

which is which. I have seen two of their kind run out of this immediate vicinity within the last six months. And another thing, a stallion does not have to cross the water to be a good one. If that were true, we would soon rob the Old Country, at the rate they are coming. Do the intelligent readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" imagine for a minute that the breeders in the Old Country would allow their best horses to come to Canada at the price the importer is paying? Our Government is pulling on the wrong end of the rope.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

A CANADIAN.

THE HORSE BUSINESS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am quite interested in the discussion on licensing and inspection of horses, although it does not apply to our locality. There is not much inducement here to buy a pure-bred horse and compete against the low-priced grade horses that are used for service. Most of the mares are scrubs, and you cannot get farmers to use a horse that costs them a \$10 or \$12 service fee on poor mares. A pure-bred horse cannot get as good foals from the scrub mare as if he had a good lot of mares. We want good mares as well as good stallions. I have a pure-bred imported stallion, but have to put the price down so low to compete that it is not a very paying investment.

Carleton Co., N. B.

JAMES MILLER.

LIVE STOCK.

THE SPRING LITTER.

The most important thing to attend to at this season of the year, in expectation of the spring litter, is feed and exercise of the sow. The feed need not be very stimulating or heating, nor should the sow be kept too fat. It is necessary, however, to keep her in a good healthy condition. The diet should consist largely of roots, supplemented by a little cracked grain, with skim milk or swill for a drink. Perhaps the principal item of attention, one which is too often neglected, is exercise; this is one of the great essentials to success in saving the spring litter. The ideal place for the brood sow is in the barnyard, unmolested by other stock. She should be allowed to run there every day for an hour or two, and if the weather be favorable, a half a day is not too long. This exercise is necessary in order to develop the expected litter, that they may be strong and active at birth and able to help themselves. Wood ashes should be kept where the sow may get some every day. The next consideration is a suitable place for farrowing; a piece of studding nailed around the wall horizontally, about six inches from the floor, is a great protection for the little pigs. About a basketful of cut straw makes a good bed; chaff is not good, as it is apt to smother the little ones. As the pig is a very suspicious animal, it is necessary to gain her confidence by kindness, so that when the critical time arrives she will not be disturbed or excited by an attendant or a lantern. It is very easy to do this by making repeated visits to the piggery during the winter evenings. When the time of farrowing arrives, if the sow is restless or rash, and is likely to trample or crush the little ones, they should be taken to the fire and dried, and kept away until the mother is quieted, and then returned. Nothing more can be done now except to supply proper food, which should be very light and in a liquid form for four or five days. At two weeks the young pigs may learn to drink, if a little sweetened milk is placed in a shallow trough while the mother is eating. Last spring, in this vicinity, pigs one month old sold as high as three dollars each; so it pays to be on the alert.

Prince County, P. E. I.

JAMES STAVERT.

FORMALIN PREVENTED WHITE SCOURS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of February 21st you request readers to give their experience with formalin for white scours in calves. During the winter of 1906 all our calves died of the disease. As they were pure-bred Shorthorns, I secured the advice of three veterinary surgeons, but they did not help them. One veterinary said that a calf sucking the cow should not have scours. Last summer I read in "The Farmer's Advocate" of the formalin cure. Have treated eight calves since by applying to the navel cord, as a preventive, a solution of one part of formalin to ten of water. None of the eight showed symptoms of the disease. The calves that died were strong and well until thirty hours old. About that time the disease commenced, and they lived about three days.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

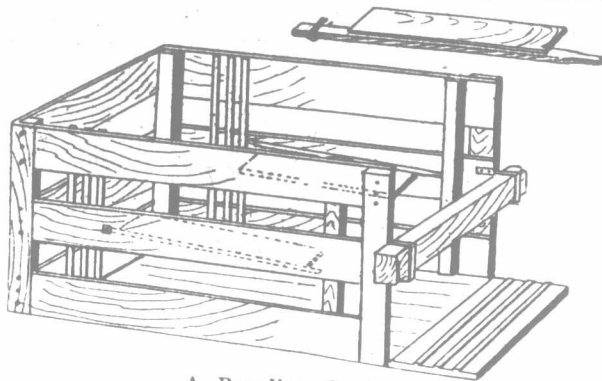
JOHN M. HOULDERSHAW.

"On the whole," says the Scottish Farmer, "the bull season of 1907 in Great Britain teaches the old lesson: Breed the best; there's plenty room at the top, and don't spare the knife."

HANDLING HOGS.

The idea prevails that hogs are the most stubborn and contrary of the domesticated animals; so much so, that it is sometimes said that the easiest way to get them where you want them is to attempt to drive them in the opposite direction. There is some ground for this charge against the porker, but the same indictment may be preferred against some humans if an attempt is made to drive them. It is well to study the nature and disposition of the animal in dealing with it, and use a little diplomacy, and, if need be, a little coaxing instead of forcing, in order to reach the desired end. For instance, in trying to get a pig or pigs into a pen, a little grain scattered on the ground and on the floor inside the door will often accomplish the object more quickly and quietly than a dozen men with clubs could do it, and without ruffling the temper of any of the parties concerned. But "pigs is pigs," and sometimes they are too cunning to be trapped, even in this way, but will pick up the last grain outside the door and then turn tail and say, by their actions, "you can't fool me." A handy device to overcome this difficulty is to have on hand a pair of light hurdles, each about ten or twelve feet long and two and a half feet high, made of half-inch by three or four inch stuff, well braced, and hinged together so that they can be brought into the shape of a letter V, enclosing the pig on two sides, the building forming the third side, when, one man or boy holding each hurdle at the opposite end against the building or fence, as the case may be, the animals can readily be driven into the pen. One man may work this device by having a hook or staple in the end of each hurdle a little less than half the height of it, and a hook or staple in the side of the building on each side of the door to fasten the hurdles in place while the hogs are driven in.

The feeding passage of the pen may be utilized for changing pigs from one pen to another by having a small door from each pen to the passage. For crating a pig for shipping, the same passage may be used to advantage, as also for loading one or a number loose in a wagon rack. If the floor of the passage is about the height of the



A Breeding Crate.

wagon bottom, they can be driven directly into it; if not, a sloping platform can easily be arranged to drive them on. Where this is not convenient, a loading chute, with a platform the height of the wagon bottom, and a sloping approach to it, can easily be built in a few hours by sinking cedar posts, boarding on the inside of posts, and with the use of the hinged hurdles the hogs can be guided into the chute and loaded without trouble. This is a convenience which should certainly be provided on every farm from which hogs are marketed.

Where a boar is kept for service, a time and labor saving device is a breeding crate in which to place the sow, and which should be kept in a corner of one of the pens in the piggery—not in the boar's pen, lest he become cross and endanger the safety of the attendant. A breeding crate is made very much the same as an ordinary shipping crate, but with no top cover, and with a slide door in front. It should be about four feet ten inches long, two feet wide, and two feet nine inches high, with side bars of one by six inch stuff, except the top bar, which may be four inches wide, if of good material, and braced to make it strong. A false door, to slide down between cleats, should be provided for use in the case of young or short sows, and taken out in the case of a large or long sow. The hind end of the crate is left open, and when the sow goes in a bar or slat is placed across the end about a foot from the floor of the crate to prevent her backing out (the artist has shown this bar too thick in the illustration). To hold this bar in place, an iron staple with flattened sides is bolted on the end upright post or batten on each side, through which the bar is slid. It is a good plan to have a platform about four or five inches high and three or four feet long to place behind the crate for the hog to stand on in the case of very large sows being bred, and useful, as a rule, with sows of any size. Foot-rests for the boar in the case of breeding young sows to an aged boar are provided to sustain his weight. In its construction, a piece of strong, tough wood on each side is used, two by two inches, rounded on each side end to fit the holes in the rear posts. Of these

holes there should be three, at intervals of say four inches, in order to raise or lower the foot-rest. The front end of the strip should be left square, and fitted into a square staple which goes through the middle side-board at the distance of two feet eight inches from rear posts, and is secured by nuts on the outside of boards. On the top of the two by two strips nail a six-inch board, about four inches shorter than the strip, leaving the strip extending beyond the board at both ends. These boards are the foot-rests, and also prevent the sow from moving sideways if it is a small sow. In the case of a large sow needing more room, turn down the side rests, which gives six inches more space. To do this, loosen the nuts on the front staples, pull out the rounded end of strip, and change the square of the front end so as to let the shelf fall down. This crate may be made entirely of one-inch stuff, except the rear posts, and strong enough if well braced; and any one at all handy may make it in two or three hours with the ordinary tools, and it will save a great deal of time and worry to the attendant and the animals concerned; and, as time is money, there is economy in having such a device provided and always ready for use when needed.

WATERS FROM CEMENT MANGER.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We have a cement floor in our dairy stables. We use swinging steel stanchions, gas pipe for stall partitions, cement trough for both feeding and watering. We have no wood in connection with floor, as we consider that wood is an abomination in a dairy stable floor, even as partitions or mangers, absorbing, as it does, liquids and holding them. We have drains away from both the cement gutters and the feed trough, with plugs, and when we wish to water—twice a day—we sweep out feed trough and let water into it. When through we pull plug out and allow what is left to drain away, at same time cleaning trough if it needs it. We use the water to wash the whole floor as often as is necessary, using the drain to carry away the water, but at other times keeping plug in so as not to allow any loss of the liquid manure. We have a large tank placed in the floor of the barn above stable, into which we pump the water by a windmill in the meantime, intending to put pipes from springs direct into our stables in a short time. The tank is protected from frost by double boards, with sawdust packed between. We run pipes from this tank to our cement troughs in front of cows. Our cows are let out only on warm days for exercise. The cost of installing system, over and above windmill, was only the pipes from well to stable, and the tank. The advantages are that cows can be left in stalls continuously during a cold spell; the water is not standing in stable as it usually is where basins are used, but is brought in as needed, and is never very cold; then, the water can be used for cleaning purposes. The time saved is an important item in these days of scarcity of labor. The cows do better to be kept in when it is very cold. The only better plan is to bring water direct from springs with higher head; it is then warmer and purer, stands only in the pipes, and needs no tank for storage. Now, if there is no cement floor and no cement trough, this plan cannot, of course, be adopted, and we would prefer, in that case, a cement trough in a convenient place inside the stable, or in a shed close by, to which the cows are allowed to go twice a day, the water being pumped to this or brought to it in pipes. Do not approve of basins. Water should not stand continually in stables, as it is sure to absorb impurities.

Halton Co., Ont.

"MOUNT DAIRY."

ONE INSERTION SECURED A FIRST-CLASS MAN.

Kindly insert the enclosed advertisement in "The Farmer's Advocate." We advertised a year ago in your paper for a man (one insertion), and received thirty applications. We engaged one, and he has proved a first-class man, and we would have been pleased to retain him for another year, but he is returning to Scotland to bring out his family. Have been interested in the discussion re basement stables and ventilation. We claim we have almost perfect ventilation with the King system—no dampness, warmth, and as light inside as it is outside—in our stable, where we have 40 Jersey cows, 25 heifers and 6 horses.

Brant Co., Ont.

R. & A. H. BAIRD.

FAULT MUST BE IN THE SOW.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice in the Feb. 21st issue an article regarding weak pigs. I think the fault must be in the sow, or a weakness cropping out in her breed. I have three sows (Yorkshire) which have just farrowed, and two of them have 12 strong pigs each; the other has 10. They ran the barnyard all winter, and were fed about the same as those of J. E. W., with the exception of mangels instead of sugar beets.

Ontario Co., Ont.

S. A. NORTHCOTT.