force with specimens of the Cotswold and Southdown breeds. Mr. Snell had a number of fine animals, among them a fat Cotswold ram, weighing 450 lbs., a small moving mountain of mutton. Messrs. J. and George Miller had several pens, but did not exhibit to so many as usual, in consequence of Mr. Geo. Miller's absence with a considerable stock of sheep at the Michigan and Ohio State Fairs. Messrs. Geo. Miller, of Markham, H. H. Spencer, of Whitby, and T. Nicholson, of Pickering, were the chief exhibitors of Shropshire and Hampshire Downs. "Spanish, French, and Saxon Merinoes," to use the designation of the class in the prize list, were shown by Foster, of Whitby, Van de Bogart, of Napanee, Young and Rymal, of Barton, and the specimens were, as already remarked, better than usual. A few fat sheep were exhibited by Messrs. Spooner, of Kingston, Miller, of Pickering, Snell, of Edmonton, and Russell, of Markham. It was extremely difficult to get any information about the sheep and other animals on exhibition for want of the tickets being nailed on the pens, or the owners being at hand to answer questions. We have an impression that a good many sheep that were on the ground are getting, like the telegrams during the American war, "considerably mixed" up. Some breeders are crossing Cotswolds and Leicesters to such an extent that it is difficult to tell which is which. Cropped foretops and shaven faces were observable among the Leicesters, and scarity of facial wool among the Cotswolds. One exhibitor was frank enough to acknowledge, after the judges had made the award and affixed the coveted ticket, that his animal had been sired by a Cotswold ram! He should have made this avowal while the judges were comparing notes. Will a decision stand in the face of such a confession? No objection can, of course, be made to crosses of this or that description; but the fruits of them should be shown for what they are, viz:—hybrids, and not pure-bred specimens. A great difference was also observable in the "get up" of the sheep. Some were in a state of nature, their wool rough and unkempt, while others were very tastefully trimmed, combed, and decked out by their skilful owners. How far this difference in exterior appearance may affect the decisions of the judges, deponent knoweth and therefore sayeth not. A brisk business appears to have been going on among the sheep men, and we heard of several sales being effected at good, if not high, prices.

PIGS.

This department was not up to the usual mark, and there was more than ordinary confusion in the arrangement of the classes. Among the smaller specimens, Mr. James Maine, of Trafalgar, took rank as the leading exhibitor. His Suffolks were very fine, and "got up" in the very best style, with scrubbing brush and fine tooth comb, so that they constituted the aristocracy of the swine department. R. Gibson, of Kingston, J. Crumb, of Darlington; John Cumming, of Londesborough; D. Featherston, Trafalgar, and others, were also exhibitors of small breed pigs. C. A. Jordison, of Belleville, was, as usual, distinguished among the Yorkshires, though he had not so many specimens as on some previous occasions. A mammoth boar was shown among the Yorkshires, by Robert Clark, of Tyendinaga. Other large breed hogs were shown by Hon. George Crawford, of Brockville, John Corrie, of Dereham; George Hunter, of Kingston; R. Spooner, of Kingston; Joseph Featherston, of Toronto Township, John Ryan, of Pittsburg; and last, though certainly not least, by Mr. M. H. Cochrane, of Compton, P. Q., who showed some very nice, large Berkshires, imported this year along with the cattle and sheep already noticed as having been purchased for him in Great Britain by Mr. Simon Beatty.

IMPORTED STALLION.—Messrs. Duff and McCallum, of Esquesing, have imported from England a fine Stallion, which promises to be of much service to Canada. Mr. Kirby thus speaks of this new acquisition: "Agricola is rising four years old, stands 16 hands and-a-half high, is a beautiful dark-brown, with four black legs, free from all natural blemishes, and with very superior action. He was bred by James Fawcett, Esq., of Scalsby Castle, N. Carlisle, and got by Dusty Miller, dam by Lofty, grand dam by North Britain, great grand dam General Benefit. Dusty Miller was sired by that noted horse British Farmer, whose stock is noted for gaining prizes both at the Highland Society and other local shows. Dusty Miller, the sire of Agricola, was allowed, by competent and impartial judges, to be one of the best Agricultural Stallions in Great Britain." Coming with such high recommendations, this young horse will, we expect, reward the enterprise of his owners, and produce a good effect on the breed of horses in this country.

Straw for Shelter.

THE importance of shelter for stock in winter has been frequently discussed and strongly enforced in this journal; and it is to be presumed that every farmer will admit the principle; but some plead, in extenuation of their negligence in this matter, the impossibility, on account of their limited means, of

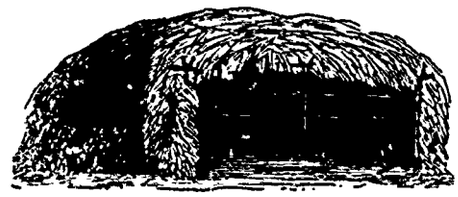

FIG. 1.

putting up sufficient shelter for the comfort of animals under their charge. But this is indeed a very poor excuse; for where other materials are wanting, or where money and labor are scarce, most comfortable housing can be procured for stock of all kinds by an appropriate use of straw. In countries where

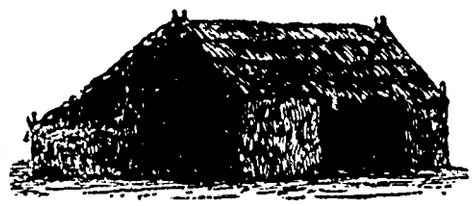

FIG. 2.

timber is scarce, as on the prairies of Illinois, we have frequently seen the most warm and thoroughly efficient shelter secured by straw "fixings" even of the rudest kind. In these regions this is, indeed, the only abundant material for the purpose. Shelters for all domestic animals are constructed of it. A few

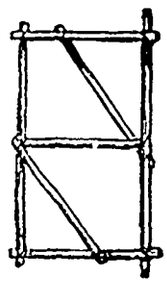

FIG 3.

FIG 4

poles form a roof support, and the straw is piled about and upon them. On the sides of the shed the straw is either simply a trodden down heap, trimmed with a hay-knife on the inside, or it is piled against rails. These are very warm sheds, (see fig. 1)—but

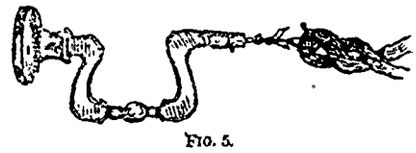

FIG. 5.

they wet through, leak, and the straw rots and must be removed after a short time.

Instead of these rude and primitive structures, much better sheds might be built, using the same materials.

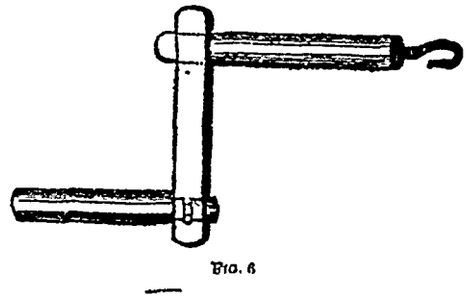

FIG. 6

Much of the tall stubble, cut close to the ground, is long enough to make most excellent and durable thatch, if well put on. A few bundles of wheat might be threshed out by hand, and the straw saved, or even the machine-threshed straw might be used and answer tolerably well, if a sharp pitch be given to the roof. Thatching is understood by many immigrants, and the principles upon which good work depends are so simple, that where beauty is not demanded, any handy man will make a tight roof after a little experience. There are several methods of using straw to form the sides or walls of these stables. A convenient way is to set upright poles about eight inches apart, and draw wisps of straw round each, so that both ends of each wisp shall be outside. It is best to lay these in horizontal courses and beat down each course as it is laid, keeping it uniform and tight. As the filling in with straw progresses, there may be a split pole woven in once in three feet or so, to hold the uprights in place. The straw is finally to be raked down on the outside so as to shed rain well. This makes a tight, warm and lasting wall. The inner side is quite even, and it may be sprinkled with mud if there is danger of the animals pulling out the straw to eat. (See fig. 2.)

The accompanying illustrations and the directions for construction are taken from the *American Agriculturist*, to which able journal we are also indebted for the following account of other uses of straw in the same connection. We would here, in passing, urge on all parties the importance of not deferring the necessary work of providing shelter until the severe weather has set in, and enforced the leisure to devote to the matter. A merciful farmer, or even one who has a wise regard for his own pecuniary interests, will *make* the opportunity, and secure the time while the weather is yet mild and favorable, so that, when winter commences, his stock will at once derive the protection and comfort they need, without having been previously exposed to, perhaps, some of the severest cold of the whole season.

STRAW DOORS AND SHUTTERS.

It is a great convenience, where lumber is scarce, to be able to make expeditiously a good door or shutter of any kind. Constructed of straw a door may be strong, light and tight. Tie, or wire together, a frame of round sticks—braced or stayed by cross-pieces to give requisite strength. (Fig. 3.) This frame should fit loosely in the window or door-place, and one of the upright pieces should be strong enough to hang the door by. Then wind a straw-rope, of one and a half to two inches in diameter, around the longest way, so as to cover the frame. Next, weave a tighter wound straw-rope, back and forth, plaiting the whole in a single mat. (Fig. 4.) The strands on each side of the frame may be plaited separately, forming thus a double thickness of the straw mat. We have seen affairs made in this way by the soldiers, and stuffed with straw as the weaving progressed, and when done they made very good beds.

Straw-rope is made by twisting damp straw. Sprinkle a heap of straw the night before. All farmers should possess a set of centre-bits and stock. Take a large centre-bit and attach a stout wire hook to it and place it in the bit-stock. Where the bit-stock is wanting, contrive some substitute. Two persons are required—one twists a loop of straw into the hook, (fig 5,) and walks backward, turning from left to right; the other remains at the straw heap, and feeds fresh straw to the lengthening rope. A sufficient length being attained, the rope is fastened upon a fence or between poles or trees until dry, when it will not untwist.

In a subsequent number of the same journal a Scotch correspondent sent a drawing of a simple contrivance for twisting straw, in common use both in Scotland and England. The last illustration, Fig. 6, sufficiently explains this home-made implement, which almost any farmer's boy will be able to construct.