

Hints on the Winter Care of Stock.

The motto guiding the winter care of stock should be: "Cleanliness, ventilation, dryness and light." The advocates of high-bred stock make "warmth" the guiding idea, but this depends upon the class of stock you wish to breed. Hardiness being a leading essential in our climate, it is better to keep the stables at a moderate temperature than to keep them warm. For the same reason, it is not desirable to make a practice of feeding warm food or giving warm water to breeding stock; what they gain in flesh or milk yield, they lose in health and hardiness. Be moderate.

Ventilation and temperature go hand in hand. If the stable is properly ventilated, the temperature can be easily regulated. The exhalations from the lungs and bodies of the animals create warmth, but these foul gases should be kept in a state of constant motion out through the ventilators, and the ingress of fresh air should be equally constant. Not only should the surroundings be kept dry by thorough drainage, suitable elevation, location, etc., but the interior of the stable should be kept free from dampness from the excrements. The foul gases from the excrements should be kept down by sufficient dry straw or other absorbents. If this is not attended to, the stable cannot be properly ventilated without being kept too cold.

Domestic animals, especially growing stock, do not thrive without a copious supply of light. Fattening stock put on plenty of weight in darkness, but this is not thrift; it is cruelty, and their flesh is not fit for human consumption. Cleanliness may be observed (1) by keeping the stalls clean, and (2) by cleaning the animals themselves. Animals breathe, as it were, through the pores of the skin, as well as by means of their lungs. Dirt stops up these pores, and throws greater burdens upon the lungs, promoting disease and acting prejudicially to the products as food for human consumption. There should be free and constant communication between the air and the pores, which is prevented by dirt on the skin, and for this reason also the air in the stable should be pure. Rubbing and grooming promotes this kind of healthfulness, and the cows' udders should be washed occasionally and rubbed with a woolen cloth till thoroughly dry.

In old fashioned farming, it is the practice to winter the whole herd, sell as much food as possible, and keep the stock on starvation allowances. By this system the herd weighs several tons less in the spring than in the fall, and is proportionably less valuable, so that it must take a large portion of the following summer for them to recover their lost condition. This is a losing game, no matter how low the price of beef or dairy products may be. Another practice is to sell off the surplus stock in the fall, and feed the balance liberally. Other farmers keep all the stock they have room for, and if they have not food enough, they purchase the deficient quantity. The latter method is business farming, barring exceptional seasons in which stock-keeping doesn't pay. There is no disgrace in buying food for stock, so long as there is money in the enterprise. Even when the farmer has abundance of food, it is very frequently desirable to exchange one class for another in order to secure properly balanced rations. If it is found necessary to feed large quantities of straw, bran or oilcake should be purchased to compensate for superior bulk and inferior nutritive properties. The business farmer will buy or sell stock or food according to the condition of the markets.

Caution should be exercised when taking the stock from the pastures and putting them on dry feed. Don't make sudden changes from green to dry feed, and don't give wiry, indigestible food just yet. The condition of the bowels is one of the safest barometers of health. If you followed the advice previously given in the *ADVOCATE*, you will now give early-cut hay, this being more nutritious and digestible, to the milking cows and the growing stock, and such other animals as you wish to thrive well. If you have late-cut hay, it should be treated like straw—cut and mixed with nutritious and highly concentrated grains. Horses having small stomachs cannot utilize much bulky food, but if they are idle, it may be profitably fed in considerable quantities in connection with rich foods. Bear in mind that clover is richer and more concentrated than timothy, and so, if cut early and cured well, has high feeding qualities.

Punctuality in feeding, cleaning, milking, etc., is probably nearly as great a virtue as any of those we have mentioned, but farmers, as a rule, do not sin so glaringly against this virtue. Gentle treatment is another of the cardinal virtues—one which is very frequently sinned against. Animals are more contented, and consequently thrive better, when they are attended to at regular intervals. It costs a lot of food to support worry and disappointed expectations.

The stock may be annoyed by other methods than by the reckless attendant. Dogs, hogs, hens, bad boys, etc., bolting through the yards and stables, are frequently a source of annoyance to stock, and stock to them. Stock cannot be easily made gentle under these circumstances, and gentleness is an important condition of thrift. A gentle and punctual attendant will save many a pound of feed, and give the owner a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction in his live stock business. Do not fail to give the stock plenty of exercise, except on very cold and stormy days. This is conducive to their health and thrift, and to your profit.

Manitoba Affairs.

[By Our Winnipeg Correspondent.]

The eleventh Provincial Exhibition has come and gone, beginning Sept 28th and ending Oct. 1st. Although Manitoba has had an exhibition for the past ten or eleven years, with the exception of 1884, under the patronage of the Government, until last year it could not be said to have been established on a sound permanent footing. All these exhibitions have been held in Winnipeg, with the exception of one held in Portage-la-Prairie in 1883, which, turning out unsuccessfully, put an end to the idea of making the exhibition a perambulating one. Accordingly, last year grounds were procured in the town of St. Boniface and buildings erected thereon, the town donating a bonus of \$10,000. Winnipeg lost the exhibition by being too niggardly in regard to terms. However, the grounds are very suitable, well laid out, and well shaded. Long cattle sheds run along one side of them, while horse stables are built on the opposite side. The main building is in the centre of the grounds and is built in the form of a circle. There are separate buildings for grain, poultry, dogs and flowers. It is two miles to the grounds from the bridge which connects Winnipeg with St. Boniface.

The entries this year were about fifty per cent in excess of last year, but the attendance was scarcely as large owing to bad weather. In

point of gate receipts the show was not a success. There were about two-thirds more horses than last year, although in some classes there was a poor show. The exhibit of stallions was very creditable both in numbers and quality, the Percheron class being better represented than any other. In this class D. McQuaig's famous Black Duke, weighing 2,200, was again on the grounds. This horse carried off the 1st prize and sweepstake last year, but at this exhibition the judges gave him second place, and a dark grey of Mr. Mollard, of Stonewall, first. There was a good deal of dissatisfaction in regard to this decision, and justly, I think, for beyond doubt Black Duke is one of the finest animals of his class that has ever been imported to Canada. It would appear from this fair that the Percheron class is the favorite with Manitobans. The carriage class was not very well represented. On the whole the exhibit of stallions was the best thing in the line of horse flesh on the ground. In a few years these stallions ought to produce a lot of fine horses in this country. Horse breeding is as yet carried on on a very small scale here.

In cattle, Durhams make 64 entries; Herefords, 26; Ayrshire, 17; Grades, 70; Galloways and Polled Angus, no entries. In Durhams the Binscarth Herd makes the largest and best display on the ground. This herd comes from near Virden and is owned by a joint stock company. The herd of Sharman & Sharman, Souris, comes next. We miss this year the fine herd of Greig Bros., Otterbourne. I had the pleasure of seeing this herd last summer. They have an excellent stock, but they do not think it pays to feed cattle for exhibition. The Binscarth bull, Prince Arthur, carries off the highest award. He is said to be the bull of the North-west. He is bred by John Hunter, Alma, Ont. A year-old bull of the same herd, bred by John Dryden, is also an excellent animal, and takes first in his class. Sharman & Sharman take first for two-year-old bull Springwood Prince, bred by W. G. Pettit, Burlington, and also first for aged cow. Mr. J. E. Smith, of the Beresford Stock Farm, a short distance south of Brandon, has an excellent exhibit, including a yearling, Sunrise. He was bred by J. & W. B. Watt, Salem, Ont., and has already taken seventeen first prizes, eight gold medals and two diplomas. He also captured the Eglington shield, valued at \$250, at the Toronto exhibition. He is alluded to as the "Bull King of Canada." For herd, bull and four females, the Binscarth takes first, Sharman & Sharman second. In Herefords, Sir Donald A. Smith and A. M. H. Walrond (who is the son of another knight, Sir John Walrond) draw swords with each other. The two knights carry off all the prizes, Sir Donald taking first for herd. In Ayrshires, J. W. Kastner takes all the prizes but one taken by J. D. Baskerville, Dominion City, which was for an aged cow. Mr. Alex. MacArthur shows a herd of Holsteins, four cows and two calves, one of the cows imported from Holland and the others from Southern Minnesota a short time ago. One of the greatest attractions of the exhibition is a herd of sixteen Highland cattle shown by Sir Donald A. Smith, imported from Scotland, amongst which may be noted the bull Alistair Raich, bred by E. S. Finlay, of Castle Forward, Scotland. These cattle are remarkable for their long shaggy hair, and Sir Donald's idea of importing them to this country was to