

often caused great harm, and I do not believe that their use can be of good, for it certainly is against common sense to breed from immature animals. Therefore I consider, except for a very few ewes, ram lambs ought not to be used at all, and that all sires should be at least yearlings before they are used. In these views I am supported most strongly by Mr. H. Penfold, of Selsey, Chichester, England, one of our best Southdown breeders, who has often told me that the use of ram lambs has caused immense harm to flocks he knows of.

If the rams continue to get good stock, continue to use them so long as they are fit for service, which may be until they are eight, nine or ten years old.

When lambing time comes round, a large, well-sheltered pen should be made, or yard, into which all ewes that are near their time should be brought and carefully watched, and as soon as a ewe lambs, place her in a pen by herself with her lambs until they are three or four days old, then they can be allowed to run with their mothers all together.

Before letting them from their first home carefully mark them on their back or side with the ear number of their mother. This mark will last until the tails are taken off, at which time every ram or ewe lamb should be tattooed in the ear with their private number, which will last, if properly done, as long as they live.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Ideas Culled from Sheep Breeders' Annual Report, 1893.

(Continued from page 7.)

John Jackson, Abingdon, contends that "we could

COPY ENGLISH METHODS WITH PROFIT.

The flockmaster should settle on the type of sheep that suits his fancy, and at once aim to produce it, and with proper care the result will be as has been in England; and whether that fancy be for a long or short wool, a white or black face, I would repeat what has been so often said—to keep some one particular breed year after year, always selecting the best to breed from, and the result will be practically a pure-bred stock, notwithstanding the "whims" of those who talk about trouble after the first cross, and a flock running out if kept on the same farm too long. These are theories that have long ago exploded. Another English practice that would be profitable to follow is to castrate all the ram lambs in a mutton flock at an early age. There is a great loss in the country by neglecting this; it is not only when sold to the butcher, but too often some of these cross-bred lambs find their way into other flocks, are used to breed from, and thus cause still greater and almost irreparable loss.

If it would not pay us to fold our sheep on grass in our hot summer weather, it would pay to put more on our pasture, and supplement the pasture by sowing vetches, which are a most excellent food for sheep. This could be fed off by folding the sheep on the land, cutting and feeding in racks the same as in England—by putting them on in the evening, allowing them to remain till morning, then to run in some shady place with a supply of water for the rest of the day. A separate fold with a 'lamb creep' would be a good way to push the lambs forward for the butcher or the show ring. These vetches, if sown early, would be ready to cut about the 1st of July, a time when pasturage is often dry and scarce; and if well manured this land would make a good preparation for wheat, or for turnips or rape to be again fed off in the fall. By sowing the vetches at different times, as they do in England, they will approach a good crop of corn. It is also a most excellent food for sheep and lambs, especially when run through a cutting-box; it is very easily cut, even with a hand box, and when quite green enough can be taken in at a time to last a week by standing it on end to keep from heating. But it must all be cut before frost, and be allowed to partially cure, and then put inside on end; will make the best of feed for sheep right up till winter sets in.

Again, if we cannot feed our roots on the land as they do in England in the winter season, we can grow them (and should grow more of them) and feed them inside, where I believe they will do the sheep more good than if fed on the land as they are in England; for even there they are often more or less frozen, at other times in mud to the knees. Another thing I have noticed when travelling through England, that is temporary building at the corners of two or more fields for shade and shelter. This in many cases would pay in this country. Then there is the dipping to destroy ticks. This is regularly attended to in England, and it would pay every owner of sheep in this country to follow their example. Some neglect this, but I hope not any members of the Sheep Breeders' Association.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Veterinary.

ANSWERED BY DR. MOLE, 260 ADELAIDE STREET, TORONTO.

MALNUTRITION AND MANGE.

W. C. WATSON:—"I have a pure-bred Holstein heifer, eight months old, and as soon as I put her into the stable she has gone down in flesh. I find that she has got lice on her, for on two or three places the hair has come off, leaving a large sore which itches very badly. Can you advise me what to do for her?"

Your heifer is suffering from chronic indigestion due to the food not being properly digested. Change the food entirely. Give bran, chopped grain, with a little flaxseed mash. Give a slight aperient: Eight ounces of epsom salts; two drachms of Barbadoes aloes; ginger, one ounce, in each drench, allowing four days to intervene between each administration. For the mange and lice, a bottle of Little's Disinfectant, used according to directions, is a most effectual remedy.

SCALY SKIN OR DANDRUFF.

READER:—"I have a black stallion, seven years old, which is affected very much with dandruff. I was advised to apply equal parts of kerosene oil and water, as this mixture was supposed to prevent dandruff from forming, but it failed in helping him any."

This disease is a non-contagious malady, and consists of an abundant secretion of brany scales which are constantly renewed. It is usually dependent on some fault in digestion and an imperfect secretion from the sebaceous glands of the skin, generally obstinate and difficult to cure; sometimes common among horned cattle. Vegetable food, such as carrots, turnips, etc., favor the development of the complaint. For treatment, give a dose of aperient medicine, six to eight drachms of aloes, to be followed by a dozen balls composed of pitch, 3 ounces; linseed meal, 8 ounces; mix and divide into 1 dozen balls; one every morning.

ANSWERED BY W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., WINNIPEG, THOROUGHPIN.

ALEX. MCLEAN, Turtle Lake, Man.:—"My young mare has a lump about half the size of a hen's egg, just in front and above the point of the hock; she does not go lame. What can I do to remove it?"

From the description given, I am of the opinion your mare has an enlarged Bursa, known as Thoroughpin.

For treatment, apply hot fomentation; rest, and the tincture of iodine painted over the enlargement twice a week, will bring about recovery.

EPITHELIAL TUMORS.

Z. LATIMER, Hamiota:—"A year-old calf has lumps that are all round its head and neck, look like large warts, they get rubbed off and become deep ugly sores with bad smell; otherwise calf is fat and doing well. Please prescribe and say if it is contagious?"

The lumps are epithelial tumors. Cut them off close to the skin and apply strong acetic acid to the roots once or twice a week, until they are eradicated.

Legal.

PROVING A WILL.

SUBSCRIBER:—"1. About how much are the regular and usual costs of proving a will in the Surrogate Court where the estate passing under it is say \$12,000 real estate, and \$2,000 personal estate? 2. What is the object of the law in requiring a will to be proved in this way?"

1. The fees payable to the Crown, etc., in such a case would be about \$20, and the costs of your solicitor, assuming it was a straight, regular case without extra work being required, would be about \$20—total, \$40. 2. It is most important that a competent authority such as the Surrogate Court should examine into the will before the executors have power to act in a legal way under it, for otherwise people would not be satisfied that the will in question was the last will of the testator, nor, consequently, whether the executor named in it is the proper executor, etc., and the law requires that there should be some authorized person by whom debts owing by the deceased can be collected, and to whom debts owing to the deceased can be safely paid, etc.

Miscellaneous.

TRANSPLANTING ONIONS.

"Subscriber" asks if it will be safe to transplant onion seedlings which have been grown in a hot-bed before all danger of frost is past. Onions are among our hardiest vegetables, as is shown by the fact that they are frequently sown in the fall, when they will start first thing in the spring. If subscriber will harden his seedlings off by removing the frames gradually, there will be no danger of injury from frost.

APIARY.

Spring Management of Bees.

BY JOHN MYERS, STRATFORD, ONT.

As the time of year is near when we may expect the cold winter winds, with its frost and snow, to give way to the more balmy breezes of spring, beekeepers should lay out their plans as to how they are going to manage their bees during the spring so as to get them in readiness for the honey flow which will surely come later on. If the bees have been wintered on their summer stands, care should be taken to see that the packing over them has not become damp. It is surprising the amount of dampness that will sometimes gather in the covering over the cluster of bees, especially if the packing has been pressed down close so as not to allow the moisture to pass off. If any of the colonies are found to be in this state, it is better to remove the packing at once and replace by some that is fresh and dry. Damp packing at this time of the year is very detrimental to the health and prosperity of the inmates of the hive. After having made the packing all right, I go over all the hives and see that the entrances are all clear of dead bees. I have known colonies to be fastened in by the accumulation of dead bees at the entrances until they were nearly all dead from exhaustion, caused by their attempts to reach the outside of the hive. Bees become very excited when they are shut in and cannot reach the open air; hence the necessity of covering the tops of hives with wire cloths when shipping colonies of bees. I have an instrument which I like very much for clearing the entrances with. It is made of 1/4-inch round iron, 18 inches long, about 3/4 inches of one end being bent at right angles and 2 inches of the other end bent in the opposite direction; the short bend makes a convenient handle, so I can hold it in any position I like. The end with the longest bend is to be inserted in the entrance of hives to rake out the dead bees. This instrument is also very convenient for cleaning the dead bees from the hives in the cellar during winter. If you bend the short end with a sort of curve, nearly making an eye, you will find this very handy to hang it up by. Now drive a good stout nail in some part of the honey house or somewhere around the bee yard to hang the instrument on, and every time you get done using it go and hang it on this nail and you will then know exactly where to find it when you want to use it. Mine hangs on this nail the whole year; the nail is driven into the board fence that surrounds my bee yard. At any time when I am going through the apiary and see any of the entrances that need a little cleaning out, I always know where to find my scraper. I am not very particular about cleaning all the dead bees out of the hives, but just enough so the bees can get out and in freely, and they will soon clean out the remaining ones unless the colony is weak. Having seen that the bees are dry and warm, and that they have free access to and from the interior of the hives, after they have had a few cleansing flights I examine the inside of each hive, taking out the combs and looking to see if there are any eggs or broods. If I see any eggs I am sure the queen is all right and I don't bother looking for her. But if no brood or eggs are to be seen I then look to see if I can find the queen, as I want to be sure she is all right. After having satisfied myself about the queen, I then put back as many combs as I think the bees will be able to cover, selecting those that have the most honey and any that may have brood or eggs. In putting the combs back I place them to the side of the hive that is likely to have the most sun strike it. I then put in a division board, replace the quilt, put on a feeder and pack the top the same as I would for winter. I don't touch this hive again (except to fill the feeder) until I see the bees beginning to hang out of the entrance, which tells me that they are needing more room inside. I then remove the packing and fill the empty space with the combs I took out. You will see the above is all on the management of bees that have been wintered out of doors. Colonies that have been wintered in the cellar will not require much attention, except to see that the entrances are kept clear, so that they do not get too warm and thus become restless and commence flying out on the cellar floor. In such a case I open the cellar door at night and close it in the morning. This plan generally keeps them quiet. I do not set the bees out of cellar until the weather is somewhat settled and warm. I have always found it a good plan to leave them in until they can gather pollen from the soft maple. I would as soon think of going to bed and sleeping without bed-clothes after the maples were in bloom as to think of putting my bees out of the warm cellar at this time and leaving them unpacked. We are sure to get cold and frosty weather after this date, and we should always pack our bees almost as well as for winter after taking them from the cellar. After looking for the queen and arranging the combs as given above and packing them snugly with feeder on top, we are ready to work them so as to get our hives overflowing with bees by the time white clover comes into bloom. As my next will be spring feeding and feeders, also a continuation of spring management, we will leave the bees where they are for the present and imagine a cold storm has come over them. But never mind, they are all snugly packed and it will not hurt them.