

to suck they bit, and scratched the paps, and caused irritation, which sent the sow mad with rage; she threw one one way, and one another, and if she drew blood would eat the pigs, and a sow that once did this was of no further use for breeding. His plan to prevent this was to take away the pigs in the hamper, so that the sow could not hear them, and nip off the long teeth with a pair of pincers. When they were put back the sow would be found to be kind to them, and perfectly docile. With his model piggery, he preferred breeding in the winter, as the building could be easily kept to the proper heat, and after proper care for the first day and night, the cold did not appear to affect them.

Pigs, which were farrowed in January or February, would grow and thrive in spring and summer, after being kept eight or nine weeks with the sow before being weaned. They were then fit for either breeding, feeding, bullock yard, or anything for which they might be required in the autumn. By this means they could have another litter of pigs in August, instead of October, for when farrowed too late in autumn young pigs would not thrive through the severe weather in winter, and if they were turned as usual into cold yards or open piggeries, they would be worth very little more for their two or three months' keep. Eight weeks in summer and nine in winter will be found a good time for weaning pigs, and he liked to have those which were not saved for breeding operated upon a short time previously. Boars, for stock, he kept confined in a shed with a roomy yard, allowed them plenty of water, and fed them on any food which was most convenient, such as Vetches or Mangel Wurzel.

As to feeding, when the pigs were about three days old, and whilst the sow was feeding, he gave them some new milk, warm from the cow, sweetened with a little sugar. In three or four days he mixed half-skimmed milk and some oatmeal or sharps, leaving out the new milk by degrees, as well as the sugar, replacing them by Indian Corn or Barley, whole. The sow should be fed on mild food for a few days, such as bran mixed with warm milk. After a few days add barley or bean meal, and increase the quantity of these as the pigs grow. For a few weeks after the pigs are taken off the sow they cannot be fed too well or too frequently, but care should be taken not to give them too much food at a time. He gave them a variety of meals, as were most convenient, wetted them with cold and scalded with boiling water, and sprinkled it with a little salt. The food was mixed a day in advance, which gave time for slight fermentation. In summer the food was mixed entirely with cold water, and given cold. Between meals he gave the pigs whole Maize, Mangel, and Swedes, cut small, with a little coal or soil occasionally, and he allowed them plenty of clean water. For sitting he gave Wheat, Barley, and Maize meal mixed together into slops, water always kept by them, and a little Mangel cut for them occasionally. Washing and brushing was very beneficial. The difference between this and the common method of treatment was most surprising. Store pigs should have their liberty as far as convenient, and have the range of large yards in winter and of a piece of pasture in summer. Well-bred pigs, properly fed, would always consume the refuse of the farm and dairy. He gave in detail his experiments, made with a view to test the generally-

received theories regarding the loss of the tail of young pigs, and said, "I have quite made up my mind it is neither breeding, feeding, hot weather, cold weather, nor easterly wind which is the cause, nor does it signify whether the pigs are black or white, therefore I must leave it to some one with a wiser head than I have to solve this mysterious affair."

DISCUSSION.

In answer to questions, Mr. Stearn said he had seen the pen of pigs at the Islington Show, sent by the Rev. Mr. Baile, of Swindon, a great breeder of Berkshire pigs. There were three of them, and very fine specimens. They had been sent to the Birmingham Show, where they took the first prize, but at Islington they had been put on one side as of 'Not sufficient merit.' They were not fat enough, and that was the cause of their being rejected.—He made the milk of young pigs pretty sweet, to a pint of milk putting a dessert-spoonful of sugar. He did not like Acorns as pig food at all. He had tried them, and believed he had suffered this summer from the use of Acorns. He had lost several valuable pigs, only from eating Acorns. He thought he lost them from that cause, because those that ate Acorns died, and those that did not eat them did not die.

Mr. Woodward said that he considered size and length of great importance in breeding sows. He gave the preference, too, to long animals before short ones. Was that Mr. Stearn's practice?

Mr. Stearn: Yes.

Mr. Woodward: How about the condition of your breeding sows? I don't care about keeping them too high at the time of farrowing.

Mr. Stearn: No; keep them as low as you can. Bean slops a few days previous to farrowing, and after you take the pigs to her give her better food. A neighbour of his had tried a lot of old Suffolk pigs, and found, amongst other evils, that they were so wild as almost to destroy the place they were kept in. He then put into the place some that he considered well bred, and they were quiet enough.

Mr. H. A. Oakes asked Mr. Stearn the cost of his piggery as shown in the model.

Mr. Stearn said that with Poplar boards it would cost about £25.

Mr. Oakes: Then you don't advocate the use of brick and mortar? Wood is more generally the tenant's work. If the landlord builds, he expects it to last 30 or 40 years.

Mr. Stearn: This will last 30 years. (No, no.) My Poplar board building is now ten years old, and I believe it will last that time. It is as good now as when first built.

Mr. Oakes: I believe if all landlords would supply good buildings it would save the tenants great expense. Good lodgings save food, for warmth is equal to food. The better the buildings the easier it is to fatten the stock.

Mr. Stearn said that he employed his own men to put the piggery up, instead of tradesmen. It was only asphalted inside. If they went to the timber yard and bought the boards, he did not think it would cost above £30. The aspect of his building was south, and the doors were so arranged that a thorough draught could always be secured. As to feeding pigs when very young, the sweetened milk was put into shallow troughs. Of course the young pigs were frightened at

first and cut off, but they would soon return and begin to nibble at the edge of the trough, and from that they soon began the milk.

Mr. Woodward: Then you don't begin by giving them Maize.

Mr. Stearn: No, not till they are four days old. Then we begin to give it soaked, as, of course, they cannot eat it without soaking.

Mr. Woodward: Will young pigs begin to eat Maize at four days old?

Mr. S. Scott: I was about to ask the same question.

Mr. Stearn: Yes.

Mr. Hatten asked how much salt was given with the meal.

Mr. Stearn said he could not say. He merely threw a handful in the cistern now and then, as the meal was mixed. The pigs seemed to like the food the better for it.

Mr. Lingwood said he knew of a case where too much salt had been given, and the pigs died. Salt for pigs was all very well after they were dead.

Mr. S. Scott asked if Mr. Stearn really thought that there was any profit in the rearing pigs for cups. Of course it was very nice, but was there any real profit in it?

Mr. Stearn: I must say I think there is more profit in the breeding and rearing pigs than there is in any other animals. As Mr. Page knew, he had tried almost everything, and he found that nothing paid like pigs. He had a lot of bullocks once, which paid him 10s. 6d. a week, at a cost of 13s.

Mr. Page said no doubt the pig was the most profitable animal they could put on the room, but unfortunately they had not the attention they ought to have. They had not from himself he knew, and he thought he might answer for almost every one in the room except Mr. Stearn.

Mr. Stearn said it was very important to have a good herdsman.

The Chairman: Generally the pigs are left too much to boys.

Mr. Stearn: Generally the master does not look at them once a month.

Mr. Page said he did not; he confessed that he liked sheep better, because there was some wool. He must say, however, that he had never seen a pig eat whole Maize at four days old. Sometimes he had given them a few Oats, but they could hardly manage them. He should like to see them crack Indian Corn, for he was quite an advocate for feeding young pigs, but never could get them to eat under ten days.

Mr. Fraser said it was doubtless of the greatest importance that pigs should be kept clean. Mr. Page appeared to question some of Mr. Stearn's propositions, but he could hardly do so, when he said he did not see his pigs once a month.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Stearn.

CUT FLOWERS AND FLORAL DECORATIONS.

Of late years the use of Floral Decorations at Christmas-time and in seasons of joy and sorrow, has much increased in our Province, as in other civilized countries. The love of flowers is a rapidly growing one everywhere, and we are glad to know that the Nurse women and Gardeners of Halifax are doing their best to meet the public wants. The following