Farmers' Club recently passed a resolution thanking the Government for passing the Small Holdings Act, and for making it retrospective.

The great grievance of the past has been the difficulty of getting land at any price for the "landless" man who wished to farm. Now that machinery exists for achieving this desirable process, land is being secured, slowly, it is true, and the increased demand is followed by higher prices for land. The demand for the produce of the farm is also greater, and prices for produce are higher, and this is satisfactory from the farmers' standpoint.

Kinship with the Plants.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Brant Township Farmers' Club has again commenced its meetings, after a lapse of the busy summer months. The secretary, A. E. Wahn, addressed the members on the interesting and instructive subject of "Plant Life." His remarks, although not strictly agricultural, were still of interest to farmers, as well as other interested in Natural History.

Plants have life, the same as man. We all know that a plant can be killed, poisoned, sickened, stimulated and revived when it is sick or half-dead. Many people never give this mysterious life-force a passing thought, so, to call your attention to the mystery of it, we will ask you to consider two kernels of wheat, one of last year's crop, and the other twenty years old. Plant these, and one will grow, and the other will not. They looked exactly alike, and had same care, but why did one grow and the other not? The answer, of course, is very easily said, "One has life, and the other has not." But what is that Something that is present in one and absent in the other, that we call "Life"? Remember that "Life" is only a name for something. Forget for a minute the name, and think of the "something." Burbank has said that the universe is not half dead, but all alive.

Where there is life, there must also be mind, or a form of it, the quality or quantity depending on the scale of life. Many of you will perhaps admit that the animal has a kind of intelligence, but it seems too much to say that a plant has. In the animal, we call the mental faculty "instinct," but the mind of the plant has not yet got a name. Plants are able to select whatever food is best for their support and growth. Their roots will shun soil that is poor or poisonous, and plunge into soil that is rich. Plants send most roots to where they can get moisture. They bend their leaves and branches towards the light. Potatoes in dark cellars have been known to send forth shoots twenty feet in length in order to reach an opening in the wall. They have fundamental properties that in higher forms become sensation. The tendrils of climbing vines will feel around and find the stake around which to twine. Some plants close their leaves when touched by insects, and others close them in the evening and open them again in the morning. The lover and student of plant-life does not need much argument to admit that plant life exhibits a form of instinct or intelligence.

Plants need food to eat and air to breathe, or they die. The roots are their mouths, and liquid having certain chemicals dissolved in it is their food.

Plants grow in size from the food they consume, and the quality and amount of food has much to do with their size and health.

Plants breathe. Their leaves are their lungs. They give off and take in certain gases.

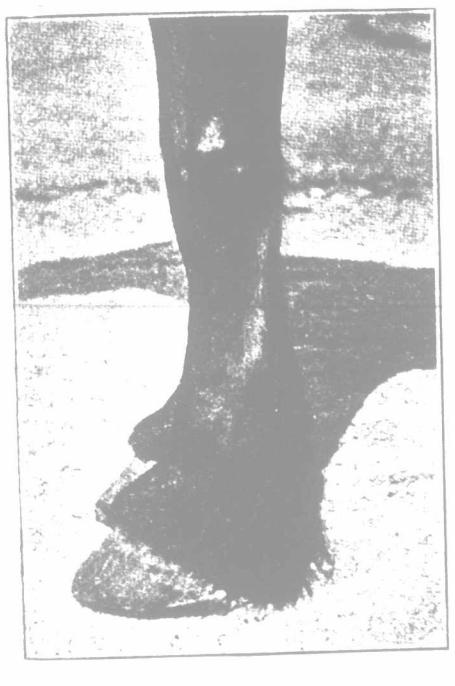
They have a circulation. Sap is their blood; it rises in the inside, goes to their lungs—leaves—and, after an exchange of gas with the air, flows down inside of the bark to produce wood. This rising of sap was at one time thought to be due to the law of capillary attraction—like the coal-oil ascending the wick in our lamp—but it is now known that the rising of sap ceases immediately the tree dies. It is, then, a function of the life in the tree or plant.

The wonderful process of reproduction and fertilization in the flower is another comparison that is most striking.

Plants seem to need rest or sleep of some kind.

After a careful study of the above comparisons, we are almost willing to recognize our close relationship, and address all plant-life as our lesser or younger brethren.

A. E. W.



Good Type of Draft Pasterns.

Slightly Over at the Knees.
(From Hayes' "Points of the Horse.")

HORSES.

The Front Legs of a Horse.

In judging horses, feet and legs must in some respects, at least, be considered of one piece. This is particularly the case when the placement of the limbs is under consideration.

Before one can form an opinion regarding the correctness or faultiness of legs in their placement, they must be viewed from two different positions: the front legs must be observed from directly in front, and then from a side position directly opposite the legs. The hind legs must be viewed from the side, as are the front, and from a point directly in the rear.

Viewing the fore legs from in front, a plumb line dropped from the point of the shoulder appears to divide the forearm, knee, cannon, fetlock, pastern and foot into interior and exterior halves; while such a line dropped from the center of the elbow joint should fall upon the center of the knee and pastern joints, and touch the ground just back of the heel; and a similar line drawn from the middle of the arm should strike the hoof at the coronet, and pass through the center of the foot.

There are many deviations from this normal position. Viewing the animal from in front, the legs may be straight, but the feet too close together, giving what is termed a base-narrow position. This position, by bringing the fetlocks closer together than is normal, tends towards interfering, and when it is coupled with the toe-wide position of the feet, described in the issue of November 17th, the possession of such conformation is almost certain to interfere badly.

The knees may be either too close together or too far apart. In the former case the animal is knock-kneed, and in the latter bandy-legged, bench-legged, or, as generally called, bow-legged. The former condition is the most common, and, while less unsightly, is more objectionable from a utility standpoint, since the bow-legged horse, while not a free or graceful actor, is not likely to injure himself in going; but the knock-kneed horse is likely to strike and injure his knees

Slightly Knock-kneed.

when moving, and especially if he is inclined to be a high actor, or when called upon to display speed. It is evident, then, that, in breeding fancy cobs, heavy-harness or fast driving horses, extreme emphasis must be laid on the correct placement of the limbs.

At their junction with the body, the front legs may be placed either too close together or too far apart. The former condition is more common in animals bred for extreme speed, while the draft breeds are more likely to have "a leg set on each corner." A horse never moves gracefully that has the front legs too far apart at the shoulder, but rolls in his going, and usually travels wide and throws his feet about badly.

Viewing the front legs from the side, deviations from the normal are observable both at the extremity and at the knees. While the legs at both their upper and lower extremities may be in normal location, the knees may fall either forward of the lines already described, or back of them. When they fall forward, the animal is said to be knee-sprung or buck-kneed. This condition usually is found in animals that have

Tied-in Below the Knees.
(From Hayes' "Points of the Horse.")

Calf Knees.
(From Hayes' "Points of the Horse.")