

that direction. At nearly every presbytery meeting, and nearly every conference, some newer *ism* is propounded, and still the world continues to revolve on its axis. Who would claim the inhabitants are less civilized or more bigoted than they were a few hundred years ago? Would it then be supposed that at a few meetings of a new Herd Book Association, where members had to travel long distances to meet, and in many instances who can say but some of our leading breeders were unable to attend, — can it, then, be wondered at, that at the end of a year slight changes could be suggested that would be an advantage to the whole body, and if made advisedly, will tend to strengthen rather than weaken the Association.

The JOURNAL, though willing the matter should be discussed, "opposes any changes now because of the changeful nature of the Shorthorn measure in recent years. At one time it was a yard, then a foot, then a yard, and now a yard and a quarter." Is it not now just a quarter of a yard too much? Does not that quarter, in excess of what is required to make the record perfect, exclude animals as good individually, and as pure in breeding as any now registered? If so we fail to see why any objection should come from any quarter, especially the press. We fail to see why the Association should object to the modification asked for, especially when no one will be wronged (only in prospective), and many will be righted whose every surplus dollar had been invested in Shorthorns, rejected through no fault of the owners. Why should the extra work caused to the revising committee outweigh the moral obligation to do right? We take it that any advantage taken by any member of the "Association" of the position they hold, in keeping out stock eligible by every right to entry, is wrong. We do not believe that a wrong done by a body or an association is any the less objectionable. Any person who has stock eligible by every right and is refused the slight concession asked would be justified in taking any lawful means of protecting his interests. We think the moral responsibility of the Dominion Shorthorn Herd Book Association (which now represents the former associations) is in a certain degree responsible, and should do all that is reasonable to meet the owners of rejected stock, and not only help trace out, but make any reasonable concession that will still leave the standard equal to that of other similar recognized associations.

MANITOBA.

Brandon, Jan. 15, 1887.

Veterinary.

Precautionary Hints to Stockowners.

BY F. C. GRENSIDE, V. S., GUELPH.

(Continued from January.)

As winter goes on, the weather becoming more severe and stormy, the man-of-all-works on the farm has more time to pay attention to the comfort of his stock; so that it is a fitting time to draw attention to some more irrational practices, most noticeable and important at this time of year. The man who observes the treatment of live-stock in this country must be struck with the course pursued by so many of allowing their cattle to remain out standing around the yard, with their backs arched, looking the picture of misery, for hours at a time in some cases. Some people recommend such treatment as having a tendency to what they term hardening of stock, or rendering them insusceptible to the action of extreme cold. If they were allowed to remain out altogether, they would doubtless acquire to a large extent this ability; but being housed during the night, a portion of the morning, and afternoon; and, in many cases being subjected to a pretty high temperature while in doors, the result it may be of warm buildings, or the presence of a number of animals, or both; the change of temperature often of twenty or thirty degrees, thus, abruptly experienced, and the exposure to a degree of cold unfavorable to thrifty condition, is a source of much loss. There is no doubt that letting cattle out once a day is beneficial, and even necessary, especially to growing and breeding stock, but if the weather is

at all cold, and as soon as they are done frisking, and moving about, and begin to manifest a sign of chilliness, they are doing no good, and should be at once housed. A temperature of sixty degrees Fah. is, no doubt, about the most favorable to encourage thrift. Much lower than that produces an undue waste of the heat forming elements of the food; and much higher, so as to cause sweating, has the same effect; as the evaporation of the sweat robs the body of its heat. Continuous dampness of the coat has an injurious effect upon an animal's health and vigor.

In the best arranged stables of the present day, troughs are placed in front of the cattle, so that they can drink at any time. There is no doubt, that this plan is most conducive to health, condition and comfort. Drinking at long intervals, especially when much water is taken at a draught, is not favorable to digestion, in fact, acute indigestion often manifests itself from this cause. Many cattle, when water is inconveniently situated, necessitating their walking through the cold winds to get at it; and finding it very cold and chilling to drink under such circumstances, will often endure thirst for a couple of days before they will satisfy the natural demands of the system for it. The experiment of giving luke-warm water to cattle has been tried, and with the very best results. It is found that they soon become accustomed to it, and drink it with evident relish, and that the production of flesh and milk is encouraged, and that food is economized by the plan. One is apt to judge from one's own feelings, that it would be insipid and unpalatable, but practical tests show that animals do well upon it. It certainly is more wholesome than very cold water, and if cattle will drink it at all, they will be inclined to consume all their systems demand. All fluids consumed have to be raised to the temperature of the blood, and the colder they are the greater is the expenditure of food in thus raising them.

Where there are troughs in a stable and the water is allowed to stand in them it becomes raised in temperature to some extent, which is, no doubt, beneficial, and is as much heating as can be carried out, in most cases, especially in large herds. From the experience of some Americans, however, which has shown marked profit, from giving water at a temperature of 60° Fah., it would seem that it would pay to make some systematic effort to heat the water for stock, especially for fattening cattle and dairy cows.

In the case of horses the same remarks will apply, and when they have become heated from violent or prolonged exertion they can be given tepid water with impunity, and in this way suffering avoided from thirst. The old fashioned and good plan of allowing a pail of thin, warm, oatmeal gruel to a jaded horse is a most humane and beneficial one, and is just a following out of the principle here suggested.

When on the subject of conserving animal heat, it is opportune to speak of the blanketing of horses, as a means to this end. The major portion of the bodily heat is lost by radiation. Nature's provision to prevent this taking place, unduly, when the surrounding air is cold, is the coat of hair; but it is insufficient to accomplish this satisfactorily in most cases, so that there is a loss of condition and a waste of food.

If a horse is left uncovered, the coat becomes heavier and will conduct less heat from the body, so long as it remains dry, but if such an animal is exerted it rapidly sweats, and the heavier the coat the more profusely it does so. Now the evaporation of water from the surface of the body extracts much heat, and robs the body in proportion to the extent to which it takes place, so that a heavy coat to a horse subjected to anything like heating work is a drawback, rather

than a benefit. This explains why clipping is found beneficial, under such circumstances, as blankets liberally used as soon as exertion is over, on a dry skin, more than compensates for the loss of the coat. If blanketing is carefully and judiciously carried out in the early fall, it, to a large extent, reduces the growth of hair, and renders clipping in a great many cases unnecessary, even in driving horses. This course followed out during the cold months of the winter is the only plan of maintaining a horse's good appearance and vigorous condition.

Epilepsy in Pigs.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—Some disease has come over my young pigs, and I will feel obliged if you will give us light on the subject. They are near three months old—pure-bred Berkshires—and have up till within a week ago, made rapid growth. They have a pen 10 x 30 ft., and 14 of them are in this pen. The bedding is changed whenever it shows signs of dampness, and the sleeping place is warm, but well aired.

About a week ago I observed one in coming to the trough fell over, and lie awhile struggling. When it recovered in from five to ten minutes, it would try to eat again, but did not succeed well, showing strangling sensations when the attempt was made. Every now and then since, this pig has acted similarly, and several others have gone likewise. The feed they were getting was milk and boiled peas, but now they get shorts, scalded in hot water. I learn that others in the neighborhood are dying. Hoping that you can help us and the country at the same time.

GEO. H. RILEY.

Winona, 5th January, 1887.

ANSWER BY F. C. GRENSIDE, V. S., GUELPH.

Your pigs are evidently suffering from epilepsy. Both young dogs and pigs are subject to it, and it is usually attributed to either irritation of the mouth from teething, or to irritation of the bowels or stomach from indigestion. It could hardly be the result of the former cause, in pigs of three months old, as no active change is taking place in their mouths at this period of their lives.

I would recommend giving the peas crushed and unboiled, mixed with the milk; and the withholding of everything but milk, when nervous symptoms present themselves.

The Farm.

WE ask of all our friends who think that the JOURNAL is doing a good work and deserving of support to show it to their neighbors, and to send us at least one new subscriber along with their own renewal. Officers and members of farmers' clubs can also render material service in this direction. Sample copies sent free to those wishing to aid in the work.

It may not be generally known that the yield of most kinds of grain is heavier after a crop of potatoes than after one of roots. Our attention was called to this fact over and over again when making the tour of the prize farms last summer, and it is an item worth remembering, for the value of any crop does not depend on the exact return which it produces itself. Its effects upon the soil are to be considered, and upon the crops that are to follow, and this should have no small weight with us in determining what we shall grow. A crop that produces a rich return in itself and that is likely to be followed by heavy crops, is certainly preferable to one which though valuable in itself is sure to be followed by only a moderate return.

It should not be forgotten that peas and oats and vetches sown in the proportions of one bushel of the first and third each to two of the second, makes the best feed for early soiling purposes that we can obtain