

Stock Judging Competitions.

Speaking of stock-judging competitions, and the offering of a substantial special championship prize at the International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, the donor has this to say about such contests generally: "It has been proved that even those not naturally gifted with a sense of animal excellence can, by diligent study, acquire an understanding of form and quality, while those who possess an innate sense of comparison of animal outlines will be rapidly equipped by such instruction as the colleges (agricultural) are now giving in judging for close discrimination in the selection of the best types of the different breeds. Certainly all thoughtful breeders of pedigreed live stock are vitally interested in raising up an army of young men who are not only able to purchase stock for their own farms intelligently, but who will be trained of eye and hand to go about the important work of awarding prizes at live-stock exhibitions. The dearth of men trained to do this duty is striking. Mere age does not qualify. Long life on the farm does not fit for this duty. The handling of farm stock is only an aid to an education in this line. A fundamental understanding of the excellencies after which breeders earnestly seek is necessary, and an up-to-date acquaintance with the types that command popular favor is demanded. These may be acquired by education, by study, by practice." We commend these words to those who doubt the usefulness of an agricultural college, of a stock-judging institute or a stock-judging contest. The great hindrance to live-stock improvement is not poor buildings, lack of money on the farmer's part, high transportation rates, difficulty of getting first-class stock; but apathy! The farmer needs, in the matter of live stock, a general stimulation of enthusiasm, which can best come through the avenue mentioned above.

Quarantine Reform.

The following cable despatch from Berlin, Germany, to the American papers, recalls attention to suggested shortening of the present vexatious 90-day Canadian cattle quarantine, the outrageous condition of which at various times in the past has been more than exposed in the "Farmer's Advocate." It has done a vast deal of harm to the animals in passing through it, owing to its filthy condition, and served as a constant hindrance to the importation of greatly-needed pure-bred stock. The despatch is as follows:

"Dr. Koch, the eminent specialist who recently upset all consumption theories, is about to fight for a new reform. Under the leadership of Frank W. Foxworthy, an American army surgeon, Dr. Koch will try to bring about a complete change in the quarantine systems of the world. Other physicians who will lend their patronage to the scheme are Drs. Virchow, Pasteur, Treves, Woodhead and other leaders of the medical world in Europe and America. Mr. Foxworthy will sail for the United States in October, after a consultation on the subject of the congress with the eminent men already named. The congress will attempt to formulate a uniform code of quarantine laws which shall be recognizable as the standard the world over. Dr. Foxworthy will seek to secure the approval of the project by the United States Government, and to induce it to invite the participation of foreign nations. He thus speaks: The quarantine systems of the world are chaotic and contradictory. Their inconsistencies are so glaring that Dr. Koch asserts that they might as well be abolished altogether. The rigor shown in one place is discounted by the laxity shown in another, and not infrequently the one exists where the other belongs. Commerce and the convenience of travelers, as well as the demands of the public health, call aloud for quarantine reform. The ruthless destruction of valuable cattle and the time-killing indignities suffered by tourists in many of the chief ports of the world are too dear a price to pay for the continuance of unreasonable and unsystematic quarantine regulations."

Care for the Milking Cows.

Now that frosty nights have come, there will be economy in stabling the milking cows at night to avoid the shrinkage of milk that surely comes with exposure to the chilly night air at this season. Now that the flies have received their quietus, show stock and calves that have been kept in the stable during the hot summer days may be turned out by day for exercise and to get some green grass to mix with the dry rations received in the stable at night. This will tend to cool their blood and keep their legs right.

HORSES.

Weaning Colts.

The time has now arrived when the majority of foals, having arrived at the age of four or five months, will be weaned. The usual custom is to separate the dam and foal completely and permanently at once. This I consider is irrational, and injurious to both. We know that sudden changes of diet and usage are not advisable in animals of any age; much less, then, are they in young animals. It is better to make such changes gradually. When it is decided to wean a foal, it should be placed in a nice box stall, or if the weather be fine, in a small paddock. Whichever place be selected, it should be seen to that the walls, doors or fences and gates are such that the little animal can not injure himself in his endeavors to get out, as he certainly will endeavor to in order to reach the dam. It is good practice, when practicable, to remove the dam to some safe place, out of sight and hearing of the foal. Allow the dam and foal to get together (leading the dam to the foal, in preference to taking the foal to the dam) for a few minutes three times daily for say a week; then twice daily for a week; then once daily for the third week. After that, especially if the dam be secreting considerable milk, once every second day for a time. This practice removes the probable in-

jury into the barnyard or paddock every fine day. I have known farmers to turn their colts out and leave them out all day and every day during the winter, without shelter, whether the weather was mild or otherwise, claiming that such usage made them tough and hardy and made better horses of them. Such usage certainly does make them tough, as far as looks are concerned, but just as certainly destroys the spirit and constitution of the poor creatures.

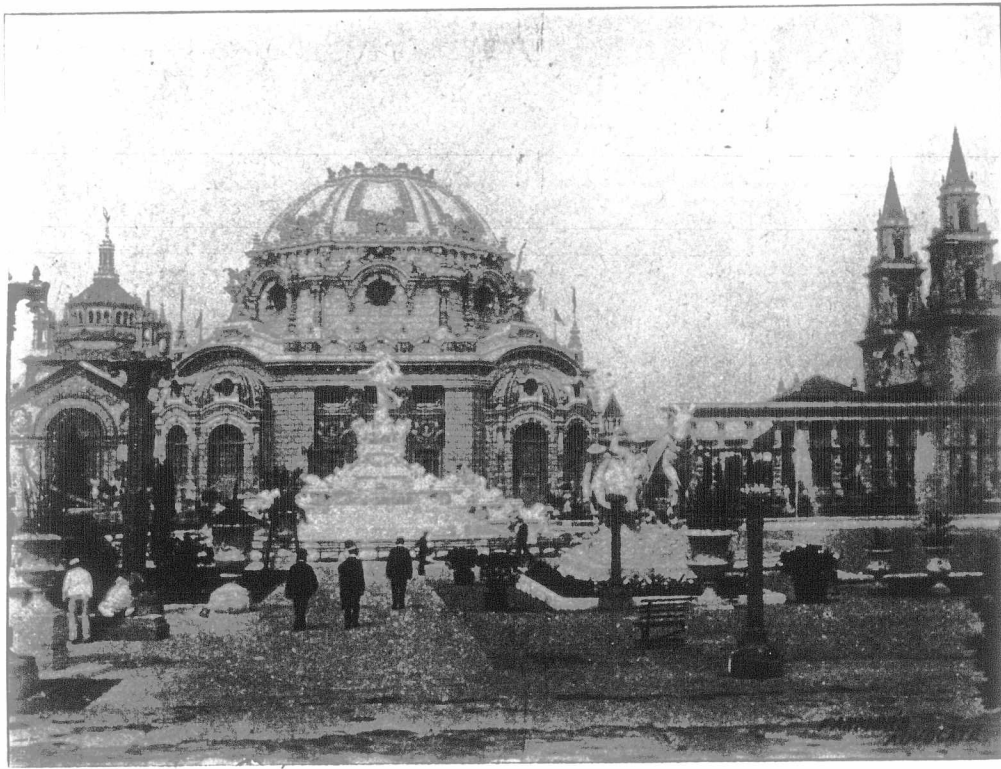
I consider well-saved clover hay the best for these young things, and it should be given in just such quantities as will be eaten without waste. As to grain, I think chopped oats preferable to whole; at least, give chop night and morning, and for a variety, whole grain at noon. It is good practice to place the morning meal in a vessel the night before, and pour sufficient boiling water upon it to cover it; then place a cover on the vessel, to retain the steam and heat. In the morning this will be a soft mash, of which the colt becomes very fond, and it is easily assimilated. The evening meal can be prepared in a like manner, in the morning, and, as before stated, whole oats, with say a carrot, or two if small, to be given at midday. As to the quantity of chop to be fed, this will, of course, depend upon the breed and size of the colt, but I consider there is little or no danger of overfeeding if regular exercise be allowed. But, of course, with foals, as with all animals, more food should not be given at a meal than will be eaten. It is not good practice to keep food constantly before any animal. In such cases he never becomes really hungry, and hence never thoroughly enjoys his meal. Variety of food, such as a little linseed meal occasionally, and a

feed of bran say twice weekly, instead of the chop, is enjoyed, and it is good practice to give them; but I do not consider it wise to feed young animals corn, wheat, peas or barley. In fact, oats should be the only grain given regularly. It is good practice to handle the colt, teach him to lead, to stand tied; put a little bridle on him to get him accustomed to the bit, etc. All this takes little time, and its benefit will readily be noticed when the time comes that the colt is required to drive or work. Look well to the little fellow's feet; the feet grow very rapidly, and are apt to grow out of shape, especially if the stall be not regularly cleaned out, as is often the case. Still, it should not be. With a blacksmith's foot knife and rasp, pare and rasp the feet down to the natural shape at least once every month. Keep the heels well rasped down and do not allow the toes to grow too long. The cause of weak and defective feet in many horses can be traced to neglect or carelessness on the part of the attendant during colthood. I have said nothing about water. It is better if the animals can have access to good clear water at will; but if this be not expedient, they should be watered at least three times daily.

"WHIP."

Treatment of Brood Mares.

Too much kindness is responsible for almost as much trouble among brood mares as is actual neglect. As all horse owners of experience are aware, there is a much lower percentage of losses among mares which are kept at work right up to the date of foaling than there is among mares which are specially kept for breeding purposes and never put to work from one end of the season to the other. There is work and work, of course, and, as everyone knows, there are certain classes of work to which it would be injudicious to put a mare that is heavy in foal; but experience shows that even when in that condition mares are capable of withstanding quite a deal of knocking about. An excellent illustration of what they can endure in that condition is given by a writer in one of our contemporaries. Some years ago this gentleman bought a mare which he thought to be a maiden, and hunted her severely right through the season, only to find that in the spring time she produced a vigorous and healthy foal. Acting upon the lesson taught by this experience, the same gentleman subsequently hunted several in-foal mares, and though some of them had violent falls in the hunting field, he had never known the least injury to result therefrom, and he never had a loss at foaling time. While this may be safe treatment, and indeed it has proved so, the severe exercise should not be brought on suddenly when the mare is forward in foal after a period of comparative idle-



TEMPLE OF MUSIC, PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.
The building in which President McKinley was assassinated.