

## Poisoning of Sheep by Dipping.

In our issue of May 15th, we published an illustrated article in reference to the best mode of dipping sheep. *The Farmer* of June 30th, contains a very sensible article on this subject, pointing out the dangers to be guarded against in the process, and on the whole, gives the preference to pouring instead of dipping. It is as follows:—At each season comes round, and the operation of sheep dipping is necessarily put into practice, we are apprised of deaths taking place, in some instances few, but unhappily in far too many, great numbers being carried off. Although the season is not yet far advanced, the unwelcome news reaches us from various quarters, and but a few days ago in the county of Hertford, on the borders of Essex, no less than forty, being two-thirds of a lot just purchased for store purposes, succumbed within a few hours after the operation.

With large, fat, and heavy sheep there is always a great liability to accident, and particularly among ewes that are pregnant. The necessary handling induces a great amount of excitement, and pressure on the lungs becomes so great that suffocation, when the creature is turned on the back, is very easily produced. To obviate this, we do not see why sheep of all kinds, when they need dipping, cannot be immersed in the bath feet downwards. A thoroughly practical and scientific veterinarian, Mr. Dickinson, of Boston, Lincolnshire, whose assistance passes through the bath many thousands annually, has for some years adopted this plan. The sheep is placed in a suitable cage, and by a simple lever raised and lowered in the bath, and this means entirely obviates casualties we have mentioned.

But there are other causes for mortality and destruction of sheep in dipping besides suffocation in handling, and the most common and fatal is the use of metallic preparations for the cure of scab, and killing the parasites that abound in the fleeces. Arsenic and corrosive sublimate are substances which enter largely into the composition of these killing mixtures, and we learn that a well-known, largely-advertized nostrum, which is principally composed of arsenic, was used on the occasion named in the commencement of this article, by which forty animals were rendered lifeless in somewhat less than four hours.

Popular prejudice, fostered by emblazoned show cards and hand bills, announces that no other remedy can be used which will destroy the parasites of the fleece; but here prejudice makes a great mistake. Sheep-dipping, like many other operations, is too carelessly and too seldom done, and, as a result, the dipper resorts to a most deadly remedy, which not only kills the parasites, but also the sheep, and thus adds to the annual mortality which we have too much reason to deplore as already too great, and more than we can afford. Besides this, sheep-farmers are frequently at fault in turning newly dipped sheep back to the same pastures and localities which abound in the parasites which torment them, and newly-clipped sheep are allowed to mingle with lambs without any precaution being taken to guard against the passage of the lice, ticks, &c., from one to the other. Thus, the operation confined to ewes only is but a proceeding which favors the parasites seeking greater warmth in the thicker and closer fleece of the lambs. When ewes are dipped, it would be well to dip lambs also, and in using a compound, that selected should be one not essentially for bleaching and cleaning the wool, but for its power of attaching itself to the fibres of the fleece, and thus render it untenable by the parasite. There is, however, some difficulty in the choice of materials which will effect this, and more so when the bath is used, as all substances cannot be conveyed in a watery solution. For this reason we advocate the more effective, although slower plan of pouring, with which every sheep farmer is thoroughly conversant. By this, many agents, perfectly harmless to the sheep, but deadly poisonous to the parasites, may be used, conveying comfort to the animals, effecting a more speedy cure, and preventing not only the loss of flesh, which is never regained, but also the loss of animals themselves. Among the few relics of agricultural barbarities, in which still remain dangerous remedies as sheep-dips, are those which ere long must disappear, and safety will be as certain in this as any other operation which is resorted to for the production and conservation of stock, that forms the staple food of a large and growing country like ours.

## The Draft-Horse.

The proper places for this horse are the drays and heavy waggon and carts of cities, the heaviest kind of farm work, and all draft where the walk is the only gait required. The points of this kind of horse are, in some respects, opposite to those of horses required for quicker motion. It is a principle in mechanics that speed and power are opposed to each other, and the rule is applicable to the animal as well as to other machines.

The leading characteristic of the draft-horse being strength, his legs should be short and his body large and muscular in proportion to his weight. A very wide breast and wide base to the chest (sternum), which in the trotter would be a defect, because it would occasion a wavering motion of the gut, and a loss of time in preserving the balance of the body, would be a merit in the draft-horse, as it would give greater weight nearer the ground, and brace the animal more against the jabs and strains he must meet with in labor.

A sloping shoulder is indispensable in the trotter, whereas an upright shoulder and comparatively low fore-end, are most favorable to the weight of the animal being thrown into the collar. Still, as the low and upright shoulder are unfavorable to the reach and speedy and easy action of the foreleg, the point must not be carried to an extreme, lest the animal be deficient in speed in walking. It may be better to lose some power at a dead pull, if by so doing we obtain points which insure greater expedition in the performance of ordinary labor, a matter which will be further noticed in speaking of breeds of the draft-horse.

The leading breeds of British draft-horses are the old black cart breed, which from the earliest times has occupied the rich lands of Lincolnshire and other sections, the Suffolk, and the Clydesdale. The former breed is of immense size, sometimes reaching the weight of 2,400 pounds, and furnishes the elephantine animals used in the drays and beer-waggon of the metropolis. For agricultural purposes, an animal of less size and quicker motion is generally preferred, and the Suffolk and Clydesdale are the favorites. Not having an opportunity of making a thorough comparison of these breeds, I would not venture a decided opinion as to their relative merits.

I met with the Suffolks chiefly at the shows of the Royal Agricultural, and the shows of other societies, and saw selected specimens on various farms; therefore, I can hardly judge of the average character of the breed. They are mostly of a sorrel or light chestnut color, sometimes with mane and tail lighter than the body; about sixteen hands high, generally very thick set, which formerly occasioned the name of Punch, or Suffolk Punch to be applied to them. They were formerly very low and thick in the shoulder, and possessed wonderful power at a dead pull; but they have been bred, latterly, with a higher forehead and more obliquity of shoulder, points which have given them more activity. They seem to be generally good walkers, have pleasant, tractable tempers, and are not deficient in muscular strength.

Of the Clydesdale I saw more. They take their name from the vale of the Clyde, but are bred extensively in several of the western counties of Scotland, and more or less in other sections of that country. I saw many of them in the principal breeding districts, at market fairs, and at agricultural shows, about two hundred of them at that of the Highland Society, and nearly as great a number at some local shows. Their color is chiefly bay and black, the former rather predominating. Their height may be put at sixteen hands, but in general they have less weight in proportion to their height than the English breeds before mentioned. Their weight ranges from 1,700 to upwards of 2,000 pounds. Many of them are very symmetrical, are higher in the withers, and particularly more oblique in the shoulder, than the English, and walk with ease and rapidity, equalling in their gait, any horses I have ever seen. They seem to be generally of good texture; are firm in muscle, sinewy, and wiry, with short and wide shanks. They have good constitutions, and are cheaply kept. They are seldom driven out of a walk. It is the custom of Scottish farmers to keep lighter kinds of horses for quick driving on the road.

The draft-horses of our country were brought here to a great extent, by immigrants from Germany. Many of the heavy horses used in our city are descendants of these, bred in Pennsylvania and other sections where the stock has been disseminated. They have not generally the strength of limb and firmness of texture which we see in the Suffolks and Clydesdales, and I have no hesitation in saying that wherever horses of this description are bred, a cross with the latter, or an entire substitution of them for the so-called Dutch stock, would be a decided improve-

ment. In some of our cities the supply of draft horses has been of late obtained in part from Canada West, where, as before remarked, a cross of the Clydesdale prevails to some extent.—*Late Mr. Sandford Howard, in Western Farmer.*

## Exportation of Live Stock to Australia.

Nearly every vessel that has left this country for Australia, since the order published in April, has taken out cattle or sheep of some kind or other—Short horns, Devons, and Hertfords among cattle, and Lincolns, Leicesters, and Shropshires among sheep.

The Australian Agricultural Company gave the Duke of Devonshire one thousand guineas for *Duke of Oxford 24th*, a Short-horn roan yearling bull of the Oxford tribe. Messrs. Barnes & Smith, Dyrabba, bought *Duke of Oxford 25th*, also from Holker, at 500 gs. for Mr. J. Irving, of Richmond River, and for themselves Mr. Oliver's *Cherry Grand Duke 3rd*, and other Short-horns from Mr. Bolton, County of Wexford, Rev. T. Staniforth, Mr. Brassey, Preston Hall, and Mr. Smith, of Quinton, as well as two bulls from Lord Penrhyn. Major Panning also purchased five bulls from Lord Penrhyn and two from Messrs. Lency's herds. Two cows were also sent by Mr. Bruce to Mr. Woodhouse, of New South Wales. Mr. A. Dangar, of Barooma, imported two cows of the Bates or Knightly strain: *Archduchess of Essex*, a roan five-year-old cow from Sir G. R. Philips' herd, and *Lady Walnut* from Mr. Savill's at Ingthorpe; whilst *Lady Ribkali*, bred by Mr. Torr, from the Sylph tribe, and *Rosa Seemil*, from Mr. J. J. Stone, went to Mr. Wm. Dangar, of Neotsfield, from Messrs. Sturgeon. Other Short-horns have gone to Melbourne. Mr. William McCulloch imported five. They consisted of the well-known prize bull *Rapid* and four heifers also of Booth blood. It is to be regretted that such valuable and good animals are leaving the country. *Wave Whirl*, a roan heifer from Mr. Torr's large herd at Aylesby, and *Pink 11th* and *16th*, the latter a prize winner as a calf at the Royal, at Cardiff, accompany them in the same vessel. Mr. J. Mickle has also imported some promising young bulls and a heifer. A large number of bulls and heifers have been consigned to Mr. Watt, of Melbourne, from different herds in the north of England.—*Bell's Weekly Messenger London, June 16th.*

**SALE OF THOROUGHBRED COLTS.**—At A. J. Alexander's sale, June 25, 38 yearlings—17 horse colts and 21 fillies—were sold for \$25,200 an average of about \$662 each. The highest price paid was \$5,500 for a colt sired by Lexington.

**ILLINOIS SHORT-HORN SALES.**—Mr. Thomas Smith, of Franklin Grove Ill., recently sold 22 females and 10 bulls, at an average of \$204 for the females and \$133 for the bulls. The animals were nearly all of light colors—16 being either white or light roan—and not of fashionable breeding. Most of the animals were sold to persons living near the place of sale.

**TAILS—WHITE AND BLACK.**—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says: Every spotted dog has the end of his tail white, and every spotted cat the end of the tail black. Of the fact there can be no doubt. I have examined dogs and cats without number in France, in England, and America, and always noticed the same result. The dog affair is not original with me, but the cat is. Our former minister to Japan, Mr. Harris, first mentioned the fact concerning the dog in a letter to the *New York Times*, published some years since. I have looked at many paintings of dogs in the galleries of Paris, and elsewhere, in regard to this, and found even there the dogs spotted, always "in order," proving to me that the artists had invariably copied after nature.

**SALE OF THE COBHAM STUD YEARLINGS.**—The result of the first sale of yearlings, on Saturday, showed an average of 383 guineas, and a fraction over for 34 lots; four colts and a filly realising over 1,000 guineas each. The five in question produced exactly 7,000 guineas, and all were the progeny of Blair Athol, except a colt by Victorious. Two other Blair Athol fillies realised 700 and 500 guineas each, and a couple of colts 820 guineas between them, which gives a total of 9,020 guineas for eight of that sire's stock. His colts out of Circe and Ellermire, and the sister to Devotion out of Alceste, was bought for Australia by Mr. Dangar, a wealthy colonist, who meant having the brother to Coimbra; Captain Macchell, however, stalled off opposition, and this colt remains in England at 2,000 guineas.—*Mark Lane Express.*