long holidays. These are generally most effectually treated by giving them very light work to commence with, gradually increasing it until they do an ordinary amount of work, and not giving them too much idle time. If a horse balks when starting a load, turn him first to one side, letting him go as far in that direction as possible without moving the load; then turn him to the opposite side in a like manner. Repeat this movement several times if necessary, but prevent the wheels from sinking into the ground. Sometimes these movements, which are intended to cause the horse to forget that he has balked, or to quiet him (if he is excited), are not necessary; for the horse, although refusing to draw the load in a straight line, will frequently move off with it if allowed to "start it in a turn," the load being easier to move if the draft is applied to it at an angle, and the nearer this angle approaches a right angle (other things being equal), the easier it will be to move. Never load a balky horse heavy, but if it cannot be avoided, let him do some light work before putting him into the stable. Sometimes, if a horse refuses to move, especially if in a place where he has frequently balked before, a good plan is to compel him to remain there until he is very willing to get away.

With these instructions, a person that has thoroughly studied the peculiarities of his horse, will find but little difficulty to find a remedy that will be effective in his particular case. A thorough knowledge of the peculiarities of the horse and a sound judgment in carrying out the above general remarks, are of vastly more importance than volumes of special rules.

In reply to the question whether corn stalks, well cured, or the same put in a silo, are the more valuable fodder, the Country Gentleman says: "They are scarcely unlike chemically, and we know of no accurate experiments, performed side by side, showing superiority in either; but it is probable that the succulent character of the ensilage would give it some advantage." If actual feeding (experiments) does not show a superior value, then what is the "advantage" that the succulent fodder has over the dry? A fodder is valuable for what comes from feeding it. What right have we, or has the Country Gentleman, to claim superiority for one fodder over another where the constituents are alike and the results of feeding each are the same? Imaginary values don't make growth or fill a pail.—[Exchange.

The English swine eaters are going back on over-fat pork. To help the reform and to get leaner meat a prize is offered by an English paper "of half a crown each in addition to the price per score on all pigs of good quality, between 7 and 9 scores, provided they do not measure more than a certain thickness of fat in every part of the back." The Americans should take a hint before they lose their hold on the British markets, and make pork suited to the new reform. Grass, clover, oats and peas will do it. Keep the hogs in a field; do not over-feed. And kill them before they become too lardy.—[Farm Journal.

The disadvantages of cooked feed, as pointed out by the ADVOCATE for years, are now becoming to be more generally recognized, and remarks like the following are now frequently met with:—"One reason why cooked feed for stock of all kinds is not as nutritious as uncooked, is because it is not subjected to the process of thorough mastication. This is essential to digestion and assimilation, both in man and beast, nature having provided that the food eaten must be incorporated with the saliva in order to insure the full action of the gastric juice."

PRIZE ESSAY.

Spring Management of Cows.

BY JOHN ROBERTSON, LONDON.

In order to treat this subject fairly it is necessary to distinguish between feeding and dairy cattle. At this season of the year it is very necessary that cows coming in and intended for the dairy in summer should receive the very best treatment to put them in the best condition to do their very best in the pail during the milking season, whether the milk is intended for butter or cheese. The following points, if carefully attended to, will assist the ordinary farmer in bringing his cows in the best condition for a good summer's work.

1. Dairy cows should be allowed to run dry three months before they calve in spring, or any other time of the year. Some object to allowing a cow to go idle three months of the year, as a waste of time and feed, and no doubt there are some cows that with good care and good feed would not require to be dry so long; but I am writing about the average cow for the average farm.

I have no pet theory as to how long a cow should be dry before she comes in, but I have learned from my experience with them that when a cow has carried her calf for six months, it is well formed and requires considerable nourishment from the cow; from that time till she drops her calf, she should have rest, in order that her offspring may be well formed and properly nourished, so that when it is born it may be worth keeping and have a good strong constitution as well as the other elements necessary for the development of a good, strong, healthy animal.

2. If the cow has been put dry in fairly good condition three months before she was timed to calve, there is not much need for any extra feed or care, but keep her warm and clean for the first six weeks of this period. A little grain or sheaf of oats once a day is all the concentrated food that is required. If fed chiefly on hay and corn fodder, she will not need much grain. This rest strengthens all the departments of her system, thereby preserving her constitution and extending her length of usefulness.

3. Six weeks before she comes in there is evidently a change taking place in her system. Her calf is now fully formed, and needs more nourishment, and the cow must make more blood if she is to nourish her calf properly, and at the same time keep up her own condition as it should be when prepared for a good summer's work. Consequently, from this time until a few days before she calves, her comfort and her food must be gradually increased, especially her grain rations. These should be raised from two to three pounds of chopped grain, a little bran and cotton-seed cake or oil cake twice a day. A feed of roots is also very beneficial. I don't approve of slopping cows till they are in milk Feed the grain with chopped straw or hay or chaff; mix it well, and moisten enough to make the grain adhere to the coarser food.

4. Two or three days before the cow's time is up, the grain feed should be stopped. A little bran or oil-cake, to keep the bowels open, may still be given, but she should be fed rather sparely. If in good condition, or fat, a slight purgative does no harm. It cools the system, and may in some measure prevent inflammation or milk fever from taking place. From half a pound to a pound of salts one day, and half a bottle to one bottle of linseed oil the next should, in ordinary cases, be quite sufficient.

5. When the cow is preparing to calve, take her to a loose box-stall, or a place where she will have some liberty; give her a dry, warm place, and leave her alone. She likes quietness. When the calf comes, give her a little help (if necessary). Take the calf to some place where the cow will never see it. Never let the calf suck her dam; it is cheaper and better to feed it by hand. Give the cow a warm drink of meal and water, with a handful of salt in it, and, if left alone quietly, all will be well.

6. Do not feed her heavily for three or four days after calving, but give her plenty of warm drink. Then begin to increase her rations of grain gradually, till about three to four pounds of mixed chop, twice a day, with plenty of hay or corn fodder, a liberal supply of good clean water and salt are given. She will then be in good condition for milking. A feed of roots daily is very beneficial for dairy cows, and, if possible, should be given till the cow gets to the pasture. Continuing to feed about half the quantity of grain for a week or two after she is turned out on the grass, is a benefit to her.

There is great truth in the old saying—"It's by the mouth the cow milks." Good care and good feeding is the best and surest way of making the dairy cows give their owners a good return.

You will see I have made no reference to any particular breed of cows, as the same kind of treatment is applicable to all breeds, quantity of feed excepted. This would be more in large cattle than in smaller ones, but they are all naturally of the same character and habit, and need about the same care and treatment in similar circumstances.

Profits from pork are dependent largely on the number of healthy pigs raised from each sow on the farm, but many farmers seem content to leave the matter entirely to the sow herself, giving her neither shelter nor attention at pigging time or a special diet thereafter. The consequence is, that she rarely raises more than one-third of the pigs she gives birth to, and even this proportion is weakly and dwarfish in growth. A good sow should raise five pigs at least, and if she is to do that properly she should be separated from the rest of the swine before pigging time and have a warm, well bedded nest in which to farrow. Hog raising connot be expected to pay if the sows run with the rest of the herd, yet this seems to be quite a common practice on some farms.

It has none too frequently been observed that as a breeder of diseases there are few things that excel the average farm-house cellar. It underlies the whole house, with nothing to prevent its exhalations rising into the upper rooms except a thin board floor. in this cellar all manner of things for family use are kept the season round. Meat, vegetables, milk, butter, bread, pastry, preserves, pickles and fruit, are here stored in their various receptacles. There is very seldom anything to separate the fruit and vegetables from the other parts of the cellar, and there is usually more or less decaying vegetable matter to load the air with poisonous germs. At various seasons of the year the cellar wall collects dampness, or small pools of water lie under loose boards, sending up malarious odors into the rooms above. Cellars should be well cared for, well ventilated, kept neat and clean; and vegetable and fruit cellars should, as far as possibe, be located out side of dwellings.