

HORSES.

A Sunday at pasture is a real picnic for a hard-working horse.

Groom the horses outside, either hobbled and eating grass, or else hitched to a post. It is more healthful and pleasant for both man and beast than cleaning in stuffy stalls.

No medicine like grass. Soft grass should, of course, be given sparingly to a hard-working animal, but a little is good for any one, and as the horse becomes accustomed to it, the grass meanwhile losing some of its purgative properties, the teams will be all the better for a regular night run at pasture.

A good teamster is a jewel on a farm. Two-thirds of the men now offering their services as agricultural laborers are not fit to drive a horse. They lack judgment, never seem to see anything, and can not or will not carry out the plainest instructions. Such a man can do twenty-five dollars worth of damage to a team by a week's work. Others will take the same team, heal up chafed shoulders and necks, improve the animals in flesh, and get more work done while doing this than the other fellow did while running them down. One man is dear at his board; the other is worth almost any wage, especially where three or four-horse teams are worked.

In an article on the origin of the Clydesdale and other heavy breeds, contributed to the Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society, Professor Cossar Ewart writes: "Not only is there no evidence that any of the modern heavy breeds of horses represent the Occidental horse of prehistoric times, there is no evidence that horses of the Shire and Clydesdale type could have been evolved from any one of these species which in prehistoric times inhabited either Asia, Europe or Africa. Naturalists who adhere to the view that the modern wild and domestic breeds are all descended from a single species might say that the long, deep, convex (Roman-nosed) face of the modern breeds is a product of domestication. But domestication, instead of increasing, invariably tends to diminish the size of the face. In the case of Arabs, artificial selection and domestication have conceivably led to an increase in the size of the brain and of the cranial part of the skull in which the brain is lodged; but, instead of increasing, domestication has so diminished and refined the facial part of the skull that high-caste desert Arabs are now noted for their slender jaws and fine muzzle. "If the examination of fossil bones and teeth affords no evidence of the existence in prehistoric times of a race characterized by a coarse head as well as coarse limbs, or even of a race from which horses of the modern Clydesdale type might have been derived by artificial selection, it must in the meantime be assumed that Shires and Clydesdales and other breeds with coarse limbs and a long, narrow, coarse head are a blend of two or more wild species."

LIVE STOCK.

Economical Steer Feeding.

The results secured from the experimental work of the winter of 1909-10 at the Pennsylvania Station, indicate that:

1. The most economical ration for fattening steers in Pennsylvania is one composed largely of roughage, with a limited amount of concentrates.
2. The local demand for beef is such that the cattle should not be carried to too high a degree of finish.
3. Increasing the proportion of corn silage in ration for fattening steers increases the profits and gains from the feeding.
4. Protection from cold is not more necessary for fattening cattle on succulent feeds than when dry feeds are used.
5. Steer-feeding was a profitable venture in Pennsylvania under conditions prevailing at the Experiment Station from December 15th, 1909, to May 3rd, 1910, the average price received for corn fed to experimental cattle being \$1.05 per bushel.
6. The margin necessary between buying and selling prices to prevent loss from fattening cattle on a bulky ration was \$1.23 per cwt., and on a concentrated ration \$1.68 per cwt. The difference in margin necessary for feeding in the shelter experiment was 17.2 cents per cwt. in favor of outdoor feeding.

"The farmer's trade is one of worth,
He's partner with the sky and earth;
He's partner with the sun and rain
And no man loses for his gain.
Men may rise and men may fall,
Yet the farmer, he must feed them all."

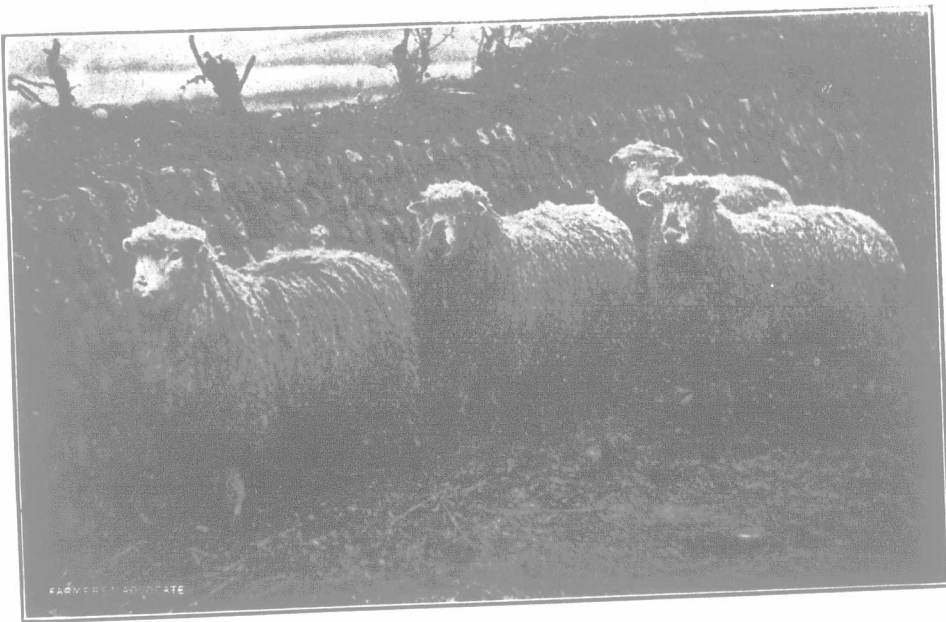
A Sheep Never Dies in Debt to Its Owner.

Centuries ago it was found that sheep grazing on lands benefited them more than any other animal that could be grazed on them, writes Geo. W. Franklin, in Farm Sense. Claims have been made that this is due to the fact that the sheep will eat a greater number of plants in its search after food than any other animal; that it assimilates the nourishment for itself, and leaves the fertilizing properties well distributed over the land, as no other animal can do. A claim has been made, and we believe truly, that, to make wool, the sheep takes from the soil that property obtained from the air and water, and such fertilizing properties as have been obtained from the soil are largely returned. If this is the case, it is easy to see why land should stay fertile while sheep are on it. Whatever the analysis shows,

sheep business because of natural advantages, accompanied with a great liking for sheep. His land was somewhat on the rough order, and he has sold wool at prices ranging from eleven cents to thirty cents per pound. Early in our sheep experience we essayed to find out all we could about the drawbacks in keeping sheep. We have not fathomed all of them, but have kept the worst ones in check by certain kinds of management, until we have eliminated many chances for loss that would have come to us under other sorts of management.

It is really a mystery why more farmers do not engage in the sheep business as a profitable industry. Certainly, no other farm animal can offer as favorable outlook as that of sheep. Their management is peculiar, 'tis true, but the careful, painstaking man can soon get on to the peculiarities of the sheep, and profit by their association at close range. We have corn farmers,

wheat farmers, potato farmers, grass farmers, hog farmers, cattle farmers, horse farmers, and why not sheep farmers? Sheep are easily adapted to most of the farming lands in the Middle West. The fleeces grown on these sheep are no small matter of profit or income. The fertility which comes from sheep is not given the importance which should be attached to it. We need to have flocks of sheep on all of our farms. They can be kept in a way so that their cost will not be much of an item on the average farm. They graze on almost every kind of grass known,



Dartmoor Yearling Rams.

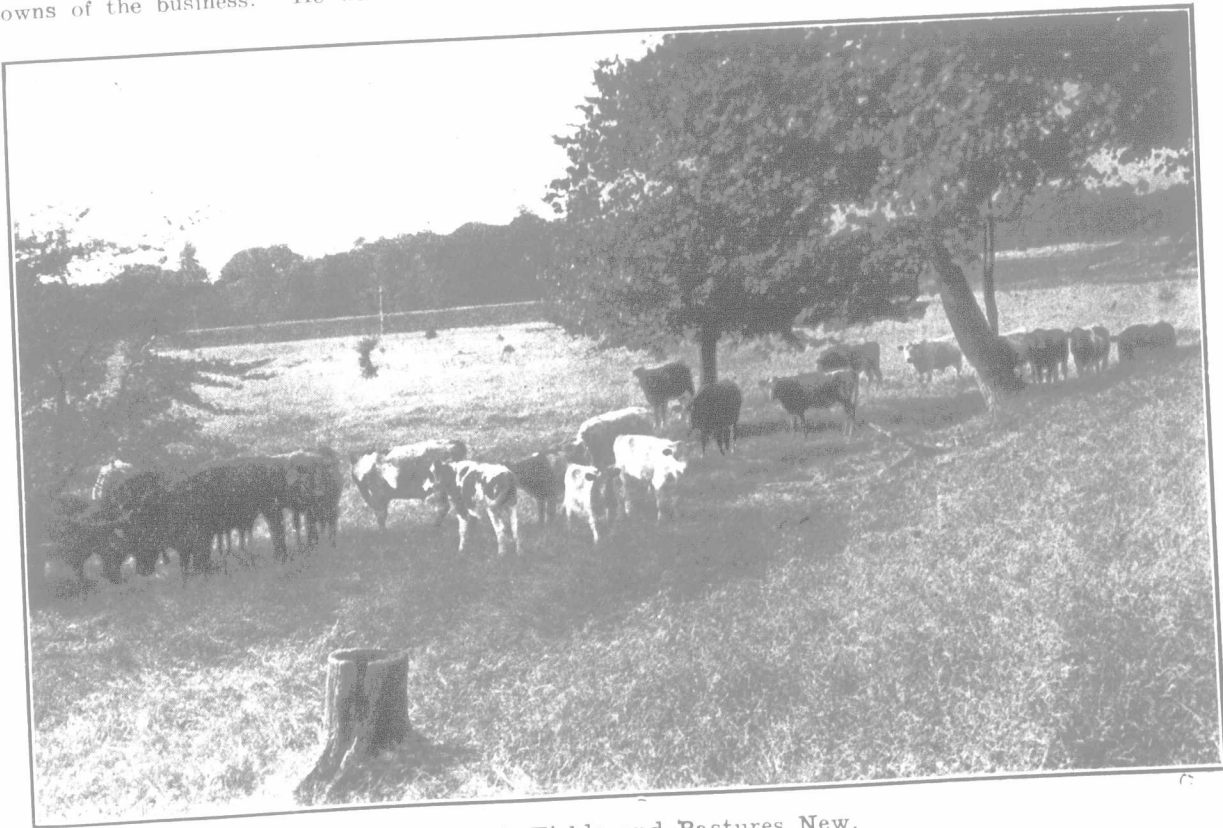
In the flock of J. Willcock, Anderton, Tavistock, Devonshire.

one thing we do know is that land on which sheep graze constantly becomes richer, and finally becomes so rich in certain properties that it is with great difficulty that small grain can be profitably grown on such land, because of the inclination to lodge and become damaged by this condition. No man has objected to very fertile land, however.

The sheep industry has been one of ups and downs, and the ups certainly have predominated, for there are more shepherms who have made a success of the business than there are those who have made failures. Conditions have conspired to regulate the urgency of the sheep business. The early settler of a locality kept sheep for food and raiment. Others kept them for clearing the country of underbrush, and still others kept them because they contracted the sheep habit. The man who displayed indifference along this line was content with letting the sheep succeed or fail, as the case may be, and he could not, as a rule, be interested in the industry. The writer has been in the sheep business a third of a century, and has seen some of the ups and downs of the business. He was diverted to the

and will consume many noxious weeds, which will be a direct benefit to the land. They are liable to disease, and so is everything else that lives. Nowhere can an animal be found more subject to fatal diseases than swine. Cholera has decimated many farms, and has disturbed prospective gains in such a way as to bring disaster to the man who has sustained such losses. Cholera, in a way, is not readily treated or controlled. The diseases to which sheep are heir are more easily handled. The worst enemy which can come to sheep is the stomach worm, and this can be averted under wise management. Dogs will be a disturbing factor in the sheep business in localities where there are more dogs than sheep. These need not be much trouble where a sheepman knows and does his duty toward protecting his property.

We would advise every owner of a farm to keep a few sheep. We advise this from a profit standpoint, and from a standpoint of betterment of the farm. Small flocks can be run in connection with other lines of farm and animal husbandry. A small flock can graze with the cows, and neither be any worse for the practice. No



In Fresh Fields and Pastures New.