

General Purpose Animals.

Almost all intelligent breeders recognize the fact that special fitness for any one purpose is rarely accompanied by equal fitness for any other purpose. The typical milch cow is not the animal for a beef-making animal; the fast trotting or running horse is not a first-class animal for heavy draft. With this law in mind, it is natural to give and act on the advice—First choose what you want your animal for, and then breed with exclusive reference to that one purpose. For a large class of breeders and stock raisers, this advice is the best that can be given. But it is a serious mistake to give this advice without qualification. Specialty farming and specialty stock-breeding are best for a considerable number, but are not best for the mass of farmers. There is a good demand for heavy draft horses, also for fast-trotting or fast-running horses. The breeder of first-class milch cows will find a ready sale for them, without reference to their capacity for making beef. The breeder of sheep, giving phenomenally large fleeces, need trouble himself comparatively little about their mutton character.

But while all this is true, we must not forget the fact that the largest demand is for general-purpose animals. In the well settled portions of our country, at least three animals out of four—certainly of horses and cows—are owned by men who cannot afford to give exclusive attention to any one excellence. For the general farmer, neither the heavy draft, the runner, nor the trotting horse, is best fitted, and this is true of the average business horse in the towns and cities. The special dairyman may do well to look exclusively to milk-giving qualities; the "steer-raiser" may be wise in counting a large flow of milk an absolute fault for his purpose. But three men out of four, who rear and own cows, must look to both milk and beef for profit. The majority of sheep owners cannot afford to be indifferent, either to the fleece or the carcass. It is not a mistake, then, to claim as a recommendation for a breed, that it is reasonably well fitted for a secondary purpose, or good for two distinct lines of work. If it be admitted that the Guernsey is an excellent cow for the special dairyman, her larger size and more fleshy form makes her to be preferred, by the general farmer, over the Jerseys. In just so far as Shorthorn breeders can prove the correctness of their claim that their favorite breed is superior to the Hereford or Angus in milk giving, can they properly claim better adaption to the wants of the mass of farmers. Every successful endeavor to improve the form, increase the size, and improve the quality of mutton of Merino, makes the breed more valuable for central-western farmers, whatever may be true for the flock owners of the great plains. If it can be truthfully claimed of any class of horses that they have the disposition and form fitting them for good road work, alongside with sufficient size and strength to adapt them for the plow or ordinary draft purposes, such a breed of horses will meet the wants of a larger number of Americans than will any other one class.

The "general purpose" animals will rarely command the highest prices; a first-class base-ball pitcher will command a larger salary than a good mechanic; but the market for ball pitchers is more easily supplied than is the demand for good mechanics. A good average horse or cow will not sell for nearly so much as one which, however valueless for other purposes, is a model for some special use.

In no sense is it designed to depreciate the value of "specialty animals," or the value of the work done by the breeders of such. Our thought has simply been to emphasize the fact that—with our domestic animals, as with man—there is room for the "unremarkable."—[Breder's Gazette.

An interesting letter appears in an English paper from a firm of tanners at Hereford, who call the attention of stock owners to the loss occasioned by "the grubs called warbles, which are deposited by a fly every summer on the backs of cattle." They state that cattle afflicted with warbles lose from 10 to 33 per cent. of the nutriment they should derive from their food. But in addition to the pain caused and the percentage of food wasted, the hide is damaged, and generally spoiled for the purpose it should be suited for, because of the warble-holes through the best part of it. As the fly instinctively selects the best cattle to receive the warbles, people are led to believe that the animals so tormented are most favored and thriving. They mention that the larvae may easily be destroyed in the spring, by using a probe of ivory, and washing with a cheap lotion, which would prevent the fly striking young stock. With a little attention the fly would thus soon be exterminated.

Mixed Feed for Hogs.

We have long held the opinion that hogs need hay at certain times in certain quantities just as horses or cattle do. They certainly crave it, and we have known cases where hogs while being fed on still slop have eaten large quantities of clean, bright rye straw with great benefit in the way of keeping up health and thrift. A hog raiser who has made some experiments in the way of giving mixed feed to hogs gives a chapter of his experience as follows:

"My experience the last few months convinces me more than ever that we must raise pork as cheap as possible if we are to sell at present prices at any profit. I have been in the habit of feeding my young pigs soaked corn pretty freely; but have come to the conclusion that bran and shorts or rye and oats ground together and fed as a thin swill is better. I think it is better cooked, and in cold weather fed warm. Feed no more each time than they will eat clean. I am well pleased with my experience with the Red Brazilian Artichoke as a cheap food for swine, and shall this year increase my fields to twenty acres. Last year was a poor year for them, and yet mine yielded 300 bushels per acre. I am well satisfied that they sometimes yield 800 bushels per acre. The hogs seemed to like them as well as corn, and, where they have plenty of them, they will not only grow but fatten; in fact, will leave their corn to eat them. I tried to secure a nice lot of clover, (second growth) but lost it with the storms before I could stack it. I think if I had such a stack of clover now I could make good use of it, cut short, dampened and mixed with ground feed. To fatten with or finish, I admit corn is king, but my experience convinces me it is not the best food for young growing hogs. They need coarser or more bulky food, and some exercise to develop large forms, with plenty of muscle and healthy digestive organs. When they have reached this stage, they are ready to receive finishing touches that the corn and leisure can give, and, if placed on a cheap market will still do the breeder some good."

There is no doubt but that the above lays down sound principles for the production of pork at a much less cost than where hogs are fed exclusively on corn. Hogs of course will become exceptionally fat on corn, but we are satisfied that they can be kept on mixed feed to better advantage, so far as profit to the producer is concerned.—Ex.

Judging Horses at Fairs.

So many complaints have appeared in the various agricultural and other papers on the manner in which animals are judged, that perhaps a few remarks on this subject may not be out of place. In the first place I must say something on the judges' behalf, and I think I may safely say that, taken as a body, the gentlemen who undertake the thankless office know as much, and probably more than the critical public round the judging ring, while they are infinitely more capable of seeing the animals perfectly from their position in the centre of the ring, than those standing on the outside, besides being better able to see any slight defect by closer examination than those at a distance. I may also say that the judges, as a rule, take an immense amount of pains, and give their decisions fairly and without prejudice. Still these decisions are not always correct; how can they be expected to be, as no man is infallible, and tastes differ? Even when horses are very evenly matched, two equally good judges may each select a different one; perhaps one from being a heavy weight would select a weight carrier, and a light man would take a better bred animal in preference.

All due allowance for these things should be made by their numerous critics, and let those that find fault be put in the place of those whose judgment they disapprove of, and perhaps they may find to their cost that it is easier to be judged than to judge! That mistakes are made and often very great ones, is no doubt the case, and when it does so happen it is a great injustice to those exhibitors who have taken so much pains to send their favorites to the showyard.

When one sees the judges take every pains, thoroughly examining every point, handling the legs, carefully picking up and looking at the feet, testing the action of every pace in the saddle and in hand, and when the merits of several animals are nearly equal, riding them, to see if their manners are good, and a hundred other things, that can be found out on a horse's back that no man can tell by looking at him—then if a mistake is made, it must be put down to error of judgment. But, on

the other hand, if one sees the judges sauntering about the ring, talking and chatting to the stewards, &c., turning their backs at the critical moment the horses are passing, ordering a lot out in an off-hand manner, and selecting a few to pick from without ever afterwards going over the rejected lot to see if they had not overlooked one; then if a mistake is made, as is probably the case, the public and the badly-treated exhibitors have a right to raise their voices against such judging.—[Agricultural Gazette.

Growth of Colts.

In order to winter a colt well, and have him come out a fine, showy, sturdy animal in the spring, particular attention must be paid to his growth during the first summer and autumn. If the mare's milk is at all deficient to keep the colt in good flesh and thriving steadily, it is best to have recourse at once to cow's milk. Skimmed milk answers very well for this purpose, especially if a little flax-seed jelly, oil or cotton-seed meal, is mixed with it. A heaped table-spoonful night and morning is enough to begin with, when the colt is a month old. This can be gradually increased to a pint per day, by the time it is six months old, or double this if the colt be of the large farm or Cart Horse breed.

Oats, also, may be given as soon as they can be eaten. Begin with half a pint, night and morning, and go on increasing, according to the age and size of the animal, to four quarts per day. These, together with the meal above, should be supplemented with a couple of quarts of wheat bran night and morning. The latter is excellent to prevent worms, and helps to keep the bowels in good condition.

Colts should not be permitted to stand on a plank, cement, paved, or any hard floor the first year, as these are liable to injuriously affect the feet and legs. Unless the yard where colts run in the winter has a sandy, or fine, dry, gravelly soil, it should be well littered, so as to keep their feet dry. Mud, or soft, wet ground, is apt to make tender hoofs, no matter how well bred the colt may be. One reason why the horses in one district grow up superior to those in another in hoof, bone, muscle and action, is because it has a dry limestone or siliceous soil. When the mare is at work, do not let the colt run with her; and if she comes back from her work heated, allow her to get cool before suckling the colt, as her over-heated milk is liable to give the foal diarrhoea.—[National Live Stock Journal.

Stable Management.

The feet and legs of horses require particular attention. It is an old saying with horsemen, "keep the feet and legs in order, and the body will take care of itself." The legs are the first to fail. The horse when brought in from severe, protracted exertion, should be rubbed down dry. His legs from the knees and hocks down, should be well hand-rubbed, so that friction will create insensible perspiration; that will tend to prevent swelled legs, stiff joints, contracted tendons, and sprung knees. When the legs are fevered from overdriving, they should be bandaged with wet cloths, to take away the heat, and prevent wind-galls, that prove eyesores, and which, without diminishing his capacity for labor, materially affect the market value of the horse.

The plan of stuffing the feet twice a week in dry weather, is adopted by many with horses used for fast work. The stuffing generally used consists of equal parts of clay and cow dung. Moss or tow is a cleaner stuffing and quite superior to clay as an antidote for thrush and frog diseases. It can be packed in dry and wet afterward. It will leave the feet sweet, clean and soft, when washed out regularly with warm, salt water. Stuffing prevents the feet from becoming dry and brittle.—[National Live Stock Journal.

Stamina, endurance and speed are characteristics of the thoroughbred horse. His bones are smaller than those of any other breed, but of finer texture. A piece of glass will scrape away the bone of a common horse easily, but this is with difficulty done with that of the thoroughbred, which is as hard as ivory. The activity and power possessed by that breed make it a desirable cross for our farm horses, and although smaller than the Clydesdale or Percheron, are not inferior in strength proportionately. This breed transmits its qualities with certainty.