

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE.

Enclosed find specimen of a weed which has become a terrible nuisance in our garden. It was first noticed growing where a packing case was opened (case contained crockery). What is name of weed, and how can it best be combated?
J. A. McA.

Ans.—This is the noxious weed called perennial sow thistle. It usually propagates by its running root-stalks, and by seeds carried by wind. Habits similar to those of Canadian thistle, and means of eradication tally accordingly. Exhaust the plant by frequent cultivation or hoeing. Prevent it from breathing and seeding, and in time you will subdue it.

HOW TO FEED HORSES.

Which do you think the most satisfactory way to feed horses to keep them from having indigestion? We have had considerable trouble with them. We have always fed them dry hay, whole oats and bran. Is there such a thing as dust balls collecting in horses from feeding dry feed?
H. F. W.

Ans.—This question is a very wide one and would furnish material for a good discussion. Feed best quality of mixed hay (clover and timothy), whole oats and bran, the amount of bran to be regulated by the action of the bowels, water before feeding, free access to rock salt, regular work, on Saturday night a good hot bran mash, containing saltpetre, 2 drams; bicarbonate of soda, 1 ounce. It.

TO DETERMINE RICHNESS OF CREAM.

How can I ascertain the density of cream, as I dispose of it by the gallon, and am equally as anxious not to sell it too thin as I am not to sell it too thick? I use a separator.
H. J.

Ans.—You can ascertain the density or specific gravity of the cream by using a simple instrument called a lactometer, but this is an unsatisfactory way of gauging the richness. The Babcock test for fat is the proper way to determine the richness of the cream. You can buy one for yourself from any dairy supply house, or you might get a neighbor or a local creamery man to test occasional samples for you.

PERFECT.—Robert Miller, breeder of Shorthorns and Shropshires, Stouffville, Ont., writes: "For many years I had been using different dips for sheep and cattle, and could not decide that one was superior to all others until I tried Zenoleum. For years now, I have used nothing else, and it has given me most perfect satisfaction, both summer and winter, in keeping my animals perfectly free from vermin, or any of the skin diseases now so prevalent."

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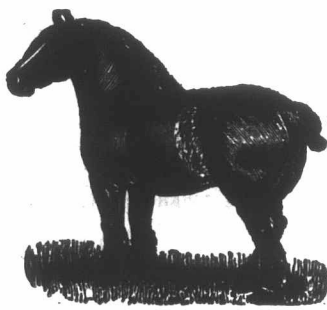
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GOSSIP.

The Scottish Farmer, in an editorial, on the very successful sale of the Ruddington Hall Shorthorn herd last month, remarks that it teaches that the race of great breeders is not extinct in this country. The late Mr. Mill's was singularly fortunate in securing as his agent and adviser Mr. A. S. Gibson, whose success as a stock-breeder had been established before he joined Mr. Mills. It was a great idea upon which the two men worked. Unlike many, the collapse of the Bates fancy after the Dunmore sale of 1879 did not lead them to conclude that the fine, stylish cattle on which the genius of Thomas Bates was exerted were of no more consequence. They saw that, in spite of defects, the Duches, the Oxford and the Waterloo families had unique qualities, and these they sought to perpetuate in union with the splendid beef qualities of the Cruickshank tribes. That there were disappointments in the effort to harmonize the antagonisms in the two types goes without saying; it could not have been otherwise, but the sale of last month contained abundance of proof that Mr. Mills and his colleague knew what they were doing, and achieved a notable success.

In spite of phenomenally high prices for whatever suited the South American market, Ruddington Hall sale was a great opportunity for the man with limited means who wanted something above the average in merit. In particular, it was a great opportunity for the man who wanted a choice white bull for crossing with black heifers. For reasons not easily understood, the home breeder is following the foreigner in despising the white bull. If there were no red or dark roan heifers with which to cross him among Shorthorns, there are always plenty of blacks from which to breed, through his agency, the choice blue-grays, and several apostles of that cult sacrificed their interests by not being on the scene at Ruddington.

Scotsmen certainly responded splendidly to the invitation to visit Ruddington, and they took north some of the choicest specimens on sale. Nothing quite equalled the Countess Farewell tribe, which for five representatives made the superb average of £672 each, but Mr. Duthie, Mr. Gordon (of Newton), Mr. Douglas Fletcher and Mr. Stephen Mitchell got value for their money in their plucky purchases, and others, like Mr. Campbell, of Balmaben, who operated more cautiously, had something to show for their money. The four great sales at Bapton Manor, Uppermill, Buscot, and Ruddington have demonstrated not only the continued supremacy of the Cruickshank Shorthorn type, but its adaptability, when wisely handled, to moulding a still better type, in combination with the old Bates families.

TRADE TOPIC.

HAY MACHINERY.—The attention of our readers is called to the advertising of the Bain Mfg. Co., Preston, Ont., now running in "The Farmer's Advocate." These people are on the market as usual this year with their hay loaders and side-delivery rakes, and invite the attention of raisers of hay to these machines. The Bain loader embraces labor-saving features found on no other machine of the kind, and while they may be a trifle higher in price than some of the other loaders, the up-to-date farmer should not consider price alone in buying implements. When you consider that less men are used in the operation of this machine than with any other on the market, it is a money-saving proposition to buy it.

The Bain people have an enviable reputation in the hay machinery trade, and stand behind every one of their machines with a guarantee to do exactly as represented. Any farmer doing business with them will receive the same just treatment on which this desirable reputation has been established.

Another machine with which these people are supplying the wants of up-to-date farmers is their side-delivery rake. This also contains features found on no other.

A beautiful eight-page circular, printed on the finest paper, containing photographs of these machines, will be sent to any farmer who is interested enough to write for it. A good trade for the Bain Mfg. Co. is bespoken.

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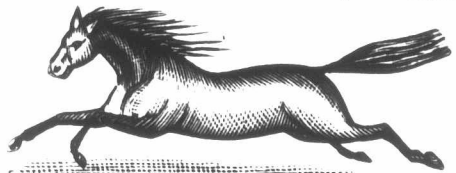


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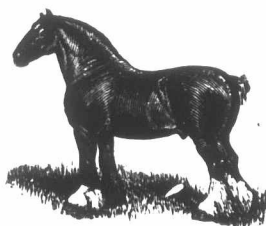
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