

SWINE

THE sow's udder should be developed well forward, and show at least twelve well-placed teats. These are considered evidence of milking tendency and prolificacy. The value of the brood sow is sadly impaired if she is a shy breeder and poor suckler. The pig for profit must grow from the start, and this he cannot do if the dam fails to supply abundant and wholesome milk. The quantity and quality of the milk will depend mainly on the method of feeding. The milking trait, like any other, can be developed or restrained. But a delicate young thing cannot be expected to furnish vigorous, lusty offspring, or the milk supply which they may demand. If sows are bred too young their growth is checked and vigor overtaxed. If not bred until a year or more of age and are highly fed, they are apt to fix the tendency to lay on fat rather than that of milk-giving. So there is a happy mean that may well be sought to insure the greatest vigor and ability to support the litter.

Corncob Charcoal.

Every farmer who has had much experience with hogs knows of the avidity with which they consume charred corn cobs, and many of the best farmers make a practice of raking up the corn cobs, burning them partially, and then allowing the hogs to eat them. Where they lie around in such great abundance as they do on so many farms, this is probably as good a way as any. A better way, where the supply is in any way scant, is to dig a hole in the ground, start a fire, fill it up with cobs, and when they are quite well burnt or charred cover them up with a sheet iron plate, which can be sealed with dirt. This makes a complete job, and furnishes a better quality of cob charcoal than can be obtained in any other way.

Fattening Pigs on Parsnips.

In looking over a copy of the *Farmer's Review* (Eng.) of fifty years ago, we found the following statement by the editor in answer to a query as to the value of parsnips for fattening pigs :

"In answer to this question, we beg to state that at our farm at Oatlands, Ringmer, we have been in the habit of employing parsnips for that purpose for some time. Upon reference to our books we find that upon the 11th of October, 1847, we put up two shoats of eleven weeks old and fed them on parsnips and skim-milk for three months, when they were killed, weighing $16\frac{1}{2}$ and 17 stones. They were well fattened, firm in flesh and the meat of excellent flavor. The quantity of parsnips consumed by them was nine bushels each.

"This plan of fattening we think well adapted for the cottager."

Three Rights.

A writer in one of our exchanges comes out with the following remarks on hog breeding and feeding in general :

The right sort of hogs will be of no use to the farmer unless they have the right sort of care. There is a sort in care as well as in breeding, and the two must go together. The better the sort the better care it requires to bring out what is in it, for the sort, that is, the quality or the breed, was first developed by the right kind of feed and care, and in breeding we are simply perpetuating by using the law of heredity that has been established by the right sort of feed and care. To get the right sort of hogs and give them the right sort of care requires the right sort of man, and sometimes we think that the place to begin to breed and feed is in the brain of the man who owns the hogs. This can be done only by himself. Books will help, breeders' meetings will help, public sales will help, and agricultural papers will help, but the main force of the movement toward getting the right sort of hogs and taking the right sort of care of them must come from within, of the farmer's own motion. In the language of the law, it must be his "voluntary act and deed."

This is vigorous and to the point, and it might be well to add that the right kind of hogs in the right man's hands, where they get the right kind of care, may usually be depended on to give the right kind of returns ; we have yet to see the man