

GREEN FRUIT.

At this season of the year, care should be taken to keep the children, from eating green fruit. It is so hard, the more so in this country where fruit is not easily found, and after the long winters passed, sometimes without or with very few vegetables. So the first green fruits that comes to hand proves so tempting, that a child takes it freely, never heeding the after payment. The first little green apples are very alluring to the unwary. It may not be known to everyone, that if they are stewed whole in a little water, with just a little sugar, they may be eaten with impunity. They are only good in this way as long as the pips are soft. I might say should the after punishment come, as it usually does, in the shape of worms, there is a sure cure in Santonin powders. Send to the chemist for 3 and give one every night for 3 days, and in ordinary cases this will do. Signs of these pest with a child are scratching of the nose, pains, and irritability, in fact the poor little thing can't help feeling cross all the time till the trouble is over. If the first powders do not quite cure the complaint, give 3 more, after a week or so, and you will hear nothing more of this trouble, perhaps for months. There are children who are constantly suffering from these little pests, but take up the case on the first symptoms, and you may make a permanent cure.

THE SITTING ROOM.

(Continued.)

We left off last month at making a cushion for each chair. The picture frames, if the walls are papered, will be all the brighter for a coat of white paint. If the walls are white, they should be painted a dark shade. They look very well stained or painted brown. A very cheap pair of curtains can be made from cheese cloth with a coloured frill down the middle on each edge of the curtain. If you cannot get a rod with rings to hang them on, you will find a deep hem, say five inches with a second running, one inch from the hemming, into which you run a strong string or tape will do. Drive in a good strong nail on each side of the window to which you tie it. An old sofa with a bright covering, a cushion for the same. A few bright strips of home-made carpet, and any other little ornament you may happen to have with a flower pot or hanging basket of flowers in the window and you will have a pretty room.

The Flock.

SHEEP NOTES FROM OHIO.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—Every day that I am with our sheep I learn something, or confirm or deny some previously formed idea of the nature of the sheep. I find them a very interesting study. There is very much to be learned by experience after all the book knowledge has been mastered.

I make a few mistakes and failures. One of my best ewes this winter gave birth to a beautiful Dorset lamb. It grew and thrived amazingly, and I resolved to keep it, as it was a ram, for use in our flock. It easily outstripped its comrades in growth. One night, through the accidental displacement of a partition, three ewes got

into the part of the barn containing the fattening lambs, and gorged themselves with corn and bran, which I have always at hand for fattening lambs. In the morning they were promptly put back in their old quarters, and noticeable ill-results ensued to the ewes, but one ewe's lamb died in two days, and my fine lamb began to scour, and run down, lingered for two weeks, then died. I had had similar experiences before, but had not seen the reason. I will now lay down the general rule that when anything affects evilly the digestive process of the ewe, the lamb will suffer in greater degree than its dam.

We have made the experiment of wintering ewes entirely on hay. We gave all the good early-cut clover we could get in to them, allowing also the run of the blue-grass pasture when not raining or snowy. We were careful not to turn the ewes out too early in the morning, but kept them in until they had eaten some hay. We find they needed some compulsion to make them eat enough hay when the field was full of grass.

Last year many of our ewes got too fat, although fed only bran and hay. Lambs were sometimes small and weak, or overgrown and dead. This year our success in lambing is complete—very satisfactory indeed. I do not say that at the relatively high price of hay and low price of corn, we took the cheapest way, but we did the easiest, and the way in which no mistaken kindness could cause mischief. Let me say here that your best "sheep man," to my notion, is "A Farmer's Daughter." I remember what she said about ewes needing exercise. She is right. Let me add that they need bulky food, and plenty of it, and do not need grain. (1)

I bought a carload of lambs in Chicago last fall, some of which, unfortunately, proved to be with lamb. I meant to market them in March, when their condition would not have mattered, but the deplorably bad market caused me to hold them until now. They have dropped quite a number of lambs, dead without exception; this is the experience with feeders everywhere, so far as I have learned; yet a fine young Shropshire dropped a strong lamb in the pasture a couple of weeks ago, and has given milk enough to cause it to thrive remarkably. It was a chance lamb. I do not approve of the practice of breeding so young. (2)

I believe I am ready to lay down this general rule: Fattening lambs should be confined closely—never disturbed by inopportune visits or visitors; given all the good hay they can eat, and more; should have corn (3) and bran at all times accessible, and pure water in unlimited quantities. I took a bunch of lambs this evening down from the second floor of the shed. They rarely saw their feeder, as everything was given to them without going into their quarters. They suffered somewhat from impure air and heat; yet they were the fattest lambs I ever saw—they had nothing to do but to get fat.

This morning a shipper took a load of our lambs, and as we drove them to the cars we looked over the different sorts. There were full blood Shropshires, South-Downs, open wools from Chicago stock-yards and half-blood Dorsets from Montana French-Merino ewes. The finest lambs there, I think, were a Shropshire South-Down cross, next came the Shropshires, but the most profitable lambs

(1) But they do need nitrogenous food: pease-straw, clover hay, &c.—Ed.

(2) We hope not!—Ed.

(3) Pease and linseed cake.—Ed.

by all odds were the Dorset Merinoes. They were admired by every one who saw them.

My Montana ewes are dropping me their second crop of lambs. I must say they are a fine strong sheep, very certain in results if not overfed. There has been much money lost in lamb-feeding this year as in other branches of feeding; yet every one says he will try it again next year. Let me predict that he who pays above 3c. per lb. for his feeders next fall will rue the day as he did this spring.

Champaign County, April 26.

J. E. WING.

MONEY IN FEEDING SHEEP.

We are feeding 1700 lamb this winter. Nearly all of them were bought in the month of November; the last carload reached here Dec 14. They were bought in Buffalo, N. Y., by a commission man whom we have employed to buy stock for us in that market for the past 10 or 12 years.

The lambs most profitable for us to feed are thrifty medium weights. Those we bought this year averaged 66 lbs. in Buffalo. The best feeders, to our mind, are the grade Shropshire or Hampshire. Not being able to get all we want of these breeds, we buy medium woolled lambs of other crosses, being careful not to get the wrinkled Merino. These latter do not make first class mutton, neither are they profitable feeders.

We feed our lambs from three to five months before turning them off to the butchers. How to keep them in a healthy, thriving condition upon a heavy grain ration for that length of time has been a study with us for a good many years. Of course for so many lambs we are never able to provide rowen (1) enough to even give them all a taste for any length of time. This year we did not cut a load, owing to the drouth. Our recourse has been to the silo, and you might as well place our success in feeding right there, for there is where it belongs. We have been feeding silage now for three or four years, and we think we have only just learned how to feed it to the best advantage.

Our method is to feed the grain ration mixed with the ensilage in certain proportions. If we have plenty of ensilage, we mix 3 lbs. of ensilage with 2 lbs. of grain, never more, and give them all they will eat of the mixture twice a day. At noon they are fed hay, as much as they will eat up clean if the hay is good. One of the best grain rations we have ever fed is the one we are using now—equal parts of pea meal, bran and corn. Our 1700 lambs are taking of that about 2700 lbs. daily, mixed with about the same weight of ensilage, for our crop of corn was short last year and we have to use economy in order that our supply shall hold out. We expect to get them up to 3000 lbs. of grain a day in the course of two or three weeks.

As soon as we bring our lambs into their winter quarters the men are set to work shearing off their wool, for our experience has taught us that they thrive better without a fleece to burden them and harbor the ticks which are sure to multiply and worry them later on. All our animals except the poultry are kept under one roof, and everything is so arranged that in the coldest of weather the shorn lambs do not suffer from the cold.

The lambs are divided up into flocks of from 100 to 500, and are

(1) Second crop of hay.

kept in pens in which there is a tank of spring water always running. They have access to rock salt at all times. Some feeders claim that sheep to thrive should not be allowed to run in large flocks. We can see no difference in the thrift of our different flocks. In fact, we think a goodly number together do the best, for they hustle about more after their feed.

In regard to the proper gain a lamb should make during the winter, we should say that for a large number 2 lbs. a week is a satisfactory increase. Of course individual lambs may do much better. We had one thoroughbred Dorset ram last winter that made a gain of a pound a day for a period of between one and two months.—Of course such a record is rare. (1)

Now to come to the profits. Of course the profits vary with the seasons. We expect this year will be quite a prosperous one with us, for we bought low and hope to get a fair price when we sell. Our lambs cost us 4c per lb. in Buffalo. To that is to be added cost of buying and transportation, about 1c per lb. All our lambs are sold to wholesale butchers in New Haven. They have established a trade for our lambs in this part of Connecticut, and they get better prices than Western stock brings for the reason that it is better, and come as near being as good as spring lamb as anything in the mutton line that is put on the market. Last year we were paid 6½c per lb. live weight, and we hope to get the same price this year. You can figure for yourself the profits are fair, but not immense. We get about 4 lbs. of wool to the lamb so you can figure that in. It however, comes off from the lamb and will have to be figured out at the same time.

The best part of the whole business is that the work all comes in winter. Unlike the dairy business, when spring and summer come the lambs are gone to market and our whole attention is turned to growing and harvesting our crops. The immense amount of manure judiciously applied has a tendency to increase the fertility of our farms year by year so that where ten years ago one blade of grass grew, now there are two.—[Charles E. Lyman, Middlesex Co., Ct.]

F. and Home.

IN-LAMB EWES.

Mr. J. S. Woodward, in the Rural New Yorker, gives some valuable advice in regard to handling ewes at this season of the year. (1) They should

(1) i. e. winter. be kept in a dry, warm and roomy building. Ewes which will lamb in February or March should have, every day, some sort of green food once a day; a flock of fifty should receive on bushel of cut turnips, increased to two bushels in a short time, as they become used to them. Clover hay or well-saved pea straw are both excellent for forage; nothing could be better. Oats make splendid grain food if they are not too high, but bran as it is usually sold, answers better for pregnant ewes.

If it is intended to place the lambs on the early market the ewes should have all the clover hay and pea straw they will eat, with the daily feed of turnips, enough bran to keep them gaining a little up to the time of lambing; a few cracked peas may then be added to the bran, also a little oil cake meal to increase the milk flow. The amount of turnips may be considerably increased after lambing. As

(1) Very rare!—Ed.