

Care of the Ewes and Lambs.

Lambing time will commence on many farms early in March. The ewes should have a little more generous feeding as that season approaches. Good clover hay, if it is in storage, is a staple sheep food. A light feed of oats and bran daily, with a few turnips or magels, will give the ewes strength and provide the necessary milk to support the lambs when they come. A few light hurdles about 6 feet long and 2½ feet high should be prepared before the lambs come, and when a ewe has lambed, she and her lamb may be enclosed for a day or two in a small pen made by the placing of two of these hurdles in a corner of the sheep-pen, securely tied at the corners with rope or strong twine. When the ewe and lamb get a little acquainted, it will be better, if the lamb is strong, for both to have the room of the larger pen for exercise, and the stimulus of competing with the other sheep for her share of the feed will be good for the mother if the feed of the flock is fairly liberal; if not, she should be put in her own little pen once or twice a day and given a little extra feed, and when a few ewes have lambed they should have a pen to themselves apart from the rest of the flock, so that they may have the generous feeding they need in order to keep their flesh and give sufficient milk to keep the lambs improving. When the lambs are three weeks old, one end of the pen should be fenced off for their special use, with a "creep" in the hurdles so they can go through, while the ewes cannot, and if a bit of sweet clover hay be placed in a little rack, and a mixture of bran and chopped oats is kept in a low trough in the lambs' pen, the little fellows will soon learn to eat enough to help their growth and lessen the demand upon their mothers' strength. The lambs will soon learn to eat sliced roots also. Docking the lambs' tails should be attended to when they are from two to three weeks old, as the danger from the operation increases with every week after that age. Castration should be effected at the same age, if it is not a pure-bred flock and ram lambs that are not to be kept for breeding purposes. An occasional case of difficult parturition will occur. When a ewe has been in trouble for more than an hour it is well to make an examination to learn if the presentation of the lamb is normal; if so, another hour had better be given nature and the ewe to work out her own deliverance before interfering further. Many a good ewe has been ruined by over-zealous meddling. If the presentation is wrong, put it right by as gentle means as possible, using warm water and oil on the hand, and when the lamb has been brought into proper position give nature another chance to do her work before hastening the work.

Live Stock Prices.

"The prices for all kinds of farm stock have been suddenly advanced, and horses, fat animals, both cattle and sheep, have increased in value, and are likely to do so for some time to come. Here in Dublin we have an advance of one penny in the pound for fresh meat, and a further increase is expected immediately. In London the same thing has taken place, and this week the retail prices will be increased considerably. If these prices are retained there ought to be a good time in store for owners of young cattle and sheep, as although the prices for these, in a fat state, show an upward tendency at present, the values are likely to go higher, and store stock will be sought for eagerly by those who follow the business of fattening. It should therefore be the aim of owners of store stock to turn them out for sale in as good a condition as possible. It is only when the first-class animals are disposed of that any inquires are likely to be made for the indifferent or poorly-fed animals. Many of our farmers have realized good prices for horses which they never dreamed of as being fit for military purposes, but for the needs of the present war the small, stout, active horse is considered the best. The present demand for these animals will remain as long as the war lasts, so that those having horses to dispose of can get remunerative prices for them. We strongly advise farmers to be most careful in the management of their flocks and herds during the spring months, and to see that all breeding animals have due attention in the matters of shelter and feeding."—*Weekly Irish Times*.

Trim the Bull's Feet.

The neglect to trim the overgrown feet of a bull makes him walk awkwardly and look ungainly, and may cause his legs to grow crooked. To look and feel his best he should stand straight and comfortably on his feet. The following plan of trimming a bull's feet is recommended by an experienced herdsman: Take a fine saw and saw off the point of the hoof as far back as is safe without touching the quick; then saw under the hoof, commencing just under the horn on upper side, and saw back towards the heel, sloping downward so that the saw will come out at the lower surface of the heel. A chisel may be pushed under to cut the piece away if the saw does not cut through the soft part at the heel. This will throw the animal's weight forward on the front of the hoof, and give him an easy and natural appearance. A rasp may be used to round the points of the hoofs. If the animal is nervous and liable to kick, a sack thrown over his head to blindfold him may have the effect of quieting him, and if by scratching his head or shoulders his attention be attracted from the operation, it may prove helpful.

Jerseys in England.

BY F. S. PEER.

A LESSON IN BREEDING.

During my last trip to England I had the pleasure of visiting some of the principal herds of Jersey cattle in that country; i.e.: Mr. J. H. Shore's, at Whatley; Sir James Blyth's, at Stansted; Lord Rothschild's, at Tring; Lord Braybrooke's, at Audley End; and the Queen's herd, at Windsor. Of course, a detailed description of these herds in reasonable space is out of the question. I will therefore confine myself to the general impression I received in going about. Mr. J. H. Shore is a man of very pronounced ideas in regard to breeding, and such men are most useful, for they usually demonstrate to others, if not to themselves, that they are decidedly right or decidedly wrong. Mr. Shore has a herd of eighty or more. He lays great stress on color, richness of skin, and ears. Our attention was called to the inside of more ears than I have looked into in years. Mr. Shore is particularly fond of broken-colored Jerseys, principally, I believe, because where the hair is white you get a better view of the gold. He is very fond of ruffing up the hair on his spotted beauties to exhibit the color of their hide. Mr. Shore seems to rely upon color so much as an indication of richness that I did not have the heart even to ask him if he had not discovered that color went and came, or that an animal often showed higher color while improving in condition than when she reached or passed her full bloom. It seemed too bad to sow seeds of unbelief among a breeder's pet theories. We have, most of us, had to go through the same old theoretical mill—color and dimples, a corrugated spine, tortuous milk veins, telling a cow's fortune by the shape of her escutcheon, and lastly, the rudimentary fad, which of all the signs I have mentioned is about the most nonsensical hobby of the lot, but like all the others, it seems bound to be ridden to a standstill. Mr. Shore

shows have made two classes, one for Island and one for English bred cattle. This amounts practically to an acknowledgment that the poor peasant farmers of Jersey are more successful breeders than many of the learned gentlemen of England. I am not now referring to Sir James Blyth's herd, but English breeding of Jersey cattle in general.

Our next visit was at Tring Park, the beautiful country seat of Lord Rothschild. This herd and the herd of Mrs. Greenall, at Warrington, are by common consent considered the two best Jersey herds in England. They have merited this distinction by having the largest number of very high-priced cattle. There may be small herds equally as good in proportion. We had a royal day at Tring Park. I never saw so many really high-class cows together, not even at our largest annual exhibitions. There were something over a hundred head, and not a weed or cull in the lot. The farm manager, Mr. Richardson Carr, was expecting us. I may say right here it is never considered the proper thing in England to go to visit any farm or stud without giving due notice of your coming, and arranging the date and hour of your arrival. Americans cause much confusion when they first go to England by not conforming to this custom of the country. Five minutes after our arrival a dozen men with as many white web halters were leading out as many cows at a time for our inspection. They were paraded around us in a circle, first one way, then the other, and finally halted in a line for more minute inspection. The cattle were in the pink of dairy form and in little short of prize-ring condition. Lord Rothschild makes a public sale every two or three years and sells without reserve all the yearlings and two-year-olds of the herd of his own breeding. Not an animal, however attractive, is retained or bid in. This kind of sale of horses and sheep as well as cattle is very popular all over England and Scotland, and the stock bring exceptionally good prices. It is too bad that the A. J. C. C. will not permit Americans to avail themselves of these rare opportunities to select high-class animals for outcrosses on their herds. The English breeders, as a rule, leave us behind in breeding for style and quality.

TESTS OF ENGLISH COWS.

The English breeders never have gone in for making butter records until lately, and although but few breeders have been induced to try it, they have demonstrated that their cattle are producers as well as pictures. Records so far, I believe, have been confined mostly to single-day tests at exhibitions. The highest record to date is 3 lbs. 6½ oz. of butter, made last summer at the Tring Exhibition by Lord Braybrooke's cow, Sundew 4th. I haven't the least doubt but that there are many others equally as good. All they need is a Yankee to stuff the feed into them. Look at the three cows imported by C. A. Sweet, of Buffalo. Fourteen pounds is an exceptionally good record on the Island of Jersey, but Mr. Sweet in a year after importation makes the three cows produce 16 lbs. 10½ oz., 19 lbs. 8½ oz., and 21 lbs. 3 oz. per day. These were considered simply good fair dairy cows on the Island. There is hardly a man on the Island who would believe these cattle capable of doing over 14 lbs. I believe it would have been better for the Jersey interest if 22 to 25 lbs. a week had been the limit reached by our Jerseys. I well remember in the seventies, when we were all trying for 20-lb. cows, and Mary Anne of St. Lambert jumped the record up to 36 lbs., this seemed so far beyond what anyone had dreamed of that testing from that time on for years had a great setback. Englishmen, for the same reason, I believe, who have made tests and find their cows are only capable of doing 16 to 20 lbs. a week or at that rate, do not relish publishing their tests in comparison with 30 and 40 lb. records. Therefore, they do not "go in" for testing.

We saw at Lord Rothschild's a three-year-old cow, called Tulip, that is without question the most beautiful Jersey cow I ever saw. She is English bred, but her ancestry traces on all sides to Island-bred cattle. The price of this cow was 200 guineas (over \$1,000). This cow and a two-year-old heifer, called Twinkle, imported from the Island, captivated both Mr. B. M. Hawks (my visiting companion) and myself. These two animals are prizewinners and performers as well, and Tulip, at least, has not an equal in America, but she would be worth no more in this country than an ordinary animal, simply because the A. J. C. C. decline to admit an English-bred or even an Island-bred Jersey that is owned in England to be registered in this country. I am sure this is a great mistake, which I hope the Society will not be long in correcting. Let us buy our Jerseys anywhere in the world where we can find them that are an improvement on our own.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS BULL, EQUESTRIAN 19853.
Winner of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales' Gold Medal, Highland Society Show, 1899.
THE PROPERTY OF MR. GEO. SMITH GRANT.

is a great believer in the "Fountain" family, which originated with Mr. J. W. Laby, of Jersey. And a very grand family they are and always will be in Mr. Laby's hands, for he is a most careful breeder, and selects his outcrosses with the greatest care; but I fear Mr. Shore, who seems to be going on a theory so often practiced in the States—i.e., that you cannot have too much of a good thing—will find that in and in breeding produces more weeds and rubbish than extraordinary animals. At least, this has been the lesson that many of us in the States have learned. This desire to get 100 per cent. sires that make such attractive-looking pedigrees is an experience which in most cases has cost the breeder dearly.

At Sir James Blyth's we found a herd of fifty or more. The animals of his own breeding were a very even lot, but, like many English Jerseys, they looked a little too growthy to suit our ideas of dairy type. It seems to be a universal fault in England that the stud bulls get too much growth. English breeders go to the Islands and buy a calf or yearling, which, if left on the Island, would never have exceeded 1,000 lbs. The English breeder feeds them so much better than some of the aged bulls turn the scales at 1,500 and even 1,800 lbs.

If I am more positive about one thing in breeding than another, it is against the use of large bulls on small cows. It is almost certain to be followed by a lot of coarseness in the offspring. Both observation and experience confirms me in the statement that large sires on small dams get size with coarseness, and that small sires on large dams generally produce size with quality. I have seldom seen a 1,500 or 1,800 lb. sire but that spoilt most of his get with coarseness. There are, no doubt, notable exceptions. I believe that here lies the difficulty in keeping quality in some of the English herds. When this process goes on for a few years and such a bull's get are outclassed in the showing, the owner goes back to the Island and repeats the process, and this I believe is the principal reason why it happens that year after year the Island-bred cattle come to England and run off with the majority of the prizes. This thing has become so universal that some of the

But I must hasten on to show you what I consider the best breeding establishment of Jerseys in England. I refer to Lord Braybrooke's herd, at Audley End. Of all the Jersey herds I ever saw, I never found one that comes up to such an ideal standard or exemplifies the art and science of breeding as does this Jersey herd of Lord Braybrooke's, which was founded in 1811 by importations from the Island. The former Lord Braybrooke was a very noted Shorthorn breeder. The Shorthorns were disposed of at public auction in 1885 at an average of \$540 per head, and this leads me to say that most English and Scotch breeders, who are to the manor born, have a great advantage over American breeders, who, as a rule, are thoroughly inexperienced in the handling and breeding of pure-bred stock. The present Lord Braybrooke, like hundreds of other breeders in England, has had the