

STOCK

Treatment for Paralysed Pigs.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of September 18th, G. A. asks advice for treatment of pigs suffering from paralysis. If the "weak back" has been caused by sunburn the cure is to put the stock under shelter, but if the pigs are not sunburned G. A. must put the blame on his feed of oats. Oats are the worst kind of feed for young pigs unless the hulls are sifted out. The hulls cause irritation of the bowels and will bring on inflammation just as G. A. described. Even the newly farrowed pigs will be effected by them if the dams are fed oats only.

Oakland Mun., Man.

O. K.

Raising and Training a Collie Pup.

Will you kindly tell me how a Collie pup should be raised and trained so as to make a good cattle dog? Should he be tied up or not?

Alta.

E. G. R.

Ans.—No special instruction can be given concerning the raising of the pup. He should be well fed on good nutritious food such as milk, bread and meat. Care should be taken not to spoil him by too much fondling and petting. Neither should he be abused. Pups raised with children are as a rule little use for work, they being eith-
petted to foolishness, or mauled to uselessness. It is not necessary that he be tied, in fact it is better that he be allowed to run free.

In training the collie it is absolutely necessary that he be taught to mind from the start. The dog must first have confidence in his teacher. Begin teaching him by making him understand that when you say "lie down", you mean for him to lie down. Practice on this until he obeys promptly at command. Every time he obeys in a satisfactory manner, show him that he has done so by patting him on the head. Don't try to teach a young collie to drive stock. Very few dogs will learn successfully until they are from a year to eighteen months old. In some cases excellent dogs cannot be taught to drive properly until they are two years old. This is not a bad thing. Experience goes to show that when dogs learn at from one to two years old they are better than younger. In teaching them to drive it is a good plan to tie a clothesline rope to them, so as to keep absolute control. This is the only way to teach a dog to come back promptly. Be careful not to permit him to become frightened by the animals he is driving. This is very apt to occur if training commences before the pup has much courage. If he once becomes frightened he will likely be a very unsatisfactory worker. The dog should always be handled by one man alone until he is thoroughly trained, and the trainer should be especially careful to always use the same words and the same motions for the same things. Work with the line for a while, and as he gains confidence, and shows a willingness to mind

promptly, take off the line but keep the dog within six or eight rods of you, so that you will not lose control of him. The collie dog will stand rebuke of the proper kind, but he must never be abused. A sharp word or a light cuff on the ear is as severe as often is necessary. Always remember that the collie is the most sensitive of our domestic animals. If he learns slowly you must have patience. Above all else never abuse him.

The Necessity of Conducting Experimental Steer Feeding Tests.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

As a farmer engaged to some extent in following mixed lines, I am confronted, oftentimes, with problems on which it seems to me there ought to be some definite information available to serve as a guide. We are unfortunate in this country, in that we have to depend almost entirely on American and Eastern experiment stations for practically all our authoritative data on any agricultural subject. Take for example: the feeding of stock, I mean winter feeding of steers particularly, an industry that should rapidly develop on this subject there is not one jot of authoritative information extant in this whole western country. Who, for instance, can tell us, and back his statements up with the results of work actually accomplished and feeding actually done, what the feeding value is of the various grains, grass and forage crops available to our feeders? There is going to be in this country this year a lot of rejected grain, grain that possibly might be turned into beef and other animal products, but who can come forward and tell us what the feeding value of such stuff is? What is it worth as a stock food to the western farmer on his own farm, not its value as a feeding stuff in Oregon, Texas or Ontario? When was there ever conducted any experiments in this country to determine the value of frosted, immature wheat, as grain or as hay, as a cattle food; or barley, oats or the various grasses that make up the feeding stuff on every western farm? Which one, or what combination of these foods will produce the most economic results in steer feeding?

Farming in this country is rapidly approaching that stage where information on such subjects as this is urgently required. The present season has taught us something of the danger of confining ourselves too much to one thing; and the lesson will likely be further forced upon us in the future. There is probably more feed in this country this year—grain that has been cut green for hay, wheat, barley and oats, unfit for export than there has ever been before. There is too, from the appearance of the stock going into the market, plenty of stockers in the country to which this might profitably be fed, and more of it would be fed too if we knew exactly the best way to feed it and had some definite notion as to the cost of producing a pound of beef from the stuff that is at hand. The farmer cannot be expected to undertake individual experimental work, to establish what feed or what combination of feeds will fatten his steers most economically, and even if he did of what value to the rest of us

would his results be? How would such information be brought to the notice of the whole farming community? It would have to depend upon the private enterprise of yours and other papers.

This is a work which our government stations, federal and provincial, should be doing, or rather should long ago have done. The Brandon and Indian Head farms were not established yesterday or the day before, they are classic institutions in the agricultural affairs of this country. In some lines they have accomplished much, but the days when an experiment station's only function is to make variety tests with a few of the cereal grains and establish the fact that plums, crabapples, and a few other things may be grown, is past by at least two decades, and if they are ever going to undertake more advanced agricultural work, and accomplish something for the farmer who is adapting his methods to the changing conditions the time is opportune for them to set about it.

Of course we know that feeding experiments to no end have been undertaken by the department by which these two stations particularly mentioned are directed. The annual Experimental farm reports bulge with just such information as we seem crying for. But these tests are invariably made under conditions and with stock quite different from our own. What the farmers of this country need in the line of steer feeding information, is not a lot of facts and figures from some experiment conducted two thousand miles away, but facts brought out from a test actually made in our own provinces. The time seems opportune for inaugurating such a line of investigation. Certainly its commencement should not be much longer delayed.

Oakland Mun., Man.

J. W. C.

The Australian Sheep Situation.

Australian advices describe the season which has just closed as unparalleled in the history of the Continent. The flocks there have increased by 28,000,000 in three years, but still they are sixteen and a half millions short of the figures attained in 1894-95. But at the ratio of the past three years another year should see this immense leeway made up. One authority says two or three good seasons will be required to ensure the recovery of the position of 1894-95; but if 28,000,000 are made up in three years, the balance of sixteen and a half millions can very well be made up in one, or at most, two seasons. It is something to be told that the increase in the product of New Zealand wool has been nothing like so extensive as the increase in Australian, but while this may bring a measure of relief to those who depend on wool, it can do little for those who depend rather upon mutton. The land of the Maori has been more extensively utilised for the production of frozen mutton than for the production of wool yet it is a formidable competitor in the British market.

The rapid increase and the immense volume of trade in Australian wools is startling. In 1902 the production reached 53,423,000 lb., and it steadily increased, until in 1906 it reached, 83,440,000 lb. For Australia and New Zealand



SHORTHORN COW "SWEETHEART"
Champion Royal Show, 1907



HEREFORD BULL "PEARL KING"
Champion Royal Show, 1907