

Shortly after birth any sharp teeth in the mouths of the young ones should be broken out by means of a pair of small pinchers. This will usually be found to help materially in smoothing out little family difficulties.

The sow will not likely show any desire for food within 24 hours after farrowing; but should she show any disposition to eat, a warm thin mash or gruel of bran, shorts or oatmeal may be given. No cold drinks should be allowed within the 24 hours, but frequently small amounts of warm water may be given. Her ration as soon as she is in good shape to utilize the food should consist of bran, shorts, ground oats and barley, pease, oil meal, skim milk, &c., and some roots or green feed. She will require a very heavy and very nutritious ration after the second week, but the closest attention must be paid to the young to see that the milk is agreeing with them. Any signs of scours or constipation should be the signal for a change in the feed of the sow. The character of the food eaten by the sow seems to influence the quality of the milk she produces and so affect the digestive organs of the little ones. The health of the litter is an accurate gauge of the healthfulness of the dam, and *vice versa*. It is of course possible to feed so as to cause the sow to produce too much milk and so make the piglings too fat. This condition not infrequently shows itself in what is known as 'thumps,' a disease nearly always fatal.

WEANING.

The little ones should be encouraged to eat at as early an age as possible. The fencing off of a part of the pen in such a way as to make it possible for the young ones to get into the enclosure, but impossible for the sow, and placing therein a flat shallow trough containing sweet new whole milk will be found of great value in this connection. The most scrupulous cleanliness must be observed, however, or serious digestive troubles are likely to result. In a short time skim milk may be gradually substituted and to this the addition of a mixture of equal parts of very finely ground oats or oatmeal, shorts, corn meal and oil meal will be found to give very satisfactory results.

Care must be taken to feed only small amounts of these foods at a time, but they may advantageously be fed as frequently as four or five times a day. If not on pasture some green feed, some sods, some roots or better still all three should be given them from time to time.

Pigs so fed will be practically weaned by the time they are eight weeks old or even sooner. In spite of every effort to anticipate the dangers of weaning time it is usually a rather critical period. Plenty of exercise, frequent feeds in small quantities of the above mentioned feeds and protection from wet and cold will, however, usually prove effective in getting them well started.

When it is decided to wean entirely, the feed should be gradually taken off the sow. She will on that account begin to give less milk and at the end of a week will be nearly dry, when she should be taken away out of sight and hearing of her young.

CARE OF THE BOAR.

The boar is usually able to serve sows when 5 or 6 months old. He should not be required to do so before he is 8 months of age, and should be used on but few sows even then. The amount of service that he may do will depend upon his development and condition. Careful watch should be kept to see that he is not losing in flesh on account of service performed. Young boars should never serve more than one sow a day, nor should they be expected to do that much for many days in succession. Mature boars may serve two in the day, and keep on at that rate for a considerable length of time if conditions are in every way favourable.

The boar should be kept apart from the sows in heat saving the time necessary to give one complete service. This service should, if practicable, be given when the oestrus or heat is nearly over. Service under such conditions is more likely to be effective than if given at the beginning of heat. Where animals of unequal size are