

Sheep husbandry.

Scours and Grub in the Head.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Country Gentleman* sends a communication to that paper on the above subjects, from which we make the following extracts.—

"I used to have a medicine chest, and consulted a celebrated sheep doctor, but my success was usually so poor, that I soon dispensed with everything but good keeping. The scouring of lambs is in some measure owing to the character of the season. The best remedy that I have found is to commence feeding them with oats or bran as soon as they are weaned. Continue it until winter. I have found by long practice, the clover field to be the best place to wean lambs. I have sustained considerable loss from grubs in the head, and have tried various remedies for this disease. I have injected with a syringe strong tobacco juice up the nostrils but am not certain that I ever effected any cure by it. For the last ten years I have lost none by the grub until this fall and winter, and up to this time I think we have lost somewhere between thirty and forty. This grub in the head seems peculiar to young sheep. I think by good keeping early in the fall I have measurably kept clear of them for the last ten years. Last fall I was absent and my young sheep were somewhat neglected. When the grub is fairly located in the head, I doubt if there is any remedy. In the fore part of the winter I noticed some of my lambs failing. I picked out seven or eight, put them in a place by themselves, fed them with oats morning and evening, and yet they dropped off one after another until all went by the board; some of them continued six weeks, and then died. If a person in the sheep business is determined on success, he must keep them in first-rate order from the time they are weaned until the spring they are two years old. So says my experience, which is of fifty one year," standing.

THE Greenfield (Mass.) Gazette estimates the loss of sheep in that country the past winter at from 4000 to 5,000.

FOUR LAMBS AT A BIRTH.—We are informed that a Cotswold ewe belonging to H. M. Chaffin, of Worcester dropped four lambs on the 15th inst. whose aggregate weight was 34 lbs. All are said to be doing well.—*Cultivator*.

EXTRAORDINARY FECUNDITY OF A SHEEP.—A half-bred Leicester ewe, belonging to Mr. Edw. Blankarn, of Thornyslack, has this year yeanned three lambs all of which are doing well, and, what is most remarkable, this same ewe has now yeanned three lambs for five years in succession, and the progeny in every case has been successfully reared. *Westmoreland Gazette*.

WOOL SAMPLES.—Messrs. J. E. & S. C. Benedict, of North Broadalbin, have left with us samples of two fleeces sheared this spring, one of them weighing 17 lbs. from a yearling lamb which weighed itself 59 lbs. after shearing, and the other weighing 16 lbs. from a two year old, from Sprague's flock, the weight of which was 76 lbs. They had been tagged twice during the winter, while suffering from scours which is to be taken into the account.—*Country Gentleman*.

GOON WOOL.—The first requisite for good wool is fineness, which is governed by and produced under the laws of stock-raising, as the breed or variety, climate, the summer and winter food of the sheep and their management.

The second requisite is softness. This depends on the character of the yolk or oily secretion which fills the tube of the hair or fibre. This yolk crystallizes in the fibre after shearing, and renders it brittle and harsh, or soft and silky according as its character is formed by those matters which govern its growth.

The last requisite is the length of the wool or of the fibres composing it, and this is governed by climatic changes and the condition of the animal.

SHEEP SHEARING IN ONT.—A public sheep shearing took place on the 25th ult., at Hartford, Licking Co., on the show grounds of the Hartford Central Association. Eighty-eight sheep yielded 1,069 pounds of wool, or an average of about 12 pounds and 2 ounce of wool per head; of this number 20 were bucks, the remainder ewes, some suckling lambs and some yearlings. The sheep were unwashed, but free from dirt and other foul matter except the natural oil of the wool; and owing to the cold and wet weather this spring, the oil had not started as much as is usual for the time of year. The *Ohio Farmer* and *Prairie Farmer* both contain reports, from which we glean the above statements.—*Country Gentleman*.

Correspondence.

Notes and Queries.

"J. C.," of Orillia, writes on several topics, which, for convenience of reply, we number.

1. I wish to give my experience as to the qualities of buckwheat. The winter before last I fed one acre, and last winter two acres of buckwheat straw to a small flock of sheep, and lost neither ewes nor lambs, except by accident. So much for the straw; and as for the grain, John Johnson, of N. Y., feeds it to his sheep with satisfactory results.

2. Do you know anything of the following disease in pigs? Late last fall a young Berkshire sow became unable to open her mouth. She had to suck in her food instead of eating it, and was unable to squeal after the custom of pigs. She continued in this state through most of the winter, and did not thrive well, but has now quite recovered.

3. The following cases are well authenticated, and I think worthy of publication. A ewe of Mr. C. Harvie produced a dead lamb. She pined and continued dull for two weeks, when she dropped two more lambs, which she is rearing. A ewe of Mr. J. Leigh's was sick for some days in spring, and afterwards recovered. Having, as her owner supposed, failed to breed, Mr. L. killed her fat in the fall, and was surprised to discover the remains of a lamb considerably wasted away, but still quite distinct. Mr. Thomas Dunn has a lamb which weighed 15 pounds on the second day. I had this spring a jet black South Down, pure breed.

4. The American papers are advertising cuttings of *Salix alba* for hedges. Is the large English willow so common about Toronto and along Yonge street, *Salix alba*, or what?

5. Some American writers assert that sulphur and salt is a remedy for ticks in sheep. I have given half a pound of sulphur to a flock of eighteen in a week, and find the vermin as numerous and as lively as before.

ANS. 2.—We have no knowledge of the disease described, but perhaps some of our readers may be able to furnish information about it.

4. The willow so common in the neighbourhood of Toronto is not *Salix alba*. We are not positive as to its botanical name, but think it is either *S. vitellina* or *S. fragilis*.

REPLY TO queries about Drain Tiles in our next.

LONGEVITY OF A CAT.—A correspondent, in the County of Kent, says he has a cat which is now 26 years old and seems "likely to live a number of years yet."

HEDGE PLANTS: SWERT BRIAR.—"Briar," of County of Carlton, says:—"I have not seen anything in Canada equal to the Briar for Hedges, as far as hardiness and thickness of growth are concerned. The only objection I can see to it, is keeping it within due bounds."

SEED CLEANSER.—"J. B." is informed that we are unable more particularly to describe the mill for cleaning and separating seed grains. No doubt it works, as our correspondent supposes, by means of fans and sieves, but we have no minute description of it in our possession.

TRIAL OF REAPING AND MOWING MACHINES.—The Secretary of the West Durham Agricultural Society requests us to announce that a trial of reapers and mowers will take place, under the auspices of that Society during the approaching hay and harvest time. Due notice of time and place will be given.

STUMPING MACHINE.—"J. W.," of Beachburg, Co. Renfrew, wishes to know where he can get "the best and the cheapest stumping machine," and adds:—"I am told you know where to get a useful one, not very high in price." We are sorry to say we do not possess the information our correspondent wishes to obtain. Perhaps some of our readers can furnish it.

IMPROVED STOCK FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.—Mr. John Snell, of Edmonton, sends us the following item of information:—"I am pleased to be able to inform you that the farmers in the Province of New Brunswick are making a move in the introduction of improved stock. I have this day sold to Charles Burpee, Esq., agent for the Agricultural Society of the County of Sanbury, N. B., a choice lot of sheep, consisting of six Leicester ewes, three Leicester rams, and three Cotswold ewes."

ADVERTISING LAND FOR SALE.—In reply to the communication of a "Stock Farmer," which appeared in a recent number of THE CANADA FARMER, a correspondent writes:—"I have three thousand acres for sale in ———— due township, land of the very best quality, near ———— R. R., well timbered, &c., &c., at \$12 per acre, one-fifth down, &c. For further particulars, address ————, &c.," all of which, with the blanks filled up, and as much more as the writer wishes, we shall be happy to insert in our advertising columns at the usual charge.

VENTILATION FOR A ROOT HOUSE.—"W. D.," of Stratford, writes:—"I saw in your last issue that 'W. W.' intends to build a root-house to hold turnips, and desires suggestions. I think if he would take some small logs and bore a hole through them, or make some small troughs long enough to project out through each side or end of the root-house, laying them horizontally about three feet above the floor, any quantity could be kept good through the winter. If the current of air should be too much at any time, it is easy to stop one end of the troughs or pipe."

SMALL FRUITS.—In reply to "Adam Graham," of Whitchurch, we may state, that the cranberries have been selected from among those found growing wild, and by cultivation have been, in some degree improved. The nurserymen can, no doubt, furnish the plants, and also the New Rochelle, or Lawton blackberry, and the Antwerp raspberry plants. They are about equally hardy, and will both be the better for being protected in winter. You can plant strawberries in rows two feet apart, and six inches apart in the row. Keep free from weeds, and in winter cover lightly with leaves.

PRUNING APPLE TREES.—"C." asks: "Will any of the readers of the CANADA FARMER tell us the best time of the year to prune apple trees?"

ANS.—This depends entirely upon the object for which you prune. If to check the growth, prune in midsummer; if merely to thin out the top, prune in April.

MANURE FOR CABBAGES, &c.—"Thomas Farrow," of Blue Vale, asks:—"Will you, Mr. Editor, or some of your kind correspondents, tell the different kinds of manures suitable for the proper growth of cabbages, carrots, in short, for the garden production in general?"

ANS.—We know of nothing better than plenty of well rolled barn-yard manure. If any one can tell of a better, we shall be glad to hear from him.

RANDALL'S WEATHER INDICATOR.—A subscriber at Hamilton wishes to know if this instrument is "what it is represented to be, what is its price, and whether it can be sent by mail?"

ANS.—It is highly recommended by many very competent judges who have tested it thoroughly. Professors Croft, Hincks and Hind all testify that it indicates changes in the weather with accuracy. Prof. Buckland, after several months' trial, pronounces it "of great practical use." Its price is \$2.50 with thermometer, and \$2 without. The proprietor, P. R. Randall, Masonic Hall, Toronto, will send it by mail, free of charge, on receipt of the above prices.

"WARNING TO SMOKERS."—Under the above heading, "A Subscriber" at Lochiel sends the following statement of a recent accident resulting from the use of the pipe:—

"John W. McMillan, one of the most thriving and industrious farmers of our township, lost two first-rate barns, shed and stables, with \$200 worth of farming implements, through one spark from a pipe. This is another warning to people not to allow servants or others to smoke their pipes about barns or stables."

APPLE ORCHARDS IN THE CO. OF CARLETON.—"Briar" writes: I am afraid we have the same difficulties to contend with in apple growing in this County, on the bank of the Ottawa, that your Ormstown correspondent complains of in the County of Chateaugay, for I do not know an orchard in this neighbourhood that is in a satisfactory state, but I know of several that a few years since were in fine bearing that have dwindled to nothing. Under such circumstances, would there be any probability of success in attempting the open air culture of the hardiest kinds of grapes?

ANS.—You can make the experiment with a few vines, and send the result for publication in THE CANADA FARMER. Then we shall know.