

wheat. The six little objects get the run of the pasture, with the cows, in summer, and spend the winter in circumnavigating the barn in search of that, to them, *terra incognita*, a warm spot, and in picking up, as they move, any coarse straws which the older and stronger animals may have left uncut. At two years old, if they live so long, they are allowed to be "in calf," and in process of time—the productive powers of the farm remaining unimpaired—there are twenty-four more heads, (each with a month in it), ninety-six legs, and so on. A large stock is thus soon acquired; but increased resources for the farmer? Alas! no. Every mouth that cannot be kept full is a hole in his pocket. Believe me, Mr. Editor, some such advice as this is urgently needed by not a few: raise as large a crop as you can, and get it eaten, without waste, in thoroughly warm and dry houses, by as few animals as can accomplish the task. It is vanity for farmers to expect to wear kid gloves and stove-pipe hats, to drive "great travellers" in Concord buggies, or to enjoy any of the luxuries of life, until they bestow some of its comforts upon their cattle.

F. HARMER, JES'N.

Nepean, Co. Carleton, March 20, 1868.

Group of Oxford Down Ewes.

THE Oxford Downs are a recent and beautiful variety of sheep, obtained by judicious crossing and improvements among members of the long-established and highly-prized Down family. Their many good qualities render them among the most desirable and profitable of the breeds of sheep at present in vogue. They are noted for docility, prolificness, early maturity, aptitude to fatten, great size and weight of fleece, purity and quality of wool. Their wool scours perfectly white, and is of remarkably soft, flexible texture not having any of that harsh, dry badness or any of the short dark hair at the bottom of the fleece of which wool tappers are apt to be suspicious in Down sheep. The three animals herewith illustrated, were imported last summer by M. H. Cochrane, Esq., of Hillhurst, Compton, Quebec. They are part of a pen of five ewes that gained the first prize at the Bath and West of England Show last year, and subsequently took the first, second and third prizes at our own Provincial Exhibition in Kingston. The fleeces of the five averaged last spring 10 lbs. 6 oz. The average weight of the five ewes at the date of our visit to Compton (end of February) was 265 lbs., and they were all in lamb. They and their progeny will doubtless figure at future shows, and win some of the highest honours. We sincerely wish their enterprising proprietor all the prosperity as a sheep-breeder which he so justly deserves.

CHESTER WHITE HOGS.—F. H. Edkin, of Williamsport, sends the *American Agriculturist* the weight of six piglets of his, fourteenths old, the property of A. G. Shiffer, as follows:—No. 1, 655 lbs. live, 590 lbs. dressed; No. 2, 595 lbs. live, 550 dressed; No. 3, 685—522; No. 4, 523—493; No. 5, 436—390; No. 6, 406—376.

Care of Horses.

AFTER about twenty-two years' experience as a horse owner, I undertake to set down a little of my experience concerning the management of that noble animal.

Commencing when the foal is a day or two old, I go to it, and pass my hands down its face, along its back, and down its legs to the hoofs, hind and fore, not to mesmerise or charm the animal, but to accustom it to being handled, a thing which can not be commenced too soon. Foals are animals that, when quite young, have more sagacity, and are more tractable and easily taught than any other animal, so whatever you want them to learn, commence before they are old enough to make resistance, and depend upon it, they will never forget it. Put a halter on it, and lead it about, but be careful not to let it break away from you. Be very kind and gentle to it, but show that you are its master.

I next proceed to the horse's feet. Horses' hoofs are things of the greatest importance; for who would want to follow a lame horse at either work or pleasure. Many things ruin the feet of horses, which I

hoof, and often causes contraction and many other evils, when nailed too far to the heel, left on too long, or when the hoof is not sufficiently pared down between shooings. See that the shoe is not nailed too far to the heel. Any intelligent man can see when a shoe has been on long enough, and take it off, when it may be left off a day or two, or longer, as the case may be. A drive over soft snow, a few days ploughing or harrowing, or the like, would spread the foot and help to counteract the effects of shoeing. Always see that the hoof is properly pared down before the shoe is again put on. I have often seen the hoofs of old horses greatly improved by being left bare a few weeks in pasture. There are many other things that hurt horses' feet, as too poor feed, too high feed, too hard driving.

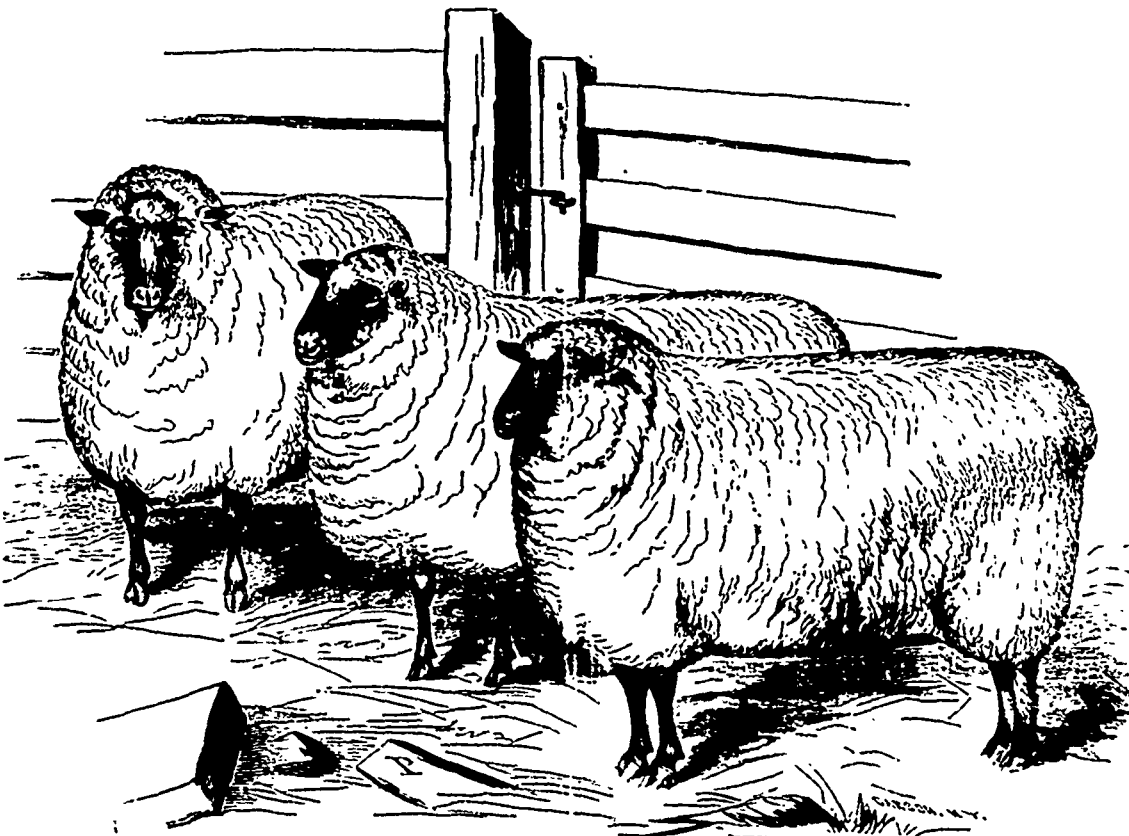
The most natural feed for the horse is what he can pick for himself, but as we cannot let him run and pick his own living, let his feed be as near natural as possible. Too high or too low feed have both a bad effect, but as different individuals will form very different notions of what high and low feed are, I will try and point out what I consider the middle course to be. Hay alone, be it ever so good, is not fit feed

for horses, whether working or idle. They need grain, with an occasional feed of roots, bran mash, or something to keep their bowels open. Horses need regular feed. The feed I generally find best for horses is about twelve pounds of hay and from nine to twelve quarts of oats, given in three regular feeds, with a feed of raw potatoes once a week, when idle, or at gentle work; and a small increase when at hard work.

The practice of feeding horses all the hay they can eat when idle, has many bad effects; whereas if they get three small feeds, they will stamp about in the stall, and take exercise between feeds, which will keep their legs from swelling, &c. But remember, I do not advocate small feeds of hay without grain. A very cheap way of feeding horses, and not a bad way, is on straw, with a fair allowance of oats. I have tried a great many experiments, and have found horses always do better on straw, than horned cattle. Horses will do better on straw, provided it be good, than they will on hay only, without grain in both cases; but of course they must not be stinted. The main point with a farmer who keeps horses, is to use them in such a way as will give them all the strength and agility the animal is capable of, and to work them all they can stand without injuring either. The poor, half-starved horse is an animal any man ought to be ashamed of; but on the other hand, the pampered and over-fed and half-worked horse, though he may look very nice to some, is an animal I would advise the farmer not to keep, as such animals are more liable to loss than any other.—J. D., of Nackawick, in *Colonial Farmer*.

Any animal that is worth keeping at all is worth taking care of.

PREMIUM OXFORD DOWN EWES AT THE LAST PROVINCIAL SHOW.



THE PROPERTY OF M. H. COCHRANE, ESQ., COMPTON, QUEBEC.

cannot pretend to touch or, but I will try to point out a few errors which any man can see and correct, the greatest of which is leaving their shoes on too long. This hurts the hoof, strains the legs, and causes lameness in every shape. In the winter this has a worse effect than in summer, as then the feet are more dry and clean, whereas in summer they are wet, and the mud and heat of summer will rot the hoofs and cause the shoe to fall off. I have known horses' shoes nailed on in the fall, and not taken off until the next summer, when they would fall off in the pasture, a practice which seldom fails to bring on lameness. A horse's shoe should never be on longer than three months, and two months are very often too long. Horses' hoofs were meant by nature to go bare, and run on the earth in their natural state, and as long as we drive them on such, they need no shoeing; but when we drive them on paved streets, hard roads, &c., we have to shoe them, and stop the wear that nature meant should be on their hoofs. The consequence is that the shoe binds the