

SHEEP AND SWINE.**CLEANLINESS A PREVENTIVE OF HOG DISEASES.**

We do not know who wrote the following "piece," but we do know that there is a large amount of common-sense in it. No doubt a considerable proportion of the diseases rife among hogs may be traced to their being confined in filthy pens:—

"During the past season there has been a great deal said and written upon the subject of allowing hogs to run in pastures. The discussion both in and out of the newspapers has been watched with a great deal of interest by hog-raisers, whose practical knowledge, acquired by experience, has enabled them long since to form opinions upon the subject. Those men who have invested in the business are prone to arrive at conclusions based upon actual observation, from which they form common-sense ideas of what is beneficial to their stock, and wisemen who read them long, self-consequential lectures upon subjects about which they have no personal knowledge receive but little consideration at the hands of breeders. It is a common remark that most anything is good enough for a hog, and to this senseless proposition is traced the diseases among swine owned by breeders who endorse it. Since time immemorial the hog has been called the farm scavenger, but, nevertheless, the successful breeder is he who relies the least upon this over-estimated characteristic of the animal. Bad water, worse treatment in handling, and a superabundance of filth are the foundation of all diseases to which hogs are subject, and it is consequently easy to believe that the health of the animal and the quality of the meat must increase in proportion to the cleanliness of his food and surroundings. It is believed that there has been less disease among swine during the past year than during any time for the past decade, and those who ought to know attribute the fact to increased care on the part of breeders, who had realized the value of cleanliness. Grass-fed hogs who have the run of good and nutritious pastures, with plenty of pure water, are the ones that bring the highest price in any market. The summer feed of grass results in bone, muscle, and all good qualities of first-class pork, and a fall feed of corn just prior to marketing makes the plump and round finish considered so desirable. It is not too much to say that if swine raisers would adopt a universal plan of cleanliness in raising and feeding the stock, it would be but a very short time before complaints of American pork would cease to be heard in any European country. Breeders owe it to them, and they owe it to their swine, to adopt such reforms as will insure them as decent treatment as possible."

DANGEROUS SHEEP AND BULLS.

A correspondent writes: "I noticed an account a few weeks ago of a buck sheep killing a child by butting, and frequently see accounts of bulls injuring persons with their horns. Such accidents may be easily prevented. Some time ago I had a buck that became very troublesome in this way. I conceived the idea that if he could not see ahead he would not harm any one. So I put a piece of leather large enough to extend about two inches each side his eyes, and a little below his eyes, and fastened it there by straps around his neck and below the under jaw. It

rendered him perfectly harmless. I also fixed an ugly bull in the same way, and he could not see to do any harm."

THE SHROPSHIRE SHEEP.

The development of great industries in iron and coal in the districts of Shropshire, at the beginning of the century, gave rise to a large and increasing demand for mutton. To meet this demand, the farmers of that part of the country turned their attention to the raising of mutton sheep. Breeding ewes were sought for from the midland and southern counties, and, in time, Shropshire became not only a leading sheep-raising region, but also the home of an important breed, the parentage of which it is difficult to state, for the reason that it is derived from and combines a number of the best mutton breeds. The Shropshire is, more strictly speaking, a cross breed, in which the natives of the districts, the Cotswold, and later the Leicester and Southdown, have been combined. On account of this complex admixture of blood, the Shropshire breed is one that varies somewhat in character. The original sheep was horned, black or brown-faced, hardy and free from disease, producing forty-four to



SHROPSHIRE SHEEP.

fifty-six pounds of mutton to a carcass, and a fleece of two pounds of moderately fine wool. The present Shropshires are without horns, legs and face dark, or spotted with gray, the neck thick, the head well shaped, ears neat, breast back straight, barrel round, and the legs strong. The fleece is longer, heavier—averaging seven pounds—and more glossy than that of the Southdown. The Shropshire is a valuable sheep for Canadian farmers.

THE POWER OF MUSIC OVER SHEEP.

Many instances have been given of the effect which the sounds of music have upon animals, and an interesting one is recorded in the life of the great composer, Haydn. While he was rambling, on a certain occasion, in one of the lofty mountains of Lombardy, with some other young people, the party chanced to stop to contemplate the magnificent scenery around them, and suddenly a flock of sheep, which were leaving the fold to go to their pasture, passed by them. One of the party, who was a good performer on the flute, and always carried his instrument with him, took it out of his pocket, and bidding the others to watch the effect upon the sheep, began to play. We are told that the sheep, which were walking on with their heads hanging down, raised them at the first note of the music, and then all of them, with a general movement, turned towards the spot whence the agreeable sounds proceeded, until they had at length all flocked around the musician,

listening with motionless attention. He ceased to play for a while, but the sheep did not stir, and the shepherd was actually compelled to use his staff to induce those nearest him to move. After some time, however, they began to obey, but no sooner did they do so than the musician again commenced to play, and once more his strange audience returned to him. The shepherd now got out of patience, and sought to make his flock move by pelting them with clods of earth and stones, but only those which were hit would move on; and not until the flute player, at the entreaty of the shepherd, had stopped his magic sounds, would the remainder of the flock stir, and even when they had at last moved off, they continued to stop at intervals, as in the distance they heard that the musician had resumed his playing.

SELECTIONS.

SHEEP should be tagged regularly and kept clean. They should be culled every year, and those in any manner deficient placed in a separate pasture and fattened for the butcher.

A **SMALL** quantity of ashes given to pigs while fattening is found very beneficial, as their food is generally rich in phosphoric acid and deficient in lime, which ashes supply; and in this way the phosphoric acid is made available as food.

SUCCESS in raising pigs depends upon feeding liberally till the pigs are three or four months old. Let them have the run of a grass or clover pasture, and after the harvest they will do well on the wheat stubble. The cost of raising in this way is very little. In the winter they will need richer food. They should have warm quarters, with plenty of good straw.

At the recent Birmingham fat-stock show, a prize pen of three Shropshire's weighed 840 pounds; a pen of Oxfords, under twenty-two months, weighed 871 pounds—an astonishing weight for age. A

Shropshire ewe weighed 874 pounds. The heaviest pen of three sheep weighed 982 pounds, but the breed is not stated in accounts at hand.

The sheep is the cosmopolite among domestic animals. With a habitat extending from Nova Zembla to New Zealand, and following the lines of latitude around the world, it accommodates itself to every surrounding; here sweltering in the heated atmosphere of the tropic pampas, and there shivering before the crisp blasts that fan the mountain's brow; whether in glebe or glen, in field or forest, feeding on grain or grass, it is found fitted to its surrounding conditions, and to unfailingly mete to its owner in the measure from which it has been supplied.—*Iowa Homestead.*

MR. WM. SPEARE, of the 12th concession, Hibbert, is the owner of a ewe which may be set down as the champion breeder, having during the past eight years given birth to and suckled no less than twenty lambs.

MR. WM. COATES, of lot 14, first line east, Chinguacousy, is the owner of one of those ewes that prove a whole boom of industry to their owners at this season of the year. The prolific ewe we now speak of is a Cotswold, and has given birth to seven lambs in less than twelve months. On the first of May of last year she had three lambs, all of which lived, and on the second of last month she astonished the folks by giving birth to four lambs, and the progeny are doing well.