

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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Study of Bacteriology.

The organization of a Department of Bacteriology in connection with the Agricultural College at Guelph is an important step in advance. F. C. Harrison, B. S. A., the Bacteriologist, is, we believe, thoroughly equipped for this difficult and responsible work. He devoted special attention to general microscopy and bacteriology in his own college course; after graduation, he visited all the best bacteriological laboratories on this Continent; and the summers of 1894 and 1895 he spent at practical work in the botanical and bacteriological laboratories of Cornell and Michigan Universities. Owing to the enterprise and foresight of the Hon. John Dryden and President Mills, the new bacteriological laboratory at Guelph is thoroughly equipped. Mr. Harrison is now at work, and we expect valuable results, directly to the students of the College and indirectly to the people of the Province at large, particularly in relation to dairying.

"The Classification of Grade Cattle at Our Shows."

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE "PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN FAIR."

GENTLEMEN,—As judges at your fair are requested to submit recommendations and suggestions promotive of the efficiency of the fair, with a promise of careful consideration, I would beg leave to draw your attention to Class 17, viz., "Grade Cattle." My attention has been drawn to this class for several years, particularly so for the last two years while acting for you as judge on Jerseys at your show, and also by some articles that have appeared in the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE upon this same subject. Now, the first class for cattle in your list is Class 15, Durhams, registered; then Class 16, Fat Cattle, any breed; then Class 17, Grade Cattle; then Class 18, Jerseys, registered; but you do not follow this by a class for Grade Jerseys, neither do you in any of the other breeds. Now, as the class for grades comes after Class 15 and before Class 18, one might suppose it was intended for Durham grades only. The time was when very few grades would be shown but grades of the Durham breed, but things are very different now, and I think that the time has fully arrived when grades of the different breeds should be allowed a fair chance for competition.

Now, I am aware of the fact that you allow grade cattle of any breed to compete in Class 17, and it is to that very fact that I wish to call your attention, and beg leave to suggest to you that you are spending money in that class and are not giving a satisfactory plan of competition for it. It may be satisfactory to some, but cannot be generally so. Some exhibitors seem to think that the large breed or breeds should have the whole class, and that smaller cows are scrubby and not worthy to compete with the larger bovines; others suggest that they be judged as general purpose animals, seeming to forget the claims of other breeders who believe in special purpose animals, and the number of these men at present are not a few. In our special business of butter dairying, in the last ten or more years, I have been most intimately associated with the owners of some of the best butter cows that are found anywhere, some of whom have cows that each make over 300 pounds per year; and none of these are very large, neither are they general purpose cows. They are special purpose cows, and they are nearly all grades. Now, if all grade animals be classed together, who will judge them? That is the great difficulty. It is almost impossible at present to get a judge who has not a fondness for some one breed, viz., the kind he owns himself; and if he judges the grade class, the animals looking most like his kind, in color, etc., will be likely to get the premiums, and who can blame him; he has a fondness for that kind and cannot help it. Men are as foolish about their cattle as they are about their wives. Every man thinks his own the best in the world.

It has been suggested by some that the class be cut in two, and that they be known as grades of the beef breeds and grades of the dairy breeds; but I still see the same difficulty. I want to show my Jersey grade. My neighbor thinks his Ayrshire grade a better cow. Who is to be the judge? Some good dairyman! Yes, but what kind does he keep himself? Or has he not a fondness for one kind or the other? The difficulty is still before us, only changed somewhat. It is like men with their wives, still. In the former case it is a matter of choice between a large and a small one, and in the latter case I believe it is worse, as it is a matter of which of two large or two small ones are the better looking.

The plan I have in view is as follows, viz.: Do away with Classes 16 and 17; that is, class for beef animals and also for grade animals, and instead of these, in each class of thoroughbred cattle add a few sections for grades of the different breeds. In the two classes mentioned, 16 and 17, you give nearly \$200 in prizes, which, divided by eight, means \$25 for each kind. Now, this seems very little, and would not be very much for each, but I would say, let the prizes be less for grades, also entry fees small; also some sections could be dropped out if need be. But I would certainly say, let the judge of amount of money to each breed and let the grade of the thoroughbred also judge the grade of the same kind; though the prizes might be smaller, yet the competition would be fair to all, and the judge would be able to do his work impartially.

For Jerseys, I would suggest the following sections to be added to the class of thoroughbreds, giving prizes for females in milk only, and a section for heifer calves, viz.:

Table with 2 columns: Sec. and Amount. 1. Grade Jersey cow, 3 years and over, in milk... \$5 \$2 \$1. 2. " " heifer under 3 years, in milk... 3 2 1. 3. " " heifer calf, under 1 year... 3 2 1. 4. Herd of 4 calves, the first owned and bred by exhibitor... 3 2. Total... \$25.00

Now, these are small prizes, but they would be competed for by local men who would not be at expense of shipping their animals by railway, and they could be allowed to take their animals away, if they thought wise, before the close of fair. The above thought wise, before the close of fair. The above plan might do for the other dairy breeds, but for the beef breeds I would not suggest any plan; the breeders or judges of these would plan for themselves as they thought best. Special prizes, I think, should then be given by breeders who have been

winning year after year in the different classes to the grades of their respective breeds, and thus a lively interest would be taken in the exhibit of the different kinds of grade animals. I think you see these suggestions to be on the principle of fair play to all, and should result in a much larger show of grade animals. I hope this may be helpful to you in disposing of this matter, as I think a change is demanded in the near future.

Another difficulty has presented itself to me in the two years' work, and I think the judges of the other dairy breeds must meet with the same trouble; that is, in the section for yearling heifers. I find that to be a very hard class to judge, for this reason: that you meet animals varying so much in age, some 13 months, and some 23 or 24 months old, and what is worse, some in milk, some heavy in calf, and some perhaps not bred at all. Now, I think it almost impossible to judge a female in milk with a heifer not bred at all and give fair play to each. I would rather say: let two-year-old class include all heifers under three years, in milk or near calving, each exhibitor to show certificate to judge, showing age in months; they could then be judged according to age, and their appearance for usefulness, better than as they now are. Also, exhibitors should be prepared to show certificate showing age of all younger animals, as judges find so much difference in age in all the younger classes.

Wishing the Western Fair every success, I am, yours very truly, R. McCULLOCH.

[NOTE.—Mr. McCulloch has well said of the table presented in the above article, "these prizes are too small" to be competed for at a fair such as the Western, where the animals would, of necessity, have to remain four or five days at least. It appears to us that before any additional classes should be added to the prize list very many of the prizes for pure-bred sections should be considerably augmented. Would the finances warrant it, and were there no other special calls, such a classification, with much larger prizes than Mr. McCulloch has proposed, might be in order; but, as the conditions at present exist, it is not desirable to create more classes which teach as little as grades usually do, thus depriving the more worthy pure-bred classes of what should be offered in order to draw them to the show.—Ed.]

A Good Dog--The Farmer's Friend.

Our frontispiece in this issue portrays a scene true to the life—an intelligent Collie lying quietly before a fine group of Shropshire sheep, at once their keeper and friend. Scrub dogs, like other scrub stock, are the curse of the farmer. Conspicuous in the scrub category is the hungry, sheep-killing cur—the greatest enemy of the industry in America. A well-trained Collie is a boon to any farmer as a guard and servant, saving many miles of weary tramping, not to mention his companionship; for he ranks in intelligence alongside the well-bred horse. His good qualities, like those of other animals, do not come by chance;—breeding lies at the foundation. Young men (as well as older ones) take pride in the possession of an extra good dog, and in order to bring such within access of our readers we have made arrangements with Mr. Robert McEwen, of Byron, Ont., distinguished as a breeder of Collies, enabling us to offer as premiums for obtaining new subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, pure-bred puppies six weeks old and upwards, eligible to registration. We hope in this way to encourage to some extent the keeping of better dogs. It is not possible in any other way to secure dogs of such merit, as will be seen by a glance at our premium page. Mr. McEwen is so well known as a breeder that we need add but little on that point. He has been breeding Collies for about fifteen years, and has, perhaps, bred more prize winners than any other breeder on the Continent. This has been accomplished by importing only stock of winning strains, and mating them with judgment. They have won prizes in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Buffalo, Toronto, Montreal, etc., and have been sold to customers from the extreme east in P. E. I. to B. C. and even China in the West. None but the best bitches are reserved for breeding purposes, and they contain the blood of such noted individuals as Champion Christopher (sold for £1000), Champion Sifton Hero (sold for £500), Champion Southport Perfection, etc. For years Mr. McEwen has been one of the Executive of the Collie Club of America, and last year was engaged to award the prizes in Collie classes at shows in New York and Toronto, all of which is a sufficient guarantee as to the breeding of the dogs.

We trust a number of our readers will be fortunate enough to secure a young Collie, bred at these famous kennels. For the conditions, we would refer all to the premium announcement on another page.

A dairy school will be opened in Winnipeg, Man., early in January in charge of Mr. C. C. Macdonald, Provincial Dairy Superintendent, for butter and cheesemakers, open to farmers' sons and daughters. The tuition will be free and at the close of the term certificates will be issued on the basis of an examination.