

HORSES AND CATTLE.

DEVON CATTLE.

Col. M. C. Weld writes as follows in the *American Agriculturist*: "One who sees a herd of Devons for the first time is struck with their extraordinary beauty and uniformity, and sees at once that they differ from every other breed, or stock of cattle with which he is acquainted. They are of a brilliant, rich mahogany red, without white upon the body, but with white switches to their tails, and frequently with white udders. Though heavy in carcass, they are light-limbed, and the older cows low-set. Their heads are small and clean cut, elegantly placed and carried high, while they are adorned with long, light, tapering white horns, curving upward and outward. Their throats are clean; withers thin; necks free from dewlaps; chests very wide, and briskets projecting and hung low. In girth they are large for their height, very thick through the heart, and unequalled in the crops, which point carries the fulness of the shoulders back to the ribs without perceptible depression. The backs are very level from the withers to the setting of the tails, which are long and delicately tapered. The loins are wide and muscular; the hips wide apart, the back long to the rump, while the thighs are long to the hocks, and in the twist well let down, yet in the lower parts they are thin, giving room between them for capacious udders. The soft flanks are usually very low, giving the barrels a cylindrical, level look upon the under line. Devons are commonly heavily coated, and the hair is wavy, if not positively curly, in many cases. The skin is plastic and mellow under the touch, even when the animal is in low condition, but when in good order it is typically fine, not thin and papery, but elastic and yielding under the pressure of the finger tips, and offering a mobile, unctuous handful if grasped over the ribs. The skin colour varies, but not a few show a rich cream colour, inclining to orange under the fore-arm, and in the ears. Add to this description that the legs are short, small-boned and clean, that the whole carriage and style are elastic and graceful, with a promptness and energy rarely seen in neat cattle, while the large, lively yet placid and fearless eye indicates at once intelligence, confidence and repose, and we have a picture of a high-bred, beautiful and useful race of cattle, such as has no equal anywhere. The oxen are much trained, very quick in their movements, fast walkers and untiring workers. The cows are deep milkers."

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HORSES.

Never allow anyone to tease or tickle your horse in the stable. The animal only feels the torment, and does not understand the joke. Vicious habits are thus easily brought on.

Never beat the horse when in the stable. Nothing so soon makes him permanently vicious.

Let the horse's litter be dry and clean underneath, as well as on top. Standing on hot fermenting manure makes the hoofs soft, and brings on lameness. Change the litter partially in some parts, and entirely in others

every morning; and brush out and clean the stall thoroughly.

To procure a good coat on your horse naturally, use plenty of rubbing and brushing. Plenty of "elbow grease" opens the pores, softens the skin, and promotes the animal's general health. Never clean a horse in his stable. The dust fouls the crib, and makes him loath his food. Use the curry-comb lightly. When used roughly it is a source of great pain. Let the heels be well brushed out every night. Dirt, if allowed to cake in, causes grease and sore heels. Whenever a horse is washed, never leave him till he is rubbed quite dry. He will probably get a chill if neglected.

When a horse comes off a journey, the first thing is to walk him about until he is cool, if he is brought in hot. This prevents his taking cold. The next thing is to groom him quite dry; first with a wisp of straw, and then with a brush. This removes dust, dirt and sweat, and allows time for the stomach to recover itself, and the appetite to return. Also let his legs be well rubbed by the hand. Nothing so removes a strain. It also detects thorns or splinters, soothes the animal, and enables him to feed comfortably.

Let the horse have some exercise every day. Otherwise he will be liable to fever and bad feet. Let your horse stand loose if possible, without being tied up to the manger. Pain and weariness from a confined position induce bad habits, and cause swollen feet and other disorders.

Look often at the animal's feet and legs. Disease or wounds in those parts, if at all neglected, soon become dangerous. Every night look and see if there is a stone between the hoof and the shoe. Standing on it all night, the horse will be lame the next morning. If the horse remains in the stable his feet must be "stopped." Heat and dryness cause cracked hoofs and lameness. The hoofs should not be "stopped" oftener than twice a week. It will make the hoof soft and bring on corns.

Do not urge the animal to drink water which he refuses. It is probably hard and unwholesome. Never allow drugs to be administered to your horse without your knowledge. They are not needed to keep the animal in good health, and may do the greatest and most sudden mischief.—*Stable Hints.*

A "COMMON FARMER'S" EXPERIENCE.

Cattle feeding, as practised on large, fancy stock farms, with stock scales, oil-cake, different kinds of ground grain, large quantities of roots and perhaps ensilage, and withal a thorough system of doing everything, is a fine art of which poor, ordinary, slow-going farmers know nothing. It is to this class that I unfortunately belong. I have no thermometer in my cow stable, and yet I try to keep my stock comfortable and I think that I succeed. I have no stock scales on my threshing-floor to weigh my young animals from time to time, and it is possible that in this respect I may be the loser when I come to sell an occasional animal to an itinerant drover, for such a bargain and sale is not much more

than a game of wits, and the drover has had the most practice in guessing weights; hence he may sometimes get away with several cwt. of beef more than I thought I was selling. But, as I have intimated, I am not a fancy farmer and stock scales cost a good deal for first cost. There are lots of "fancy fixings" to be employed in the care of stock, about which I do not know much or anything, and yet I try hard to take good care of my stock and make as much as possible from them. I do not keep a tabulated record of milk produced by each animal in the dairy during the season, nor have I a framed pedigree hanging up in the stall of each animal, and yet I have a herd of registered Jerseys, and I know approximately the value of each individual in the dairy. It is to such farmers as these that a few hints on the winter care of stock may prove both timely and valuable. One of the most important things to stock during the winter is salt. In summer, stock manifests this craving for salt by chewing bone, old scraps of leather, etc., and in this way experience some little relief. I used to be told that when stock chewed bones it was because their systems required bones, and the only way was to feed ground bone. With years' experience, I wish to say that this is most arrant nonsense. When stock take to chewing old pieces of leather and bones, there is no lack in their systems which good rock salt can not supply. In winter, stock can not usually find these old scraps of leather, etc., and have to depend upon the knowledge of the herdsman. I have a trough in the yard which is kept supplied with salt both winter and summer. In addition to this I give each animal in the stable a small handful. Cane should be exercised in giving salt to cattle; too much is very apt to induce souring, which always produces an ill effect upon stock. This is the reason why stock fed upon hay, which was salted for the purpose of saving it, too often do not do as well as was expected. Stock require salt regularly, both summer and winter, and will not do well if deprived of it; but they should not be forced to take too much at any one time. It is an actual necessity to stock, and with it they will need but little other physic.—*F. K. Moreland, in Breeder's Gazette, Chicago.*

THE FARMER'S HORSE.—HOW TO BREED HIM.

On this important subject the *Breeder's Gazette* has a useful article from which we make the following extracts:—

But there is a happy mean—a horse that will weigh from 1,100 pounds to 1,200 pounds, and about fifteen and a-half to sixteen hands high; good-tempered, active, docile, intelligent, quick of motion, sure of foot, and easily taught. Such is the horse best adapted to the varied use of the farm. Not so high-priced on the market as the 2.20 trotter, or the handsome, stylish carriage horse; not reared with anything like the certainty as where 1,600 to 1,800 pounds weight is the sole end of the breeder's effort; but much better and worth much more money to the farmer than either of these, if he wants him for his own use.

How can we breed such horses? With such mares as are now owned by a large proportion of the farmers throughout the western