

in the place of those abolished there should be established district agricultural schools. The idea is a capital one. We could easily get along with two-thirds of the high schools we have at present and that would allow of the establishment of a large number of such agricultural school throughout the various parts of the province for the better education practically by farmer's sons. If this were done farmers would get much more real value for their money.

We shall refer to this matter again and speak particularly of these district agricultural colleges in Europe.

RECEIVED.

Vick's Floral Guide is as instructive and interesting as ever. Its front plate is a marvel of beauty.

Our thanks are due the Nebraska Board of Agriculture for a prize list of the State fair, accompanied by complimentary tickets to the same. We trust it may be a great success.

We are duly grateful to the management of the Zoological Gardens in Toronto for their kind remembrance of the Editor of the FARMER.

A couple of our readers have favored us with some excellent strawberries upon our editorial table. They have forgotten to send their names and we are therefore unable to thank them other than in this general way. When our friends send us any little delicacies by express, kindly let them send their names along with them, that we may give them due credit.

CORRESPONDENCE.

This page will be devoted to the exclusive use of correspondents. All of our readers are invited to write upon subjects of interest to agriculturists.

SMALL BUT PROFITABLE.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—A number of your correspondents have been urging the necessity of raising more stock throughout the country; but they seem to have limited the term stock to cattle and horses. Now, I agree with the idea that our system of farming must change as the country changes and as the markets change also; but, sir, I am convinced that in many other ways, than the raising of cattle and horses, must the farmer expect to make money. For raising of cattle and horses large farms are needed, pasture in large lots must be had, and hay must be preserved for winter feeding. These are easy matters for a large land owner, but to the man with a small farm the two wants are insurmountable difficulties, and hence he is compelled to turn his attention in other directions if he would become successful. There are many ways of money making open to the man with but a few acres of land if he has an intelligent acquaintance with his business and sufficient shrewdness and tact to protect him from the impositions which may be tried upon him. Among these I must class as being among the most profitable, both directly and indirectly, the raising of hogs. The food to properly feed a very large number of hogs can be raised on a small piece of ground. Corn or roots yield heavily to the acre if well tilled, and thus a large flock of swine may be fed and fattened, although their owner has but a very small farm. It must not be forgotten, either, that hog manure is among the most valuable of manures. It is concentrated and peculiarly fitted for the fertilization of worn out soils, and the raising of the root crop and corn, gives the

land an extra amount of cultivation, besides a rest.

So that all things considered, I am persuaded that to the small land owner the raising of a large number of hogs would be a very profitable business. Another point in the favor of these animals is that they are, of course, prolific breeders, and hence one's stock will rapidly increase. But to make hog raising pay, as with anything else, good animals must be kept. Let any intelligent man keep good hogs and feed well and they will pay. Yours,
R. S. PERCINE.

HYGIENIC.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—I suppose that among the readers of your pages, are many who do not believe in eating meat or highly seasoned food of any kind. I am not much on fat pork in hot weather myself, although a little occasionally is palatable. It is undoubtedly a fact that we pay too little attention to the healthfulness of our diet, and do not make proper use of the different fruits. The farmer ought to arrange so as to have an abundance of all kinds of fruit in one form or another throughout the whole year. Fruit and vegetables are healthful and palatable, and ought to be used very freely. Let the farmers pay more attention to their culture. I have procured a little book published by Fowler & Wells, 753 Broadway, New York, entitled "The Hygienic Home Cook Book," that contains minute directions for cooking all vegetables and fruits in a hygienic manner; also bread, mushes, pies, puddings, sauces, etc. It will be found an interesting and useful little volume, for the cook that wishes to prepare healthful food for her family. Send 25 cents to the above address, and get it. F. H. D.

IRON COLLARS.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—J. Mc. asks if you have tried iron collars, and from your reply to his enquiry I am persuaded you have not tried them, for you appear to me to be drawing largely upon your imagination. It is a very common thing to see articles written by parties (who are anxious to be heard from as well as to be seen in print) giving advice on farm and other topics, who seem to know very little about the subject on which they write, and I think farmers have learned (some by sad experience) to take such articles for what they are worth. But when we see an article with the editor's signature attached, we are inclined to take it for granted that it is correct, for we think he above all others should know whereof he affirms or asks through the columns of his paper for the experience of others. At the risk of exhausting your patience I will give you my experience with iron, or rather steel collars. I bought an aged horse a year ago last February that had a sore spot on his shoulder, which looked as if it caused him a great deal of suffering, and was as big as my three fingers. I had a leather collar closely fitted to him and a sweat pad underneath. All went well until hot weather and hard plowing came on and all at once his shoulders became so badly scalded that he could not go on with the work. I at once procured a steel collar and kept him at work plowing steadily, and in two weeks his shoulders were entirely cured, without any medical treatment except the first two days after I had put on the steel collar. I have used them now over a year through as hot weather as we

usually have, and through the coldest weather we have had in twenty-five years, to my certain knowledge, and not only that but the old bare spot is nearly grown over with hair, notwithstanding that I have subjected them to the most severe tests, namely, working on a horse-power threshing machine, jerking stumps and logging. So I say to my brother farmers: "don't be satisfied until you have tried them yourselves, and once fairly tried there is no danger of your laying them aside for leather collars unless your horse has an unusually peculiar shoulder." There is about one horse in fifty that they will not fit. Where the top of the neck is as thick as the bottom the steel collar will not fit unless some wider top can be had than I have. E. ANDERSON.

Port Dover, June 30, '84.

HIGH CLASS POULTRY.

EDITOR CANADIAN FARMER.—We do wish to be understood to say that thoroughbred fowls will not more than pay expenses; but we do assert most emphatically that unless the farmer has that love for fancy fowls that would induce him to keep them if they did only pay expenses, he is not a true fancier, consequently could not pay them that personal attention which is requisite to their welfare and consequently his success. But with this prerequisite there is nothing to prevent even the farm laborer from becoming a successful fancier.

To begin, we would recommend the advice sometimes given by matrifamilias, viz., get your cage before you do your bird. Have a clean, comfortable place for them, well ventilated, and have it so it can be made warm when desirable. Add to this plenty of light and you have all that is necessary. We do not approve of artificial warmth, for we believe that better birds can be raised without than with it, as it is next to impossible to use artificial heat, without getting too much of it at times, which is much worse than none at all, producing as it does colds, catarrh, and will lead to roup in the end. This done, the next point to consider is to procure stock to start with, and whether to buy eggs and hatch them, or buy birds. With a fair hatch the former seems much the cheapest, but when, as is frequently the case, we only get one or two chicks from a dozen or thirteen eggs, and perhaps should there be more they may be all pullets or all cockerels, and should there be even a trio of good birds from the brood they are almost sure to be full brother and sister and you begin at once the injudicious system of inbreeding, which should only be practised under certain circumstances, and then the selections made by experienced breeders. On the other hand, should you buy birds it is all right to buy both male and female from one man, if he has two or more yards not related, and you have reason to believe he is giving you birds properly mated.

It is better if you are not sure of this to procure the male from one breeder and the female from another. Great care is necessary in mating. Birds should not be mated which have both the same defect, as their progeny will be likely to have it in a greater degree than either parent. It is best to have a difference of a year in the ages of the male and female. We fancy that our best stock comes from two-year-old hens mated with a vigorous cockerel, other things being equal, while some breeders claim that a two-year-old cock mated with pullets produce the best birds. But though we have raised magnificent birds from cockerels and pullets, yet on

the whole it is not advisable to mate thus, as the chicks will not be so uniformly good and the good ones will be the exception. More anon, BREKIDUR.

VITALITY OF WEED SEEDS.

How is the vitality of the seeds of our most common weeds, such as dock, sorrel, chickweed, shepherd's purse, white daisy, etc., affected by the action of the digestive organs of animals? This inquiry was addressed to Prof. Maynard. He answers in a bulletin published by the Massachusetts Experimental Station: Seeds were fed to a horse, and the refuse collected. Upon examination, it was found that unless the seeds were crushed they remained uninjured and germinated readily. The experiment was repeated several times with the same result.

This point settled, it becomes important to know how the same seeds are affected by the action of the compost heap, for while the farmer should not allow weed seeds to mature on his farm, such seeds do ripen, and it is necessary to provide means for their destruction. For this purpose a series of experiments were carried out, the result of which is that seeds are destroyed if exposed to a temperature of from 90° to 100° F. for from five to seven days in a moist compost heap. In a dry compost heap, where the temperature runs as high as the above, the seeds were found but little injured. The efficiency of this mode of destruction depends upon the maintenance of a continual high temperature and moisture, which will cause the seeds to either germinate and then decay, or to decay before germinating. The amount of moisture can be easily regulated, and by properly working over any pile of compost containing a large amount of organic matter the required amount of heat may be obtained. From the above experiments it would seem doubtful if the practice of keeping swine upon manure piles to cause slow decomposition is the best for manure containing weed seeds. It is also doubtful if the seeds of weeds, often put into the pens where pigs are kept, will be destroyed by the action of the little heat there generated. It would probably be safer in both of the above cases to compost the manure in large piles before using it upon the land.

The white dairy has become so abundant in many of our meadows that it is important to know at what stage of its blooming the seeds become ripe enough to germinate. In other words, if this weed is cut with the grass, are its seeds mature and dangerous? On this point Professor Maynard reports: After a series of careful examinations it has been decided that when the flower first reaches its full expansion few or no seeds are mature enough to germinate, but that it requires only a few days for these seeds to mature to full ripeness. In view of these facts it would not seem safe for the farmer to depend wholly upon the early stage of cutting, but to afterwards compost all manures made from fodder containing weeds of any kind.

Cattle turned out on the fields should not be entirely left to themselves. The more frequent visits are made to them more certain will the farmer be that nothing is going wrong with them. Cattle are liable to have trouble requiring attention in summer no less than winter. Yet whilst they are carefully attended to in the cattle season, they are by some almost wholly neglected whilst in pasture.