

PIGS.

The best sales of the Large White breed during the past year were those held by the late P. L. Mills and Mr. Henson. At the first-named sale 158 head were sold for an average of £9 3s., and at the latter 77 head realized an average of £8 9s. The best price of the year for boars was 25 gs.; for sows, 31 gs., and for gilts, 37 gs.; all realized at the late Mr. P. L. Mills' sale.

THE BERKSHIRE demand has been a very good one. Mr. Hiscock's average was £11 11s.; that of the Hon. P. D. Portman was £10 19s. 3d. for 50 head, and at the late Mr. P. L. Mills' sale 75 head realized an average of £9 0s. 6d.; the best price for boars was 50 gs., realized by the Hon. P. D. Portman. Sows made up to 40 gs., and gilts 10 gs.

The sales held in connection with the Middle Whites, Tamworth and Large Black breed were fully up to the average, and some very good prices were made.

To avoid dishonesty in registration of pigs, it is suggested in Great Britain to have the local veterinarians do the ear-tagging, on the basis of which ages would be reckoned.

THE FARM.

Wooden Basement Wall Described.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your editorial of Nov. 29th brings before us a question which cannot be too fully discussed. The old barns, as they were originally built, with their inconvenient and badly-arranged stables, should certainly be remodelled in some way, and the question naturally arises, How am I to do this with the smallest cost and have them convenient and sanitary when I am done? Well, to my mind, the basement stable, with all its advantages of convenience, such as always having the feed and bedding handy above the stock, besides getting so much accommodation under one roof; also, the stables all being together, which would greatly reduce the cost of putting in water basins or litter carriers, either at the time or at any future date—with all these advantages—will not be abandoned for some time, at least. Of course, the next question which would appeal to the farmer is, What material shall I use to build the basement? As your editorial justly pointed out that stone or concrete make too damp a stable, I think basement brick, with the air-space, partially overcomes the difficulty of dampness. But my idea of a basement stable where horses and cattle are stabled together would be to build a cement-concrete wall about two feet in height, eighteen inches in width under the ground and a foot above ground, then put a plank sill on this, and have posts six feet in length mortised in this sill so they would come exactly under the outside posts of the barn, properly mortised and pinned at the top, and well braced three ways. They could be braced at the bottom also. Then put 2 in. by 4 in. studding vertically, two feet apart between these posts. This studding should be put suitable distances apart where doors and windows are to be put. Then board it around on this studding horizontally with inch lumber. Next put on building paper, and then board it up with good ship-lap lumber, being careful to have the door and window casings fit properly. And, by giving it a coat of paint, it would make fully as good an appearance as any basement of masonry. If a person wished to renew the outside boards of the barn with dressed lumber, to be painted, the old lumber from the barn would do for the blind-boarding or (inside boards) on the basement.

This plan of building a basement would greatly reduce the amount of teaming. Such a basement would not require much time in building, and would not require much expensive material; and as long as it was kept painted, would last indefinitely. Of course, I would recommend concrete floors, and also a good system of ventilation. This has been greatly overlooked in a good many of the basement stables.

In the plan which I have outlined, it is supposed that there was an old barn to be remodelled. I hope to see this question fully discussed in the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate" this winter. Let us hear from those who have had the experience of basements in years past. Thanking you for this space in your valuable paper, which you said was ours for this discussion, I remain,

Welland Co., Ont.

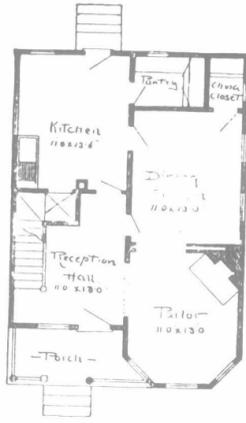
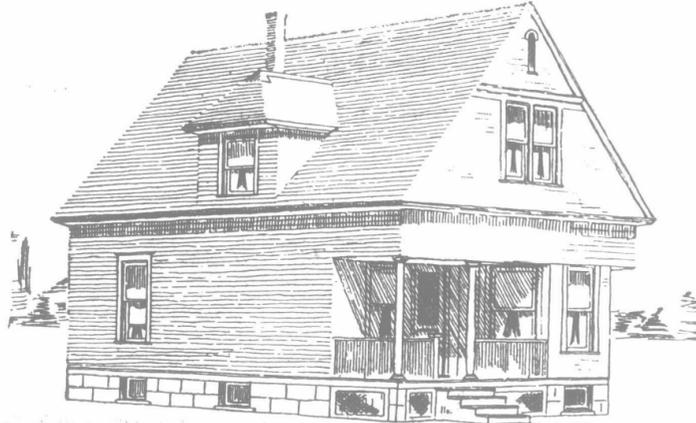
[Note.—Our correspondent omits describing the "good system of ventilation" which he would advise.—Editor.]

The demand of the twentieth century is for economy. Economy is not parsimony. Economy consists in making the best possible use of every opportunity; of every bit of land and every head of stock, that it may yield maximum returns for minimum labor and expense. In the enlightened economy of modern farming alfalfa has an important part to play.

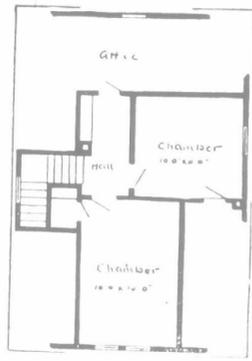
Design for Small Cottage.

By Geo. S. Kingsley, Architect.

A convenient and inexpensive plan for a small cottage is shown in the illustrations accompanying this article. The design is also neat and inexpensive. First floor has reception hall, parlor, dining-room and kitchen, in addition to pantry and a closet. There are two bedrooms and closet on second floor, and also a small attic for storage purposes. Basement extends under whole house, and has exterior and interior stairways. This house can be easily heated by stoves or by a furnace, as is desired. The porch in front is a feature that will not add much to the cost, owing to the fact that it is under the main roof of house. If a bath-room is desired now or at any future time, it can be easily arranged on second floor in portion of space



—First Floor Plan—



—Second Floor—

devoted to attic. The rooms are all of good size and shape, and windows are arranged so as to get the best possible light. Prices and local conditions vary to a considerable extent in different portions of the country, so any estimate of cost will not be exactly correct in some localities. For instance, if a house should be built in a location where the ground was of a sand foundation, the cost of the masonry would be less than if in a clay district. The expense of excavation would be less, owing to the fact that a scraper could be used, while in the other case picks and shovels would be necessary, which would require more time and labor, and the sand, if of proper quality, can be used for mortar and plastering, whereas if built in a clay district the sand would have to be bought and hauled. My estimate of the cost of this building is \$1,000.

Favors Wooden Basement for Barns.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to the article in "The Farmer's Advocate" of Nov. 29th, under the caption, "Is the Basement Barn a Success?" I may say that, having lived in a stone house over thirty-five years, and had twenty years' experience of stone-basement stables at home, and having visited many of the best barns in Canada, and having collaborated the main point raised, that nearly all of them have a cold, damp, chilly air that is neither healthful nor agreeable. It is more pronounced in mild weather following a protracted cold spell, when many walls will get coated with hoarfrost. The air gets very disagreeable. I do not know that I have ever been in a basement barn where the ventilation could be called a success. Light, dry air, warmth and ventilation are the most important stable requirements. I am sure that we cannot obtain all of these in a basement. In our house, even with a good system of ventilation

walls, the paper will get damp unless there is a constant, steady fire. As to your suggestion of building a low annex to the barn to be used as a stock stable, this would cause too much roof to be exposed. Under the annex there would be scarcely any room for feed. The most expensive part of a barn to put up and maintain is the roof, and if we can have stock and feed under the same roof there will be less labor in handling the feed and less expense in reroofing. In most annexes or sheds the roofs are not steep enough, continually requiring repairs. The life of an average shed roof is not over fifteen years. I think that an annex stable roof would be too expensive, giving only cattle and no feed accommodation. But I am quite in favor of the two-story barn you suggest. Let me briefly describe the kind of a barn that I think would be suitable to our conditions. From 36 to 45 feet is wide enough. Many of our barns are altogether too wide; not convenient to mow hay and sheaf grain in, causing too much labor to get the sheaves to the threshing machine. A wide cattle basement is very difficult to light properly. Build a stone foundation from fifteen to eighteen inches high, upon which I would set a stout frame nine or ten feet in height. This I would rough-board outside, and inside cover with combination felt-and-tar paper, double ply. Finish outside with matched siding, inside with half-inch. This would be all dry-wall material, with an air-space. Walls would never be damp. There would be dry, warm air at all times, no matter how changeable the weather outside might be. The windows should be long, not deep, and placed as high in the walls as possible. This would let in more light, and be out of the way of the cattle both outside and inside. There should be plenty of windows—let in the light! The sash should be made in two sections, so as to slide past one another. This is more convenient and lasting than having them swing on hinges. A cement floor of coarse gravel, not too smooth, would save the urine, and animals would not slip. Would have all stock in loose pens except the milking or dehorn when rising two years old. Would plan doors so as to drive team into pens and stables, load up the manure, draw when loaded to the field. Pen-made manure is best, as urine, bedding and excrement are thoroughly mixed. Young, growing or fattening stock will thrive and do much better in pens or loose boxes. It will materially lessen labor in the feeding of the stock and handling of the manure. I would have a small, clean, airy, well-ventilated room, about 8 x 8 in basement for separator and dairy utensils. I would have car-track on ceiling of basement, connecting with feed room, which should be convenient to roots, storage and silo. A large feed box could be filled and hoisted with crank attachment, pushed along above the feed mangers, one end lowered a little so as to get the feed out easily. This is the best arrangement for feeding stock kept in loose boxes.

For the upper story I would have the outside walls at least twenty-four feet high, covered with a circular roof. This is much better than the old-fashioned peaked roof, or even the more modern high roof. It requires less long, heavy timber in frame, gives more inside space, makes a strong roof, and is much more attractive in outside appearance. Would have the granary in the middle of barn, so that the grain spout of threshing machine would be close to granary door. By having the barn long, rather than wide, there would be more mows and threshing floors, giving better opportunities to put in chutes to slide dry feed into mangers and bedding litter into boxes below. A good-sized door in each gable end, opening to the inside, to avoid slamming in the wind. This helps to keep the barn clear of dust when the threshing machine is at work.

Welland Co., Ont.

DUNCAN ANDERSON.

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