

The Pea Bug.

SIR,—At what stage in the development of the pea is the ovum of the pea bug deposited, and how?
H. D., Brantford.

[We glean the following from standard works on this very destructive insect: It does not deposit its eggs in the flower of the pea, as is sometimes taught, but on the surface of the young pod, without special reference to any particular part. They are attached to the outside of the pod by a "viscid" fluid, which dries white and glistens like silk. As soon as the eggs are hatched, the larvæ bore directly through the pod, one entering each pea, making a puncture smaller than a pin-hole. As the pea and pod enlarge the punctures close up, and the larva excavates a small cavity in the pea, leaving its outer coating whole; in this cavity it assumes the pupa state and comes out a perfect beetle—some in the autumn, but the majority remain dormant until the spring of the next year.]

Salt for Timber.

SIR,—The following is not intended as a composition competing for the prize you so liberally offer, neither does it aspire to the dignity of an essay on "The use of salt as a preservative of timber," but is simply intended to give the writer's experience and observation on such use.

Living on a sea coast, I was in the habit of sinking all timber in deep sea water for twelve or eighteen months previous to using it; the result was a hardening so great that the carpenters complained of the difficulty of working it; and in regard to durability, I do not expect to live to see its decay.

It was also the custom of ship-builders on laying the keel of a vessel to bore an auger hole in timber, usually oak or yellow pine, near the end; fill it with salt, then plug it up, and on completion of the vessel the ribs and other timbers were well salted. The decay termed "dry rot" is that which salt is intended more especially to guard against.
R. S. W., Woodsholme.

Agricultural Societies and Their Management.

SIR,—We live in an age of great progress. The world moves at a rapid pace in advancement. Minds are ever busy, and thought is active and constant in proposing new plans and devising new schemes for securing the best results. It would be passing strange in the midst of all this progress that there should be none manifest in the management of our Agricultural Societies. We confess, in viewing the management of some of these Exhibitions, and notably that of the Provincial, we have sometimes been forced to the conclusion that they were altogether an exception; and that having made in past years a well worn rut for the wheels to run in, they were bound then to continue for time immemorial. Not that we would advocate change merely for the sake of change, but when a better way presents itself, why not adopt it? One of the first things to be sought for is efficient officers, who will be attentive and courteous, and at the same time guard well the interests of the Society; men who, if need be, are willing to suffer some personal inconvenience and sacrifice rather than delegate their duties to paid employees, whose chief object is to secure a good day's pay.

Having secured such officers, a great many minor matters of detail present themselves, which go very far to make an exhibition useful and successful. These need not be mentioned here. We only wish to call attention to a few matters of importance. We have admired much the effort made by some of these Societies to aid in the introduction of improved stock. This may be done in two ways, either by the purchase of male animals by the Society, to be used by the members under certain restrictions; or by giving prizes sufficiently large to amount virtually to a bonus to any private party who is enterprising enough to purchase and introduce one. In Great Britain this is often done, especially in the case of horses, and with very gratifying results, and we think in many localities might be undertaken here.

Again, we can see no reason why these Societies should not partake more of the nature of a Farmer's Club, holding meetings of the members say once a month in winter, for the purpose of discussing questions of common interest relating to the business in which as farmers they engage. Surely there ought to be no necessity for so many different organizations to secure this object. Here we have a common platform where all can meet on common ground. The Society would have funds

with which to obtain any desired information or secure the services of prominent persons to lecture on important topics. If this idea could be introduced, we prophesy a new impetus to these Societies, with some reason for their existence.

In the management of an exhibition one of the most essential things is the securing of competent and honorable judges. This is—as all who have any experience will acknowledge—a most difficult task, but to accomplish which earnest and painstaking effort should be made. In this connection we are bound to say that however well the plan may appear in theory which is adopted by the Council of our Prov. Association, practically it is proved to be a very bad plan. Men are sent from different parts of the Province as judges in different sections who have no practical knowledge of those departments, with the hope, we presume, that the others will be experts, and so the task will be made easier. We have witnessed a case where every one was disappointed in finding every other one as incompetent as himself. Such a committee deserves only the pity of onlookers; but it is too bad that valuable animals fitted for exhibition at considerable expense should be by such incompetence placed at the foot, as they sometimes are, instead of at the head, where they belong. When such things occur they only bring contempt on both judges and managers. Every judge should be able to form his own opinion on the merits of the animal or article, and be prepared to express it; and we would therefore like to see the system introduced in this country which has worked so well in connection with some exhibitions on the other side. Let there be five competent judges chosen; let each come to his own independent conclusion, and so record it upon a card given for the purpose, and let these be handed to the person in charge of the department, who reads in the presence of all the decision thus arrived at. Such a plan is not open to the objections of the old way, and would, we think, if introduced, give entire satisfaction.
ONTARIO.

Canadian Herd-Book:

SIR,—I quite agree with the articles that have appeared in the ADVOCATE on the management of the Board of Agriculture and Arts; but one important branch, which is giving little or no satisfaction to those most concerned, you have entirely overlooked. I refer to the "Canada Shorthorn Herd Book," which is so conducted that the breeders have good reason to complain, especially in the delay of getting out the 4th volume. It is now over three years since some pedigrees which are to appear in the 4th volume were sent in to the Secretary for registration, and said volume is not yet published. What inducements have the breeders to buy the book when ready for sale? Why not issue one every year, and have it ready for the breeders by the first of February each year? The cost to the breeders of each yearly volume would be less than the cost of the periodical issue is now; it would therefore meet with more ready sale, and be more useful to those concerned, and sending certificates to the breeders would be no longer necessary, thus doing away with a considerable expense. I have asked members of the Board what was the cause of so much delay and expense, and where the fees go to. Some have said they "could not tell;" others have complained that the Association was losing money by publishing the Herd Book, and also complain that breeders do not purchase it as freely as they should. I think they have a good reason for not buying it. Many retire from business within a period of three years, and others see little use of buying, considering the lapse of time between the publications, many animals being dead before the volume in which they are recorded is published. My impression is, the Board contains too many members who have no interest in agriculture or fine stock, and who do not consider the breeders' interests, which are at the present time much neglected; in fact, I do not believe many of the members see the necessity of a Herd Book. I would suggest that the breeders have a convention in June and form themselves into a Shorthorn Breeders' Association, and assume control of the Herd Book.
BREEDER, Kent Co., Ont.

[When the Canadian Herd Book was first introduced the Canadian breeders were not as numerous or wealthy as they are now, nor as capable in other ways of founding and carrying on a Herd Book. And the Society did a good service by taking it up, though it has not been conducted as many breeders think it should have been. We believe

the Society has outlived its usefulness in this respect, and that the record would now be better in the hands of the breeders. It would then be conducted by experienced stockmen, whose interest it would be to make the Herd Book a success; also, being practical men, they would know the requirements of the breeders. The most successful Herd Books and records now published on the continent are those conducted by the breeders themselves, and what other breeders have done Canadian Durham breeders certainly can do. We have been informed that there are to be 5,000 pedigrees published in the coming volume; some of the same have cost the breeders 50c. each, and a number have cost 75c. each to record. If they had all cost 50c. each, the total would have been \$2,500 in registration fees; but if 2,000 were registered at a cost of 75c. each, and the other 3,000 at 50c., the total would then be \$3,000 in fees. We understand this volume is to be sold for at least \$4 per copy. Now we think it very strange if this is a losing business to the Society, but if it is, surely there must be bad management on their part.]

Pleuro-pneumonia.

SIR,—We owe you much for your timely warning of danger and your efforts to keep our cattle free from the diseases that are spreading in the United States. Hoping that you will persevere in this good work, I send you a clipping from an Ohio agricultural paper, on the necessity of using the greatest precaution to prevent the Pleuro-pneumonia from getting a foothold in the country, and hope you will make place for it in your valuable paper:

"We have known the owners of animals (thought to be convalescent, but really carrying large, encysted masses of diseased and infecting lung within their chests) anxious to dispose of them and realize some salvage from the wreck of their splendid herds. No ordinary purchaser would have suspected these animals, and yet they carried within them that which, if transplanted to other places, might have proved the starting point for a general infection of the country. Like all new plagues, this gains new force with every step made in its advance. As the malady is developed in this country by contagion only, it secures an additional advantage with every new animal infected. Every new case of sickness is but another manufactory of the virus spreading this on the air in countless myriads with every breath expired. No change of latitude or altitude, no modification of season or climate, no alternations of heat or cold, no change [geological or atmospheric, no alterations, electrical or telluric, will rob the poison of its virulence or destroy its vitality. The plague once introduced prevails alike on the mountain top and in the valley; on the sea-coast and on the inland plains. As the seeds of this disease remain latent in the system for a period varying from ten days to three and a half months, and only become manifest by their effects at the end of this time, infected cattle may be carried from ocean to ocean, or from the lakes to the gulf, and remain thereafter for weeks or months in apparent health, and yet spread pestilence and destruction in the end. With such a disease, and with the large cattle traffic from the west, it is certain that contagion must be quickly carried in the channels of such traffic as soon as the infection shall have polluted its source."

STOCK-FEEDER, Amherstburg, Ont.

SIR,—I have a cow which gives ropy milk. What is the cause, and how can I cure her?

G. B., Orangeville, Ont.

[From the N. Y. Times we extract the following answer: "When cows are suffering from any functional disorder, the milk is at once affected. Sometimes the milk is acid, and soon becomes thick and ropy, and is often clotted in the udder, and is drawn in strings and clots. Epithelium scales and cells, which enter into the structure of the milk glands, are sometimes drawn from the udder with the milk, and when the milk is at rest these or the clotted milk fall to the bottom and form a suspicious and disagreeable impurity. The remedy is to restore the cow to a healthful condition by appropriate treatment. A brisk purgative, a pound of epsom salts or a quart of linseed oil, may be given, and afterward repeated doses of an ounce of hyposulphite of soda daily until the trouble is removed."]

SIR,—I received my large package of seeds for my new subscriber. It is more like two dollars' worth of seeds than one. Many thanks to you for them.
J. S., St. Thomas, Ont.