

markable may be due to the freedom of the life they live on the hills. "They are sprightly and active as terriers, sure-footed as mules, and patient as donkeys." They stand, he adds, at the head of the horse tribe as the most intelligent and faithful of them all; and he compares the intelligence of the Sheltie with that of the Iceland pony, much to the advantage of the former. "Shorter in the leg than any other kind," says Robert Brydon, of Seaham Harbour, "they are at the same time wider in the body and shorter in the back, with larger bones, thighs and arms; and, therefore, are comparatively stronger and able to do with ease as much work as average ponies of other breeds a hand higher." The Shetland Stud-book Society will register no pony whose height exceeds 10 hands 2 inches, and the average height may be taken as 10 hands; many do not exceed 9 hands, and a lady who wrote an account of a visit to Shetland in 1840 speaks of one reared by William Hay, of Hayfield, which was only 26 inches, or 6 hands 2 inches high! It is, however, unusual to find a pony measuring less than eight hands at the shoulder, and we may perhaps doubt whether the 26-inch specimen was full-grown.

In color, the Shetlander varies; bays, browns and dullish blacks are most common; sometimes these hues are relieved by white markings, and occasionally white specimens occur; piebalds are rare. The coat in winter is long, close and shaggy, fit protection against the inclemency of the weather the pony endures without cover or shelter; in spring, the heavy winter coat is shed, and in the summer months the hair is short and sleek.

In former times it was customary to hobble the ponies; but this practice, which must have done much to spoil their naturally good action, has been abandoned for many years.

It is now usual to give the ponies a ration of hay in the winter months when the vegetation is covered deep with snow, and thus the losses by starvation, which formerly were heavy in severe winters, are obviated. Otherwise, the Sheltie's conditions of life to-day differ little from those that prevailed three centuries ago. Mr. Meiklejohn, of Bressay, states that in April, generally, the crofters turn their ponies out upon the common pasture lands, and leave them to their own devices. On common pastures, where there are no stallions, the mares are caught for service and tethered until the foal is born and can follow freely, when mother and child are turned out again.

In autumn, when crops have been carried, the ponies come down from the hills to their own townships, where they feed on the patches of fresh grass which have been preserved round the cultivated areas. The nights being now cold, they remain in the low-lying lands, sheltering under the lee of the yard walls; and "when winter has more fully set in, the pony draws nearer his owner's door, and in most cases is rewarded with his morning sheaf, on which, with seaweed, and what he continues to pick off the green sward, the hardy animal manages to eke out a living until the time rolls round again that he is turned on the hill pasture, never being under a roof in his life."

At one period the ponies were apparently regarded almost as public property; for, among the "Acts and Statutes of the Lawing Sheriff and Justice Courts of Orkney and Shetland," was one passed in the year 1612 and frequently renewed, which forbade the "ryding ane uther manis hors without licence and leave of the awner," under penalty of fine; and also provided that "quasovere sall be tryet or fund to stow or cut ane

uther man's hors taill sall be pwinischit as a theif at all rigour in exempill of utheris to commit the lyke."

They owe their value to the combination of minuteness and strength, which renders them peculiarly suitable for draught work in the coal mines. "Many ponies will travel thirty miles a day, to and fro in the seams, drawing a load, tilt and coals included, of from 12 to 14 cwt. The Sheltie's lot underground is admittedly a hard one, but his tractable disposition usually insures for him kindly treatment at the hands of the boy who has him in charge.

The docility and good temper of the Shetland pony make him, above all, the best and most trustworthy mount for a child. Captain H. Hayes has remarked that "a comparatively high degree of mental (i. e., reasoning) power is not desirable in a horse, because it is apt to make him impatient of control by man." The Shetland pony is the rule-proving exception; for he combines with the highest order of equine intelligence a disposition curiously free from vice or trickiness.

LIVE STOCK.

Sound pedigree and individual excellence are two basic essentials in buying either foundation stock or additions to the herd or flock.

The breed which anyone determines to engage in breeding is usually best decided by his own individual taste, provided, of course, it is a success from a utility viewpoint.

The more closely the life of the domestic animal conforms to nature, the more healthful it will be. It is necessary, therefore, that the animal have succulent food, free access to good water, and an abundance of fresh air.

In providing shelter for the stock, care must be taken that it is not overdone, particularly with breeding stock. Shelter must never be such that good ventilation cannot be secured. A high degree of warmth is not necessary.

In teaching young pigs to eat, do not use sour food. They will take to eating sweet food much more quickly, and then sour material may be gradually substituted. Fresh separator milk is a very good material to start them on.

Do not buy an individual merely because the family to which it belongs is popular. Look into the cause of this popularity, and if it is based upon excellence of individual conformation and a good breeding record, do not hesitate, but unless this is the case, it would be better to purchase elsewhere.

The larger the hogpen, the greater the difficulty in keeping it sanitary. It is also a difficult matter to raise young litters in large pens with older fattening pigs. It would be much better to build a separate pen for the brood sows, and thus avoid this trouble, and also the danger of getting the pen too large.

For a couple of months past, a most serious outbreak of hog cholera has been rapidly spreading in the vicinity of Winnipeg, Man. Hundreds of hogs have died or been slaughtered, and yet, partly owing to wet weather, and partly to the indifference of owners, the disease was recently reported as still spreading.

An ideal is necessary in all animal breeding. A breeder who has no ideal cannot achieve the greatest success. The ideal is never attained in a single animal, but the different animals will show ideal conformation in different parts, and a judicious and careful breeder can keep blending these until a very high-class individual, approaching the ideal in every particular, is produced.

When the ewes are once housed and yarded at the commencement of cold winter weather, they should not be allowed to roam around the pastures, even if a temporary thaw should come. This roaming only serves to discontent the sheep, and the small quantity of frozen grass or other material which they pick up by chance is not conducive to their health, and loss may result.

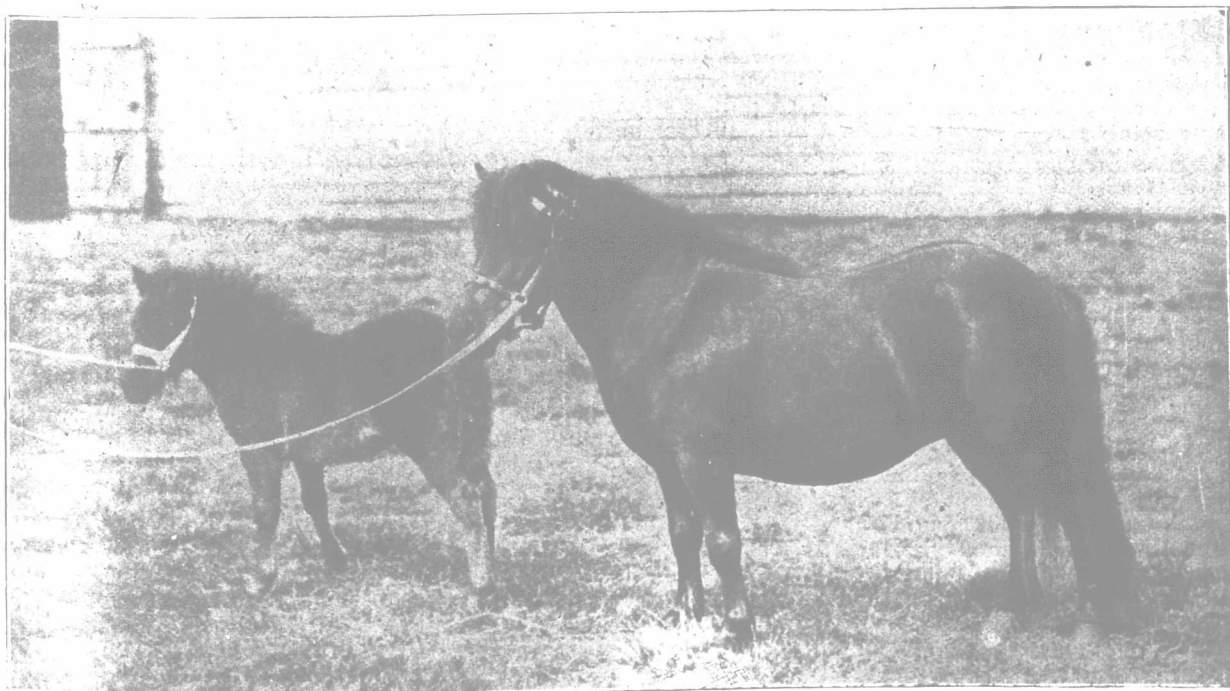
The demand for pure-bred breeding sheep has not been very keen this fall. Dealers and breeders are offering their stock at very reasonable prices. It is always safe to buy on a market of this kind. As sure as day follows night, high prices follow low prices. There is no better time to purchase a foundation flock than now, and there is no more opportune time to add new blood to the already established flock.

Indifferent selection of breeding stock is responsible for a good deal of the ill-health in all classes of live stock. It is often a great temptation, when looking for new breeders, to purchase an animal which possesses only an apparently insignificant defect. This temptation should be overcome, and no defective animals purchased for breeding purposes.

Succulent Food for Swine.

All experienced swine-feeders recognize the value of some succulent food in the hog ration. During the summer this can easily be provided by grass, clover, alfalfa, rape or some other such material, but with the approach of cold weather, when it is necessary that the pigs be comfortably housed, it is not always found to be an easy matter to supply this kind of nourishment. The largest part of the ration of the pig is generally concentrated material, and it is necessary for the variety of diet and for the best health of the animal to supply some vegetable matter that has not been cured or dried, so as to subtract its succulency. This class of food is particularly valuable for the young and growing pig. When forcing or finishing the fat hog, it is not so desirable, because it has the effect of producing a flabby flesh, especially when fed in too large quantities. The brood sow that is confined in her pen has great need of some vegetable food. This is true immediately before farrowing, as such food aids in the production of milk, and also causes a partial relaxation of the muscles, thus making farrowing easier. This green, juicy food helps counterbalance the dryness and constipating effect of the grain ration, it aids the appetite, and acts as a corrective tonic and stimulant to the digestive organs.

The different classes of roots are the chief succulent food at the disposal of the pig-feeder during the late autumn and winter months. Sugar beets are perhaps the best, because they are a little more palatable to the pigs. Mangels and turnips are used with good success, and carrots and artichokes are sometimes fed. Where milk forms a considerable portion of the ration, it is not so necessary to feed roots. In most cases it is better to feed the roots in a finely-pulped state, as they are eaten more readily in this than in any other form. The greatest value of roots is generally believed to be of an accessory nature. Although Henry, in "Feeds and Feeding," states, in referring to the value of foods, that the digestible nutrients yielded by each crop are the true measure of its value to the farmer, this does not seem entirely to hold true of feeding succulent food to hogs. The feeding of equal weights of roots and meal has been found by experiment to produce more rapid and more economical gains than were obtained from an exclusive meal ration, and the quality of bacon in the hogs which had been fed a few roots was superior to that of those fed meal alone. We are then safe in saying that roots in some of the various forms, are a beneficial winter hog food when fed with a grain ration, in that they tend to promote health and vigor in the pigs and stimulate the activity of the digestive organs, thus improving the pig's appetite, which is an important factor in pork production.



Shetland Mare and Foal.