

struction of such animals, but the Commissioners do not recommend compensation. The report, we presume, will be discussed in Parliament before its recommendations, or any of them, are embodied in the form of legislation.

THE HELPING HAND.

Make Use of This Department.

Below we make public three very useful inventions which heretofore have been known to only a few persons, but cannot fail to render great assistance to many who have not better means of accomplishing what these are designed to do. We venture to say that on almost every farm there are some such handy original devices as below, which, if given out, would greatly assist hundreds of others in everyday labors of the farm. This department belongs to our readers for the interchange of descriptions of just such ideas and short cuts, and we hope to see a more general use made of it. By helping one another in this way, farmers in all parts of the land become neighbors, each benefiting by the other's experience. Readers should send along the matter as seasonable as possible, and when an illustration is necessary to make the idea clear we will gladly have cuts made to go with the descriptions. Even a very crude lead-pencil sketch, so long as we can understand it, will guide us in making clear illustrations.

How to Carry a Lantern and Two Pails of Milk, Etc.

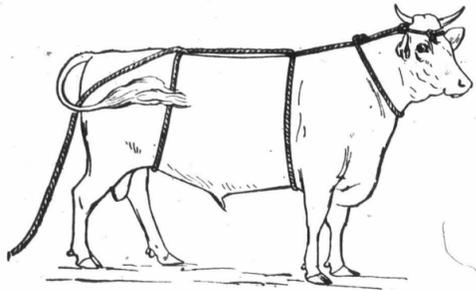
T. B., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—It has often been discovered an awkward undertaking to carry a pail of milk, water or feed in either hand, and a lantern at the same time. The usual method is to call for an assistant, or take the lantern handle in the teeth, either of which, when practicable, is better than making two journeys. The accompanying illustration shows a plan I and others have found to be of great service when carrying pails from the house to the barn, or vice versa, especially during the winter season. The arm is run through the handle of the lantern, the bottom of which rests on the fingers holding one of the pails.



rests on the fingers holding one of the pails.

How to Handle a Vicious Bull.

Mr. C. A. A., of Truro, N. S., enquires how to deal with a four-year-old, vicious Ayrshire bull. He prefers not to dehorn him, as it may detract from his showing success, and fears his prepotency would be reduced. By good fortune we can offer a remedy that has proved of great value in a number of similar cases. The accompanying illustration shows the necessary

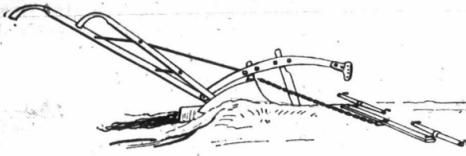


tackle adjusted on the bull, so that one strong man, by drawing heavily on the rope, can quickly take a bull off his feet. It seems to overpower him, so that he will give up immediately. In fact, one Ayrshire bull, to our knowledge, is never led out in any other way, as he will fight from start to finish when taken out by the ring in his nose. The rope is put around the horns in noose fashion, brought back to just before the shoulder and given a half hitch, brought back behind the fore legs and given another half hitch around the body, and again brought back and placed around and given a half hitch, as shown in the illustration. The thing looks simple and may appear ridiculous to some, but it will not cost much time nor trouble to give it a trial.

With regard to dehorning, we would not fear it reducing his prepotency. We regard it a serious matter to have the horns on a vicious bull; in fact, much more serious than the possible loss of considerable prize money. Dehorning seldom quiets a vicious mature bull, but it renders him much more harmless than with his weapons.

Plan for Plowing an Orchard.

T. B., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—Very many who leave their orchards in sod, realize that it is not the best plan for the good of the trees, and for the profit from them, but because of the inconvenience in plowing the land around the trees, and the injury usually done them by barking the limbs with the harness and the trunks with the whiffle-



trees, the sod is left unbroken with the plow. The illustration herewith given shows how the team can be hitched so that they can both walk on the plowed ground. Instead of hitching to the end of the beam, the whiffletrees are attached by a chain to the beam just above the moldboard. This allows the plowman such an amount of leverage by the long handles that the plow can be easily guided around and close to the trees while the horses walk out clear of them. One horse can be used if desired, and hitched back close to the plow.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Veterinary.

Pigs with Lumps on Their Bodies.

H. D., Indian Ford, Man.:—"You would oblige by telling me what you think is wrong with my pigs. They have hard lumps on their bodies, the size of an egg. I have been feeding chopped barley, but not soaked."

[Change the food. Give a tablespoonful each of charcoal and sulphur once a day to a pig six months old. Keep pens clean and allow plenty of straw for bed. W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., Winnipeg.]

NOTE.—An exclusive diet of barley is very heating, and pigs require a variety. The doctor's advice is good, but we should suggest that a supply of sods, coal ashes or charcoal be constantly kept within reach of your pigs during the winter months. We would also suggest that you grow some turnips, sugar beets, and mangels this summer to have for your pigs next winter.—EDITOR.]

Stallion Lacking Vigor.

G. W. F., N.-W.T.:—"I own a 3-year-old Clydesdale stallion, large for his age, imported from Ontario recently. Fed hay and oats since arriving; has not had much exercise, but is doing well. Is said to have served one mare last summer, and she is said to be in foal. I recently took him out to a mare, but he was very slow in trying to cover her, and did not serve her. His organs appear all right. I am giving him exercise now. Do you think there is anything wrong with him, and what would you advise?"

[It is not unusual for a stallion recently brought from Ontario to be for a time more or less apathetic in regard to serving mares. This peculiarity is generally attributed to the fatigue consequent upon the journey, and to the change of food, water, and climate. Your horse is not likely to be impotent, either naturally or through injury, and by feeding hay and oats of good quality, with a bran mash, containing a teaspoonful of flaxseed, twice a week, and giving sufficient daily exercise, he will probably soon regain his apparent loss of procreative power. W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., Winnipeg.]

Sprained Fetlock.

W. E. S., Gloucester Co., N. B.:—"My mare has sprained her left hind foot at the fetlock joint. The lameness is not bad, but the part is pretty much swollen up. What should I do for her?"

[The best treatment for a sprained joint is to first reduce the inflammation by continuous bathing for an hour or more, two or three times in a day, with cold or hot water in which the hand can be borne. It is well to add a little salt to the water; then rub dry and apply white liniment, made as follows: Half pint water, 2 ozs. of spirits of turpentine (shaken for five minutes), 1 beaten hen egg (again well shaken), 2 ozs. methylated spirits, 2 ozs. liquor ammonia; shake till well mixed, and add enough water to make a quart, and again shake thoroughly. One hour after applying this liniment, bandage for two or three hours. Apply the liniment occasionally till the soreness leaves. If there is a thickening left, blister with Spanish fly, 2 drams; vaseline, 1 ounce, well mixed. Rub well in after clipping off the hair, and grease on the third day. Keep the mare tied, that she cannot reach the blistered joint with her mouth the first day.]

W. D. FLATT, Hamilton, Ont., May 17, '98:—"I can assure you, for one, that I appreciate an up-to-date agricultural journal that is alive to the requirements of our farmers, and I do not hesitate in saying that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is doing its part to assist the farmer in carrying on agricultural pursuits on the most approved and improved methods."

Miscellaneous.

Swollen Mare—Pruning Gooseberries.

A. MCG., Huron Co., Ont.—We appreciate the ADVOCATE very much, and would not like to be without it. 1. Would you please tell me the best way to treat a young mare, coming four and carrying her first foal, due to be delivered in six weeks. She swells considerably along the abdomen up to front legs and down her hind legs. We have worked her steadily all spring. She is in good condition and apparently all right every other way. We never had a mare swell like her before when working.

2. Tell me the best way to trim out gooseberry bushes. Should we trim out the old wood and leave the shoots or trim out shoots? How old have the little shoots to be before they will bear?

[1. It is unusual for a mare to swell so violently so long before foaling, and especially while at work. We have, however, seen cases almost similar when no work had been given. We would recommend to keep her at steady but light work, or provide her with liberal exercise. She should have a roomy box stall at night, and be sparsely fed on timothy hay and light bran mashes. In all probability she will reduce to normal condition within the next ten days and swell again some time before foaling. We judge she will be a liberal milker and has been too highly fed.

2. Close pruning will increase and improve productivity, but fall is the best time to do it. Whether done in fall or spring, about half the head should be removed, taking about equally of the new and the old wood, and leaving the head well balanced and open. Suckers should never be allowed to grow. Year old branches bear lightly, but the two-year-old wood produces a full crop. Attention should be given at this season to the destruction of currant worms. Hellebore dusted on or kerosene emulsion sprayed on will effectively kill them.]

Protection from Crows.

Z. R. E., York Co., N. B.:—"Can you tell me how I can protect my crops from crows? I lost five acres of corn last year from the work of these pests."

[A simple remedy we have seen used successfully is to string binder twine across the corners of the fields from the fences about three feet from the ground. Who can give a better way? To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:]

SIR,—It is now corn-planting season, and I send you an old, well-known and effective preventive for crows pulling corn. It is astonishing the amount of corn destroyed every year in this way, and people seem to submit as if there was no remedy. Take some coal tar (a very small quantity is required), put the corn in a pail or tub, then dip a stick into the coal tar and stir the corn with it until it all becomes a dull brown color. Put as little as possible on to color it and it does not injure it for sowing and is quite effective in keeping off the crows. A little forethought while sowing will do away with the necessity of making scarecrows, strings, or other contrivances for this purpose. The tar does not injure the corn, but is thought by some to be an advantage, especially in case of much wet weather. JOS. MOUNTAIN, Perth Co., Ont.]

Lambs Dying from Scours.

H. M., P. E. I.:—"I have lost a number of my lambs when they were two or three days old. They were quite strong when they came, but they would take white scours. Sheep were fed on clover hay and roots and had access to pure water all winter, but a fortnight before lambing were shut up in the yard and drinking dirty water. What is the cause of the scours or how can I save the lambs?"

[It is difficult to assign a cause definitely. The condition of the mother's milk is the most probable, and the impure water may have affected the milk. Indigestion caused by a too liberal supply of milk may be the trouble. If the lambs were not so young we would advise a small dose of castor oil to remove irritation and clear the bowels, which is our general panacea for diarrhoea; but if the lambs die at so young an age as two or three days this is hardly practicable. We would change the feed of the ewes at all events, and give them dry bran and oats as a part of their food.]

Feeding Value of Buckwheat.

YOUNG FARMER, Huron Co., Ont.:—"Will you kindly give me some information about buckwheat: 1. What is the feeding value of grain and straw? 2. What is the best time to sow? 3. What is the best variety? 4. What quantity of seed per acre is required? 5. Would buckwheat do well on sod plowed in summer?"

[1. According to its composition, buckwheat has a lower feeding value than any of our ordinary cereal grains. For comparison, the pounds of digestible protein, carbohydrates and fat in 100 lbs. of buckwheat, corn, rye, and wheat, are given below:

	Digestible Protein.	Digestible Carbohydrates.	Digestible Fat.
Buckwheat.....	7.7	49.2	1.8
Corn.....	6.3	64.8	5.0
Rye.....	8.3	65.5	1.2
Wheat.....	9.2	64.9	1.4

The thick hull no doubt has something to do with the low percentage of digestible carbohy-