

Stock.

Hints for Calving Time.

As we are coming towards the end of February, now is the season for dairymen to practice gentleness toward their cows. The meek-eyed, motherly beasts approach very near to the human in those qualities which chain the tenderest regard from the men who have to deal with them, and every consideration of both mercy and justice should be in active exercise during this particular period of their existence. What man, having a soul of his own, can look into the gentle eyes of a well bred cow and not see the reflection of something which answers to a soul in her? And since she is denied the gift of speech, the mute appeal of this intelligent eye should be all that is needed to secure for her the provident care of her master, and a sympathetic consideration for the burden of her life, which she is made to bear for his benefit. This talk may seem to some people like a gushing sentimentalism, but if it has not in it the salt and savor of the deepest and highest truth, I have mis-learned the best attributes and qualities of humanity.

And now let us make a practical application of this truth. The troubles which attend the calving time of cows are oftenest and best met in advance by the ounce of prevention, which is better than a pound of cure, or the many pounds of attempt to cure. Especially is this true in the case of heifers with their first calves, when it is all-important to establish a good and healthy habit of coming in right. Old or middle aged cows, which are well established in good habits of this sort, may be able to go through by themselves, after having been carefully tended in the main operations of feeding and keeping from exposure to cold and wet. But the heifer is entering upon a new experience, which will subject her vital forces to the most extreme tension. A general carefulness in the treatment of all the breeding cows should be rigidly enforced. They should be kept from all sorts of violence and from the fear of it; they should not be made to strain or jump in getting over bars, fences or water gullies, they should not be made to travel faster than a walk, they should not be roughly spoken to; they should not be crowded and jostled among other cattle, or subjected to the pushing or hooking of others; but in all ways they should be handled gently and be made to feel that their master is their friend.

The swelling udder of the heifer should be carefully watched in this its new experience, the most important function of her existence, since, without a good bag, she will be of small account as a cow. In the case of heifers and cows which come in early in the season, there is less danger of inflammation from a too great flow of milk than in those which come in when grass is abundant; but this thing should be attended to at all seasons. If the udder is full and hard before calving time, and is likely to become inflamed, the best thing to be done is to draw off some of the milk before resorting to outward applications. If no milk can be drawn, in consequence of the bag having become hard before it was attended to, it should be carefully bathed with warm water, in which a little salt has been dissolved, or in a warm, weak soap-suds. An ointment of hog's lard and cream, or fresh butter with camphor in it, may be rubbed on the bag and teats by the hand.

If everything seems to be going on right with the animal, it is best not to interfere with the healthy process of nature, only to provide nutritious food, dry beds and shelter from the cold storms. If it seems necessary to administer internal preventatives or remedies for milk fever, the most approved medicine among our dairymen is a solution of saltpetre, two teaspoonfuls a week for two or three weeks before calving, given as a drench. Plenty pure water to drink, as well as plenty of good food to eat, is a staple item in the care of cows at the time of calving, as well as at all other times. Cows which are in high flesh are most likely to be troubled with milk fever.

Immediately after having dropped her calf, the cow should be treated to a painful of warm, thin mash of mill-feed in water, which will assist her vitality to expel the after-birth, and enable her to go on with the motherly care of her calf, which she knows how to do, and in the doing of which she should not be meddled with, if the calf is able to get upon its feet and go for its dinner.—S. D. Harris, Summit Co., O., in Country Gentleman.

Educating Horses.

Horses can be educated to the extent of their understandings as well as children, and can be as easily damaged or ruined by bad management. We believe that the great difference found in horses as to vicious habits or reliability comes more from the different management of men than from variance of natural disposition in the animals. Horses with high mettle are more easily educated than those of less or dull spirits, and are more susceptible to ill-training, and consequently may be as good or bad according to the education they receive.

Horses with dull spirits are not by any means proof against bad management, for in them may be found the most provoking obstinacy, vicious habits of different characters that render them almost entirely worthless. Could the coming generation of horses in this country be kept from their days of colthood to the age of five years in the hands of good, careful managers, there would be seen a vast difference in the general characters of the noble animals.

If the colt is never allowed to get an advantage it will never know that it possesses a power that man can not control, and if made familiar with strange objects it will not be skittish and nervous. If a horse is made accustomed from his early days to have objects hit him on the heels, back and hips, he will pay no attention

to the giving out of a harness or a wagon running against him at an unexpected moment.

We once saw an aged lady drive a high-spirited horse, attached to a carriage, down a steep hill, with no hold-back straps upon the harness; and she assured us that there was no danger, for her son accustomed his horses to all kinds of usages and sights that commonly drive the animal into a frenzy of fear and excitement.

A gun can be fired from the back of a horse, an umbrella held over his head, a buffalo robe thrown over his neck, a railroad engine pass close by, his heels bumped with sticks, and the animal takes it all as the natural condition of things, if only taught by careful management that he will not be injured thereby. There is great need of improvement in the management of this noble animal, less beating wanted, and more of education.—In Door and Out.

Breeding from Young Sows.

There is such a thing as breeding from sows that are quite too young to produce and rear a litter of pigs. We have seen sows with pigs which were only shoats of a medium size. It is not a commendable practice to allow any animal to breed before the carcass is fairly developed. Every pomologist knows that it is ruinous to young fruit trees to allow them to bear abundantly when all the energies ought to be concentrated towards promoting the development of the top. A farmer of our acquaintance, who has had extensive experience in breeding swine, states that in his locality it is quite common to breed from young sows, say fall pigs, to come in with a litter of pigs when one year old. This practice should be utterly condemned. If continued in the same family for a few generations of swine, they will be found to dwindle down from three to four hundred pound hogs to animals that will weigh only two or three hundred pounds. It is much better to keep the sows three or four years, and even much longer. Sows have been kept some fifteen years in coming to maturity. It is a fact well known, at least to every Irishman from the "old country," that pigs from old sows will grow into hogs some thirty or forty pounds heavier than those from young ones. While shoats are growing, the sows should not be allowed to breed until the live weight will exceed one hundred and fifty pounds gross weight.—Practical Farmer.

Poultry.

Hints about Poultry.

A writer in the New York Sun says:—I think the day is coming when we shall hear of numerous "henneries" all over the country, where from 1,000 to 10,000 fowls shall be kept successfully. Every attempt to do this has failed in England; but in France they have met, according to reports, with better success. The system there is to give each 100 or 200 fowls a separate roosting house and a separate run. This is attended with a good deal of extra labor; but these establishments are managed by women who work for a mere trifle. There are a few persons in this country who now keep as many as 500 fowls in one building; and one or two who are keeping more in separate yards, but we hear very little about their success. I am inclined to think that 1,000 may be profitably kept, under one roof and with a few acres of forage run, by adhering to the following rules:—

1. Let the roosting house be of ample size, giving each fowl about two feet of perch room; and having it so ventilated in winter that the air shall be pure. A ventilation in the roof is not sufficient; there must be windows to open (slide down from the top) according to the state of the weather.

2. Ample shed room connecting with the roosting house is to give the fowls a chance to be protected from storms, and where a supply of water, gravel, old mortar, pounded charcoal, ground oyster shells, etc., is within easy reach.

3. The business to be fully understood; and the fowls kept free of lice—feed to be corn, oats, buckwheat and wheat screenings, with boiled potatoes and meal occasionally, mixed with cayenne pepper, to be given hot in winter. Of course, I cannot give a hundredth part of all that I might say on the subject in this article, but I give general principles.

Ontario Poultry Society.

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Pigeons for Farmers.

Farmers are apt to regard pigeons as very destructive to have around the farm, and say they dig up the grain and eat it, thus ruining the crops. This is a prejudice entirely without foundation. Pigeons' bills are not suited to digging; neither would they have sense enough, as they are pre-eminently "dumb." They will, of course, eat the grains which lie upon the ground, but these would waste or be picked up by birds in any case. The farmer has splendid chances to breed pigeons. He can fix up a corner of his

barn loft with little trouble, and, letting the birds fly, they will pick their own feed in summer time. They require comparatively no care, the loft need be cleaned only twice a year. A frequent cause or lack of success is that farmers, instead of fixing up a small loft with nests inside of boxes nailed to the sides of the barn; and here the squabs, being exposed to the inclemency of the weather, necessarily perish. In winter the pigeons will feed the poultry. They will breed, on an average, eight or nine pairs of young a year, which will find ready market, when four weeks old, at fifty cents a pair; in winter seventy-five cents. If the stock consists of Dutchies or common rants, which will cost \$2.50 per pair to start with, squabs twice the size of common ones can be raised, and will, of course, command much higher prices. From the above it will be seen that there is an enormous per cent. to be realized from the breeding of pigeons for market. Breeding birds of the common variety cost only fifty cents per pair, and will pay for themselves within two months.—W. Atch, in Country Gentleman.

The Southern Ontario Poultry Society's show at Brantford, last week, was very successful. It being their first effort, the Board of Directors put forth great exertions, and have the satisfaction of the highest praise from exhibitors, some of whom say that the quantity and quality on exhibition far exceeded anything that has been shown on this side of the line, and even some of the York State exhibitions. Among the principal exhibitors we notice the names of Jarvis and Lamb, of London, all breeding varieties; H. M. Thomas and W. M. Campbell, of Brooklyn, Ont.; A. McLean Howard, Jr., of Toronto; P. Sturdy, Guelph; D. Allen, Galt, A. McMillan, Galt; J. Aldous, Berlin, John Bogue, London; E. W. Ware, Hamilton; Thos. Pillow, London; Simpson & Smith, Paris; Finlayson & Buck, Brantford; Geo. S. Shaw, Kincardine, J. L. Burgess, Brantford; Lett Dean, Oakland, Mr. Edmundson, of Brantford township, and Mr. Cooper, of Hamilton. The judges in the different classes were—Mr. M. Curtis, of Buffalo, on game, bantams and dorkings; John Bogue, London, on Asiatics, turkeys, and geese, Mr. Aldous was also judge on ducks.

Public Grange Meetings Since Our Last.

Metcalfe, Victoria, held a highly successful meeting on the 14th ult. The capacious school house was crowded. Addresses were given by Bros. Robt. Brown, Metcalfe; Laughlan and Brown, London; McCrae and others.

On the 25th ult. a large gathering assembled in the Town Hall, Ailsa Craig. Nearly a hundred were unable to find seats. Addresses by Bros. Levi, Cassidy and Robertson. Several merchants spoke in opposition.

On the same night a large audience met in the school house, Kintore, to hear Grange principles explained. The speakers were Bros. Patterson, Lucknow, Shaw, Kintore, W. L. Brown, London, and the Rev. of Nissouri.

On the 10th of March Glaston Grange met to discuss the Grange question in the school house of that place. The chair was occupied by Bro. Wm. Boar. The meeting was addressed by the Division Secretary, Bro. Brown, of London.

Veterinary.

Our Veterinary Department is under the charge of competent practitioners, who will answer all questions pertaining to diseases of horses and cattle. If you want any information write to the GRANGER.

Mammitis, or Inflammation

The Udder—known among agriculturists as Garget—is a very common complaint among cows. It usually effects those that are in a fat or plethoric condition. It is a disease that is often very intractable in its character. The disease frequently shows itself a short time before calving, but more generally a few days afterwards. In view of preventing this very prevalent malady, it is well that proper attention be paid to the pregnant animal, in order to maintain her general health. In the latter stages of pregnancy she only requires a sufficient quantity of food to preserve the integrity of her system and nourish the fetus within the uterus or womb. When more food than this is furnished, and the animal partakes of it, the superabundance serves to supply the adipose tissues with fat; and then it will be perceived that the cow is thriving a little too fast, which should be the signal for the owner to dip a lighter hand into the meal bag, as a large proportion of the cases of garget that have come under my observation were clearly traceable to errors in dietics. It is a fact, however, worthy of consideration that some cows inherit a peculiarity of organism and predisposition to this disease, and therefore, in spite of the very best management, it may occasionally appear. The symptoms of Mammitis are increased heat in the udder, attended with redness of the skin. It will also be much increased in size, and extremely hard. It is intensely tender and painful to the touch, and the animal will evince much pain and distress in progression. The constitutional symptoms are severe: there is a quick and hard pulse, increased respiration, loss of appetite, rumination suspended, muzzle becomes dry and the region at the roots of the horns is also increased in temperature. As the disease advances, the swollen and inflamed udder is seen to enlarge, the animal also refuses to move. The eye at this period indicates a great amount of suffering, and if not speedily removed death soon closes the scene.

Treatment. In the early stage, the udder should be well fomented with hot water, to which add a handful of hops, in order to soothe and release the inflamed gland as much as possible. Give a mild purgative, in order to release the bowels. Have the accumulated milk drawn from the udder, the more effectually to remove the exciting cause of the complaint. Follow up the latter stages of the disease with tonics and stimulants.

WILSON & TRENT,
Veterinary Surgeons.

Written for the GRANGER.

Home, Dear Home!

Where burns the fond hearth brightest,
Cheering the social breast,
Where bounts the fond heart lightest,
Its humble hopes possessed,
Where is the smile of sadness,
Of meek-eyed patience borne,
Worth more than those of gladness,
Which mirth's bright cheeks adorn?
Pleasure is marked by fleetness
To those that always roam,
Whilst grief itself is sweetness
At home, dear home!

There blend the ties that strengthen
Our hearts in hours of grief,
The silver links that lengthen
Joy's visits when most brief,
There eyes with all their splendor
Are vocal to the heart,
And glances gay or tender
Fresh eloquence impart
Then dost thou sigh for pleasure,
Oh! do not wildly roam,
But seek that hidden treasure
At home, dear home!

Does pure religion chain thee
Far more than ought to be?
Wouldst thou that she should arm thee
Against the hour of woe?
Think not she dwelleth only
In temples built for prayer,
For home itself is lonely
Unless her smiles be there.
The devotee may falter,
The bigot blindly roam,
If worshipless her altar
At home, dear home!

Love over it presideth
With meek and watchful awe,
Its daily service guideth,
And shows its perfect law.
If, then, thy faith shall fail thee,
If there no shine be found,
What can thy prayers avail thee
With kneeling crowds around?
Go, leave thy gift unoffered
Beneath religion's dome,
And let her fruits proffered
At home, dear home!

Instead of gratifying a vicious taste for slang stories, would it not be better to try to refine the taste and elevate the minds of our young people by publishing short pieces, either of poetry or prose, which may exert a healthy tendency in that direction? This is just where young people, both in town and country, are most generally deficient at the present day. C. J.

Humorous.

An Irishman with a heavy bundle on his shoulder, riding on the front of a horse-car, was asked why he did not set his bundle on the platform. He replied—"Bo jabers, the horses have enough to drag me. I'll carry the bundle."

An excellent old deacon, who, having won a fine turkey at a charity grab-bag raffle, didn't like to tell his severe orthodox wife how he came by it, he quietly remarked as he handed her the fowl that the "Shakers" gave it to him.

"What do they always put D. C. after Washington for?" asked Mrs. Quilp of Mr. Q. "Why, my dear, don't you know that Washington was the Daddy of his Country?" said Quilp, with a snicker.

"Do you think it would be safe for me to cross this pasture?" asked a man the other day. "Well," answered one of the maids of the farm, "the old bull doesn't like red very much; but if you will chalk your nose I think he won't attack you."

"What object do you now see?" asked the spiritualist. The young lady, quite a novice, it will be seen, blushed, hesitated for a few moments, and then replied—"It appears like a donkey, sir; is it your shadow?"

Mrs. Partington, when she heard the minister say there would be a nave in the new church, observed that she knew well who the party was.

We didn't see anybody on New Year's that we could conscientiously call drunk, but we observed one fellow who had his shadow backed up against an alley gate, holding it therewith his finger shoved through a knot-hole and talking it to death with uncompromising gravity.

When a man detects a missing button after getting on a clean shirt, no one in the house is aware of the fact. He takes off the shirt and puts on another, quietly smiling all the while. He never says a word of it to a soul.

A youthful clergyman who recently went forth to enlighten the ignorant, while dealing with the parable of the prodigal son, was anxious to show how dearly the parent loved his child. Drawing himself together, and putting on his most sober look, he dilated on the killing of the fattened calf. The climax was as follows:—"I shouldn't wonder if the father had kept that calf for years, awaiting the return of his son."

At a combination of mass and millinery held a short time since in a liturgical parish church not a hundred miles from Newmarket, an old woman put quite a new construction upon a certain feature of the service. The squire, who is a staunch supporter of the parson, went round in a surplice, like a dutiful acolyte, collecting offerings in the usual High Church "bag." What followed was thus described by the old lady to a friend:—"I seed our squire with his night-shirt over his coat gown round to all the folks with a bag in his hand, and at last he come'd to me, and I looked into the bag and saw it wuz full o' money. Squire turns his head away, so I pops my hand in and takes out half a crown, but afore I could say 'Thankee' he moved on. I was so took a-back I never thought o' trying for more, but next time, please goodness, if I'm spared, I'll have a try for five shillin'."

We beg to draw attention to the advertisement of Messrs. A & S. Nonheimer, whose branch establishment in this city is under the able management of Dr. C. A. Sippi. Their store is superbly fitted up, and their stock of musical instruments is the largest and most varied in the city, and comprises specimens of all such as are at their head quarters, Toronto, and can be obtained here at prices as low as there, and, for cash, lower than any other house in the trade.