

SHEEP AND SWINE.

MERINOS.

The Merinos are a sheep not now often met with in Ontario, although formerly some few flocks were to be found in the Province. Among the persons who have bred Merinos is Mr. John Gile, of Bastard (Leeds), now a very successful dairy farmer. Mr. Gile says:—

"The flock consisted of between 400 and 500 Merinos. Before the American war they were profitable. I used to get from 45 to 50 cents a pound for the wool; that paid well. The flock was kept well up by importing thoroughbred male animals at great cost.

"I am thoroughly convinced from experience that the Province of Ontario is as favourable a field for raising fine-woolled sheep as the Northern States, and if encouragement was given to the industry, our high lands would prove useful and profitable.

"Since the price of fine wool came down, I abandoned sheep raising and devoted my attention to dairying."—*Ontario Agricultural Commission.*

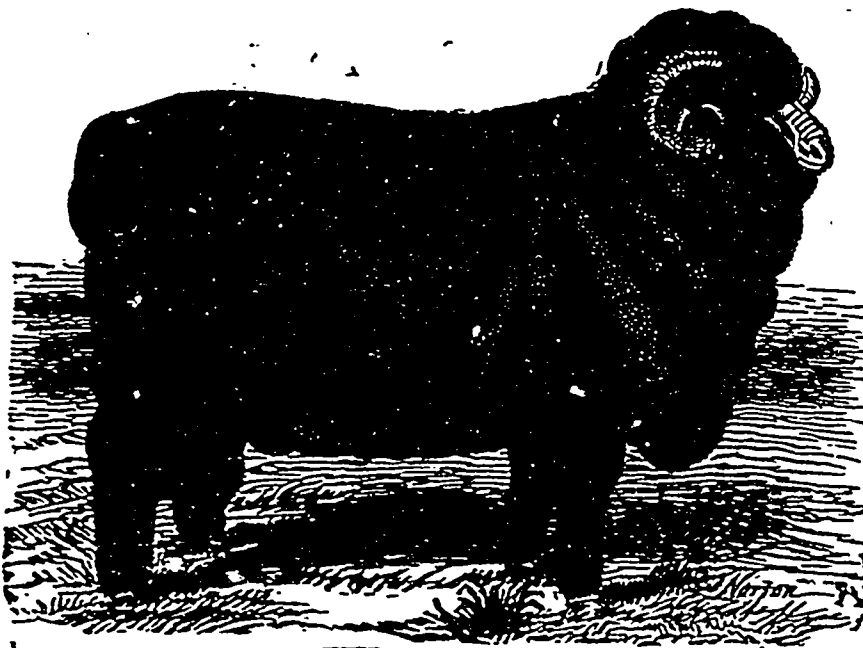
CARE OF THE BROOD SOW.

I will give you my experience with, and the manner in which I care for, my brood sows. I feed well, but not heavy. When she begins making bed I quit giving her any grain at all, but all the slop she will drink—a tendency to make the sow lay quiet instead of foraging around. It is the best plan to let her run on a good pasture at this time, or else, if she is enclosed, cut and feed her grass. But some grass she should have. When farrowing is over I remove all damp bedding, and replace with dry straw. This makes it much more comfortable for her. If you have time, it is best to pass the straw through the cutting box first, if you have a three-knived box, remove two of them, which will make your straw of the right length. Cutting it thus it makes a nice bed, and is much better than leaves or anything else you can use. If you use straw in its natural length, it is difficult for the little fellows, as they are apt to get entangled and be laid upon by the mother. In all your pens have a railing around inside from ten to twelve inches above floor, and from three to four inches from wall; this will give the little ones a fair show for escape if the mother is careless, or large and unwieldy. With a warm, dry, comfortable bed she will lay quiet till she gets hungry. I then give her all she wants to eat, and continue doing so right along. Under this treatment I seldom ever lose a pig, and in my experience of twenty-one years I have never had a sow to kill and eat her young. I am well aware that this way of feeding is open to controversy, and entirely different from the starving process at farrowing. I have read numerous articles on the light diet and starvation plan, but do not admire or believe in such theory. She must have plenty to eat if you want her to give milk and keep up her own condition. It is much easier to keep her well-conditioned than it is to build her up after being run down and suckled to death. It then takes nearly twice as much food. There is a great deal in giving her and the pigs a good bed at this time, and a good roof over them. If there is any appearance of lice or vermin of any kind, whitewash the pens well in and out, and sprinkle sulphur in small quantities over the bedding.

This, when the nest has become warm, rises in fumes, and will quickly drive out every manner of vermin; and besides it is very healthy—entering through the pores of the skin it cleanses the blood. A little of it placed in the slop occasionally will do more to keep away cholera and like diseases than anything you can buy for five and ten dollars. The trouble is, the remedy and preventive is far too simple and cheap. I would like to hear from other breeders as to their experience, and hope they will come forward and contribute their knowledge, so that we may well learn and improve.—*A. W. Ross, Muncie, Ind., in Swine Breeder's Journal.*

SHEEP IN ORCHARDS.

A correspondent in the *Country Gentleman* so clearly shows the benefit of sheep in orchards that we cannot do better than give what he says here: "The orchard occupies thirty-two acres, and is made the run of thirty hogs and 150 or 200 sheep and lambs during summer. Enough grain and bran is given them to place them in good condition. They eat every blade of grass and green thing close down, and every fallen apple as soon as dropped, for which purpose sheep are better than hogs, which sleep so soundly as not to hear an apple fall, but the sheep are always on hand, and



MERINO RAM.

devour every one as soon as it touches the ground. The fruit each year grows fairer, with fewer wormy specimens, and the manure from feeding so much grain has given a healthy growth to the trees. To prevent the animals from gnawing the bark, the trunks are washed once a month with a mixture of soapsuds, whale-oil soap, and sheep manure. If the animals are given a constant supply of fresh water they have less disposition to eat the bark. The profits of this treatment consist in placing the sheep in the best condition, in finely-growing lambs, and in heavy crops of fruit for market.

EFFECTS OF FEEDING OFFENSIVE FOOD TO HOGS.

The prevailing notion that the hog has digestive organs equal to any undertaking in the way of converting crude or offensive food, leads many to give, in excessive quantities, whatever refuse happens to be on hand, whether spoiled grain, putrid meat, or refuse. The result of such a mess, when given to a sow about to pig, or having a litter of pigs by her side, is inevitably damaging to the pigs. The milk glands act in such a case as an outlet for offending substances that get into the system through the stomach, or that, through

any species of disordered action, are engendered within the system. From this it will readily be seen that the milk of an animal not in a perfect state of health, must contain a considerable portion of the impurities that are from hour to hour given off.

The fact that poison taken into the system of the young, either human or brute, through the milk, acts so promptly, generally producing disorder of the stomach and bowels within a very few hours, is sufficient proof of the virulence of the poison, as well as of the importance of guarding against such accumulations within the system of the brood sow while suckling her young. Dry corn gives a tendency to feverishness. Too much sour slops, if the sow be debarred from access to the earth, ashes, charcoal, and like substances, capable of neutralizing the excess of acid, will derange digestion; the blood becomes impure, and, as stated, these impurities escape, in part, into the milk.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

CURE FOR SCAB ON SHEEP.

The following is said to be a certain remedy: Take strong leaf tobacco and boil in large kettles or vats. Make the amber strong enough to sparkle, and use when as hot as one can bear the hand in. For dipping, make a box five feet deep, fourteen inches wide, five feet long at top, and two feet long at bottom. Have the back end straight and front end hopper-shaped. Nail cleats on the slanting end for the sheep to walk out on. Set the vat four feet in the ground, and make a platform to let the sheep come out on to drip, and let the liquid run back into the vat. In this way there is none lost but what is taken to wet the wool on the sheep. The way to handle the sheep is this: Have a small pen near the vat; catch the sheep, take hold of its left fore leg with your left hand and right hind leg with right hand, let your knees rest against the side of the vat so you can steady the sheep over it, hold the right hand a little the highest, let go the left hand first, so that the sheep's head will go clear under the liquid and the sheep will turn over and walk

out of the vat on to the platform to drip. There need be no fears about the liquid hurting the sheep's eyes or ears. If you should see the sheep biting themselves after ten or twelve days, repeat the dose and the cure is complete. In this way three men can dip from 800 to 1,000 sheep in one day. If you have to dip in cold weather, keep the sheep warmly housed two or three days. By that time the wool next to the sheep will be dry. Do not use anything but tobacco.

A little daughter of Thomas Price was horribly bitten by a vicious sow, on her father's farm, at Zenia, Miami county, Ind. It seems the little child approached the pen in which the sow, with her litter, was confined, carrying a small kitten. It is presumed the animal mistook the kitten for one of her brood, and attacked her. The poor child was terribly mangled before the parents could reach the scene.

The age of a sheep may be known by the teeth. The first year a lamb's front teeth are eight in number, and are all of equal size. The second year the two middle are replaced by two much larger than the others. The third year two very small teeth appear, on each side of the eight. At the end of the fourth year there are six large teeth. The fifth year all the front teeth are large. The sixth year all begin to show signs of wear.