

FARMERS' COLUMN.

The owner of a large herd of short-horns in the county of Perth, England, states that he has lately lost £50,000 by the foot and mouth disease.

There is danger that not only hogs but sheep will crowd and heat in pens. This must not be permitted under any circumstances. Many of the comforts of bed and warm fire must now be sacrificed to the care of domestic animals.—*Des Moines Register.*

Glue frequently cracks because of the dryness of the air in rooms warmed by stoves. An Austrian journal recommends the addition of a little chloride of calcium to prevent this disagreeable property. Chloride of calcium is such a deliquescent salt that it attracts enough moisture to prevent the glue from cracking. Glue thus prepared will adhere to glass, metal, etc., and can be used for putting on labels without danger of their dropping off.

Whitewashing can be done advantageously in the months of April and May, for the spring cleansing of the hen-houses. This should be performed at least twice every year, and at each season it should be done thoroughly. Do not mince matters, but ply the brush vigorously. Use plenty of whitewash, and pay especial attention to the corners and crevices. If we put lime in the wash, when the lime is slaked, a pint of common salt and a pound of powdered sulphur to each pailful of water, the preparation is improved greatly, and this composition will be found useful in exterminating embryo parasites.

Eggs for incubation are kept to best advantage, according to the *Poultry World*, in a moderately damp place, after removal from the laying nests, and while awaiting the readiness of the sitters. The most desirable eggs for sitting are those the freshest laid; but a liberal daily sprinkling of tepid water upon the hen's nest about a week before hatching is an aid to the free issue of the chicks at maturity. Another good plan is to prepare a sitting nest of fresh, thick, damp grass-rod, which keeps the delicate membrane of the egg from drying up so as at the last moment to interfere with the chicken's birth. The latest-laid eggs should be used for hatching purposes.

In one sense the farmer is a manufacturer. He changes his grass and corn into beef, pork, wool, butter, cheese, and a variety of products. In another sense he is a chemist; he so compounds manure with his soil as to make available plant-food. He should be an artist, so as to be able to produce beautiful groves, orchards, and lawns. He is a merchant, because he sells the product of his farm to feed the world, and yet he receives less money than any one of the single branches of industry named as a reward for his services and employed capital. How necessary, that he should make the most out of the soil he cultivates. In order to do that his land must be in good order.

A writer in an exchange says: "I have known a choice Jersey heifer, when mature enough to be put to pasture and trusted to feed herself, to linger through the pasture season, and go to the barn, and neither summer nor winter to make growth. She was pitiful to look upon. Lean in flesh, with staring hair, with lank, drooping belly, and during the winter, with occasional coughing, drooling at the mouth, and alarming choking fits, it was a surprise why she neither improved nor died. What was the matter? One day a neighbor came in and said it was worms in the throat. He said he knew of a case where an animal having these symptoms was killed, and upon a post-mortem examination a handful of worms was found in the throat. A mixture of turpentine and warm sweet oil was procured, and the nostrils and throat rubbed several times daily with it for several days; in a few days the coughing ceased, the diminutive yearling began to grow, and continued to do so, and in the next winter no animal in the herd was in better flesh or handsomer to look upon."

POOR HAY.—There is a great deal of poor hay in the country which will be fed out between the present time and spring. And it is a matter of considerable importance to the owners of cattle who eat it, that the best possible time should be chosen, and the most economical method of feeding should be pursued. My method of disposing of the poor hay which grows upon two or three acres of cold, wet land which I have, is as follows: During the cold days of early winter I feed my stock in the morning with plenty of good hay. About the middle of the forenoon I feed them, either in the stables or barn-yard, with good bright corn stalks. After they have had a run in the yard for five or six hours I cut up a lot of hay by running it through the feed cutter, and put two bushels of the cut hay into the manger of each cow. I then throw on water enough to moisten it, sprinkle on from two to four quarts of meal, and mix it up with a pitchfork. When the feed is all mixed I let the cows in. They eat the hay up clean, and neither dry up or grow poor while kept in this way. This is the best plan for disposing of poor hay which I tried, and I think it may be recommended to the attention of all farmers who have this kind of fodder on their hands.—*Ohio Farmer.*

CHEMISTRY OF THE FATTENING PROCESS.—A lean cow or ox is in a very different condition, chemically considered, from fat animals of the same kind. In the first place the poor animal consists of about two-thirds, the fat one of only half, that is, in total weight. A fat animal is in a dry condition, a poor animal is like some of our bog meadows, very wet. When the fattening process begins, water commences to disappear, and fat or sweet takes its place; and the increase in bulk during the process is largely of adipose matter. It is a curious circumstance that, during fattening, the proteids, or nitrogenous compounds, increase only about seven per cent, and the bone material, or inorganic substance, only one and a-half per cent. The cost to a farmer of fattening an ox is much greater at the close of the process than at the commencement, that is, increase in bulk or dry weight at that period is much more costly. If it costs three cents a pound for bulk for the first month after a poor animal is put in a fattening stall, it will cost five cents the last month. If, then, a farmer consults his money interests he will not carry the increase in fat beyond a certain point, provided he can turn his partially fattened animals to fair advantage. Farmers have, perhaps, learned this fact from experience and observation, and hence comparatively lean beef abounds in our markets. While this is of advantage to the farmer it is very disadvantageous to consumers of the beef, for the flesh of a fat animal in every case is much richer in fixed, nourishing material than that of the lean, and it is never good economy to purchase lean beef. It is better to purchase the poorest parts of a fat animal than the best of a lean one. The best piece of a fat ox (the loin), contains from twenty-one to twenty-eight per cent more fixed material than the corresponding piece in a lean one, and curiously enough the worst piece in the lean animal (the neck) is the richest in nourishing material. The flesh of the neck improves very little in fattening, hence economy considered, it is the best portion to purchase, as its value is in a measure a fixed one. Horse flesh is as nutritious, considered as a food, as that of the ox or cow. The relation of nitrogenous to fixed material is rather higher in a horse than in an ox, and the amount of water is less. There is no good reason why horse flesh should not be used as food. It is prejudice alone which prevents its employment. It is a regular article of sale in the meat markets of Paris at the present time.—*Journal of Chemistry.*

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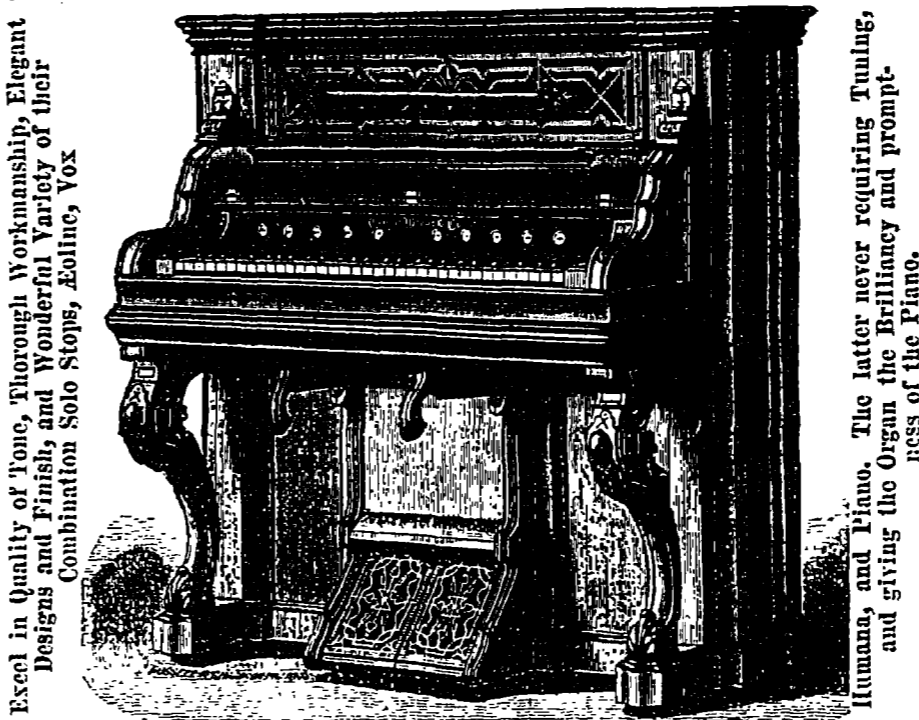
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