

THE SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

Indiana Farmer

The practical enquiry in every farmer's mind is: What does it require to become a successful farmer? One very intelligent and successful farmer has answered that question most truly by saying that, "successful farming does not depend so much upon what a man *has*, as upon what a man *is*." There is a world of good sense in that answer. Now a man *is* what he makes himself. Intelligence lies at the base of all success, whether in farming or in anything else. We mean practical intelligence, not a knowledge of the classics, languages, etc. Said the wisest man that ever lived: "Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

And after all, that is the true idea of practical intelligence. We gather from each other the ideas, strength and purpose to become successful. No one person comprehends all the phases and methods leading to success. Each thoughtful man has good ideas and plans, but not on all subjects and ways. A gets from B a good practical idea on managing live stock, and B is not quite up with the best method of some other department of farming, and so he gets a better idea from A on that. And thus it is through all departments of active life.

Whenever you find a man that believes he "knows it all," and has nothing to learn from others, you can put him down as an egotistical nobody, and always a miserable failure on the farm. The successful man you will find to be bright, quick, looking here and there, and laying all men, and all nature under tribute to his work and purposes in life. We have in mind scores of such men. Recently one of them remarked to us that, no odds what kind of times we had, while he might miss it this year or that, in his farm plans, yet taking any period of five years, in the last 40 of his farm life, he had averaged during such period a profit of more than ten per cent. net, on his farm productions, after deducting interest on amount invested in land, taxes, labor, seed and marketing. That man has left no stone unturned to acquaint himself and qualify himself for all his farm duties, and that too before we had agricultural colleges or agricultural schools. He says that he takes and reads five or six agricultural periodicals and papers, devoted to his own interests, and considers it the best annual investment he ever makes. In this way he becomes thoroughly conversant with the thoughts and methods of all engaged in the same pursuit, for in these periodicals and papers he finds the contributions and current writings of thousands of other successful farmers, who have been wide awake like himself. And thus he utilizes in his own plans all that seems good to him which he has not already adopted.

And so we conclude with the sensible quotation above: "Successful farming does not depend so much upon what a man *has*, as upon what a man *is*," for one must be intelligent in order to turn to good account what he has.

IDEA. PRACTICAL AND FANCIFUL.

Mr. B. Hinsdale, in Poultry Nation.

There are some ideas relative to the breeding of all kinds of stock for practical purposes that should never be lost sight of by the business poultryman.

On the contrary there are a great many ideas almost solely and exclusively applicable by the breeder whose desire it is to gratify fancy.

The ultimate end of ninety-nine head out of a hundred of cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry is the butcher's block. After a cow has passed her breeding and milking period of life she is prepared for the shambles; after a hen has survived her usefulness as a producer of eggs her head is chopped off and her carcass dressed for the table.

This is a decidedly *utilitarian* view of animal life. Applying this principle to business the breeder will usually select for his favorite, the variety that in his judgment will yield the greatest profit. A fowl that will lay a hundred and fifty eggs during her first eighteen months of life and then bring a half dollar in market is preferable to one that will do less. One that will do more than this is proportionately the more profitable. This is the theory on which the most of poultry raising is based. It is the one that the market farmer and poulterer needs to apply. While in applying this it is possible to steer pretty well clear of "fancy stock" it is pleasant to have things look well and attractive as well.

The class of breeders whose chief aim is to gratify fancy are the ones who care not for size or weight as an end. What they want is a gratification of taste. They are more "spiritualistic" than "utilitarian." They are the breeders of "points," feathers and marks. They are the perfectors of the breeds, the fanciers of pigeons, the raisers of birds and the breeders of pets. They study the standards more than the prices of eggs and of meat. They look to the fairs and shows for the culmination of their happiness and not to the market stalls.

While the breeding of market poultry will always be a pleasant and profitable industry, the fostering of fancy poultry will to the enthusiast be equally so, and the two with many persons will go hand in hand.

Having thus made some statements of what the writer presumes to be facts, he begs to make a suggestion. The breeders of nearly all kinds of large stock have associations and meetings for the discussion of topics relating to the particular breeds which they keep. They are not fairs, shows, and are not necessarily connected therewith. They are simply conferences where ideas may be exchanged, suggestions made and things learned.

Outside the American Poultry Association there is scarcely a poultry club, that is based upon the ideas above referred to. Poultry shows are necessary and common, but meetings of breeders for the exchange of ideas, the reading of papers upon some particular phase of the industry and discussions thereof are what we need and what I wish to suggest.

GEESE IN WINTER

Should be supplied with food adapted to their natural wants, as far as it is possible to furnish it. These birds are more herbivorous than any of our domestic fowls. As a matter of course, a diet coming nearest their summer grass forage suits them best. Fine hay, soaked in warm water and sprinkled with meal or bran is acceptable. Boiled potatoes, mixed with meal, serves well. Beets, turnips, potatoes or apples, chopped fine, are good. Cabbage is a favorite food, and ought to be generously supplied. With good quarters and plenty of water, they will winter contentedly and begin to lay early. Corn is relished by them, but too much makes them over-fat.—*Poultry World*.

In no way can land be improved faster than by judicious pasturing. This does not consist in allowing stock to eat the grass off until the sod is bare and brown, and exhausting the grass plants, or in extracting all the substance from the soil. Enough growth should always be left on the sod to protect the roots from the action of the frost and the scorching sun rays. This slight growth will keep the ground moist and mellow, and the grass will really make a larger growth and more pasture than when cropped too closely. In fact to pasture a sod so closely as to expose the grass roots to the action of sun and frost is poor management.—*National Stockman*.

Veterinary Department.

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[All communications desired to be answered through this column should be addressed to the "Veterinary Editor, CANADIAN BREEDER, corner of Front and Church Streets, Toronto."]]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. H. W.—I have a promising colt that strikes his front shoes with his hind ones whenever he is trotted. He has worn the toes off the hind feet. Can it be stopped? Ans.—Have him shod with heavy shoes on his front feet and very light ones behind well set back from the toe. The front ones should not project behind the heels. As he gets older he will grow out of the habit.

H. R.—I have a horse that has been ailing for some time. His coat stares, is hidebound, small eruptions on his skin, which he rubs and tries to bite. His appetite is good, but he keeps thin and has no life in him. If he is driven he tires after going a short distance. Ans.—Your horse has worms of some kind. Give him night and morning a tablespoonful of the following: sulphate of iron, 3 oz.; pul. gentian, 2 oz.; arsenious acid, 90 grs. After you have given the above, drench him with 2 oz. of spirits of turpentine and a pint of raw linseed oil.

G. C.—I have an eight-year-old horse that has great difficulty in passing urine. He strains very much and only passes a little at a time. His health is all right every other way. Have given him nitre but it does him no good. Ans.—Your horse has a collection of matter in the opening of the head of his yard. Break it down with the fingers well oiled, which will give instant relief, allowing free passage of urine. Keep his sheath well washed in future.

S. G. P.—I have a horse that has had a disease of the skin all fall. He broke out in spots about the head and neck; the hair has fallen off on these places. Ans.—Your horse has got eczema, which is a very obstinate disease to treat. After washing the parts well apply the following wash:—Mercurius bi-chloride, 1 drachm; alcohol, 8oz.; water, 1 gal. Give internally, night and morning, half an ounce of Fowler's solution of arsenic. Feed well and see that he is well groomed.

L. R.—I have a very good colley dog that has a very offensive discharge from his ears. He has been bad about a month. Can he be cured? Ans.—Your dog has canker of the ears. If properly attended to, can be cured in a short time. Sponge the ears out every day with the following:—permanganate of potash, 2 drachms; water, 1 pint; put tablespoonful of this in a pint of hot water. If, after using this, the ears are not well, drop in the ears every day a few drops of the following: sugar of lead, 30 grains; laudanum, 2 drachms; water, 4 oz. Attend to the general health by feeding well, and allow him plenty of out-door exercise, and give a tonic pill once a week, composed as follows: sulphate of quinine, 2 grains; sulphate of iron, 5 grains; extract of nyscymus, 3 grains; glycerine, a sufficiency to make a pill.

W. G. T.—A very well bred Scotch terrier pup of mine, three months old, has not been very well of late. He was quite lively up to about a week ago, when he suddenly commenced to champ his jaws and froth at the mouth and run around, but that would stop and he would appear all right, but only to have the same thing occur again. Now he is getting dull and losing his appetite, and has a slight discharge from the eyes. Ans.—The cause of trouble in your dog is worms, more particularly one or more of them in the stomach. Give a quarter of a grain of tartar emetic in a little milk poured down, and on the following day, when the irritability of the stomach is allayed, give ten grains of areca nut and 1 grain of santaline in a little milk. Feed on soft and easily digested food, such as milk porridge, rice and milk, and a little raw meat.