

EDITORIAL.

Mr. R. H. Harding's Chester Whites and Dorset Horns.

The illustration that adorns this issue represents three Chester White pigs and three Dorset Horn sheep, the property of Mr. R. H. Harding, Thornedale, Ont. They are a very superior lot. The pigs were bred by the owner, and reflect credit on Mr. Harding's judgment as a breeder and feeder. The two-year-old sow, Maplevue Queen, No. 185, which stands to the right, was sired by Broadbrim, Nos. 128 and 4855; dam, Annie Lawrie, Nos. 152 and "7462." Maplevue Queen has been a winner whenever shown, winning sweepstakes at the last Provincial Fat Stock Show, held at Guelph, for brood sow and two of her offspring. When in show condition she weighs over 700 pounds, and is remarkably well-developed, smooth and active. The barrow that stands to the left is a model in every respect. His sire is Silverchief, No. 66; dam, Maplevue Queen. The yearling sow, Perfection, that stands to the left in the illustration, has the record of never yet being beaten in the show ring. She won first in a ring of six models at the Toronto Industrial in 1892; first and diploma at the Western Fair, London, 1892; first at the Provincial Fat Stock Show, held at Guelph, December, 1892, and also won the red ribbon for the best sow any age or breed at the same show. She is, we think, all her name indicates. Her weight, when 14½ months old, was 525 pounds. She is now heavy in farrow. Her sire, Silverchief, No. 66, although never fitted for show, won first and diploma at the Western Fair at London, 1892. He was bred by S. H. Todd & Son, Ohio, and has proved himself capable of producing first-class bacon hogs. Mr. Harding has wintered over 30 pigs, all kept for stock purposes, and they are one and all of first-class quality. Some of them, no doubt, will be heard from as winners in the near future. He has now a number of young pigs, and eight sows yet to farrow, which will give intending purchasers a chance to buy young stock from a herd that has won such prominence, although only established four years.

Three imported boars are used in the herd, two of which were imported from Messrs. Todd & Son, the other from Mr. Martin, Alexandria, Ohio. Each of these animals is individually good, and their pedigrees are as good as the best.

The Dorset ewe to the right is Cottage Graceful (imp.) 108; she is from the noted flock of Charles Hawkins, Dorchester, England. The ram to the left is John Bull 270, imported in dam by Messrs. Tazewell & Hector from the flock of Culverwell Bros., Bridgewater, Dorchester, Eng.; he is a large yearling, exceedingly well covered with wool. It is said his sire cost 40 guineas. The ewe lamb in the background, Harding's No. 16, weighed when 53 days old 55½ lbs. She was sired by The Colonel 193; dam Lady Jane, No. 28. This lamb is now nearly five months old, and is growing very nicely, nor is she an exception, judging from the appearance of the rest of the lambs. Some of Mr. Harding's ewes that lambed in the fall are now heavy in lamb, and some that lambed during the winter have again been served, which goes to prove that these sheep will continue their peculiar fecundity in the Canadian climate. The owner of this stock feels confident there is a bright future in store for Dorset Horns in America. The foundation of this flock was imported from the noted English flocks of Chick, Hawkins, Roper and Culverwell Bros. The animals at present in the fold number about forty, and are of uniform quality, large, thrifty, and well woolled; in fact, the breeding stock, both sheep and swine, are first-class in every respect, and the owner a straightforward and honorable man, who deals in all cases with conscientious uprightness. His farm is located 2½ miles from Thorndale Station, Stratford branch G. T. R., in Middlesex county, 10 miles from London, Ont.

This is the time to spray the fruit trees to destroy the bud moth. This little insect lays its eggs on the leaves of the trees about June. The larvae feed upon the under side of the leaf, and because of the protection afforded by the leaf and also by a small silken covering, little can be done to lessen their numbers at that stage. About October they spin small cocoons upon the twigs where they pass the winter, and come out in the early spring and attack the buds. They prefer flower buds, and for this reason one insect can do a vast amount of damage. The remedy is to spray early in the spring, before the flowers open, with Paris green in the same proportions as for the codling moth—one pound to two hundred gallons of water.

The cow knows her place in the stable and takes it. She also knows when it is her turn to be milked, and if disappointed gives less milk and of inferior quality.

We take the following from Hoard's Dairyman:—"The mischief of it is that Democratic and Republican farmers will blindly follow their party leaders even to the destruction of their own business." But we in this enlightened Dominion of Canada never do such things. Oh! no.

An evidence of the success which has attended the efforts of the Travelling Dairy, conducted in Ontario for the past two years, is the fact that Conservatives and Reformers are both trying to claim the honor of having been the first to have proposed this method of increasing the interest in dairy husbandry.

The season of the year has come around when dairy cows should have extra care, if they are to do their best for their owners during the coming months. Unless cows are brought out in good condition and prepared beforehand for a good summer's work, they cannot give the same returns as if they had started in proper condition.

A farmer in France claims to have discovered a remedy for rust on wheat, which is simple and at the same time effective. In the experiments reported, wheat which had been sown in the fall was sprayed in the spring with a mixture of 4½ lbs. of sulphate of copper and 6½ lbs. of sulphate of soda, dissolved in water. This treatment gave an increase of fourteen bushels over wheat not so treated. It would be interesting to know what results spraying with the Bordeaux mixture would give.

Orchards pay well for all manure applied to them. The paler green of the leaves on bearing trees, as compared with those not so heavily laden, shows the tax on the tree's vitality which fruit production causes. Fall and the early spring are the times to manure orchards. In addition to stable manure, bearing trees should have some potash applied. Do not sell or waste ashes, but save them and spread around the apple trees. Remember, that average wood ashes contain from five and a-half to seven per cent. of potash.

A. D. Harkness, Irena, Ont., in an exchange, says:—"Anyone who can run a fanning-mill can run a separator, and it is pure shiftlessness to spill milk so that it will get in the machinery. I have never found more than 0.15 per cent. of fat in the skim-milk, and that was when I was letting the milk in too fast. I think that if a person is getting more than fifty pounds of milk per day during the months of October and November, that a separator will make enough more butter to pay the interest on the cost of it."

Thirty-one of the students who have attended the first session of the dairy school which has been established in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, remained the full time, and passed the final examinations. This is a good showing, when we consider that out of the number attending a large proportion are old butter-makers who could not spare the time from their business to finish the course, and so had to leave before they had a chance to write on their examination. We are pleased to notice that two young ladies were well up among the first half dozen.

In the planting of trees, vines and cuttings, especially in dry weather, care should be taken to press the earth firmly about them. To a great extent poor results and losses of plants arise from neglect of this important point. The planting of a tree seems a very simple matter, yet the inexperienced will often make great blunders. The hole should always be made much larger than the roots require; the earth should be carefully sifted back among the roots, and when filled it should be pressed down firmly, so as to leave no spaces around the fibrous roots. This will help protect the plant from drought by preventing too free access of air, and by being firm no obstruction is offered to the upward movement of the subsoil water. Great care must be taken to keep the roots moist, and not allow the little hair-like fibres to dry and wither, for if this happens it is sure death to an evergreen, and any tree will be stunted and not make a good growth, no matter how much care is taken in the planting. How often do we see farmers going home from town with a dozen trees strapped on behind the buggy with the roots exposed to the burning rays of the sun. No one could expect trees after such treatment to live. So don't blame the nurseryman for your own neglect.

Even if Prof. Koch's lymph has not been as successful as was hoped it would be in the case of consumption, still it has been shown by experiments conducted at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station that it will indirectly, to a large extent, prevent the spread of this dread disease. It has long been an acknowledged fact that the use of the flesh or milk for food of animals suffering from tuberculosis was a very fruitful cause of consumption in man. In the experiment quoted it was shown that the lymph is a sure test in detecting the disease in its incipient stages long before its presence could be found out by experts in the ordinary physical examination. The use of this test will doubtless be of great value in stamping out the disease in its early stages.

Can the per cent. of fat in milk be increased by good feeding? Nearly all the most carefully conducted experiments have shown that the proportion of fat cannot be increased by feed. Prof. Cook, of Vermont, disputes these statements, and now the Colorado Station sides with him. Doubtless much will depend whether the cow is up to her normal standard of fat production, and also how she has been fed and cared for previous to the test. But the average farmer can well afford to let the experimental stations settle this interesting problem, for he knows all that is absolutely necessary for him to improve his herds, which is that some cows will give twice as much butterfat as others on the same feed, and also that plenty of good feed always gives a paying increase in the amount of butter produced. Therefore, weed out your poor cows and feed the remainder well, if you would succeed in dairying.

The spraying of fruit trees with Paris green has now become so general that no one ever thinks of danger when eating fruit, still we often hear statements made that injurious effects have followed the use of grapes which have been sprayed with the Bordeaux mixture. To show that there are no grounds for these stories we give the following experiment:—"The Board of Health of New York city condemned several carloads of grapes as dangerous to the public health, and ordered them to be destroyed because they were slightly disfigured with the Bordeaux mixture. This caused a 'scare' and a serious fall in prices, so that the market was bad for the rest of the season. To determine the exact amount of copper adhering to such grapes, the Massachusetts station, at Amherst, analyzed ten pounds of grapes which were badly disfigured from spraying with this solution. Only two one-thousandths of one per cent. of oxide of copper was found in the ten pounds. A person would have to eat from one-half ton to one ton of such grapes at one time, skins, stems and all, before he would have taken into his system sufficient poison to do any injury."

Sheep-shearing time will soon be here again. Do you wash your sheep? It is a disputed point whether it pays to do so, but much will depend upon circumstances. A farmer was met last fall who was very wroth at the FARMER'S ADVOCATE because it had advised shearing sheep without washing, and the gentleman in question had lost by following this advice: but, when inquiries were made, it was found that he had been docked for too much by the local dealer. Always find out how much is taken off in your market. The usual practice is to deduct one-third, in other places one-half is taken, which would make a very material difference to the farmer. Each man will have to decide this matter for himself. If his wool is very clean, doubtless it would pay him better to wash rather than give such a large proportion of it to the dealer; also, if the facilities for washing are very convenient it may pay to wash. Among the many disadvantages of washing are the following: Much time is lost in driving the sheep to a suitable place, and in the building of pens. When washed it is necessary to delay shearing late enough in the season for the weather to be mild, so that the water will be sufficiently warmed, but often before this time comes the sheep will have lost far more wool on fences and gates than can be gained by washing, so that in such a case washing is labor in vain. There is also great danger that valuable sheep may be chilled, and sometimes loss will follow. This last-mentioned reason applies with additional force to the farmer and his help, for many fatal diseases have been caused by being chilled by being in the water such a length of time as is necessary. If washed the sheep should be turned into a clean pasture for a week or ten days to allow of the return of the natural yolk. This process can be hastened by feeding a few peas or a little corn.