STOCK.

Wintering Sheep.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—As you invite discussion upon your article on Sheep Wintering that appeared in Jan. 1st issue, I have the following to say: My plan of feeding roots to pregnant ewes at this time of the year is to feed five pounds each cut in strips in the morning and three or four pounds at night until five or six weeks before lambing. I then feed about two-thirds as much roots until the lambs come. I find that too many roots cause the lambs to come weak.

I feed my breeding ewes pea straw twice a day until two weeks before lambing, when I commence to feed clover hay and a few oats once a day. This makes a greater flow of milk after lambing. It is a good practice to mix pine tar with salt for sheep and keep it constantly before them in a box. The tar helps to keep them healthy.

My plan of keeping sheep free from ticks is to dip them just after shearing in a trough made for the purpose, which I stand them in and pour it on. The lambs I lay in the trough and soak them in the dip. Again in the fall before cold weather comes I dip them, parting the wool at intervals and pouring on the dip from a dish of some kind.

We usually clean our sheep pens three times in the winter, which I think is quite often enough. The pea straw that is left from feeding I use for bedding, which keeps them clean and dry, which I think is very important. My flock of Shropshires have free access to roomy yards, where they get all the exercise needed. Some feed whole roots, thinking it will give the sheep more exercise to scoop their own roots. I do not think this is a wise practice, as sometimes odd turnips get frozen and when eaten are apt to cause colic and abortion.

I am glad to see you have taken up the dog question, and hope it will be discussed by every shepherd. A great many people keep dogs that are neither useful nor ornamental. In 1883 our choice flock of Shropshires was almost ruined by dogs, which was a very heavy loss, only two-thirds of their value being paid for sheep that were killed, and those that were not killed were so badly frightened that they did us very little good afterwards. I think the best dog-proof arrangement is higher taxes and a double-barrelled gun.

As soon as my lambs begin to eat I divide off part of the pen with hurdles, leaving a hole large enough for the lambs to go through, but narrow enough to keep the dams back. I constantly keep before the lambs fresh clover hay, which I change every day, and give them a mixture of bran, nutted oil cake, and cracked oats and peas and a few pulped turnips. They soon look for their feed and will go into their pen as soon as fed.

ROBT. SPENCER.

"Dorset Farm," Ontario Co., Ont.

Sheep Wintering Down by the Sea.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—As you invite criticism of your article in January 1st ADVOCATE, I will reply by giving my usual practice in keeping a flock of about 30 sheep (not pure-breds), but kept for the money they return in wool, mutton, and butchers' lambs, and I think they pay better than any other stock on the farm.

1. *Feeding Roots.*—We have wintered our sheep very well on oat straw and turnips, without any bad results from the turnips, which we feed once a day, at the rate of about a bushel to 20 sheep. We prefer good, early-cut clover hay to anything else for wintering sheep, and consider it a pretty complete feed, and not requiring to be supplemented with anything except perhaps a few roots, until just before lambing time, when some oats might be added.

2. *Watering.*—Sheep should always have access to water. Compelling them to eat snow to quench their thirst is cruel.

3.—We have no experience with pea straw as sheep feed, but should prefer clover hay, which, with wheat bran fed sloppy, is an excellent feed after lambing, if lambs come in winter.

5. *Salting.*—Besides giving salt, which we think should always be within reach, we have always made a practice of placing pine and spruce boughs where the sheep can visit them at intervals of two or three days. They relish them very much, and I think them fully as good as the pine tar.

6. *Dipping.*—We have never practiced dipping our old sheep, but dip the lambs about three or four days after the sheep are shorn. The ticks will then all be on the lambs. If lambs are dipped every year at this time there will be very little trouble with ticks on the sheep. We have dressed with a solution of arsenic and soap in the winter, pouring it on from a tin dish made for the purpose. But we prefer one of the non-poisonous sheep dips used the same way.

7. *Cleaning Pens.*—We do not clean out pens during the winter if they are roomy and there is plenty of straw for litter. Sheep manure will not heat readily till it is moved, so we rather prefer to use plenty of litter under them for the sake of the manure it makes.

8.—Our sheep stay in the fields most of the day in the fall till the snow comes and pick up a good deal of their living. At night they are penned and fed a little sheaf oats. Have never had any loss from dogs, but some near neighbors have suffered loss that way. Some farmers put a loud-sounding bell on about every sixth or seventh sheep, and claim that dogs will not bother them.

9.—Never used creep-pens, as we do not have the lambs come till there is grass (say about May 1st), and we find they do well and are ready for market the middle of August, single lambs dressing 35 to 40 pounds of meat.

WALTER SIMPSON.

Queen's Co., P. E. I.

Ventilation of Stables.

There is probably no question in connection with the care of stock at present of greater importance than that of proper ventilation of the stables in which cattle are kept. Pure, fresh air in plentiful supply is essential to the health of the animals, and will go far towards the prevention of diseases by maintaining a vigorous state of health, which enables them to resist the action of microbes and to throw off any incipient attacks to which they may be subjected. The general use of basement stabling throughout the country, and the custom of keeping a large number of animals under one roof, which is becoming more common, renders it of vital importance that provision should be made for a sufficient supply of pure air, and also of abundance of light, since these are the principal factors in preserving a healty condition. Approved methods of ventilation have been given in several numbers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE during the past year; but as these may not be suitable to every condition, and may involve more expense than some are disposed to assume, we venture a description of a simple device for ventilation which came under the observation of one of our staff on the occasion of a visit to a well-known herd of Ayrshires in the Province of Quebec a few weeks ago, and which seemed to be effectual at least in carrying off the impure air and preventing the accumulation of moisture on the walls of the stable in which were fifty head of cattle. The discovery of its efficacy was made accidentally. An ordinary 10-inch square ventilator shaft ran from the ceiling of the cow stable to the cupola on the roof. It was discovered that from the moisture accumulating in this shaft, which opened over a bull's stall, water dripped on the back of the animal where he stood. In order to avoid this, a three-sided box or trough was placed under the mouth of the shaft about ten inches wide and twelve feet long, with three inches of a fall at one end to throw the dripping water into the gutter behind the cows. This was nailed to a joist of the ceiling and left open at both ends. It was noticed that the draft of the ventilator shaft was by this means very much increased, straws being drawn towards it, and the walls of the stable being kept dry, while formerly they were covered with moisture. The same appliance was adopted in the case of the other ventilating shafts in the buildings, and with the same satisfactory results, and the manager congratulates himself on having secured a simple, cheap, and effective system of ventilation. We may add that in this case the ventilator shafts did not run straight to the cupolas, but at a considerable angle from the beams in the loft, being nailed to the rafters and thus out of the way of a hay-fork car, and the manager claimed that the bend in the shaft was helpful rather than a hindrance to effectual draft. We do not undertake to vouch for this system on our own account, as we cannot explain on what principle it is based, but we give it for what it is worth, and with the commendation of the discoverer.

Watering Cows in Stable.

SIR,—I have been much delighted with your excellent paper during the last year. I think you have fully complied with your promised improvements. The first of December number contained some excellent articles on watering and feeding cattle, and as you invited others to give their experience, I thought that mine might be helpful to some of my brother farmers. Until five years ago I had to water my cattle at the house pump, no matter how cold and stormy it might be, and it was no small thing to water thirty head of cattle in that way. Then I would leave them in the barnyard for a few hours and would feed them there; but when I learned that the cows did not need such rough exercise, I resolved to dig a well near the stable, no matter what it should cost, so I dug a large well eighty-five feet from the stable, and laid a two-inch iron pipe two feet under ground, and put a common pump in the stable. I had it made with a long tap, so that the spout is four feet from the floor, and I made long water troughs on top of the manger each side the feed passage; and I put a spout from the pump to the troughs, so there is fall enough to run the water down so that eighteen cows can drink at once, nine on each side. A boy ten years old can work that pump with ease; it will fill a pail at four strokes, so now my cows stay in stable all winter. I put lids on the water troughs, so I close them when feeding. The cows are both healthy and happy; they have plenty to eat and drink, warmth and light. I have had no trouble with sickness since I adopted this plan, and they milk far better. I feed corn ensilage twice a day, clover hay once, and hay made of peas and oats cut green. I have fifteen cows milking now. I ship my butter to Toronto every week, labelled "Silven Dairy." I have some thoroughbred Holstein cows and a bull, and a lot of good grades, so that I am improving my stock as fast as I can.

Ontario Co., Ont. M. CLIPSHAM.

Feeding of Cows.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I give you my methods of feeding and caring for cows in winter:

Fodder.—About 25 pounds of ensilage in the morning, a small feed of clover hay at noon, and in the evening a good feed of rye hay and oat straw cut and well mixed; all they will eat up clean (fed dry).

Meal.—I prefer peas, oats and barley in equal parts, ground fine; about four quarts for the average cow, fed dry in two feeds per day on cut fodder, morning and evening, and when I have bran I mix it about one to four. I might state here that I never buy any feed or bran as long as I can grow oats and barley on the farm. I don't think it pays. However, we usually have bran, as we grow considerable wheat and exchange it all for bran and flour, as we are in a position to sell our flour advantageously.

Ventilation.—We never had any trouble in keeping our stable ventilated, it being well supplied with windows and doors, which can be adjusted to suit the temperature. The doors are hung so as to leave a large crack at the bottom, which can be easily stopped with chaff or sweepings if necessary.

Stanchions.—We use the stanchion or bail, and at one end of the stable the floor of stall is 4 feet and at the other end it is 5 feet. We then place the cows to suit the various-sized stalls. The drop is 6 inches deep and twelve inches wide, but should be 16 or 17 in width; very seldom we have a dirty cow.

Manure Gutter.—The drop is built perfectly water-tight. The manure is wheeled into a shed, as is also the horse manure, and becomes mixed. Have had no experience with cement floors, but from what I know of them think it is the proper floor to put in a cow stable. Have had no experience with dehorned cattle, but as it has been practiced to a large extent in this locality I would be safe in saying the practice is to be recommended. We store ice and find it a great advantage, as we are able to keep our Saturday night's milk pure and sweet for delivery to cheese factory on Monday. We never make butter at home. I am unable to give the cost of our ice house, because it is only a portion of another building. The building is 12x24 feet, with 8-foot studs, one end a dairy room, and placed directly over the well. The other end is used for storing ice. The studs are 2 x 6, sided on the outside, boards on the inside, the space filled with sawdust. The dairy room and ice house are the same size, divided by a strong partition. The foundation of ice house is well drained with a liberal coat of fine gravel. On this is placed 6 inches of good sawdust. The ice is cut in cakes about 15 inches square. The bottom tier is placed within 6 or 8 inches of the wall all round. This space is filled with sawdust. All cakes are placed with snow side up. When the tier is filled take an adze and chop off all humps and fill all openings with ice chips or snow. Then place tier No. 2, pack around the edge with sawdust as before, and level with the adze again, being very particular to fill all openings thoroughly. If this is done with each tier the ice will keep with a very light covering of sawdust. It is important that the sawdust be tramped frequently in summer to exclude the air.

Leeds Co., Ont. M. W. STEACY.

FARM.

Maritime Notes.

A little new life seem to have been given the movement of pure-bred stock in Nova Scotia. Mr. F. E. Page, of Amherst, recently shipped eight head of Holstein cattle to parties in Jamaica. We are glad to see that Mr. Page has made a good sale, but wish the animals could have been retained in the Province where they are so much needed.

Mr. Oscar Chase, of Port Williams, an old O. A. C. boy, recently returned home from Ontario, bringing with him a lot of fine cattle which will make a good addition to the present herd. We wish Mr. Chase success with his new importation, but would impress upon him the necessity of keeping his herd prominently before the public by advertising. One of the causes which, in my opinion, has prevented the more general use of pure-bred animals is the fact that little is known of our home herds outside their immediate vicinity. Probable buyers at a little distance know nothing of them, and being afraid of the expense of bringing animals from a great distance, they naturally go without. Advertisements in local papers are not of much use; they must appear in many and are therefore expensive. The best medium is a paper devoted to agricultural and stock matters, and which of necessity must have a large circulation among farmers.

Mr. W. W. Black, of Amherst, is now among the Herefords of Quebec, and will probably make some purchases before he returns. Mr. Black's present herd was, I think, founded in 1882 by animals imported from Ontario.

It is always welcome news to hear of the new importation of pure-bred stock, and it is to be hoped our farmers will do more in the way of using pure-bred sires than they have formerly done. Surely no better object lesson, showing the benefits to be derived from their use, could be given than to see our butchers going all the way to Ontario to buy beef cattle for our city markets because they cannot secure a sufficient supply of the right stamp at home. This is a very bad state