

flocks of Mr. J. Flower and the Earl of Carnarvon, the former winning in both cases. Mr. J. Flower secured the championship and R. N. for the same.

The Southdowns, though about equal numerically with the average entries of previous years, were hardly of that merit we have sometimes seen at this Show. Mr. C. R. W. Adeane was easily first and second and likewise champion with a pair of grandly fleshed rams with good fleeces and skins, one from Sir J. Blyth, Bart., being third. The Earl of Cadogan, with a grand pen of most excellent ewes, took the lead in this class and the female championship also, Sir J. Blyth, Bart., being second. Col. H. McCalmont, M. P., was first with a trio of typical ram lambs; Mr. F. N. Hobgen, with a pen well matched and of nice character, being second.

The Shropshires were not at all strongly represented, Messrs. R. P. Cooper, A. Bradburne, and G. L. Foster-Harter being the principal winners; whilst the once highly popular Cotswolds had but a single competitor, Mr. Russell Swanwick, whose entries, which secured premier prizes throughout, were of typical character and good merit.

In the Swine Section, the Berkshires made a grand entry, Mr. Russell Swanwick being a very prominent winner, securing both the breed and the yard championships with Sambo; the Earl of Carnarvon, Mr. R. W. Hudson, Mr. A. Henderson, and Mr. E. Hayter were also very successful, the whole of the entries being of high merit and quality.

Messrs. Sanders Spencer and F. Allmand were winners for Large White, the former taking precedence.

Litters Should Suck Till Eight Weeks Old.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—With reference to feeding young pigs before and after weaning, I would say, start to feed your pigs at about 4 weeks old. Make a low, narrow trough, so the pigs will not have to climb into it to get their feed. Put a little warm sweet milk in the trough, only a very little at first, because if they don't drink it up soon it will get sour, especially if the weather is warm. You will soon find out how much they will drink up quickly, and don't give them any to leave. Feed three times a day. In about a week, add a little shorts to the milk, and a little later add some barley meal. Feed in this way till the pigs are 8 weeks old, and by that time they will be ready to wean, and, if properly attended to, should grow right along. Give same kind of feed for a week or two after being weaned. I don't think it would be any detriment to the sow to let pigs suck 10 weeks.

York Co., Ont.

THOMAS TEASDALE.

Fodder Crops for Sheep Feeding.

As all who have ever had opportunity of inspecting flocks of the breed are aware, Hampshire sheep are remarkable for the great rapidity with which the lambs grow and put on flesh during the first seven or eight months of their age. No other breed surpasses the Hampshire in this respect—not even the Southdown, which played such a prominent part in the original evolution of the breed. A great feature of the system of farming carried on in that portion of the south of England (Hants and Wilts, etc.) in which the Hampshire has its home, is the extent to which green fodder crops are cultivated for sheep-feeding purposes. Leading flockmasters in that part of the country make special arrangements to have supplies of such green foods coming into use at all seasons of the year, and in this way they are enabled to keep their lambs growing uninterruptedly all through the season. Even in exceptionally dry summers when grass lands get scorched up, and flockmasters in other parts of the country are much inconvenienced in providing food for their sheep, Hampshire breeders are usually more or less independent, because of the admirable provision made by them in having successional crops of green food (rye grass, rape, sainfoin, vetches, etc.) coming in from month to month.

Expert Evidence on Weaning Pigs.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I am aware that there is a great difference of opinion in regard to age that young pigs should be allowed to remain with their dam. I have no fixed rule, as I am guided largely by the way in which the young pigs are thriving. I have frequently noticed that the milk of the dam does not agree with the young pigs, causing excessive diarrhoea, and in this case we wean the pigs at six weeks, but as a general rule I have found better results by allowing the pigs to remain with the dam until eight weeks old. A great many young pigs are injured by feeding the sow too liberally upon strong, rich food, and not having much exercise in the open air. I would strongly recommend moderate exercise, with plenty of fresh air, which is quite as essential as pure food. After the young pigs are ten days old the sow should be liberally fed upon bran and finely-ground oats, with the addition of a small quantity of ground peas or corn, but great care should be taken that the sow should not receive much grain for about ten days after farrowing. Many young pigs are so seriously injured during this period that they never recover.

Oxford Co., Ont.

J. E. BRETHOUR.

Exercise for Swine.

At most periods of their lives hogs need exercise, although the tendency of modern breeding is in the direction of early fattening and making the largest gains on the smallest possible amount of feed. The sucking pig needs exercise, or plethora and an attack of thumps may be expected. The time when thumps are most complained of is when, after farrowing time, there is bad weather that keeps the litter and the dam confined to the pen, where the former suck and sleep and have no work to do to keep them healthy. In this case, they should be compelled to move about freely in the pen by use of a switch or some such means. In good weather, with room enough to run about out of doors, the litter always gets exercise enough, and rarely has thumps. Growing pigs need some exercise, too, but they can be relied on to take all they need, if given room enough and the weather is not too unfavorable. Breeding stock should always have plenty of exercise, or they will become shy breeders, and the pigs they have will not be vigorous, and they may even become entirely sterile. When hogs get their growth and are put in the yard for fattening is the time when they need exercise least. For the short time that remains before marketing they can both safely and advantageously be kept as quiet as possible. The time is too brief for them to suffer injury for want of exercise, and the feed will have a quicker effect if they do not run it off. The conclusion, therefore, is that hogs need exercise, but no particular pains need be taken to see that they get it, except in the case of young pigs in bad weather, or in that of breeding stock that has been fattened for the showing. The latter, when they reach home after the shows, need reducing, not by cutting off feed so much as by exercise, and in doing this, driving them around the yard with a buggy whip for a while each day is often resorted to.

Weaning and Feeding Young Pigs.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Re time to wean young pigs and best foods to feed them: I usually let them suck the sow until they are eight or nine weeks old, if they continue to do well, unless I am anxious to get the sow bred again; if so, I would wean them a little younger. I have had pigs that the sow's milk did not seem to agree with; in that case, I would wean them at four or five weeks old, and put the little fellows on warm skim milk and middlings, giving them outdoor exercise if possible. Want of earth and exercise, I believe, is the cause of many disappointments in the hog business. There are also a great many little pigs over-fat just after weaning. While sucking the sow, they suck probably a dozen times in 24 hours, but as soon as they are weaned they have to be satisfied with three or four feeds a day. I believe some are advocating feeding only twice a day now. The results are overloaded stomachs, causing indigestion, etc. I have not found any feed for young pigs that suited me better than skim milk and middlings, mixed one meal ahead. I grow a mixture of grain, viz., oats, barley, peas, goose wheat, and flax, that I find a good ration for them as they grow older, having the mixture ground fine. I do not think having the pigs suck until they are ten weeks old is any particular injury to the sow, if she is properly fed, and I think it pays to let them suck just as long as they continue to do well, but I would wean them at any age if they begin to fail.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

P. S.—I do not think the best quality of bacon can be produced at six months old, as is claimed to be done by some hog-faisers.—R. H. H.

The Scotch Shorthorn.

The foundation of the Scotch Shorthorn of the present day may be said to have been laid by the brothers Amos and Anthony Cruickshank, sons of a small miller residing a little outside Aberdeen. The Cruickshank Brothers had as their ideal the production of what may be described as a paying farmer's beast, and the present popularity of the type of cattle which they founded is the best proof that could be given of the success with which their efforts were attended. Writing of the work done by them, one of their admirers says:

"They did not despise style; but their leading requirements were substance and the power to lay on beef at the right places at the lowest possible cost. Ability to transmit unimpaired to its offspring well-defined structural merit and a sound constitution were, of course, equally aimed at. Low legs, a blocky frame, sound lungs, and sound and vigorous digestion are the conspicuous points of the Cruickshank Shorthorn. Built by practically Scotch farmers on a practical ideal, fed in a Scotch climate on the common produce of the soil, the Scotch Shorthorn is, like his owner, very plain in his tastes, thriving well on any good pasture in summer, and on 'neeps' (turnips) and straw in winter, and robust enough to thrive in any climate where a Scotch man or beast finds it profitable to live. Turnips are highly conducive to healthy and rapid growth: the oat straw, from which his master's porridge and cakes have been taken, is also good in its way, and if he gets a good handful or two of good oatmeal or a pound or two of good oil cake along with his 'neeps,' he will, either pure or crossed, hold his own from start to finish with any other breed."

Death of William Housman.

Very many of the older breeders and students of Shorthorn literature in Canada and the United States, will learn with much regret of the death of Mr. Wm. Housman, on April 9th, at his residence, Prospect House, Distington, Cumberland, England. His father, Mr. R. F. Housman, a man of great literary and artistic attainments, gave his son a fine home schooling. A herd of Shorthorns were kept at Lune Park, and as a lad he was very fond of them, beginning when a mere boy to study and work out their pedigrees, thus laying the foundation of that intimate acquaintance with Shorthorn lore which distinguished him in after years as a writer of books and pamphlets, and for such periodicals as Bell's Weekly Messenger and the English Live Stock Journal, to which he was a regular contributor from 1886 up till the time of his death. He was a man of fine disposition, thoughtful and retiring, very kind and charitable, visiting the poor and the sick up to the last.

The Foal and its Dam.

Horse breeders who kept right along raising foals a few years ago, when the prices for horses were low, are now reaping their reward in a lively demand for their stock at good paying prices. This advance in values has caused a great many farmers to re-engage in horse breeding, and according to what we have been able to learn, they are after the heavy ones hot-foot. While there has been a drain upon the lighter or medium weight class for military purposes, the supply of this sort for sale in the country is many times greater than that of the heavy ones, which includes chunks about 1,000 to 1,300 pounds up to drafters of considerably greater weights. The experience of the present as well as of the past has taught the lesson that the good ones pay greater profits than those of medium quality, notwithstanding the probability that the latter has cost considerably less to rear. To raise a colt cheaply is not true economy, as a cheap colt usually becomes a cheap horse, wanted only for cheap work at a low price. It may be taken as a rule that upon the care bestowed on foals during the early months of their existence will almost entirely depend their immunity from disease and their subsequent vigorous growth and perfect development.

It is acknowledged by those who have had much to do with foal rearing, that very much of its success depends upon the manner in which the mares are treated during pregnancy and immediately before and after parturition. Judicious labor is undoubtedly beneficial, but they must be liberally fed, not only that their own system may be maintained in good condition, but that of the foetus may receive a due amount of nutriment. Grass alone will not suffice, and a certain allowance of oats is necessary. To have thriving progeny the mares themselves should be strong and lively during pregnancy and after parturition.

Many mares are at best poor milkers, and where this is the case the deficiency should be made up in some way. The foods that have been found useful in increasing the flow of milk in the cow will have the same effect upon the milk of the mare. Wheat bran is especially valuable for this purpose if mixed with other and more nutritious foods. Plenty of good fresh grass is one of the very best of aids to healthy and abundant nutrition for both mare and foal.

The chances are many foals this year will be from mares that will be required to do a certain amount of agricultural duty, and it is with these that more than ordinary care is necessary in order to bring the youngster along in a thriving manner. If it can be avoided, a mare should not be placed in harness for at least ten days after foaling, and then given not more than three hours' work during each half day for some time, or at least until the foal has been taught to take some supplemental food. It is a mistake to make up for a fast of several hours by allowing the foal to receive the entire contents of a gorged udder. Such treatment is likely to do more harm than good by deranging the digestive system of the youngster to such an extent as to make him sick. Especially should a full feed be avoided while the mare is overheated. It is safe in any case to draw off a portion of the milk before the foal is permitted to take his meal after a few hours' separation. When a mare must do the labor of half a team the foal should be given special attention. It is needless to say the mare should be fed extra well on nourishing foods, and the foal should be early taught to take cow's milk as well as nutritious solid food. As soon as the foal will nibble it should be offered oatmeal from the hand. On account of the indigestibility of the tough, fibrous hulls, these should be sifted out, or it is better still to feed oatmeal such as is used for domestic purposes. Naturally his very limited capacity should be taken into consideration when offering him the grain, but as a general rule the foal may be allowed all it cares to eat up at once. In addition to this a small proportion of crushed wheat may be added as well as a springling of oil cake meal or ground flax. Besides the milk his mother gives, from one to four quarts of the same cow's milk daily in two or three feeds will pay well for itself in sending the foal along at a rapid rate.

The foal should be kept housed in a comfortable stall where it cannot injure itself by getting fast or by striving to climb over a door or out of a window

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