

For the Farmer's Advocate.

Fatal Malady.

BY I. F. INCH.

There is a strangemalady stalking about in its ghostly form through our peaceful Dominion. It is a malady that few escape, yet little notice is taken of it. Little children, as soon as they begin to talk, are often unconsciously smitten. Boys and girls who attend school, and particularly those who do not attend any place of instruction, are very subject to this dire disease. Youths and maidens, men and women, old and young, rich and poor are all, more or less, inclined to be led by this treacherous enemy.

It is a curious fact that the only persons who are entirely free from the foul breath of the pestilence are the deaf and dumb. Even the blind are not free. Another item to be remarked is, that the tongue is the only means through which we are made acquainted with the alarming fact, that our friends or acquaintances are victims of the enemy. It is not the color or shape of the tongue, but its movements that reveals to us the terrible truth. This contagion passes so lightly over some that with great skill and perseverance it may be eradicated out of the system.

But I am wearing out the reader's patience. Perhaps some little bright-eyes may think this too long a piece and throw away the paper before they find out what the disease is. Well, think now. How is it that some people can never be trusted? What is the reason that we sometimes doubt the word of our nearest relations? Ah, it is the fatal malady, that is, telling "fibs," or "untruths" or lies, whichever name you choose to call it. "White lies," I heard some little girls say the other day, "can't do any harm." I have also heard some little boys argue with their parents that "lies in fun were no lies at all." When a little boy is sent on an errand and stays to play on the road, then tells his mother that he lost his way through the meadow—is that telling the truth? When a little girl is left to finish a piece of sewing, and auntie or sister does it for her, would it be right to allow her good, kind mamma to believe she finished the task alone? No, no, little friends, let us all be truthful, no matter what the consequences will be. Suppose we should escape a punishment by telling a lie, let us much rather suffer the slight punishment and have a clear conscience, than to escape and be tormented by a guilty conscience.

Oh let us be truthful wherever we dwell.

In mansion, in palace or cot;
"Whatever we preach let us practice as well,"
To be trusted will then be our lot.

Be sure we deceive not the innocent child,
Who catches each word from our lips;
Perchance we may rue it with agony wild
While the dregs of life's poison he sips.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Appearance of Seeds.

MR. W. WELD.—Can you inform the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE what are the distinctive features of the appearance of White Globe, Yellow Aberdeen and Swede Turnip seeds, as seen under the microscope? and oblige.

Yours respectfully,
A. B. UYER.

Belmore, 19th June, 1871.

We have no microscope in the office, and we are too fully employed to devote time to the matter, even if we had one. If the Government would pay us for our land that they deprived us of, and pay us fully for other just claims, we should be in a position to purchase a microscope; and had we assistance to release us from some of our work, we would be able to examine and write upon the above question. Perhaps some of our readers can furnish the information required.

Hints to Cattle Breeders.

Prof. Miles, of Michigan Agricultural College, delivered an interesting lecture on Breeds of Cattle, before the Farmers' Institute, at the Illinois Industrial University. We take the following practical suggestions from an abstract of the lecture published in the Report of the Trustees of the University:

It is important to acknowledge in the start, that our breeds are not the result of accident; and this leads me to enumerate some of the qualifications which a good breeder must possess to attain the highest success in the art.

1. Definite ideas as to the kind of animals he wishes to produce. With many there is a lack of analytical power in determining good points. A man judges as a whole instead of in detail.

2. Persistence and perseverance in adhering to the plan marked out. A change of standard will result in failure.

3. A correct and educated eye, capable of detecting slight variations in form and quality. One must keep the balance adjusted in breeding and be able to correct slight variations.—Anatomy and physiology should be understood, though not technically.

4. The breeder should be free from prejudice and bias. The ownership of an animal should not blind him to its defects.

5. He should have good judgment and be apt in tracing causes and effects. Many have failed in this respect.

6. He should be cautious, and not prone to jump at conclusions from insufficient data.

7. He should be an artist, capable of forming an ideal model of perfection, and then of approximating to the conception already formed by moulding the plastic organization of the animal, so as to give it expression. Bakewell, Collins, Booth, Bates, Webb, Quarterly, were men of this class. Breeding, in fact, is a fine art, and one of the most interesting and fascinating of pursuits.

Our native cattle are of diverse origin and have serious defects, the result of their mixed origin, and a hap-hazard mode of breeding. One of the most marked types is the Texas cattle, originated from the Spanish cattle, and still somewhat resembling the cattle found around the Mediterranean. Our native varieties, also, have little in common, and vary a great deal among themselves. Hence it is desirable to improve our breeds.

In agriculture, generally, we find an advantage in the division of labor, and so in breeding. It is desirable to breed for milk and for beef. It is hardly possible to combine the two with the best success. The native animals have no special qualities, or definite character.

The advantage of the improved breeds is, first, that they have a definite character from a long course of breeding. The quickest way to get this fixeness is to get established breeds. The attempts to make breeds in this country have generally failed. Col. Jacques, although a cattle man, failed in the attempt. There is too great a variety of elements to work with, and it is a saving of time to begin with the established breeds. In the second place, we can select according to our needs and the locality. Different places need different breeds. At one of our Michigan fairs, farmers were inquiring: "which is the best breed of sheep?" I replied: "you might as well ask which is the best turnip or potato. I don't know your farm or mode of farming. Each breed is adapted to a particular purpose, and you must choose accordingly."

Mistakes will occur from the diverse modes of treating the same breed. Mistakes are made in condemning small breeds, as the Devon, Galloway, etc. These are adapted to peculiar places and purposes. The Short-Horn is admirably adapted to certain ranges.

In selecting animals, look first to purity of blood. The pedigree is the recorded evidence of breeding, but does not necessarily show purity of blood. The value of a pedigree depends on its completeness, and the character of the ancestors. Two animals of unblemished purity of blood would differ in value, if their ancestors were not of equal merit. "Like produces like," not precisely, but like the various ancestors as a whole. Ancestors of unequal merit result in unequal offspring.

Herd books are not always reliable. There are the dangers of accident and imperfect recollection. The breeder should also be familiar with the history of the breed he adopts, and with the origin and peculiarities of certain families. Certain strains will not sell among breeders.

These general observations apply to all the breeds.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

SWINDLING.

DEAR SIR,—Our country seems to be greatly infested at the present time by men going through it swindling the inhabitants in various ways, generally representing themselves to be agents of various kinds for the sale of trees and different farming implements. It seems to me to be quite astonishing that people will allow themselves to be swindled year after year by these vagabonds without getting their eyes opened more to their swindling operations. Instead of dealing with responsible agents in their own neighborhood, they will patronize some oily-mouthed stranger that they know nothing about, and in nine cases out of every ten they either get swindled out of their money entirely, or get some inferior article palmed on to them for twice what it is worth. A few weeks ago I attended Division Court at Fort Erie, when there was an action brought by an American fruit tree agent against a resident of Fort Erie, to recover pay on a certain order for fruit trees, alleged to have been given by defendant. The defendant swore that he met the agent one morning while going to his work on the railroad, when he was asked by the agent if he wanted any trees; he said he would like about a dozen, and would like to take more, but he had no place to plant them, as he had only one-fifth of an acre of ground and twelve trees would be quite sufficient.—The agent told him that he had to bring trees to Fort Erie, so he might just as well bring his along with the rest. A few weeks after he received notice that his trees had arrived, and were on the dock at Fort Erie. He accordingly went for his trees, and, to his astonishment, there were some ninety trees for him (poor ones at that) at extravagant prices. He refused to accept of them, when the agent entered an action against him for the price of the trees, produced the order with defendant's name attached, swore that it was correct, and his victim was put in for the whole amount sued for and cost of court. The following prices are what the agent sued for: apple trees, fifty cents each; pear and cherry trees, one dollar each, and grape vines from one to five dollars each, prices which would at once show him to be a swindler. Now if this gentleman had ordered twelve trees from his nearest nurseryman, which is only a few miles from Fort Erie, he would have received just the number and no more, and would have paid twenty cents each for apple trees, forty cents each for pear and cherry trees, and from twenty-five to fifty cents for grape vines, considerably less than half that he paid the Yankee. This is only one case out of almost numberless cases of a similar character.

J. A. R.

Sherkstone, July 5th, 1871.

Washing Butter.

At a meeting of the New York Farmers' Club, Homer Hexco thus described his plan of washing butter, which he claims to be new:—I use a plain crank churn; goes by hand; average time, twenty minutes for large, twelve for small churnings. I do not claim to make more or better butter from the same cream than with a dasher, but I claim that I can do the work in one-half the time and with half the labor. Much of this saving is caused by the convenience of washing, getting rid of the buttermilk water, and in working the butter. As soon as I discover that the butter begins to separate, I put in a quart of cold water; this is to thin the milk, which is to cause it to free itself more readily from the butter. I then churn until the particles are about the size of a large pea. I then draw off the milk and put in a gallon of water, churn and draw again, and sometimes put in one more washing. The common way is to churn until the butter is about one solid mass. But how is the water to take effect on the inside of these lumps of butter? I should about as soon think of washing the inside of a glass bottle by washing the outside. I think that in order to make the most and best butter

in hot weather, it is particularly necessary to cool the milk immediately after milking. Milk in tin pails; have a tub similar to a wash tub, for each pail; set the pails in the tubs filled with cold water from a good spring well; stir the milk and water every few minutes until the milk is as cool as the water. If you can get the milk quite cool before setting, and set in shallow pans, it is better not to let pans stand in water while cream is rising, as the cream will be all up before the milk becomes very thick. Skim as little milk as possible with the cream, as that is the great secret about quick churning.

Salt for Oats.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Institute of Eastern Pennsylvania recently, P. Morris exhibited to the Institute a sample of oats grown by H. Ingersoll, of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture. This was of extraordinary size and early maturity, produced by the application of six bushels of salt to the acre. The stalks were much larger than usually seen, the leaves broader, and in every way superior to other samples exhibited. Mr. Ingersoll stated that the advanced condition of his oats, as well as the unusual size of the stalks, was owing to the fact that he had sowed broadcast upon the field six bushels of salt to the acre after sowing the oats. A large quantity of salt could be used, but never greater than forty bushels. Salt, to be efficacious on oats, wheat or corn, should be put on a sandy soil, and not on stiff clay lands. Mr. Ingersoll had been using salt for a number of years, and found that not only the grain crops were benefitted but the after crops, particularly clover.

CUCUMBER AND SQUASH BUGS.—As these pests are upon us again, I give the best method I have yet found for opposing them. For the striped bugs, I know of no simpler or easier preventative than the one I made known last year (for the cut worm also) viz: Sprinkling the plants with saw-dust saturated with carbolic soap-suds. I use about a pound of the soap called "Carbolic Plant Protector," dissolved in 8 or 10 gallons of warm water and pour this over 4 or 5 bushels of saw-dust stirring it and leaving it to soak and swell, then keeping it in a covered box to prevent its drying. A little of this saw-dust scattered over and around the plants once a day during the worst onset of the bugs, and every other day afterward, I find quite effective and less labor than any other method. For the black squash bug, I find the "Ransom Curculio Trap" the best mode of catching them, viz: Place 2 or 3 bits of a shingle or thin board near each hill of plants—having the ground a little rough so that the bugs can crawl under these, which they will commonly do every cool night—then go early in the morning and turn these shingles or boards over, and kill the bugs with the sole of the boot.—Ohio Farmer.

WEEDS IN GARDEN WALKS.—I want to tell your readers how I keep the walk in my flower garden clean. It is a very simple plan, and the wonder to me is that I never thought of trying it long ago, for they are something that have given me much more trouble than the beds themselves, and I have never before been able to keep them clean without a great amount of help from Pat. One day last summer I happened to have a large quantity of boiling water to throw in the drain, as we never throw anything in the yard; so after a few minutes, consideration I said it should be emptied on the walks in the flower garden, as it would do no harm there, and sure enough it did not. The next day, when down in the garden for flowers, the walks attracted my attention they looked so uncommonly clean, not a green thing daring to stick up its head. Since then I have bathed them faithfully with scalding water once in two or three weeks, and the weeds are not only killed, but the ground is always hard and smooth as it does not have to be dug over.—Cor. in Country Gentleman.