

PRACTICAL FARMING.

PERSISTENT MILKERS.

We sometimes see cattle owners or buyers pass through a herd of cows and remark that such and such cows are persistent milkers, while certain others are not. A keen observer may be able to tell with some degree of certainty which cows have this tendency and which have not, but my experience tells me more depends on the care and feeding than on any signs or markings. For nearly thirty years our main dependence has been on raising our own stock, and yet occasionally I have bought in a few, and comparing these, in general outline and markings, with cows of our own raising, leads me to believe the above statement to be substantially correct says a correspondent. I have a cow in my stables now that I consider a proof of my theory that more depends on care and feed than anything else. I bought her three years ago, being given my choice in a herd of some thirty cows. Out of the herd I bought four cows at \$25 apiece. The cow of which mention is here made, had a fairly good dairy form, not perfect, however, and I judged her to be a persistent milker. Evidently the cows had not suffered from overfeeding, being on a rented farm, and all were dry longer than a cow should be for profit. The next fall they received better care and feeding, and two of them responded in much longer milk flow. This one cow the past season has entirely outdone her former records, and when but two months from time to be fresh again was giving about fifteen pounds of milk. I consider this cow has given fully one-third more milk, during the ten months in which she was milked, than any previous year, and it is all given to care and feeding. Perhaps I should explain what I mean by care and feeding. When I went to the farm where these cows were kept everything indicated a scrimping of feed, and, like too many herds, they were permitted to roam during the fall months, even up to December; consequently at the first of December, when I bought them they were thin, with rough coats. Under our treatment they were stabled as soon as cold, frosty nights came on, and were not allowed outside the barnyard after November 1, and fed grain continually until dry. This particular cow is now dry and is given about two and one-half pounds daily of wheat chips, and is in fine order. It is folly to talk about persistent milkers and allow cows to suffer during the fall months from hunger and cold. Another important matter follows generous treatment. The unborn calf will partake of this second nature, so to speak, of the mother. In other words, if the cow is well fed and cared for, so her term of usefulness is materially lengthened, her offspring will inherit these good qualities and themselves make cows when matured.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN AND HOME ORCHARD.

Does it pay for a farmer to take the time to make a vegetable garden and a home orchard, and care for the same in a proper manner? asks A. W. Livingston.

It certainly does, in various ways if properly managed, and as I have had considerable experience in this line, I will make a few suggestions on the subject.

I am seventy-six years old. The first thirty-six years of this time was spent on the farm. The next twenty at mixed farming and gardening on an extended scale. The last twenty in the city and country, and close observation at home and abroad leaves no doubt whatever in my mind as to it being a paying investment, and I unhesitatingly say it does.

First, I would select a piece of land double the size required. One-half I would sow in clover, to enrich the soil, the other half I would put in garden and fruit, so as to change the garden every three years and follow with clover. Then your garden would soon be free from weeds and become very productive with but little labor and expense. The greater portion of it, both fruit and garden, could then be worked with the horse and cultivator, after the first time with hand cultivator. I would use the best implements manufactured. They are the cheapest; it costs nothing to board them; only a cross-cut file to keep them sharp.

I would put the garden in the middle of the field, or lot, about fifteen rods from the barn, with potatoes next to the barn, and sweet corn at the other end, and the garden in the middle, and then there would be no turning on the garden nor chickens to bother, and nearly all could be worked with the horse except the small stuff would be worked by hand.

I would put the apples, peaches, pears, cherries and plums on the west side for protection. Next to them, the small fruit, blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants and strawberries, then vines, tomatoes, beans and peas, and in fact everything that could be worked with horses, then the small stuff in beds, and last the clover.

The garden proper would not need to contain more than one acre, and if you will work it in time the same as you do your corn, your reward will be, it will save you at least one-half your living, besides the pleasure of having vegetables for your table fresh and good. And that is not all, it will give health to your children; and to encourage them, give them an interest in some part of it.

Then there is another item that is all important. Be sure and get the very best seed in the market, and do

not run after every new thing offered unless offered by reliable firms. In order to know whether it pays or not, it would be well to keep an account of all the expenses, both labor and seeds, and interest on land purchased, then charge yourself with everything used, and balance the account; and you will then know whether it will pay as a cash crop over and above the inestimable value derived, in health, pleasure, satisfaction, etc., etc., of seeing the crop grow and mature, furnishing fresh vegetables and fruits for every day in the year.

ART OF WINTER FEEDING.

The produce from the farm is fed to animals, not so much to provide for the stock to derive the largest sum possible from the materials used. When the barns and granaries are full the question is how to dispose of the products to the best advantage. If the food is fed to cows, and the milk shipped to market the farmer sells his grain, hay and fodder in the form of milk. If he can derive the most milk at the least cost his profits are according to the amount of raw material required to produce the milk. It is not the quantity of food, however, that gives the best results, but the quality. Skill is necessary in feeding, as the age of an animal and the special work it is to perform must be considered. It is also important to economize in food by preventing its loss after it has been consumed; that is, the animal must be protected from cold or a large proportion of the food will be utilized in creating animal heat, and the food can be prepared in a manner to assist in its being better digested and assimilated. Coarse foods must be balanced by adding those that are more concentrated, and the disposition and peculiarities of each animal must be known. There are "feeding tables" which may serve as guides to a certain extent but the judgment of the farmer, who understands the existing conditions under which the animals are fed is the most important factor in feeding for profit.

FREQUENT CULTIVATION OF POTATOES.

The old maxim that "tillage is manure" has been shown to be true at Cornell University farm, where experiments were made in that direction. Some plots of potatoes were cultivated as many as eight times, and in every case the greater number of times the plants were cultivated the larger the yields compared with plots on which fewer cultivations were given. The level culture was better than hilling. Two lots, cultivated eight times, left perfectly level through the season, produced at the rate of 384 and 357 bushels per acre, and three lots cultivated five times produced 349, 325, and 288 bushels, the last lot being hilled at the final cultivation. The different varieties used showed that the same results could not be expected from all of them, but sufficient evidence was secured to demonstrate that level cultivation and keeping the ground loose were important matters in growing potatoes. Also that spraying the vines, in order to protect against potato beetles, at the proper times largely influenced the yields, as less damage to the vines resulted. Some lots that were cultivated only three times showed a large falling off in yield, a fact which should be particularly noticed, as it is a common practice for a farmer to cultivate his potato crop three or four times and then "lay it by" until harvest.

FARM NOTES.

The highest grade of stock still sells for the highest price on the market. So let us look to a better grade of stock. Pine tar and turpentine are excellent remedies in the case of lung worms, intestinal worms, grub in head, catarrh, and other ailments of sheep.

Keep a sharp eye on the apples that the specked ones may be removed promptly. The horses will appreciate them, so take them a basketful every morning, dividing them evenly, being sure to give old Dobbin his full share.

Any fertilizer with a guaranteed analysis of four to five percent of ammonia, eight to ten percent of phosphoric acid, and eight to ten percent of potash, or 400 pounds of nitrate of soda, 800 pounds of bone black, and 800 pounds of muriate of potash, making one ton. Mix well together, and use 1,000 pounds per acre.

One of the best devices for securing the lantern in the barn while the stock is being looked after, is an overhead wire securely fastened and running the entire length of the stable, one end of which can be quickly unhooked, the lantern slipped on, and the wire again fastened. It doesn't pay to take any unnecessary risks with the lantern in the barn.

Sheep need a variety of food, and their condition will be improved by giving them an occasional variation. Clover hay is, of course, the most valuable for sheep feeding. Peas and oats may be fed once a day. Pea straw or oat straw is good for the second ration. Roots of almost any description can be given the sheep occasionally and regularly, if they are at hand. Ensilage is one of the best sheep foods in existence.

There is no better time for effective brain work than during the cold weather of winter, the mind being then more active and vigorous and less occupied with the every day affairs of the farm than during the busy season. And there is nothing that pays better though we sometimes hear farmers lamenting and saying that they have no profitable employment for the winter that accumulated during the summer. To these unfortunate the winter represents so much lost time; but it need not be so if they will only get out of the rut and spend more time in the "think shop."

HEALTH.

SIMPLE HELPS IN EMERGENCIES.

Every mother and every housekeeper who lives far from drug stores or doctors should know of and how to use such simple remedies as are found in the house, in case of sickness or accident. With such a knowledge it frequently happens that serious sickness can be checked and much pain and suffering relieved. It is well to know that among the numerous condiments kept in the kitchen, a number of them are useful for other purposes except cooking. For instance, there are mustard, salt, pepper and other spices, hot water, bread and any number of other things. In the winter probably more than at any other time there is need of many remedies for all the ills and ailments cold weather brings.

For certain ailments hot water is the simplest and most efficacious remedy to be found. Where there are young children a kettle of water should always be kept on the stove day and night. For sprains, bruises, wounds and inflammation hot water applications are very beneficial. For attacks of croup, hot water is one of the first helps to bring relief. The water when used in any case should be hot, not tepid or lukewarm. When desired for continuous application an extra supply of water should be kept hot so as to have it ready for renewal. In such cases a layer of cotton batting of suitable size rolled in a towel and wrung out of very hot water will do the most good. It is well to have two pieces, one ready to apply as soon as the other cools. Cover the cotton with a dry cloth and then a flannel in order to keep the heat as long as possible. A sprained joint should be soaked in hot water for half an hour night and morning, and a flannel bandage should be applied firmly after each treatment. For bruises the same method may be followed but for wounds or sores dripping or pouring the water on is the best way. For sore eyes, inflamed eyelids or styes use water as hot as can be borne by sipping. Very hot water applied to a bleeding surface will be found efficacious in stopping the flow of blood. Remember the water must be very hot. For many forms of dyspepsia and biliousness, particularly a catarrhal condition of stomach, a goblet of hot water, drunk after the night's fasting, will give relief. For continued application, in the form of a poultice, as in catarrh of the breast, common in children, pleurisy, pneumonia, soreness of abdomen, etc., a jacket of cotton batting wrung out in very hot water by means of a towel and covered with oiled silk or waxed paper. A jacket thus applied will keep hot for several hours and will often break up serious chest troubles if applied promptly. It is, perhaps, needless to state, that every preparation of clothing should be made in advance, that the cotton may be applied and covered while still very hot. This much attention has been given to hot water because there is probably no article of common use—so readily obtainable—that can accomplish so much good. The principle of moist heat enters largely into every poultice applied to relieve pain or favor resolution of inflammation.

While moist heat is always the best for inflammation and such ills as mentioned above, for any form of nervous or neuralgic pain dry heat is most helpful. Bottles filled with hot water, hot earthen plates, or hot sand or salt bags applied to the seat of the pain will afford great relief. Pains caused by cold are often best relieved by dry heat. For colds in the head, the heating of the soles of the feet before retiring will aid in breaking up the cold. They should be held before a fire for five minutes, then rubbed thoroughly and stockings drawn on.

Simple poultices of bread and milk are effective for drawing boils, sores, felons, inflammations or gatherings to a head or relieving the soreness. Soft crumbed mush may also be used for the same purpose if spread on a cloth and applied warm. In making a bread and milk poultice the milk should be almost boiling, a little lard added and the bread crumbled into it and cooked, should also be applied hot. Baking soda added will "draw" and hasten the formation of pus, after which the "head" will break or may cut. Mustard poultices or plasters are excellent in cases of severe pain. It reddens and heats the surface where applied. Mustard plasters may be made mixed with flour or other meal, or may be made of the pure mustard mixed with hot water. If it is desired to act quickly the latter method is the best. A mustard plaster should be applied warm. Spread the mixture between two thin cloths, and shift the plaster occasionally. When it commences to smart too badly it should be removed. Vinegar should not be mixed with the mustard, as it destroys its action. In cases of cramps, pain in any part of the body one of these plasters will afford great relief. It should be shifted occasionally to opposite parts of the body in order to prove most efficacious, as, for instance, from the pit of the stomach to the back of the neck.

Salt and mustard added to hot water for foot baths in case of colds, fever, headaches, convulsions, etc., will be found as good as medicine. In case of poisoning or indigestion, a teaspoonful of mustard to a small cup of water

makes an active emetic. It is harmless and may be repeated if necessary. In fevers, a mixture of flour, mustard and vinegar spread on a cloth and applied to the wrists of the patient will prove very comforting.

Such ordinary remedies as salt and pepper in half a cup of water and vinegar make an excellent gargle for sore throat. Pepper and cloves steeped in or wet with, hot water often relieve toothache. For sick stomach or any kindred ailment a tea made of hot water, and pepper or other spices like cloves or cinnamon will be found useful if drunk in small quantities.

A soothing remedy for burns and scalds is lard mixed with flour and spread on a cloth laid side down. Lard is also good to rub the body with in case of fever. It is quickly absorbed into the skin. For a cooling wash in fever cases vinegar and water mixed is almost as good as anything else for the purpose. To arrest hemorrhages, vinegar should be given in tablespoonful doses. Corn starch is useful for dusting chafings, eczema, and also for erysipelas when cooked and applied cold like a poultice. As a restorative either strong tea or coffee is good, for both are stimulating.

CINNAMON CURE FOR CANCER.

Dr. Ross—Pacific Record—gives particulars of five cases, all greatly improved, by taking each day one-half pint of tea, made by slowly boiling one pound of Ceylon sticks in a covered vessel in three pints of water until it is reduced to one pint. Pour off without straining, shake before taking and divide the daily supply into doses to suit.

FOIBLES OF GREAT MEN.

Napoleon's Fondness for White Trousers—A Famous Jurist's Weakness.

The weakness of a great man is often that feature which contains the most interest for the student of human nature, says an exchange. It may be of interest to know that Napoleon set aside \$4,000 a year for dress. Unfortunately he had a weakness for white breeches, and often while wholly absorbed in state affairs he would spill ink or coffee on those delicate trousers, which he would hasten to change upon discovering the spots. This circumstance cost the blameless but timid Comte de Remusat his place as master of the robes. The Emperor spoiled his clothes so frequently that the imperial tailor was constantly receiving fresh orders and \$4,000 became insufficient to meet the bills. The master of robes was foolishly afraid to mention the subject to Napoleon, and continued to give unsatisfactory replies to the impatient tailor, who became pressing in his demands. At length, becoming exasperated, the tailor took the bold step of complaining to Napoleon, who learned with astonishment and anger that he owed his tailor \$6,000; he paid the bill and at the same time dismissed the frightened Comte de Remusat.

"I hope," said the Emperor, smiling and frowning at the same time at his newly appointed master of robes, "that you will not expose me to the disgrace of being dunned for the breeches I am wearing."

The famous judge, Lord Kenyon, had a weakness for indiscriminately passing the sentence of death upon the victims of law brought before him. This peculiar weakness took its form in terrorizing the defendants and afterwards invariably modifying the decree. He passed the terrible sentence of death upon a young woman who had been found guilty of theft, but intimidated that he meant to recommend her to mercy. The young woman only heard the formula of the sentence and fainted. Lord Kenyon, evidently much agitated, called out: "I don't mean to hang you! Will no one tell her that I don't mean to hang her?" The number of celebrated men who stand conspicuous in human foibles and weaknesses is large, and often it is among the great minds that selfishness, vanity and unreasonableness are found to hold the most unchecked sway.

HIS EMBARRASSMENT.

You seem to be embarrassed, said the old gentleman when the hand of his daughter was being asked by a stammering young man.

I am, sir, temporarily, but I'm trying to make a deal that will satisfy my creditors and put me on solid ground for all time to come.

O, I see. Smart youth. When you close the deal, come around and we'll have another talk about my daughter.

BOYS.

Give the average boy a doughnut to divide with another boy and the other boy will get the hole. Give him a dose of corrective medicine to divide with another boy and the other boy will get the whole.

The boy who sings I want to be an angel louder than anybody else in Sunday school is just as likely as not to slip the superintendent's tall hat off with a snowball as soon as he gets outside.

A HASTY JOURNEY.

Anxious Wife—Know where my husband is, sir?

Klondike Karl—Th' last time I seen your husband, mum, he was goin' over th' mountain.

Anxious Wife—In what direction?

Klondike Karl, sadly—in all directions, mum. You see he got a can of dynamite mixed in with the canned corned beef he was thawing out, poor man!

Accidents Will Happen.

The boat express was due out of Liverpool street in a few minutes. There was the usual bustling anxious crowd on the platform, excited ladies rushing hither and thither, guttural foreigners beated officials. Oliver Salkeld looked at his watch.

"Three more minutes," he murmured apostrophizingly. "I may as well find a smoker."

But at that very moment a very strange thing happened. Some one touched him gently on the arm. He turned round to find himself face to face with an exceedingly pretty girl. "Mr. Blunt?" she said inquiringly.

Now Salkeld was a journalist. Nay, more, he was an exceedingly romantic young man. For a moment he hesitated. Then the pretty, anxious face proved too much for him. "Why, yes—" he began, but he was allowed to go no further.

"I am so glad to have found you at last," the girl went on. "I had begun to think you had forgotten all about me. Hadn't we better find a carriage?"

This was more than friend Oliver had bargained for. However, it was no good going back now. So, somewhat alarmed as to the consequence his temerity was likely to involve, yet, all the same, pleasurably curious, he followed the girl in silence.

The train sped on with ever-increasing speed out into the country. For a time Salkeld sat silent, his brain quietly active, wondering how on earth he had better begin to extricate himself from the dilemma that his journalistic instincts had carried him into.

The girl, herself, however, partially cleared away some of the tangle that enveloped him. "Wasn't it lucky," she began, "that auntie had described you to me? I could see by your manner that you had no idea as to how you had better begin to search for me. She was so anxious I should have some one to look after me till I got to Antwerp, however, that I thought it would be best for me to act on the initiative for myself."

"I am sure I am very glad you did, Miss Irwin—how lucky that the label on her wraps was so clearly marked with her name—said Salkeld, wondering at his own glibness. "I am a very poor hand at tracing verbal portraits." The girl smiled. She was really very pretty. Salkeld mentally hugged himself. There would have to be a denouement sometime. For the present he resolved "to take the goods the gods provided."

And so they progressed swimmingly. By dint of much diplomacy Salkeld soon ferreted out all there was to know about Miss Irwin—how that her aunt Mrs. Dulverton would be at the quay at Antwerp to meet her niece, and that she it was who had written to him—the supposed Blunt—asking him whose mother had been an old family friend of the same estimable matron, to escort the young lady to Antwerp, as apparently the aforesaid friend Blunt had business in Antwerp that necessitated his going over in the same boat.

So that Oliver Salkeld being a particularly engaging and pleasant-looking young fellow, it will be readily understood that by the time the train drew up at Parkeston the pair were already exceedingly good friends, so much so that Salkeld had almost forgotten about the little difficulty that would of a surety ensue when the end of the journey should arrive.

II.

The short sea voyage was nearing a close, and as the steamer kept inexorably on its serpentine course up the Scheldt, so did Oliver Salkeld's heart proportionately sink lower and lower as he apprehensively dwelt on the closeness of the crash which he foresaw was bound to come.

It is, therefore, no matter for wonder that Dorothy Irwin found her cavalier grow each moment more and more preoccupied. In vain she drew his attention to the many objects of interest on every side. It is to be feared that Mr. Salkeld's journalistic instincts were sleeping most profoundly.

At length the steamer drew up at the busy quay. There were not many people to meet it. For the most part, they consisted of jabbering porters and hotel commissaries. Salkeld scanned the crowd eagerly from the steamer's side.

Miss Irwin, beside him, did likewise. "There's auntie," she suddenly cried excitedly. Salkeld followed her gaze. A stout, pleasant-looking, elderly lady was waving vigorously towards them. Salkeld could see the look of puzzled surprise that was evidently directed towards himself. "Now for it," he murmured.

Without a word he followed the young girl off the steamer, having first of all seen to the safe disposal of their respective baggage. Mrs. Dulverton affectionately embraced her niece. Then she turned towards the miserable Salkeld. "Who is this?" she said witheringly.

And Oliver Salkeld, with burning cheeks could only stand there, dumbly self-accusing like a schoolboy preparing for chastisement.

III.

After all this story must only end like many another in somewhat hackneyed fashion to the sound of wedding bells. It appears that the mysterious Blunt, who had been commissioned to escort Dorothy Irwin to Antwerp had never received the letter asking him to do so.

Mrs. Dulverton's description of this same gentleman has fitted Oliver Salkeld equally well. Hence the misunderstanding. And as the result of this mistake Dorothy Irwin is now Dorothy Salkeld. Personally I consider that Salkeld got far more than his deserts. But you need not tell his wife I said so.