

AGRICULTURAL.

[From the New England Farmer.]
EWES AND LAMBS.

It is incumbent on every good husbandman and faithful shepherd, to feed his Ewes plentifully for a few weeks before, and for a considerable time after they produce their lambs. Good farmers have told us that they have found it very beneficial to give to each of their ewes about one half of a gal of Indian corn a day, for 5 or 6 weeks before they have yeaned, and while suckling, to give them good roots or some other juicy food. The want of the milk in the ewes is the most general cause of death in the lambs. Keep the mothers well and their offspring will thrive and be strong.

The *Farmer's Manual* says, "If you have stored more turnips than are sufficient for the use of the table, give them to any stock that will eat them, except your sheep, give to them potatoes, but not turnips at this season, for turnips will injure the lambs." Weak lambs should be treated in all respects as if they had been drowned, and you were endeavouring to restore them to life. Apply gentle and regular warmth; give them warm milk frequently, in small quantities, (the milk of the sheep is best,) and if the ewe has milk sufficient for the support of the lamb, you may generally raise it, otherwise the lamb usually dies. It requires more care and labor to nurse one feeble lamb, when its dame yields too little milk for its support than it would for an hundred, if they were healthy and well kept.

If your sheep, whether store sheep or ewes with lamb, have good hay, about a quart of potatoes a day, to each will, it is said, be very beneficial, and an ample allowance. But when the object is to fatten them, (says a writer in Rees's *Cyclopaedia*.) about a gallon of potatoes a day, with a little hay will be the proper quantity, but this is dependent in part on the size of the animals, and in part on the quality and quantity of the hay, which is allowed them. Potatoes, besides their use as food for sheep, are said to be very serviceable to those animals as an article of diet, which usually supersedes the necessity of medicine. They have, when given raw, an opening purgative quality, which is thought to be of use, and to answer a similar purpose with sheep which is effected with swine by brimstone and antimony.

Care should taken to place in the stable, small tubs or troughs of water for the sheep to drink in. They will do very well in summer without water, as they feed when the dew is on, but they need water in winter, especially if fed mostly on dry food. Deane's N. E. Farmer states that "when sheep have colds and discharge mucus from the nose, good feeding, together with pine boughs given occasionally, will cure them, or tar spread on a board over which a little fine salt is strewn, will induce the sheep to lick up tar, and this will cure a cold."

The *Yankee Farmer*, in giving directions for raising lambs, observes that—"great care should be taken when lambs are born, for it is frequently the case that their fore teeth are not cut, which makes it very difficult for them to hold the teat so as to suck when young and weak, and it is common for lambs to get discouraged, though ever so ragged at first. To remedy this evil rub the thumb nail, or any hard substance, over the gums, sufficiently hard to cause the teeth to cut through, and the lambs will then be able to suck without any difficulty."

Clay has been recommended as useful in restoring and preserving health to sheep. A writer in the *New York Farmer* gives the following remarks on this subject:—"I am told on credible authority, that a gentleman, who was losing his sheep without apparent cause, had

occasion to use some clay about his house in the winter, and observed that his sickly flock ate it with avidity, he housed a load to be placed in the yard, much of which was devoured, and his sheep speedily recovered.

"As a cure, therefore, I would recommend clay to be placed in the sheep yard, which can, at worst do no harm, as the animals will not eat it, unless prompted by instinct."

Correspondence of the N. E. Farmer.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR HAY.

Mr Fessenden:—If the following remarks are worthy of a place in your useful paper, you are at liberty to publish them. Some years since there was a great scarcity of hay. At that time I had on hand a large stock of cattle. Sometime in the month of February my stock of hay was about all gone, and where to obtain more I could not tell. It could not be had short of 20 miles and there at the price of thirty dollars per ton.

One day I went to the stable, and no sooner than I entered, every eye was upon me for aid. You may imagine what my feelings were, when I knew of no relief which I could bestow. I stood awhile to reflect on what course to pursue, or what to do. At last I thought of some flax which had been lying on the beams of my stable for several years, which had not been rotted. I threw down a few bundles, and gave some of the flax to my cattle. They took hold of it with such eagerness, that I was obliged to take it from them to prevent their being choked with it. I then took a block of wood and a broad axe, and chopped it up short. I then gave a very little to my cattle, and continued so to do, until it was all gone.

From what I then discovered of the virtue and only substance that the flax contained, I am of opinion that what I could take up between my two hands and fingers, after being chopped, and given to a cow each day through the winter, would carry her through the foddering season. My opinion is that the bulk of one ton of hay in flax, will be of more value to a stock of cattle than four tons of hay. I am also of opinion that oil can be obtained from flax. As I have an oil mill, I intend to try the experiment the ensuing season. I would recommend to farmers to sow more seed the coming spring than usual, for flax and the seed are of more value than people are aware of.

SILPHUS PERLEY.

Meredith, Feb. 20, 1837.

By the Editor.—The use of unrotted flax as food for cattle is new to us, and we have never, before we received Mr Perley's communication, heard or read of its being applied to that purpose. We are of opinion that Mr. P. has made a valuable discovery, and are much indebted to him for its communication.

To the Editor of the Bee.

ANTIGONISH, 3d April, 1837.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure of informing you, that an Agricultural Society was formed here this day, to be called the "MAXWELLTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY." Every respectable man to whom the Paper for signatures was presented, signed cheerfully. In fact, we are unanimous on this subject.

In consequence of the depressed state of the community, and the novelty of the thing here, our subscription is limited to five shillings each.

Our general Meeting for the purpose of choosing Office-Bearers and adopting rules, will be held on the first Monday of July next. May we trouble you for a perusal of the Rules of your Pictou Society?

ONE OF THE NUMBER.

* For the Rules of the P. A. Society, we refer our Correspondent to the BEE, No. 44, page 349.

FOREIGN.

THE PLAGUE.—It is a remarkable fact, and one that is, perhaps, connected with more than physical circumstances, that the plague never dies out of the regions of Mahometanism. If it is not in Morocco, it is in Algiers; if not in Algiers, it is in Alexandria; if not in Alexandria, it is Constantinople. It may move from place to place but it never quits the land of the Mahometan. This is not to be explained on the common grounds of the predestinarianism, which renders the moslem careless of precaution, or the ignorance which deprive him of medical resources. Both, undoubtedly, have their effect; but they are not adequate to account for the almost perpetual presence of the most terrible of all diseases. The Christian nations, bordering on the Mediterranean, are nearly as careless; are as much predestinarians, so far as neglect goes; are scarcely less ignorant of medicine, and are, to the full, as squalid in their persons, and as unwholesome in their food, yet, the plague has not visited even Malta this quarter of a century, though more African than European, and almost within sight of the land of Mahometanism, in its most barbarian condition; nor Sicily, though proverbial for the mixture of all kinds of population, their squalidness, their recklessness and their ignorance.

CHINA.—Proposed Tariff on Opium.—Hew-ma-tszu, Vice-President of the Sacrificial Court in Peking, has presented a memorial to the Emperor on the propriety of removing the prohibitions from the importation of opium, and recommending the Chinese Government to "restore the old regulations, allow the Barbarian merchants to introduce opium, dutiable as medicine; and after it has passed the Custom-house, only allow it to be bartered for other cargo, and not to be sold for money. And when the Barbarians find that the duties on it are less than what is expended in bribes, they must be delighted thereat." The report ably demonstrates the inefficiency of the efforts to put down smuggling, and bears, at the same time, the strong testimony to the importance of the trade carried on with foreigners to the Celestial empire. The Emperor has ordered the memorial to be taken into consideration; and it was generally expected at Canton that the prohibition would be abolished, and the importation of opium legalized under the payment of a duty of eight or ten dollars a chest.

GREAT BRITAIN.

STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT RESPECTING THE ROYAL FAMILY.—We are put in possession of a statement respecting the Royal Family of these realms, of a singular and startling character, which, under any circumstances, must excite universal interest. As public journalists, it is our duty to place the affair under the notice of our readers. This statement refers to the origin of a child named Edwardina Kent, who was brought up with much mystery in Bath, under the auspices of the late Queen Caroline, when Princess of Wales. Edwardina of Kent was generally supposed to be the daughter of the Duke of Kent, whose name she bore, and who was her godfather. She was christened at Blackheath by the Dean of Windsor (the late Bishop of Salisbury,) the then Princess of Wales and the Dowager Countess of Dartmouth being her god-mothers. The statement to which we refer asserts that the infant was the daughter of the then Princess of Wales—that she was born in Montague-house—and that she owed her existence to his late Majesty George the Fourth, then Prince of Wales, under circumstances of a somewhat violent nature, as attested by the