

haulm of peas and beans, and even many common weeds, such as nettles, thistles, goose-foot and others void of poisonous qualities, will be found exceedingly fattening, if boiled and mixed with other food, and given as most food should be, luke-warm. The refuse of the kitchen, garden and dairy, the sweeping of barns and granaries will all be found exceedingly fattening. A little salt should generally be added to all their food, which will create thirst, and induce the animals to consume a greater quantity of food. Fermented wash is supposed to fatten swine much quicker than fresh food; but experience proves that dry food, or nearly so, is more fattening and profitable than all the liquid wash that can be given; as it sooner imparts solidity to the flesh. It should therefore be thickened into a mash with bran, barley or bean-meal, when given to store pigs or those which have been put up to fatten.

The quantity of food must be left in a great measure to the judgment and good sense of the feeder, for it will depend upon the condition of the hog when put up, as well as upon the size, breed and disposition, to lay on fat. Porkers will consume two or three pecks of corn weekly, and a large bacon hog about two bushels per week.

Fattening hogs should be regularly fed, and never stinted of food; and they should not needlessly be disturbed after their meals, as rest, quiet and darkness are great assistants to laying on fat.

Weaning.—If the young pigs have been well fed, they may be weaned after six weeks, and in all cases in two months. In their after-treatment, when separated from their mother, they should be regularly fed three times a day, and their food should at first consist of warm liquid food, such as whey, milk, or the refuse of the dairy and kitchen, and raised to the temperature of the mother's milk, by the addition of a little warm water. They will soon learn to partake of more solid substances.

Ring-ing.—The practice of ring-ing swine, (which was usually performed at the time of weaning) is growing into disuse, and cannot be recommended, inasmuch as it not only proves painful to the animal, but troublesome to the owner; for it frequently happens that the ring breaks or is worn out, or the cartilage gives way, and the ring has to be as often replaced by a fresh operation. A preferable and more lasting process is now adopted, which consists in either cutting the two strong tendons of the snout (the cartilaginous and ligamentous prolongations) about an inch and a half from the nose, by a slight incision with a sharp knife, or else in shaving or paring off the gristle on the top of the nose, which may be done without prejudice to the animal, when about two or three months old. The place heals over in a short time, and the animals are thus prevented from grubbing or tearing up the ground.

Diseases.—This subject has been so much neglected by practical men, that but little is known in the way of cure. In the absence therefore of scientific prescriptions, it will be the most safe and advisable course to study prevention rather than hazard a trial of the numerous recipes recommended as cures.

The diseases of swine are generally the result of want of care and cleanliness; or, arise from injudicious or irregular feeding, from their being kept in loathsome and uncomfortable situations, inhaling the most noxious vapours—at one time over-fed, at another stinted in their supply of food.

Can it then be a matter of surprise, that neglect and filth bring on various internal and cutaneous diseases, some of which, from their infectious character, soon make sad havoc in the pig-gery. Fortunately, swine will generally eat, even when they are sick. Salts, (1 to 2 ounces) sulphur, (2 to 3 drams) antimony, and such like aperients may be mixed with their food for measles and other disorders arising from an impure state of the blood. If they will not eat, there can of course be no remedy applied.

In *swine-pox*, sulphur and madder may be administered in small quantities, with treacle in the wash; fresh brewer's grains, or pollard may likewise be given. Madder and sulphur will also be found the best alternants in foulness of the skin or habit. Salt mixed with ground ivy, leeks, or other similar vegetables is one of the best and most simple applications for the sores of swine. But for cutaneous diseases in general, an ointment formed of equal parts of mutton suet and tar, with the addition of a little sulphur will be found beneficial.

Strong beer and pease porridge are recommended as tonics. In cases of surfeit and indigestion, or injury from eating slightly poisonous matter, swine will refuse their food, constantly lie down and have their stomach distended. In this case, two heads of garlic, mixed with six ounces of fresh butter, will afford relief, given every six hours. Soap-suds are said to have the effect of emptying the stomach.

The most formidable of the diseases to which swine are liable, is inflammation of the lungs, and other internal parts. This disease has been known to destroy a fourth of the hogs fed in a distillery, in the course of a few weeks. The chief indications of the disease will be, distressing cough, heaving of the flanks, and the refusal of all food. Bleeding must be promptly resorted to, and moderate purges cautiously administered. The safest aperients are Castor oil or Epsom salts, after which the following sedative powder may be given:—Foxglove (*Digitalis*), 2 grams, Antimony powder, 2 grains, Nitre half a drachm.

In cases of murrain—a species of leprosy which prevails in hot seasons, the best and shortest advice that can be given, is to keep the animals cool, and not suffer carrion or garbage, or any portion of animal food to be given to them.

The health of swine is to be estimated by their cheerfulness, by their appetite, and by the gloss upon their coats, the skin being wholly free from eruption. If pigs snort on being disturbed, it is an unerring sign of sound health and good keep. The state of the excrement will generally indicate pretty correctly the thriving condition of the animal, for unless it is of a firm consistence, the hog will not fatten rapidly. If store or stock pigs are kept well and in good condition, it will prevent most of the diseases to which the animals are subject, and they will also thrive and fatten at one half the expense, when shut up for that purpose.

EDUCATION.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETIES.

Having been instrumental, together with other gentlemen, in organizing a Literary and Debating Society in this neighbourhood during the past winter, and feeling conscious of the advantages of such institutions, when rightly conducted, I beg leave to transmit the following observations for your pages:—

It is of great importance in all our towns and villages to inure the public mind to habits of intellectual and moral culture. Men are endowed with faculties suitable for rational and accountable beings, and these are bestowed for wise and gracious purposes, not only in relation to the present life, but that which is to come. It is of the highest moment, therefore, that these powers should be exercised, disciplined and improved; that they should be directed to suitable objects, and that they should be employed in accordance with the Divine will. It may seem to some a matter of small moment whether the mind is cultivated or not; but it is a pleasing fact, that an opposite and better opinion is gaining strength almost daily. Let every individual remember that he is responsible for the use of the faculties which he possesses; and that to slight the means and opportunities adapted for their improvement, with which he is favored, is a violation of sacred obligations to his Creator, to himself, and to his fellow creatures.

The benefits arising from associations for mental and moral improvement are various. If occasional lectures are delivered, the lecturer and those who listen to him will receive profit. The subjects of course are of a literary instructive character, (at least I will suppose this) they are subjects that cannot well be introduced into the pulpit, and subjects therefore which will not be likely to be discussed at all, unless in such associations. Here there is scope for general and profitable themes. Popular addresses may be delivered by clergymen, medical men and others, on mental and moral philosophy, on anatomy and physiology, on the arts and sciences, on history, general and particular, on the evidences of christianity and other subjects. And if discussions follow, either on the subject of the lecture, or which is better, upon some given, plain and useful question, in which there shall be an affirmative and negative, the disputants and those who listen must derive benefit. It will sharpen the mental faculties, it will stimulate to research, it will augment the stock of know-