

What was intended for a thousand branches is now to be divided among nine hundred. But we are not disposed to enter into these minute points of physiological science. It is enough for practical men to know that the cutting away of a few branches has never been known to work any serious injury; while the ease with which the wound heals over is in striking contrast with the long time it takes a winter wound to get a new coat of bark on it. We have seen in a vigorous healthy tree a stout branch of two inches in diameter taken off, in which the new bark nearly covered the stump in two years. In winter the same spot would have been several years in closing over, and perhaps the parts would decay first, and thus lay the foundation of future disease in the tree. So well is this known that in many places where winter pruning is practiced to any great extent, it is not unusual to have shellac, or some other composition ready to paint over the wounds, to keep out the weather until it shall have closed over by the new bark.

Of course a heavy loss of foliage would be a serious loss to a tree; but it is very rare that any tree has been so much neglected as to need the half or even the fourth of its branches taken off in summer time. But there are in many cases branches here and there along the trunk of trees which is an advantage to the tree to lose; and thinning which may be done in various ways to advantage, and in such cases summer pruning will tell a good tale.—*German town Telegraph*.

TREES AND HEALTH.

Trees are the great oxygen producers, thus furnishing to the air what man most requires, at the same time extracting from it carbonic acid gas, which is poisonous to animal life, though life giving to them. By furnishing the cool, refreshing shade to screen us from our Canadian scorching June, July and August suns, they not only render our own and the lives of animals more enjoyable, but actually serve to prolong. No cow, horse or sheep should be subjected to the severe experience of being placed in a pasture or driven along our roads during the summer days without the refreshing shade of overhanging trees is furnished them. It is found that the sheep produces more and a better quality of mutton and wool when in pastures thus sheltered than otherwise; that the cow yields more milk and of richer quality; the ox takes on fat with less food, and that horses are in every respect benefitted, as well as their drivers, by a liberal supply of shade; and it is indisputable that the shade produced by trees is far preferable in summer for cattle to that of the shed.

THE GRUB.

Considerable alarm, says the *Expositor*, is occasioned among the farming community in the County of Huron by the ravages of a grub which has attacked the spring crops. The grub is about an inch long, and of a green color. It attacks the roots and stems of the young plants, cutting them off and eating great patches, and sometimes whole fields, entirely bare of vegetation. In McKillop, fields have been so badly ravaged by this destructive worm that they will have to be plowed up. In Tuckersmith, Stanley and other townships of the County the pest is also at work, but not, we believe, with such disastrous results, so far, as in McKillop. Many farmers are sowing salt as a remedy, and we are informed in many cases with satisfactory results. In some quarters this grub has made its appearance in former years, but never in such large numbers and with such destructive results as at present.

FLOWERS AS DISINFECTANTS.

The *Boston Cultivator* says:—Lovers of the beautiful as manifested in the flowers, instead of being unhealthy in rooms, are, on the contrary, disinfected in disease. Prof. Mantegazza has discovered that ozone is developed by certain odorous flowers. A writer in our own clever contemporary, *Nature*, states that most of the strong-smelling vegetable essences such as mint, clover, lavender, lemon and therry-laurel, develop a very large quantity of ozone when in contact with atmospheric oxygen in light. Flowers destitute of perfume do not develop it, and generally the amount of ozone seems to be in proportion to the strength of the perfume emanated. Prof. Mantegazza recommends that in marshy districts, and infested with noxious exhalations, strong-smelling flowers should be planted around the house, in order that the ozone emitted from them may exert its powerful oxidizing influence. So pleasant a plan for making a malarious district salubrious only requires to be known to be put into practice.

THE FLAX CROP.

We are pleased to learn that the flax crop for 1873 bids fair to be exceedingly good. Our worthy townsman, Mr. Honeyman, has a large area of ground under flax this year, and he called upon us the other day with a fine sample measuring upwards of 13 inches. Our friend expects a large yield, and we have no reason to think otherwise than that the fruition of his most sanguine hopes will be fully realized.

Since the above was in type Mr. John Smith, of West Zora, dropped in with a handful of flax measuring 2ft. 5in. from tip to tip, and says he took it from a field of 26 acres. John is not a great hand at bragging; he only boasts that it is the best in the county, and we believe it is.—*Woodstock Review*.

FRUIT IN MICHIGAN.

A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* says that, with the exception of the peach belt along the shore of Lake Michigan, peaches are generally killed through the State, and it is feared that many of the trees are also destroyed, the thermometer having sunk the past winter to 33° and 40° below zero. Apples, however, promise a full crop; grapevines are badly cut down; pear and plum trees much injured.

The currant worm, which has been so destructive of late years in skeletonizing the bushes, can be certainly destroyed by using whale-oil soap water, say about one pound of soap to an ordinary bucket of water. The worm will succumb to this if to nothing else.—So will any other worm or bug that we have tried it upon. A single drop on any of them will settle the hash with them. Apply the water with a sponge or garden syringe. The latter mode is the best where there is much to be done. Whale-oil soap can be purchased at any of the agricultural stores, or at the best grocery establishments.—*Homestead*.



POULTRY YARD

FRENCH FOWLS—HOUDANS.

Perhaps in no country is poultry breeding made so much of a business as in France. The best English authorities that we have met with estimate the French poultry product at ten times that of Great Britain. This need not be a matter of surprise when it is remembered that the flesh of chickens is to the French what beef is to the English. Some fanciful philosophers would account for the well-known pugnacity of the French by attributing it to feeding so exclusively on capons.—Be this as it may, the official figures foot up the egg crop at something enormous.

The "Universal Dictionary" for 1866 (the latest figures that we have) says: France annually produces 7,000 millions of eggs, and estimates the whole poultry wealth at 909 millions of francs.

With such a poultry record, France may well set up for an authority in the Poultry Yard. As far as we can learn the favorite breed of France is bred near Houdan, and thence gets its name, though there are several others very highly esteemed. Houdans are especially esteemed for the table. They are of large size, with fully developed breast, short legs, and but little offal. The plumage is invariably white and black spangled, with heavy crest of same colour; the comb is triple, the outer sides opening like two leaves of a book; the inner having the appearance of an ill-shaped strawberry. The legs are strong and short, and of pale lead color, with five claws—two hind ones, one above the other. Strongly developed whiskers and beards both in cocks and hens. We have found them most excellent layers, and apparently quite hardy; they rarely ever set, however. For close quarters we should not hesitate to recommend them very highly.—*Farm Journal*.

LINSÉED OIL.

A patent has been taken out by a party in England for treating linseed and other seed and vegetable oils so as to give to them the advantage derived from boiling without having recourse to that process, and to retain other properties unimpaired which boiling destroys.



STOCK & DAIRY

TO ASCERTAIN THE WEIGHT OF LIVE CATTLE.

First, see that the animal stands square, then with a string take his circumference just behind the shoulder-blade, and measure the feet and inches—this is the girth. Then measure from the bone of the tail which plumbs the line with the hinder part of the buttock, and direct the string along the back to the fore part of the shoulder-blade, and this will be the length. Then work the figures thus: Suppose girth of bullock 6 feet 4 inches, length 6 feet 3 inches, which multiplied together make 23 square superficial feet, and these multiplied by 23—the number of pounds allowed for each superficial foot of cattle measuring less than seven and more than five feet in girth—make 759 lbs. When the animal measures less than nine, and more than seven feet in girth, 31 is the number of pounds to be estimated for each superficial foot. And suppose a small animal to measure 2 feet in girth and 2 feet in length, these multiplied together make 4 feet, which, multiplied by 11—the number of pounds allowed for each square foot when the cattle measure less than three feet in girth—make 44 lbs.

Again, suppose a calf or sheep, &c., to measure 4 feet 6 inches in girth, and 3 feet 8 inches in length, that multiplied together makes 16 square feet, and these multiplied by 16—the number of pounds allowed for cattle measuring less than 5, and more than 3 feet in girth—make 356 pounds. The dimensions in girth and length of the back of cattle, sheep, calves and hogs, taken this way, are as exact as is at all necessary for common computation or valuation of stock, and will answer to the four quarters of the animal, sinking the offal. A deduction must be made for animal's half fat, of one pound in twenty from those that are fat; and for a cow that has had calves, one pound must be allowed in addition to the one for not being fat, upon every twenty.—*Pedder's Land Measurer*.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN NEW JERSEY.

Early last summer there were unmistakable symptoms of pleuro-pneumonia among the cows in some of the large dairies in Essex and Union counties, New Jersey. Since then this disease has spread rapidly, and the loss to farmers in these counties is heavier than it was 12 years ago, when the same disease created so much excitement among cattle growers in the State. Now, the facts have been kept secret and instead of the farmers trying, as they did formerly, to cure the disease by medical treatment, another plan has been adopted. Just as soon as the disease shows itself, and before the cows lose much flesh, the diseased animals are sold to the butcher for about half price. A cow that is worth to the butcher, if in good health, \$30 to \$70, will bring \$25 to \$30.

Some idea of the spread of this disease may be gathered from the fact that during the last eight months, taking a circuit of six miles around Newark, there have been more than 500 diseased cows slaughtered in Newark, this diseased meat being sold to her citizens, while the milk from the animals affected has been consumed by the people of both Newark and Elizabeth, daily since last May. The disease exists in the suburbs of East Newark, East Orange, Bloomfield, Waverly, and other milk-raising districts. One milkman has sold 56 diseased cows and lost four by death. Another has lost 12 by death and sold 12 diseased animals. The disease is spreading rapidly in the vicinity of Elizabeth. More than a dozen farmers within two or three miles of the city have their cattle infected by it.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society of New Jersey, held at Elizabeth on Friday afternoon, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

Whereas, this Society has been appealed to aid in stopping the introduction and sale of diseased cattle from other States; be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of this State, now in session, be memorialized to appoint a committee with full power, to examine into the nature and progress of this disease known as pleuro-pneumonia, most fatal, and other diseases of cattle prevailing among the cattle of this State, and that they be authorized to prosecute all offending parties who may be implicated in such introduction and sale.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

LONG WOOL.—Mr. Hugh Love, sen., of Hay, has sent us a specimen of beautiful fine wool, measuring nearly seventeen inches in length. This wool was cut from a Cotswold ewe lamb, ten and a half months old. Mr. Love informs us that the lamb will clip at least fourteen pounds of clean washed wool of equal quality and length with the specimen referred to. He also states that he has a number of other sheep which will shear almost if not quite as much. Mr. Love has gone to much expense and trouble to improve his stock of sheep, and the above facts show that he has not labored in vain.—*Expositor*.

THE SHEEP GAD-FLY.

Having attended to the sheep gad-fly, a few observations relative to its habits are deemed pertinent, derived from personal observation. It makes its appearance in our latitude in July, but is not numerous and annoying in August. Its presence is certain when a few sheep are seen in groups, in the middle of the day, holding their noses close to the ground, which is an instinctive defence against attacks of the fly, which, however, in an unguarded moment, deposits its eggs on the margin of the nostrils. These are soon hatched, and the larvæ immediately find their way up to the interior of the nose, till they arrive at the frontal sinus—a cavity situated between the layers of the frontal bone, and which is of considerable size in the sheep, and here they subsist on the mucus secreted. If the number exceeds the supply of mucus they crawl to the brain, when death to the sheep is certain to follow.

Having lost sheep from this cause, in one instance I opened the skull and found five or six grubs or worms attached to the brain which were half an inch in length and nearly the size of the stem of a clay pipe. The animal for a week before its death exhibited great distress, refusing to eat and constantly holding its head to the ground, which is an invariable symptom.

Blacklock, a distinguished veterinary surgeon, says tobacco smoke is the only available remedy, and a very good one, being easily brought in contact with the worms, and when properly administered, certain in its effects. One person scours the sheep, holding the head in a convenient position, while another, having half filled a pipe with tobacco, and kindled it in the usual way, places one or two folds of a silk handkerchief over the opening of the bowl, then passes the tube a good way up the nostril, applies his mouth to the bowl, and blows vigorously through the handkerchief. When this has continued for a few seconds the pipe is withdrawn, and the operation is repeated on the other nostril. As nothing is more abhorrent to insects of every kind than the odor of tar the prevention I have recommended of smearing the nostrils of sheep with it at intervals during the flight of the fly will prove an effective safeguard against its attacks. Thousands of sheep die annually from this cause. Let the prevention and remedy suggested be applied.

GOOD POINTS FOR A COW.

The subjoined stanzas have been long and popularly known to old country stock men as pointing out in a form easily remembered the good points for a cow:—

She's long in her face, she's fine in her horn,
She'll quickly get fat without cake or corn;
She's clean in her jaws, and full in her chine,
She's heavy in flank, and wide in her loin.

She's broad in her ribs, and long in her rump,
She's straight in her back, and without a hump;
She's wide in her hips, and calm in her eyes,
She's fine in her shoulders, and thin in her thighs.

She's light in her neck, and small in her tail,
She's wide in her breast, and will fill the milk-pail;
She's fine in her bone, and silky of skin,
She's a dairy without—a meat market within.

THE OLD TYPE OF HOG.

A paper was recently read before the St. Louis Farmers' Club, by Prof. Tracy, who thus described the hog of the old type:—

You who have lived through half the allotted age of man remember well that old type of the Western hog. He looked like a bad cross between an alligator and a fence rail; a miserable, lean, lank, bony, lantern-jawed, long-faced, long-tailed, long-legged, long-haired, ugly and vicious brute, sufficiently dirty, hideous and repulsive, and but one remove above the wild boar of the old European forests. Such was the unimproved, unadulterated American hog of thirty years ago. How they ran wild through the woods and hazel thickets, their ugh! ugh! sounding like the guttural exclamation of a wild savage. You ask if they are good feeders? Excellent. A large herd of them would breed a corn famine in a whole county. But fatten! You might as well talk of fattening a child's doll by stuffing it with bran. They were so wild and restless that they could not assimilate food; and mischievous! they would root under or crawl through a fence that would turn large snakes, and do anything but climb a tree to commit depredations.