

The Summer Management of Stock.

It is a difficult matter on a considerable holding to keep all varieties of stock going on satisfactorily, to ensure their getting food suitable for them in quantity, and of a quality which will prove fairly remunerative; to prevent waste; to ward off causes of accident or disease. Properly to arrange all this, requires some generalship and some experience. Young farmers with a fair command of stock often fall into the serious error of getting overstocked; in a dry season like the present, many good managers are apt to discover that they also have too many mouths. Cattle and sheep always do best where they can have a change of grazing once or even twice a month; as we have often insisted on, a given acreage of clover grass or vetches will produce a greater weight of meat if the food is brought to the animals, instead of being walked over and spoiled by them. With sheep the penning system is the most economical, and has the great advantage of getting the land evenly manured, and making also the best of the cake or other purchased food. Even where sheep are not constantly confined to the pens, it is good practice to enclose the flock during the night. The food is thus kept fresh, and less of it is spoiled. The night pen, which should be moved several times a week, should either be in the same field in which the sheep graze during the day, or in a contiguous field of clover, vetches, or the like. By the adoption of the system of pens, and by increasing the quantity of purchased food, a bad season may be successfully encountered, and a very heavy stocking carried through without loss. In the grazing or penning, whether of cattle or sheep, it is unwise to have too many animals together. One hundred sheep is quite enough to have in one pen. It is important to place together those animals which are about the same age, or state of progress, and that will best agree.

Horses are thriftless inmates of good pastures; they are apt to disturb other stock; they graze down closely the best of the keep, and their summer management is often a difficult question. We prefer the eastern counties' system of keeping the cart-horses of the farm in lots of two or three together in divided yards, which, at this season, are usually kept empty. Here they are supplied with rough grass, cut about the pastures, or, where that is insufficient, with clover or vetches. If turned out at all, they had better be secured by the foreleg, as is done throughout the midland counties of England, and with an iron peg and stout chain confined on the roughest parts of the cattle or sheep grazings, or be similarly tied upon vetches or clover.

For all animals it is most important to look to quantity and quality of the water supply. A good supply of pure, fresh water is, in hot, dry weather, quite as essential to thriving as food itself. With access to a good spring, we often find young stock make wonderful progress, even when the pastures are extremely bare. Running streams are preferable to stagnant pools; but in many clay and fen countries, these pools are the only sources of water during a dry summer. Where pools are the sources of the water for stock, great care should be taken that all mud should be removed almost daily from the points of access to the watering place, so that all stock, but more especially the sheep, may get at the water readily. Sheep will often want water for days rather than walk over rough, poached or muddy ground to procure it. When sheep do not come readily to the pools, troughs should be formed without delay, and fitted from the pools with a convenient hand pump, or a supply brought daily in a water-cart. From being short of water in the summer or autumn, hundreds of young sheep pine and die during the subsequent winter.

During hot, dry weather, the dairyman has his special difficulties to contend with. The cows, instead of eating as much as usual, lie lazily in the shade, or worse still, gallop about, tormented with flies. A sponging over in the morning with a weak solution of carbolic acid, is recommended to abate this nuisance of the flies. In very hot weather milking cows are much better kept in the house during the day, and only grazed at night. A little beanmeal or cake, with some cut food twice daily, will sustain the condition of the herd, and the yield of the milk. In thundery weather the milk is liable soon to get turned, and within twenty-four hours, or better still, in twelve hours, it should be disposed of, skimmed, or set aside for calves or pigs. Ten grains of sulphate of soda, if mixed with each gallon of milk whenever it is brought in from the cow, will greatly retard fermentation.

Lambs after weaning will require for some weeks great care alike in feeding; and in general management. It is better to take the ewes from the lambs than to move the lambs from the ewes, as is often done. Accustomed to their grazing, their water supply, and other surroundings, the young lambs sooner become reconciled to the separation from their mothers. If they are not already receiving any artificial food, three or four ounces of linseed cake will greatly help thriving, and ward off disease. They should be "run thin;" when put in a fresh field, they should be daily driven to the watering place; little time should be lost in having them dipped, and before the middle of September they should be on roots.—*North British Agriculturist.*

Sheep Combing.

THE new system introduced into Australia has enabled those that first followed it to obtain from 9d. to 2s. per fleece more for the clip than they formerly did. The sheep are collected into a long, narrow pen, and when standing close together water from a hose is spouted all over their backs; after this has damped the outside of the fleece, they are advanced forward gradually to a vat filled with water, about the temperature of 70 degs., into which some soda has been put. They swim across this, and are led into a narrow passage from 10 to 20 yards in length and 2 or three feet wide and 3 feet deep, and walk up a gangway, and collect in another pen, whence they are taken to the spouts, which consist of a stream of water about the length of the sheep falling in a sheet about one inch thick. They are held a minute or two under this, being turned all round, and then sent up another gangway to the dripping yard. The wool, when thus washed, is beautiful and bright, and neither harsh nor feeble to the touch. This country has great advantage over Australia as to spout washing, for in a flat country steam or other power is required to raise the water; but here, especially in the pastoral districts, by damming up a burn the requisite fall can be had, and where it cannot, the travelling threshing engine could be taken advantage of, and those who own these could purchase pumps, tanks, &c., and heat the water from the boilers for soaking with, as well as raising that required for spouting.—*James Melvin, Bonnington, Ratho, in London Farmer's Journal.*

CHALLENGE COLT.—Mr. George Addison, of Vaughan, sends us the following communication:—"Mr. Henry Russell, of Etobicoke, has purchased a colt from Mr. George Addison for one hundred and ten dollars. This colt was sired by 'Old Hard Fortune,' and its dam is the celebrated mare, 'May Flower,' and it is now only eight weeks old. It is pronounced by experienced judges to possess the finest points of any colt in Canada. It is Mr. Russell's intention to exhibit this colt at the principal exhibitions and fairs in the Province, so that owners of other colts may have a chance of testing whether it really is the 'best colt in Canada.'"

CRUELTY TO HORSES.—A correspondent of the *Norfolk Chronicle* has addressed the following observations on the use of the bearing rein, to the editor of that journal:—"Amongst those who have the care of horses, few appear to be aware of the pain they inflict on this useful animal by the injudicious use of the bearing-rein. Let any person place his head in the easiest position he chooses, and then have it strapped there two or three hours, he will then have a little experience of the pain the bearing-rein inflicts. Instead, however, of the easiest, let his head be forced into an unusual position and fixed there several hours, the sufferings of the horse from such restraint will be strongly impressed upon him. The pain thus caused is not the only evil. The horse is unable to act freely, he is prevented throwing his weight into the collar, and forced to draw by his muscle what he would do more easily by his weight. Horses not so confined draw greater weights more readily. The reason is evident. At many of the railways horses are worked without bearing-rein or blinders. Observe the heavy loads they draw, and the manner they throw their weight into the collar. Few persons who have witnessed the working of these horses will dispute the worthlessness of the bearing-rein, except for injury. There are other objections to its use. It spoils the horse's mouth, and often his temper, causing uneasiness and fretfulness, as may be noticed by 'roting' at the mouth, and expression of the eye. It is painful to witness this noble animal subject to needless torture, and I hope the subject may attract the notice of those who are owners, as well as others who have the care of horses:

Veterinary Department.

Diseases of the Horse's Foot.

In a former number we mentioned that during spring and the hot months of summer injuries and diseases of the horse's foot are very common indeed. As a consequence of fast driving and overheating, the sensitive lamina frequently becomes inflamed, and gives rise to very alarming and painful symptoms. The horse is suddenly attacked, he suffers extreme pain, and when forced to move he does so with the greatest reluctance; he stands with his forefeet placed well forwards, and he brings his hind legs well under his body, so as to take the weight off the front feet; and from the position in which he places himself for relief the casual observer is apt to think that the loins are the seat of the disease; whereas the complaint is entirely in his front feet. The pulse is quickened, and in many cases the breathing is heavy and laboured; there is increased heat around the coronet, and the arteries going to the foot will be found to be throbbing violently. When made to back, the horse pulls his fore feet along the ground, and endeavours to throw the greater part of his weight upon his hind-quarters. Those urgent symptoms require immediate treatment, for if relief is not afforded in three or four days from the commencement of the attack, the disease is apt to terminate in permanent lameness. The shoes should be removed without delay and the feet enveloped in large poultices of bran or linseed meal; wet bandages should also be applied to the legs as high as the knee-joint; the horse should be placed in a loose box or roomy stall, and allowed plenty of clean bedding, as the more he lies the more favorable it is for his complaint. A plentiful allowance of bedding will prevent chafing of the loins and sides, during the hot weather. He should also have a moderate dose of purgative medicine, and if the fever is great, ten drops of the tincture of aconite, every three or four hours, will afford relief. When the stiffness disappears and the horse walks freely, the shoes should be re-applied, and he may be kept standing in moistened clay for three or four hours daily.

As another result of extreme heat, a solution of continuity between some of the fibres of the hoof is a frequent occurrence, and this is known as sand-crack, and so called because it is said to be most common amongst horses raised in hot sandy districts, the heat of which tends to give the feet a predisposition to this disease. Sand-crack is often met with in the fore feet than in the hind ones, and in the former the crack is usually situated in the quarters, whilst in the latter it generally occurs in the front of the hoof. In either case the crack may completely penetrate the thickness of the hoof, and as a consequence the sensitive parts underneath are injured and the affection becomes very painful, and of course gives rise to extreme lameness. The crack may extend from the coronet to the sole, or it may be confined to one-half of the wall. Sand-crack is very easily detected. At first a small crack will appear at the coronet, and will gradually extend downwards, becoming larger and larger, and frequently, after rapid exercise, blood will be noticed oozing through the crack, and there is considerable motion between the divided edges when the foot comes on the ground, thus setting up irritation, and frequently matter will form, which if not allowed to escape, will give rise to quitta. A complete crack in the hoof will not re-unite; but the new formed horn must grow from the coronet. In the treatment of this ailment, the shoe should be removed, and the divided edges pared. If matter has formed it must be allowed a free exit, and a poultice of linseed meal should be applied. When all irritation is removed, apply a shoe, so as not to press upon the affected quarter, and therefore, in many instances a bar shoe is most suitable. The growth of horn is also hastened by the application of a blister on the coronet, above the injured part.