

Misery and comfort in Calf-feeding.

Mr. J. M. Drew, of Winona Co., Minn., sent us, R. N. Yorker, two drawings from which our artist has succeeded in illustrating the dark and the bright sides of calf feeding. Mr. Drew informs us that before the stanchions shown at p. 116 were built, the whole family had to turn out in order to feed the calves. Any man whose boyhood was passed on the farm will appreciate the little drama shown at p. 117. If there is anything that seems to be all stomach and no brain it is a hungry calf. The boy leaning over the fence is probably willing to confirm this statement. He has all he can do to balance himself upon the fence without plunging headlong into the pasture. The two calves bunting and pushing away at the pail keep his hand occupied, while the other tormentor, with genuine calf-wisdom, sucks away at his new hat, regardless of the blows from the stout switch. The other boy is no better off. He has carried the war into Africa to the extent of entering the pasture with his milk. Nothing but his slippery hold upon the calf's ear saves him from total annihilation. Once let his hand slip and his milk is gone for ever. To make this system of calf feeding a success there should be several other boys armed with sticks to keep the extra calves away. Fig. 2 proves two things that have hitherto been considered doubtful: a boy can feed calves with a good deal of comfort and actually

smile during the operation; and even a calf can be taught a small amount of common sense and respectability. The picture explains itself. You would hardly recognize the boy. He stands erect and satisfied. He feels that his hat is no longer in danger, and that his boots will not be filled with milk. These stanchions have transformed him from a fighting character into a statesman, showing the great superiority of brain power over brute force. The stanchions used by Mr. Drew are made of 16-foot fence boards. This space gives room for 10 calves. They may be secured to posts or trees, with a stout post in the middle. The upright pieces are three feet long, made of pieces of fencing split in halves. A row of such stanchions long enough to feed a dozen calves can be made in three hours, and nobody but the boy can understand how much patience, perspiration, and milk they will save. At first the calf will have to be pushed into the opening, but after finding that he can get his milk in no other way he will need little urging. The restraint will make a now calf out of him. He will be easier to break to the halter and will be gentler all his life to pay for this early training.

After this, let us hear of no more tragedies at the calf pen.

THE SHEEP GAD-FLY.

MEANS OF WARDING IT OFF.

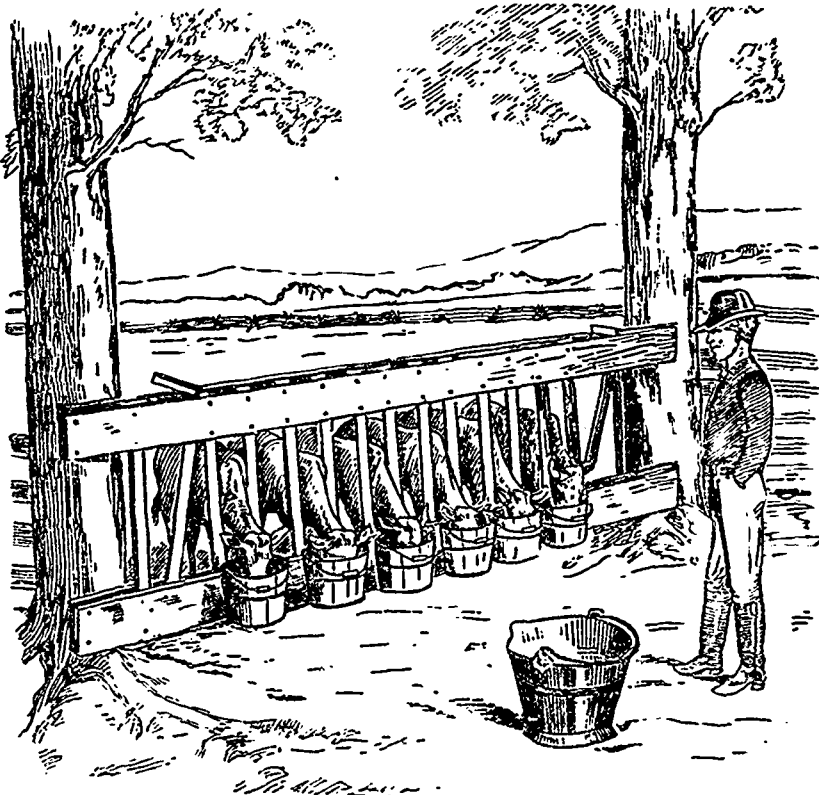
EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—The old idea, as entertained by Randall and others, seemed to be that the parasite generated by this fly did not fully develop itself in the head until the spring following the deposit of the eggs. Randall's description and advice are to the effect that if a sheep is seen to dwindle and pine in the spring, with final symptoms of aberration, walking in a circle, staggering, holding the head high, or holding it to one side, that he should "suspect grub in the head." But I have lost lambs from this disease that were not six months old, which shows that the grub had developed rapidly. I think that, in the whole course of my experience, I have lost half a dozen lambs or more within a week from weaning, say from August 1 to 10. This proves that the fly must have begun its pestiferous work early in the spring, or else the grub grows with exceptional rapidity in the head of a lamb. Probably both hypotheses are true, since the abundance of mucus thrown off by the moist tissues of a young animal would naturally foster these parasites into early and vigorous activity.

It is not necessary here to enter upon a careful description

of this fly, or the resultant parasites; the reader who is curious can find satisfactory details in the excellent works of Stewart, Randall, and others.

Probably very few farmers have ever actually seen the sheep gad-fly; it is very small, and rapid in its movements. But no one has failed to notice the consternation it produces among its victims—the stamping, the running and snuffing, with noses held close to the ground, the striking with the fore feet. Where there is no shade, the sheep congregate in the field and stand in a group, with their heads thrust under each other's bellies.

These flies prevail worst near or in a forest, or on lowlands, about moist pastures, swamps, &c. Notwithstanding they are thickest in the woods, the sheep congregate there for the sake of the shade. And they find, also, in the woods a means of self protection against their enemy—that is, the dust. Every sheep is observed to have its stamping ground—a little basin stamped out at the foot of a tree, or beside a log, or deep within the recesses of a fallen tree-top—where it lies down and gets up, turns around, and lies down again a



THE BRIGHT SIDE OF CALF FEEDING. Fig. 1.