

SWINE

WE have never yet seen a hog-pen in which the regular use of some cheap disinfectant would not have paid. An excellent practice is to scatter a little chloride of lime through the pen twice a week, while a few pails of whitewash, to which a small quantity of carbolic acid has been added, will materially assist in keeping the pens free from vermin.

THAT veteran hog breeder, Theodore Louis, recommends the following mixture as an aid to digestion: Take six bushels of charcoal, one bushel of wood ashes, and six pounds of salt, mix them well together, then dissolve a pound and a half of sulphate of iron in a pail of warm water, and mix it with the solids. Place a small quantity in each pen, where the hogs can have access to it at any time.

SUCH well-known breeders as Mr. Sanders Spencer and Professor James Long state emphatically that wheat straw is the only proper straw to use as bedding for young pigs, and we have found by experience that they are right. It is almost impossible to keep the little fellows' skins looking pink and clean with any other straw. This may seem an insignificant point, but these little things tell when we come to compete in the show ring.

THE early litters will now be getting towards weaning time, and the slightest check will tell against those destined for the show ring. If you have a supply of sods make use of them, and whenever you have a chance to do so turn the little fellows out. There are generally a few warm, sunny mornings in March; take advantage of them. A few minutes exercise and a chance to root in the gravelly spots for a little while keep away plenty of troubles common to young pigs.

Spaying.

This is an operation which is very little practised in this country, and yet it is almost as necessary in the case of young sows that are intended for fattening as castration is in the case of young males, as unsplayed, or, as they are commonly called, open sows are much harder to fat-

ten than spayed ones, and it is almost impossible to cure properly the meat from a sow that is in season when killed. The best age at which to operate on young sows is when they are from eight to ten weeks old, and the best way of performing the operation is as follows:

The young sow, having been previously fasted for about twenty-four hours, so as to allow the intestines to become emptied, is caught by the hind legs by an assistant and thrown on its right side; the operator puts his right foot on the neck, and the hind legs are held straight back by the assistant so as to make the walls of the flank tense. With a sharp knife, which should be thoroughly clean and disinfected, a small incision is made through the walls of the abdomen in the middle of the left flank, the wound being made large enough to admit the index finger freely into the abdominal cavity. By careful examination with the finger the left ovary will be felt floating in the abdominal cavity, it being about the size of a pea. When once the ovary is felt, by pressing it with the finger against the abdominal wall, the operator will be able to work it forward to the opening and press it through; then gently draw it out along with a portion of the uterus (womb) until the right ovary is also brought into view, when the whole of the exposed organs, viz., ovaries and uterus, are severed with the knife, and the wound afterwards sewn up carefully with two or three stitches.

The after treatment consists of keeping the animals in a clean sty, and feeding them on easily-digestible food.

In the case of older sows it will be necessary to have the animal properly secured, and the ovaries alone must be taken off, the uterus being returned to its place. When the operator has not had any previous experience, we would advise him to first make a careful examination of the generative organs of a healthy sow, so as to familiarize himself with the position they occupy in the abdominal cavity, and, should he have any difficulty in locating the ovaries in the young sow, the introduction of a small flexible probe into the uterus will aid him very much in locating those organs. The incision into the flank may also be made large enough to introduce two fingers if necessary.