

THE SPIRIT OF SHOWING.

Every breeder should be an exhibitor, says a writer in the Live-stock Journal. It is the very essence of live-stock breeding. There is incentive and ambition and honor and satisfaction in it. Aye, and let not the severely practical look on it scornfully, for there is money in it, too. The latter does not come so much from the prizes as from the appreciation in which a regular prize-winner's stock is held. The mere hope of gain, however, is not the spirit in which showing is followed. It is, indeed, but a very small part of the business. The great incentive is the trial of strength, the putting of one man's judgment in selection, or skill in breeding, against all others. How often does a man gain the knowledge that leads to his ultimate success in the experience bought in the rough-and-tumble of the show-yard? But who, excepting the man who has experienced it, can understand the feeling of pride that pervades the man who has at last vanquished his strongest competitors and reached the summit of his ambition? It is far beyond the feeling that any mere money prize could give.

Exhibitors may be divided into two classes—those who can bear defeat, and those who cannot. The latter are men to be pitied. In one of its aspects, there is not a more merciless phase of farming than is found in the show-yard. Respectable mediocrity is nowhere, and the inferior exhibit gets neither sympathy nor indulgence. The judges have no time to spend over it; they are too busy correctly placing their selections. The spectators care nothing for it; they desire to see the vanquishers, not the vanquished. A good animal at home, but outclassed at the show, it simply comes and goes unnoticed. But what of the owner? If of the right stamp, he will brace himself for a better effort; but if he cannot stand defeat, he will surfeit his friends with vague complaints. "I will never exhibit at such a show again. The judges never looked at my animal, and I wouldn't have taken two like the one they gave the first prize to for it." Perhaps he was right, but more probably he was wrong. If right, he could go to another show to get the verdict upset, but he will not see this. The show committee come in for a share of the blame, even although they have done their best to get good judges, and, having done so, have left the matter in their hands.

How differently acts the other class of exhibitor. He likes not defeat, but he grins and bears it, and comes up happy. He hides his disappointment with a cheerful exterior, and carefully notes in what particular he has been beaten. His defeat has nothing more than a momentarily depressing effect; it, indeed, braces him and strengthens him for a further effort. If he thinks he has got less than his deserts, he does not openly complain, but seeks the only exhibitor's remedy, that of getting the decision upset at a subsequent show. Possibly the defeat may be partially his own fault. He may not have exhibited to the best advantage, and thus failed to catch the judge's eye. There is a lot in this. The art of attracting attention is one to be studied by every exhibitor. Many a man wins simply by taking pains to show his animals to the best advantage. An animal's toilet makes a wonderful difference to it. Who has not heard the story of a man selling a horse to sharpers who have so made it up that they have resold it to him at an enhanced price and as a better animal than his own in the same day? The feat has actually been done, and to see some animals before and after their toilet is completed, is to believe it. There are two ways, too, of entering a ring, one as though you intended to win, and the other as though you were there by sufferance. There is a tendency to take a man at his own estimate, and he who shows that he means to win if he can has a better chance of catching the judge's eye than he who keeps in the background. The loud boaster does not reflect the true spirit of showing. The man who wins to crow over his competitor, has but a low aim. The really successful exhibitor is seldom, indeed, a man of this class. Watch him as the animals are being judged. He stands by the ringside apparently an unconcerned spectator. Much may depend on the judge's decision, but he gives no sign. He talks quietly and collectedly, knowing and feeling as himself, and just as keenly interested. If he loses, he takes his defeat resignedly; if he wins, his elation is tempered by the fact that a mere trifle may have turned the scale, and that other judges would have acted differently; for it is but seldom that an exhibit is of such outstanding merit as to win in any company and under any judges.

And so we see and recognize the right spirit of showing. Not in the discontented, not in the timid and faint-hearted, not in the careless and unobservant, not in the boaster, but in the man who, with grim determination, sets himself to equal or surpass his strongest opponents. And not for mere gain alone, but for the knowledge that in skill and determination he can hold his own more

than that, even, for it gives him the proud feeling that he is playing a not unimportant part in maintaining and improving the great live-stock industry of this country.

MUSLIN - CURTAIN VENTILATION JUST THE THING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to your letter, requesting my experience with muslin curtains as a means of ventilation, I would say that I have had but one year's experience, but that has convinced me that nothing can take their place.

My stable has always been very warm, but I was troubled by foul air and moisture gathering on the walls and ceiling, and I tried all kinds of ventilators, but they did no good. At last we tried the muslin curtains, using one thickness of common muslin, costing a shilling a yard, and never doubling it. We put it on frames made of lath, so it would be easy to remove in summer, and tacked the frames in the same as windows. It is well to have them hinged, so as to raise them on warm days. The ones we put on last fall were mostly all right this spring, but I do not think they will last more than two winters.

We find it better to have them on one side of the stable only, so as to prevent too rapid circulation of the air. The most noticeable effect of them was to dry out the walls and make the air in the stable smell fresh and invigorating. When one entered it from the outside he did not meet a rush of hot, foul air, as formerly. It did not seem quite as warm as it had been, but water never froze in any part.

Its advantages are that it is cheaper than glass for windows, gives pure, fresh air to the stock at all times, does not allow any draughts, and keeps the stable dry and warm.

It has two slight disadvantages. One is that it is easily torn, and the other is that it must be kept clean to be effective. The latter should not be charged as a disadvantage, for the stable should be kept clean, anyway. This is all I can tell you with my present experience. I will use them this winter, and hope you may, with as good success.

Franklin Co., N. Y.

C. O. HOOSE.

A UNIQUE CASE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I should like to know through the medium of your paper, if you or any of your readers have ever known of a case like the following, which seems to me and my neighbors here to be unique. I have a sorrel Clyde grade mare, seventeen years old this spring, which I bred to one of my studs, Glencoe, last spring. On September 16th she slipped a foal, a fact which ten men can witness, and was not served again, it being too late in the season. On Thursday, June 16th, last, she dropped another colt, a male, strong and healthy. I have heard of a cow slipping one of twins, but never a mare, and should therefore very much like to hear of any other cases.

Highland Ranch, B. C.

G. L. WATSON.

[This is a most interesting case, and for the time we do not recall anything of a similar nature. Perhaps some of our readers could recite as unique an instance.—Ed.]

BEST VENTILATION HE EVER TRIED.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We have used a light, thin grade of muslin on our windows for about eighteen months. It is fastened on with lath. Only about one curtain in ten has been replaced with a new one in this eighteen months. Its effect on our stables is remarkable. It keeps out dust, drives away moisture, and even in the coldest weather the temperature falls very little below that of a stable with glass windows. I consider it by far the best means of ventilation I have ever tried.

Tioga Co., N. Y.

HARRY B. WINTERS.

FAIR DATES FOR 1907.

July 22-26—Brandon, Man.
July 30 to August 2—Regina's Big Fair.
Aug. 23-30—Iowa State, Des Moines.
Aug. 26 to Sept. 9—Canadian National, Toronto.
Aug. 29 to Sept. 6—Detroit, Mich.
Sept. 2-14—Dominion Exhibition, Sherbrooke, Que.
Sept. 6-14—Western Fair, London.
Sept. 9-13—Indianapolis, Ind.
Sept. 9-14—New York State Fair, Syracuse.
Sept. 13-21—Canada Central, Ottawa.
Sept. 17-19—Guelph.
Sept. 18-20—Woodstock.
Sept. 25 to Oct. 3—Halifax.
Sept. 27 to Oct. 5—Springfield, Ill.
Oct. 8-11—Charlottetown, P. E. I.
Oct. 14-19—Kansas City, Mo.

THE FARM.

OUR DESTRUCTIVE ENEMY, THE RAT.

The following has been condensed from a very comprehensive bulletin on "Methods of Destroying Rats," recently prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture:

Three kinds of rats have found their way to America from the Old World, but by far the most numerous, and on that account the most destructive, is the common brown or Norway species, which introduced itself in 1775. In the United States, this rodent is said to destroy more property than all other animal pests combined. In Denmark, the losses occasioned by it are estimated at \$3,000,000 a year, while in France the total damage caused by rats and mice is placed at \$40,000,000 a year. Copenhagen, in Denmark, has begun a war of extermination. A bounty of three farthings is offered for each rat tail handed in.

When it is considered that a single rat will consume about two ounces of wheat or corn in a day, and that the average cost of feeding one on grain for a year is fifty cents, the loss occasioned by great numbers of these pests may be somewhat apparent.

The fecundity of the female is enormous. It breeds three or four times a year, and produces from six to twelve—occasionally more—young at a litter, the first brood appearing when the mother is but four or five months old.

The methods recommended for destroying rats are as follows: (1) Poisons, (2) traps, (3) ferrets, (4) fumigation, (5) rat-proof construction of buildings.

POISONS.

Barium carbonate, or barytes, is one of the most effective poisons known for this purpose, and possesses, besides, two distinct advantages: (1) Its action is slow, and the rodents usually leave a building in search of water before they die. Occasionally this results in their getting into wells, cisterns or other places, where they drown, and become a nuisance. Sometimes it is advisable to set out a pan of water where the rats may help themselves. The farther it is placed from their holes, the better. All wells should be carefully walled and curbed. (2) Although sure death to rats and mice, the small quantity of it required is harmless to larger animals. It may be fed in a dough made of one-fifth barytes and four-fifths meal, or of ordinary oatmeal mixed with one-eighth its bulk of barytes, water being the mixing medium in both cases. Barytes is sometimes simply spread on bread and butter. If the first supply fails to drive all the rats away, the process should be repeated, but with a different bait.

Strychnine is also an effective poison, but its action is so rapid that the animals often die on the premises. It may be prepared by putting the crystals in bits of meat, or by soaking oatmeal or wheat in strychnine syrup and placing it in the rat runs. To make the syrup, dissolve one-half ounce sulphate of strychnine in boiling water and add to one pint of syrup.

Arsenic and phosphorus are sometimes used, but are not to be recommended, as arsenic is occasionally ineffectual, and the rats may convey the phosphorus to different parts of a building, and thus cause fire.

If rats are in poultry yards or houses, the following plan may be used: Take two wooden boxes, one larger than the other, and place two or more holes in each large enough to admit the rats, while excluding the poultry. Put the poisoned bait near the middle of the larger box and invert the smaller box over it.

TRAPS.

There are several kinds of modern traps, those most commonly used being the "cage" and "guillotine" varieties. The latter is the best, as it kills the rodents at once. For bait, use bacon, sausage, toasted cheese, toasted bread buttered, sunflower or pumpkin seeds. It is well to feed the animals a night or two before with the same kind of bait which is to be used in the trap, as they are rather suspicious, and may require to be thrown off their guard.

Occasionally ferrets and dogs are used, the ferrets to drive the rats out of their burrows, the dogs to catch them when driven out; but an amateur is not likely to have much success with a ferret.

RAT-PROOF CONSTRUCTION.

The best way of keeping rats out of a building is to make it rat-proof with cement. The cellar walls should have concrete footings, and the walls be laid in cement mortar. Make the cellar floor of "medium" concrete, and embed all water and drain pipes in it. Rat holes may be closed by a mixture of cement, sand and broken glass. Poultry houses and granaries may also be made rat-proof by a liberal use of concrete in the foundations and floors.

For insulating corn cribs from the pest, the plan of covering either outside or inside with a