

shear is by Mr. Buttar's Corston True Blue, the others are got by Scotsman, the former bred by Mr. T. J. Mansall, the latter by Mr. A. E. Mansall. One of the shearlings just arrived is evidently intended for the show ring, and is a likely candidate for high honors. He is well developed and is first rate in quality. The shearling ewes that came over in this lot are also bred by Mr. Buttar and sired by his noted stock rams Scotsman and young True Blue. Twenty ewes have produced 32 lambs this season, many of which are very promising. Several importations have been made, this year's numbering 46. Mr. Beattie has built up a large trade, selling all over Canada and the United States, and has been very successful in the show rings for the last few years.

Breeding and importing Collie dogs is also included in his business, of which he has quite a large kennel on hand. Of two lately imported is a dog by Gower Chief, a son of the famous prize taker Mitchly Wonder. The other is a bitch, sired by Clydesdale Wonder, a son of Clydesdale Trumpet. These are both bred by Mr. Buttar who is also quite a dog fancier.

MR. S. C. MILLSON,

of Glanworth, Ont., is one of the latest to enter the breeding lists as regards Shropshire sheep, but, like most of his other undertakings, does not believe in half-way measures, and although he had not a single Shropshire sheep ten months since his flock now numbers over 100 head. He began by purchasing a number of grade Shropshires last fall, but feeling inclined to add to the quality and notoriety of his flock, soon after purchased ten imported ewes of Mr. Beattie, Wilton Grove, to which he added others until he has 17 imported ewes, and with Canadian registered sheep and this year's crop of lambs number in all nearly sixty recorded sheep. Mr. Millson intends selling out all his grades and investing entirely in pure-bred recorded sheep. His sheep have done well and his lambs are very fine, proving fully what sheep will do in large flocks if they have care and plenty of run. Mr. Millson has been in dairy business; has also been largely in the feeding and exporting of steers, but finds sheep pay better with less labor than any other kind of stock.

MR. HAWKSHAW,

of Glanworth, also has a large flock. His second importation was chosen in person, and have also landed lately. These just arrived, together with their lambs, make up, nearly, combined with the flock imported last fall, one hundred head. Among those lately brought over is the shearling ram Wool Merchant, whose breeder, Mr. Bach, thought so highly of him that he was bred to part of his flock last season. The last selection consists of a choice lot of shearlings and two shear ewes that has been made from Mr. F. Bach, of Onilbury, and Mr. R. Bach, Craven Arms. Mr. Bach took high honors in a very strong class at the late Royal Show at Plymouth with some of his sheep.

A few Dorset horned sheep were selected from the flock of Mr. Thomas Chick, and these should open the way for larger importations of this breed, the specimens having been much admired by all who have seen them.

Five cows well cared for and amply fed are always more profitable than double that number which receive little care and insufficient food. Many farmers make a great mistake by keeping more stock than they can properly feed and care for. Our most successful farmers are those whose stock are well fed and well cared for.

### Horse Breeding.

BY FRANCIS GREEN.

There is perhaps no domesticated animal which presents more variety both in size and other attributes than the horse, different types of which are now spread over almost all parts of the world, and there is perhaps no animal which displays a greater aptitude in adapting itself to climatic and other conditions, and that too within very circumscribed areas. Within the limits of the British Isles, at the extreme north, we find the diminutive Shetland, a dwarf in comparison with his gigantic relation, the massive Shire horse, an inhabitant of a milder climate. In the mountains of Wales is the little Welsh pony with his bloodlike head, the diminutive thoroughbred, while within a radius of a hundred miles or so we find the rangy Cleveland Bay, as well as the Scotch draught horse, the well-known Clydesdale. When one considers the number of different types, not only of horses, but also of cattle, sheep and pigs, which are now existent within the limited area of Great Britain, one may well be struck with astonishment, and enquire in what way they were originated and kept distinct, but a little consideration will help to explain the matter and furnish a theory which rests on a good foundation. Years ago, and long before the introduction of railroads, there was little travelling done, and that little was generally on well defined routes. People in those days stayed at home, and their excursions rarely extended further than their county towns. Vestiges of this are even now extant, for each county has its own peculiar dialect, and it is often difficult at the present time for a native of one county to understand another from even an adjoining county. This stay at home habit of the people reflected in like manner on their animals, as the owners did not often go visiting neither did their stock, and in process of time, by a certain degree of breeding and selection, the horses, cattle and sheep acquired a fixity of type and character moulded to suit the requirements of their proprietors. Climate undoubtedly has a great effect, but climate is not the only influence. Taking the Shire horse as an example, we find that the nature of the soil as well as food, the latter being to a great extent modified by the former, has a considerable bearing on the matter; thus the Shire horse on the rich, low-lying, fine counties of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and similar counties, is usually considerably heavier. His bone is hardly as clear, neither are his feet as good as those bred on the higher lands of Derbyshire, &c., and it is a well-known fact in Wales that the feet and legs of horses bred and reared in the rich, low-lying valleys are never as good and clean as those raised on the stony uplands. Careful breeding and selection will certainly obviate this to a great extent, and with judgment and proper mating heavy draught horses can be bred with success in such and similar situations, but for light horses for fast work we must look to land that is high and dry. In Canada this does not apply to the same degree, for during the season of pasturage the greater proportion of the land suffers often rather from a lack of moisture, and in summer is often deficient in herbage. The average specimens of horses in Canada are a mixed lot, as might be expected from the combination of crosses that have been used, com-

encing with the French Canadian horse, followed by the American trotting horse, and in turn by the Clyde, Shire, Percheron and Thoroughbred. Much enterprise has been displayed by our horse importers, who have at different times brought over specimens of nearly every variety of English horses, and farmers with praiseworthy, but mistaken zeal, have many of them attempted a combination of most of these crosses, without any regard to the kind of mare they were breeding from, and the result of this indiscriminate breeding may be seen in the miscellaneous types of horses in the country to-day. Such was not the method by which England has become so celebrated for her horses. The crosses of alien blood introduced were, on the contrary, rather few, and those with a well-defined purpose kept constantly in view. Like begets like, is the creed of the breeder, but a truer axiom is "like begets like, or else the likeness of some ancestor." This is called atavism, or in common speech "throwing back," and it is this contingency, a contingency which cannot be guarded against, that so often proves a disappointment to the breeder, even of pure-bred stock. How much more, then, is it likely to be a stumbling block in the case of animals of such mixed breeding as the ordinary bred horse in Canada. It behooves, therefore, breeders to exercise great caution in the selection of breeding stock, and it is not sufficient that the animals themselves be possessed of individual excellence, but it is likewise important to ascertain particulars as far as possible as to their progenitors. Horses and mares that are unsound with any hereditary diseases, will certainly reproduce in their offspring the defects which they themselves possess, it being a remarkable feature in procreation that defective points are more easy of production than the more desirable properties. It is essential then to guard against breeding from parents which are themselves infirm or descended from unsound ancestors, unless such defects arise from accidents, for the use of such animals will almost certainly end in disappointment and loss of both time and money. The lack of success in horse breeding is often attributable in a great measure to the want of care in the selection of the dam. Many persons possessing mares, regardless of their loose leggy make, small size, or hereditary unsoundness, have often thought them good enough to breed from. How often has one heard it remarked, "Oh, she will do me to work, and I can afterwards breed a colt from her!" To such, the advice which has frequently been given before, may again be repeated, "do not breed from the old mare because she is old, even though she may be an old favorite." On the contrary, breed rather to a mare that is under rather than over the prime of life. In the selection of breeding animals, due regard must be had to the purpose for which their produce is required, if for a saddle horse or hunter (and for this class of horse a good demand is now arising) he should be considered with reference to the easiness of his paces: he should possess quality and should be able to lift his fore legs well, but not high. High knee action in the saddle horse is not desirable, and is rarely pleasant to the rider; it does not conduce to speed nor necessarily to safety, for the surefootedness of a horse depends more on the manner in which he puts his foot down than in which he lifts them up. He should likewise be able to canter lightly, as