

to say I do not look upon fads as an unmixed evil; in fact, I think in different ways they contain more of good than evil. I lately saw an account of a meeting of managers of Farmers' Institutes in the United States, where one manager said the best Institute worker he ever had was such an infernal liar he startled people and set them investigating his lies. Some fads may do good on the same lines as this worthy Institute worker, but many of them contain germs of truth that, if carefully cultivated and pruned, would grow into branches of useful knowledge. But the trouble is, farmers are so distrustful of their own knowledge, and so anxious to get more, their minds are always in a receptive state, a kind of perpetual summer-fallow where those fad germs fall and take root, and growing too rankly become troublesome weeds. I said there were no fads in breeding. I repeat it; but it is possible a breeder might, accidentally or otherwise, drop a fad germ into this prolific soil that might grow into profit for himself and trouble for some other breeder, but is much more likely to grow into trouble for those who cultivate it.

This is the conclusion of the conclusion, and now just one word more. If anything in this paper seems to savor of want of respect for scientific knowledge, I disclaim it. No man holds scientific knowledge in higher esteem than I do, or has less of it. I wish I had more, for I often find I know very little more than those who are trying to teach me. Get all the scientific knowledge you can, but make sure the stools have the proper number of legs of the proper length, but do not throw a stool in the fire because one leg seems defective. Examine it carefully, it may be better than it looks, and whenever it is possible measure them by your own experience and known results, freely utilizing the experience of others, and as freely giving of your own in return. Then we may hope that from out the eternal clatter of faddists knowledge will come for future generations.

**Shear the Sheep Early.**

The practice of the majority of the most successful sheep-raisers in the Dominion in these days is to shear their sheep unwashed, especially the yearlings, early in April, selecting fine weather and keeping the sheep closely housed for a few days. In the case of breeding ewes it is not practicable to shear so early, and we would not advise doing so till after they are well over the lambing season, when, if they are in fair condition, we would shear them without waiting for warm enough weather to wash before shearing. We have known sheep to be sheared with perfect safety in December and January by keeping them in warm quarters for a week or two, and they thrive and do better without their fleeces. It is not best to shear them very close to the skin, but a little roughly, leaving say half an inch of wool as a partial protection, which will occasion no loss, as it will be secured in the next crop. In a week or two after shearing the sheep should be washed or dipped in a warm solution of one of the prepared "dips" on the market, which will rid them of ticks and lice and leave the skin and wool in a healthy condition. To any one who has observed how sheep thus shorn and treated thrive during the warm spring months, when those with heavy fleeces and infested with ticks are suffering, there can be but one opinion as to the benefits of early shearing. The one objection that has any weight is the undue discrimination which dealers are disposed to make in the price of unwashed wool as compared with so-called washed wool, which has in many cases been only run through cold water and is far from being cleansed. But by dealing with practical men who understand their business a fair allowance may be secured, and in our opinion the difference between the price of washed and unwashed wool should not be more than 33 per cent. Even if a little sacrifice has to be made in this respect we are satisfied that it will be more than compensated for in the increased thrift of the sheep and consequent increased growth of wool and their better appearance in the fall of the year if offered for sale. We confidently and unhesitatingly recommend early shearing and dipping of the sheep and docking and dipping the lambs as good practice.

**How Scotch Shepherds Castrate Lambs.**

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I see some person inquiring about castrating lambs. The method practiced by a large number of Scotch shepherds is to cut off just sufficient of the end of the scrotum so that when they press the testicles they will protrude; the operator then catches them with his teeth and draws them out with a part of the cord. This is done so quickly that he will castrate as fast as two or three men will catch the lambs for him. When a man catches a lamb he takes hold of a hind and fore leg in each hand, then he raises the lamb up against his breast with the head up to his shoulder. This is about the right position for the operator to work. With the thumb and forefinger of the left hand he takes hold of the end of the scrotum, and with the knife cuts off the end as above. I may say that I have been practicing this method for over forty years, and I never lost a lamb by castration. I use two knives, one to castrate with, and the other, a larger and stronger one, for docking. I would not approve of clipping off the scrotum. I would not allow anyone to perform such an operation on my

lambs. I consider it important that the lambs are castrated when young; two or three weeks old would be the proper age, if done in the way I recommend. I can see no reason why any lambs should be lost in castrating if the lambs are healthy, but when large and fat there is a great deal more risk. I therefore consider it a great mistake to put off this operation till the lambs get big.

JOHN RENTON.

"Braeside Farm," Winchester Municipality, Man.

**Castration of Lambs.**

In answer to the question of one of your correspondents re castration of lambs, I may say I have had extensive experience, having attended to over 300 cases last year without the loss of one. The proper way is to cut the end off the purse so as to be sure to get both testicles, and hold them tight with the hand on the lamb's belly while with the teeth you draw them out. If the lambs are on grass let them stay there. They will lie down, but the owner should go around among them in two hours and put them up. There is no need for stabling them, for if they are put in they lie too long and get cramped; but if they are out they will go with their mothers, but if it rains put them in, for rain is not good for them. The man that holds the lambs gets all four legs in his hands and gets their back tight against the front of his shoulder, so that the one performing the operation can readily get at them.

W. B.

Lincoln Co., Ont.

**Death of Mr. W. S. Marr.**

Few names will be more honorably associated with the annals of Shorthorn history than that of Mr. W. S. Marr, of Uppermill, Aberdeenshire, whose death, at the advanced age of 88 years, occurred on the 20th of February last. He was regarded as an excellent judge, and was frequently called to officiate in that capacity at leading shows in the United Kingdom. As a breeder he made his mark high on the honor roll, animals of his breeding ranking high in the competition for



The late Mr. W. S. Marr, of Uppermill, Aberdeenshire, an eminent breeder of Shorthorn cattle.

prizes at the great shows in Great Britain and America, and he played a prominent part in the evolution of the modern Shorthorn, many of the most noted animals of the day having been bred at Uppermill, and the records of the annual sales of bulls in Scotland attest the high estimate placed by eminent breeders on those bred by Mr. Marr, who is succeeded by his son, Mr. W. S. Marr, who, it is said, shares the enthusiasm which was one of the secrets of his father's success.

**Black Polls on the Range.**

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Sir,—In your issue of Feb. 15, Mr. Gibson, in the paper he read before the Shorthorn Breeders' Association, says: "Speaking of the cattle on Western ranges, Shorthorns and Herefords are decidedly in favor, while the Blacks have no friends on the range." While looking over the ads. in a Western States stock paper, of Feb 16th, I noticed one from South Dakota asking for tenders for 100 bulls, Polled Angus or Herefords preferred. Also one from Wyoming asking for tenders for 20 bulls, Polled Angus or Herefords preferred. Now, sir, I don't know what they want on the ranges, but they ask for Blacks in their ads. Yours truly, JOHN TRAQUAIR. Welwyn, N.-W. T.

**Worth One Hundred Times Its Cost.**

W. H. MILLER, an old subscriber, of Victoria Co., N. B., writes:—"I have always been intending to say a good word for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE when sending in my subscription, but seemed never to have got that far, but you shall have it this time. I have been a subscriber to the ADVOCATE a number of years. I have sent for sample copies of different papers and magazines throughout the country, but none of them can compare with the ADVOCATE. It is really worth to a farmer ten times ten more than he pays for it."

**London (Eng.) Shire Horse Show.**

The nineteenth annual show of the British Shire Horse Society was held at Royal Agricultural Hall, London, on Feb. 22nd to 25th, inclusive. The exhibition, if not the largest, was certainly one of the best that the Society has ever held in point of average quality of stock and attendance of visitors. The total number of entries was 526, made up of 300 for stallions, 210 for fillies and mares, and 16 for geldings. The largest class was for three-year-old stallions, which numbered 68, while there were 55 two-year-olds, 44 yearlings, 45 four-year-olds, and 40 between four and ten years. Two-year-old fillies were most numerous, numbering 51, as against 47 yearlings, 40 three-year-olds, and so on down to 6 five-year-olds and over.

The contest for the championship cup for the best mare three years old and under was won by the three-year-old, Lockinge Loiret, got by Prince William. She was bred by Lord Wantage and exhibited by Mr. Henderson. The best mare four years and over, also the best mare in the show, was found in Mr. Henderson's Aurea, while Grandage's Queen of the Shires, last year's champion, by Harold, was given the reserve ticket. The cup for young stallion went to Mr. Henderson's two-year-old Buscot Harold, by Markeaton Royal Harold, and out of the champion Aurea. In the older division, a clear victory awaited Mr. Henderson's Markeaton Royal Harold (last year's champion), the reserve going to Lord Rothschild's Cœur de Lion IV., by Hitchin Conqueror. The champion cup was contested for by Markeaton Royal Harold and his son above mentioned. The latter won amid great applause, the honor falling alike to both contestants.

**FARM.**

**SEEDING OPERATIONS.**

(Continued from page 103.)

**Get New Seed About Every Third Year.**

BY JOHN GREGORY, ANTIQONISHE CO., N. S.

Our rotation is as follows: (1) Oats, peas, or oats and peas mixed; (2) roots, manured; (3) wheat or barley, seeded with grass; hay, which is cut so long as it yields a profitable crop. From now on, or at least until I have gone all over my farm, I will introduce a bare fallow during the second year, probably sowing rye in the fall to plow down or cut the following spring. This year I propose to sow the following varieties of grain, which I have found to give me the best satisfaction: White Russian wheat, Banner oats, Duckbill barley, and Mummy peas. Land for all crops is, if possible, plowed the previous fall. Oats or peas, or the two combined, are usually sown on sod, nearly always broadcast, but in my own case with a drill. Turnips are the next crop. The stubble is plowed the preceding fall. In the spring the land is well harrowed, manured, gang plowed, thoroughly harrowed, and ridged up with a double-moldboard plow. If the manure contains much long, undecomposed straw, it is often applied by spreading in the drills. Wheat or barley follows the turnips, and, if possible, receives a light dressing of stable manure or special fertilizer. With these grains it is usual to sow grass seed, a mixture of one bushel timothy, eight pounds late red clover and two pounds Alsike. We generally trust to the roller to cover the seed, but very often give it a scrape with a light-tooth harrow. We have no permanent pasture (I mean cultivated land laid down to pasture and maintained as such), but a great many feed off the after-growth of the meadows in the fall. The cultivated portions of the farms here are seldom or never used for pasture, all dependence in that direction being placed in the uncultivated and rough portions and in the woodland, and our natural grasses form an excellent pasture.

Fertility of the land is maintained by the use of stable manure and kelp (seaweed), with superphosphate and bone meal. When kelp can be got my practice is to use it on my root crop, applying the stable manure the next year to the grain crop. The frequent cultivation of the roots frees the ground of weeds, and by keeping the soil in a fine, loose condition, conserves the moisture. The only way that I know of whereby moisture may be retained in the soil is to prevent evaporation by keeping the surface soil in a fine, loose condition, and I think it will be the general practice before long to cultivate all crops while they are growing.

I have never treated seed grain for bugs or smut, and so far as I know the practice is not common in Nova Scotia. I have never been troubled with bugs in peas and have seldom seen more than an odd head of smutty grain. It is the general practice here to get new seed about every third year, most of which seed is imported from Ontario and Manitoba.

**Manure the Clover and the Clover will Feed the Following Crops.**

BY J. A. MACDONALD, QUEEN'S CO., P. E. I.

We follow two different rotations. On a block of land contiguous to the barn, for growing crops manured with barnyard manure, such as roots—turnips, potatoes, etc.—we have adopted a 5-year rotation as follows: First year, sod plowed for oats and wheat, according to strength of land; second year, roots—potatoes and turnips; third year, spring wheat, seeded to clover and timothy; fourth year, grass cut for hay; fifth year, grass and