent for kidney troubles.

Lettuce and cucumbers are cooling in their effects upon the system.