

be worked, but there are special reasons why they should. They are not like bulls which are kept for raising beefing stock, where fattening propensities are required to be transmitted, not a hardy, vigorous constitution. If stallions are raised by superfluous nursing, they degenerate, and they transmit this propensity to their offspring; and if a breed once becomes famous say for draft purposes, this quality will deteriorate unless kept up by practice. If the exercise take the form of racing, a racing propensity will be finally developed in the progeny. In feeding, the likes of the horse may be studied to a considerable extent. There need be no essential variation from the food given to brood mares or to farm horses heavily worked and well kept. It should be remembered that the horse has a smaller capacity of stomach in proportion to its size than any other domestic animal; hence it must have more concentrated food. Most of the ailments which horses are heir to arise from imperfect feeding, especially in giving them too bulky food, whereby they are required to eat too great a quantity in order to get the necessary amount of nutrition. Even the time honored ration of timothy and oats has too much bulk, and should therefore be supplemented by good clover, bran or beans. Succulent food should form part of the ration all the year round, such as carrots, mangels or ensilage in winter, and grass or green fodder in summer. If much strengthening food, such as bran and peas, be given, it may be advantageously fed with good chaff, or even good straw mixed with the hay. A great mistake is often made in adding corn to a ration of hay and oats. This may do when there is plenty of good-clover in the ration. Corn should only be fed in connection with peas, beans or bran. The judicious feeder will soon find out the quantity to be fed, which will vary considerably according to the size and condition of the animal, and the work required to be performed. Succulent foods, as bran mashes and green fodder, are necessary for regulating of the bowels, and care should be taken that the change from dry to succulent diets be not too sudden. Of course grain is better when ground, hay when cut, and mangolds when pulped, but very few farmers have facilities for doing this. When corn meal is ground fine, it must positively be well mixed with coarser foods, else it will clog in the stomach. For stallions in active service, small quantities of wheat may be given with advantage for a change. But feed is only a portion of the management. Kind treatment and cleanliness are very important factors. Too much care cannot be exercised in keeping the feet clean, especially during the muddy season, and the collar should be wiped every day, and kept in a plastic condition. Two things should be specially borne in mind, viz.: that like produces likes and that over feeding and nursing make breeding less certain, and tend to the degeneration of the race.

Correction.

In the last December number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, page 361, our Chicago correspondent stated that the imported Polled Angus steer, Black Prince, was said to be owned by Hugh Nelson, of England. Our correspondent was in error; this celebrated steer was, and is still, the property of Messrs. Geary Bros., of London, Ont.

The Ewes and Lambs.

This is the most critical time of the year for ewes and lambs, and more losses are apt to occur during this month than all other seasons of the year combined. If the ewes have not been properly fed, they will have a strong tendency to roam about in quest of grass, and the lambs will be weaklings. If allowed to wander at pleasure, they will likely take too much exercise after the close confinement of winter. At first they should not be left out more than a few hours each day, and if the weather turns suddenly warm, care should be taken that they have plenty of shade and a supply of wholesome water. This month will test the skill of the best flock-master; his eye should be constantly on the flock. There is no plan equal to the hurdle system. A corner of some luxuriant pasture should be hurdled in, and grain and bran fed to the ewes, but as little to the lambs as possible, as the dam's milk is better for them. A little oil cake should also be on hand for medicine as well as for food. This will regulate their bowels more effectively than bran. The strongest arguments in favor of the system is that little manure or grass is wasted, and any extra food will be repaid in the extra fertility of the land. This portable fence may be changed from time to time as the inclosure becomes bare. It is an excellent plan to inclose a thistle patch, throwing salt around the stems of the thistles. The sheep, in licking up the salt, will eat the thistles, and in this way many a patch may be totally exterminated. In fact, soiling the sheep in these inclosures all summer has been found to be more profitable than allowing them to roam the pastures. If they are allowed free scope, the pasture should be changed at least once a month. A pasture containing a variety of grasses is best, as it improves the quality of both milk and mutton. If the land is undrained or low and the weather wet, great care must be taken.

CASTRATING AND DOCKING LAMBS.

Castration is usually performed when the lambs are from two to four weeks old. The younger the lambs the less risk. But it is still more important that the lamb be in a healthy condition at the time it is operated on, and that the weather be mild. It should only be done when there is a prospect of a fine evening; and the shepherd should be frequently amongst the lambs for a day or two afterwards, gently stirring them up, as they are better for moving about at intervals until all fear of inflammation is past. With those precautions, it is seldom that any casualty results. The operation is usually performed by the shepherd. It should be done as gently as possible. One person holds the lamb with its back pressed against his left shoulder, and a hind and fore foot grasped firmly in each hand. Then the shepherd with a sharp knife slits up the scrotum, or excises the inferior parts of it entirely, and starts the testicles by pressing both hands against the belly of the lamb, afterwards cutting them away with his teeth till the spermatic cord is reached, when it is cut with the knife. The operator then pulls the lamb's tail sharply two or three times to replace the chords and vessels which have been so violently disarranged. Where the lambs are older and stronger, searing is recommended instead of drawing. Few shepherds, however, under

stand the searing method; and with young lambs, drawing is safer than searing. Before the lambs which have been castrated are let go they should be docked or have their tails cut. Docking is necessary to the health and comfort of all sheep that have to be folded, and, therefore, it requires to be performed on ewe lambs as well as others. The operation is, however, often rendered needlessly severe by shortening the tail too much, and causing excessive bleeding. In the case of hill sheep which are always on pasture, and never in wet and miry folds, the tail is shortened very little, if any, the last vertebra seldom being cut, but only the fleshy part on the end of the tail removed. Docking may be performed on a block with an axe or a chisel.

WASHING AND SHEARING.

A great mistake is made by farmers in washing their sheep. It is unpleasant and unhealthy for the sheep, and their labor is spent in vain from a pecuniary standpoint. No better rule for the time of shearing can be given than to leave the intelligent farmer to use his own judgment. Many show sheep are shorn in January and February. If they have comfortable habitations, this will not injure them so much as is generally supposed; in fact sheep thrive better in winter if not overburdened with wool.

DESTROYING TICKS.

Tobacco dust or juice is the cheapest and most effective remedy. The gritty remains of hogsheads of tobacco can be purchased cheaply, and one pound of the dust will be sufficient for ten sheep. The ticks soon leave the shorn sheep and take up their abode on the lambs. This is the best time to attack the ticks. The dust need not be scattered all over the lamb, but is quite effectual when placed in rows along the length of the animals. Four rows on the circumference of the body of each lamb will be sufficient—one on each side of the backbone, say six or seven inches from it, and two other rows at intermediate distances. One application a year will be sufficient. This is also a good remedy for lice on cattle or other animals.

Diseases of Swine.

That the swine plagues which have ravaged the United States are caused by impure food and drink admits of no doubt. Many think that because hogs will eat anything, anything will do for them. Unsound corn has often been fed because it is a few cents per bushel cheaper, and hogs have been forced to drink the filth of the mire in which they were wallowing. During the busy season they have been almost entirely neglected, and then when the fattening period came they were gorged. Most diseases are due to minute organisms, known as "disease germs," and these exist in myriads where decaying vegetable matter abounds, and in the surrounding atmosphere. These germs are readily communicated to the hog's system, where they soon develop into disease, and may be conveyed to the offspring as a constitutional taint, or by the medium of the milk. Cattle suffering in the same way can communicate these germs to the human family by means of the milk or the butter, and this has been a fruitful cause of typhoid fever—possibly as much so as drinking impure water directly.