

many prejudices, owing to their distinct type. They at one time promised to leap away ahead of any other breed, but for some years have been lagging behind their rivals, the Yorkshires. The reason for this I have not room to discuss at this time, but it is only fair to say that many farmers are again coming back to Tamworths, owing to their many admirable qualities. When we consider the rules laid down for a typical bacon hog, there is no getting around the fact that a typical Tamworth measures up closer to the standard than any other pure breed of hogs in existence. But we find lots of very inferior Tamworths through the country, as there are of all breeds, which have done much injury to the breed and to careful breeders. While I would not expect any breeder of pure-bred swine to give up his favorite breed, what I do very strongly recommend is cross-breeding of pure-breeds for the average farmer. Such a cross is giving splendid results where good judgment is used in mating. They seem to partake of the vigor of both breeds, and will outgrow the pure-breeds in most cases, and make a typical bacon hog—just what the market calls for. The Yorkshire-Berkshire cross is quite popular with many, but is apt to leave the heavy jaw and shoulder, which is undesirable. The most popular cross is either a Tamworth-Berkshire or a Tamworth-Yorkshire cross. The latter is the most preferable, the two breeds seeming to blend very nicely, and the result of that cross is a nice, lengthy, vigorous-growing pig, with a light head, smooth shoulder and nice bone; an animal that will be a good feeder, finish nicely, and mature into a desirable bacon pig of right type and weight at from six to eight months' old, with as little feed as it is possible to grow a good bacon hog.

Waterloo Co., Ont. A. C. HALLMAN.

Sheep Dog Trials.

The introduction of sheep-dog trials as a new feature of the Toronto Exhibition this year, to come off September 6th and 7th, will, for not a few farmers and others, add much to the interest of the occasion. In this connection, we quote from the Scottish Farmer, in part, the report of a recent trial at West Linton, Scotland. After graphically describing the partially successful performances of a number of the competing dogs, the work of the principal winners is described as follows:

George Gilholm—a name of some note—now stepped out with Jet. George is a true son of his father, and Jet, too, shows genuine traits of the Gilholm stock. The dog seemed older than the man, but before they had finished both proved their claim to respect, even to admiration. George and Jet were on perfect terms. They were "brothers" in a very real sense. The first "turn," crossing of the post, and the shedding, left little to be desired. At every point Jet's eye focussed her lot, and to this "lead" George worked with admirable ease. The "taking away" again proved a trifle baffling, but Jet, with one or two awkward turns, completed the course, and in a reasonable time. Although he had to give another exhibition, everybody felt that the youthful couple deserved the place given them, which was second. We had now to witness great things. Alexander Millar and Frisk, from Ballageich, Eaglesham, quietly took their places at the starting point. There was no hiding of the fact that both master and dog were not new to the ordeal. A slight inclination of the left hand, and Frisk was off. He swept past the front of the crowd in fine form, and in a few seconds had his charge under control. The moment he caught the ten eyes of the sheep he went down as if dropped by a bullet. This was art. Then he moved slowly on them, shedding the grass with his nose, and his tail was just where it should be. The question in the minds of all was: Could this be kept up? He carried his "post" points, and applied himself to the "shedding" with grand promise. Now we saw him at his best. To his master's every gesture he responded, nor did he lose for a moment the perfect command which by his first turn he had assumed. He covered little space, but there was meaning in every flash of his eye. The judges were right when they said: "If Jim's Gardner had been alive this would have put him on his mettle." We have seen this equalled, and perhaps slightly excelled in finish, particularly in the matter of daring at a critical "shed," but no great improvement could be suggested. It was a magnificent performance, and richly merited the loud round of applause which greeted its completion. Frisk, of course, was an easy first. He is a "beardie," undersized, with a square brow, and abnormally prominent in the crown. He looks dull and sleepy when not in action, but can be roused to marvellous energy by a single word from his master. His ancestry goes back to the old Pentland breed of beardies—a line laden with enviable honors.

Push it Along.

Your vastly improved magazine is worthy of a much larger circulation than it enjoys at present in this section of Eastern Ontario. Your change to a weekly is a step in the right direction. ALBERT S. HODGING. Osnabrock Centre, Ont.

The Judging at Winnipeg.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I would like to send you a few lines re the report of Shorthorn judging at the Dominion Exhibition held at Winnipeg. There is a statement or so made in connection with the aged bull class that I should like corrected, and it might be well to explain that Mr. Arthur Johnston, Mr. James Bray and Mr. Walter Lynch formerly owned Scottish Canadian, and the gentleman that reported the judging is interested at Neepawa, so it goes without saying that these gentlemen were very anxious for Scottish Canadian to win, but Mr. Lynch, who is a gentleman of good judgment, and myself agreed to place Spicy Marquis first, and Scottish Canadian second. This did not appear satisfactory to the above element, and reasons were asked for and given, but the reporter states were not given, and later on in his report states



A Family of Eight Stock Handlers.

(See Gossip.)

that the reasons given were the lamest ever heard. What I stated about the bulls was as follows: These are two really good bulls, and some good judges might place Scottish Canadian first, but to-day we decided to place Spicy Marquis first, because he is a deeper bull, a better front, a better underline, and far more Shorthorn character. In conclusion, I would say, if Spicy Marquis had got all that I think was due him, he would have won the championship of the show. I am one that believes in fair play, and fair play hurts no person.

Thanking you for your space,
J. M. GARDHOUSE.

Multiply
by
100

Enclosed please find \$1.50 to renew my subscription to THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE. If you could find the sum total of all the good things said about our FARMER'S ADVOCATE, then double it and multiply it by 100, you would begin to have some faint idea of what we think of it as a farmer's help and family journal. A. E. KENNEDY, Selwyn, Ont.



Faithful Friends.

Percy F. Clemons, Maple Hill Farm, St. George, Ont., and his trusty collies, "Perfection," the sire, on his left, and "Bruce," the son, on his right.

FARM.

"Robert Elliott's Poems."

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen," the poet once wrote, and, in a sense, this might have been said of Robert Elliott, nature student and lyrical poet. The son of a Canadian farmer at Plover Mills, in the County of Middlesex, Ont., ill-health prevented his embarking upon the contemplated profession of teaching. Being the youngest of four brothers, and not of robust constitution, he was not tied by the regular duties of farm life, and so had leisure to devote to his work as a naturalist and writer of lyrical poetry. Ornithology, entomology, botany and woodcraft were his delight. In various local organizations of church, school and municipality, he discharged duties of trust and responsibility. In seven successive Christmas numbers of the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," the place of honor was filled by contributions from his gifted pen. In other periodicals, many of his productions also appeared. From these, and those unpublished, a selection was recently made and a volume of his poems issued, under the auspices of the Baconian Club of London, of which he was an honorary member. The volume—a worthy addition to our poetic literature—was edited by Mr. John Dearness, M. A., of the London Normal School, who has done his work with literary skill and discrimination. Intimately acquainted with the deceased poet, he was peculiarly qualified to write the introductory appreciation, followed by others from the pens of Mr. Frank Lawson (associated with him in editing the volume), Cy Warman (the well-known author), Mr. W. E. Saunders, and others. The friends of Robert Elliott will appreciate the appearance of this book, in which are thus permanently preserved many of his best productions. A lifelike photogravure appears on a frontispiece, and the book is attractively published in cloth, by Lawson & Jones. A limited number have been issued, and copies may be secured from the secretary of the Baconian Club, Mr. John Gunn, 83 Dundas St., London, at the nominal price of fifty cents per volume, with six cents additional for postage.

Preparation for Fall Wheat.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I take the privilege of writing a few observations on the preparation of the soil for the future wheat crop, the result of forty years' experience without a single skip. I am thoroughly convinced that for fall wheat one plowing is better than two or three; then apply the roller; then the disk harrow; then the spring-tooth cultivator, with adjustable points, such as a number of leading firms turn out, and use that implement as much as possible between refreshing down-pours, such as we are so highly favored with this season. I am not in favor of cultivating too soon after the rain; let the ground dry up a little, then go for it for all you are worth. By using a three-horse cultivator, one man can do as much execution in a day as a man and a two-horse team can do in a week with an ordinary plow, and then have the ground fit to receive the seed at the proper time, saving a great amount of manual labor, which means money, and that is what we are all after. It stands farmers in hand nowadays to make every move count, and save every ounce of muscle, to do nothing by hand that can be done with horses and implements, for with the im-

proved implements that we now have they will, if properly applied, do the work ever so much better than it can be done in the old-fashioned ways, when we had nothing but the plow and the harrow to prepare the soil for the crops. The plow we will never be able to dispense with, but common harrows we will; the cultivators are fast taking its place.

Now, I advise farmers not to plow the land again that has been plowed once or twice this season for wheat, but give it as much surface cultivation as possible, as the wheat will stand the winter much better. Three inches of a seed-bed is much better than seven, and if necessary to use the roller, use it ahead of the drill every time for fall or spring seeding. In regard