

The Breeder and Brezier.

Cooking Food for Animals.

The *German town Telegraph* says:—"We are well aware that the feeding cooked food to animals, even horses, was at one time very much the fashion, and the steam boiler was to be found at every barn. It was regarded not only as healthful and preferred by the animals, but economical. But for some reason, which we have never heard explained fully, the practice is not now so common, many persons having discontinued it. For horses and cows, except milch cows, and for fattening bullocks, the method is not approved by a great many experienced farmers, but for swine and poultry cooked food is no doubt excellent, though it should be used in feeding swine moderately with their whole corn and cold water. We have heard that, considering the labor and expense of cooking, it was not economical; but we mention this as the statement of a Bucks county farmer, and suppose there is something in it."

Precisely the opposite is the case in Ontario. Near Toronto, to our knowledge, the use of steamers is greatly on the increase, and is found to pay handsomely. We are informed also that in other parts of Ontario the practice of cooking food is coming more in vogue.

Breeding Short-Horns.

Mr. B. F. Vanmeter, one of the best known of Kentucky breeders, writes a valuable article to the *Live Stock Record*, on the art of breeding Short-horns. After giving a few items of his early recollections he proceeds:—"There is a great deal said and written about in-and-in-breeding and breeding in line, both of which might be correctly termed short-horn phrases, frequently used and variously defined in the minds of the different persons who use them, varying however less in kind than in degree—therefore it may be proper, just here to give a definition for each to-wit: In-and-in-breeding means coupling sire with his get—or full, or even half brother and sister, together. Breeding-in-line means keeping one and the same strain of blood predominating in the male and female which are coupled together, though in one or the other it may be decidedly in the minority, while in the other it is sufficiently predominating to give, when re-enforced by the minority, a controlling influence in fixing the type and style of the produce. And now, after making these explanations, I will make the assertion that there is no other way whereby Short-horns can be bred up to the highest type of perfection and excellence—or can be kept up to this type after they are bred up to it, except by judicious in-and-in-breeding and by keeping in line. In fact, just here is the real science and skill of Short-horn breeding displayed—for the converse of this proposition is just as true—there is no way whereby a herd can be more rapidly bred down than by injudicious in-and-in-breeding; for it is bad enough to use an inferior sire the first time, but it is next to total destruction to use him upon his get, and thus not only magnify his faults, but render them so fixed in the produce, that it will require several crosses of judicious breeding to eradicate the fault, and many more to so overwhelm the bad blood thus inserted as to render it entirely incapable of doing harm in some after cross."

But this idea can be better illustrated by the use of fractions, and I may add not only compound fractions, but the idea very soon runs into complex fractions, for example we will represent the bull by $\frac{3}{4}$, plus $\frac{1}{8}$, plus $\frac{1}{16}$, plus $\frac{1}{16}$ equal $\frac{1}{2}$, while the cow, more scattering bred, can be represented by $\frac{1}{3}$, plus $\frac{1}{3}$, plus $\frac{1}{12}$, plus $\frac{1}{12}$, plus $\frac{1}{12}$, plus $\frac{1}{12}$, equal $\frac{1}{2}$.

Now, it is generally estimated that the dam and sire exert each an equal influence in the formation, type and character of the produce, but in practical results it is found that while the dam and sire together is the source from which the type and formation of the produce is derived, yet it is very seldom that each furnishes exactly half in the produce, but instead, they furnish in proportion to the predominating fractions of blood contained in the two—for example, say in the above—one of the thirds in the blood of the cow is identical with the three fourths in the bull, then in the union these two being identical, assume their proportionately overpowering influence in making up the form, style, &c., of the produce, and if all these minor fractions in both dam and sire are each alien to the other, or comparatively so, they are only the more overwhelmed and controlled by this majority. But suppose that the other third in the blood of the cow is identical with the

eighth in the blood of the bull, then the union of this third and eighth, though still a minority, will be sufficiently potent to exert a perceptible modifying influence.

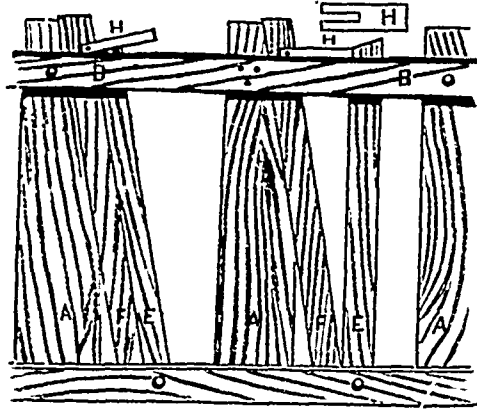
Thus we see at once where rests the real science of Short-horn breeding, and we are forced to realize the fact that this science cannot be learned from books and papers, because it cannot be put into them, and this also explains what Mr. Bates meant when he said in his blunt English way that "Short-horn breeders were born and not made." And again—"you can find 100 men to make Premiers where you find one fit to make a Short-horn breeder." (Statesmen can be made principally by education or book-learning). We see, too, the great utility of a bull intensely in-bred, of a choice strain, and of high type, and we are now enabled to render an intelligent meaning for prepotency—a word newly coined, and yet undefined in the dictionary, and made expressly to order for Short-horn parlance, as well as to account for the fabulous prices paid for Duke bulls, while other scattering or cross-bred bulls of extra fine form and style, sell at prices comparatively insignificant.

For the good of the cause it is to be regretted that a majority of the few who are qualified by nature and practice to breed them intelligently, are so limited in means or capital as to restrict their operations and frequently compel them to sell such beasts from their herds as are really essential to the highest results.

However, there is one very comforting thought in regard to this whole matter, while there is such rushing headlong and helter-skelter into this Short-horn business—both it as bad as you may, the past has proven that you will make money out of it anyhow; but it will keep the few scientific breeders very busy to raise them as fast as the rest of us can destroy them.

How to Make Stanchions.

A Massachusetts correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says:—"Most of the farmers around here stanchion all of their cattle, especially those who have built new barns. Vicious cattle, I suppose, do not like them so well; but the weaker ones do, as their wicked neighbors are kept where they belong, and have all the liberty that it is safe for them to have. I send a rough plan of mine, with a description. AAA are $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plank, 11-inch wide and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and can be of any kind of wood almost. EE and



FF should be made of hard wood, 5 inches wide, $1\frac{1}{2}$ thick, and should be dressed on both sides; they can be got out of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plank. It will be seen that there are two stalls, one open and one shut; and the space for the neck should be 8 inches, when shut, as shown in the end stall. Each cow should have three feet and no more. The stick BB, with one on the other side of the planks, AA, should be as long as your stable, if convenient, if not, they can be spliced, and can be of hard or soft wood—rough sawed will do. They should be 6x2 inches. The lower cross pieces can be made of the same material, but should be $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 inches. About every other one of the planks, AAA, should be secured by a $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch $\frac{1}{2}$ bolt, with nut on it, while the cross pieces will be held together by a $6\frac{1}{2}$ -inch $\frac{1}{2}$ bolt through the bottom of the bars, EE. The other planks can be held in their places with 20d nails or spikes. The latch, H, can be made of oak or ash, about 14 inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ thick, and 4 inches wide, and secured by a $\frac{1}{2}$ bolt to the top of FF, as shown in the drawing. The upper edge of the lower cross piece should be beveled. Two and a half feet is depth enough for manger. Cut the floor planks just 4 feet 8 inches, and have them run under the lower cross piece 2 inches. The "gutter" should be 3 or 4 inches deep; or, if you have a hard, even soil, you need not have any back of this short one, by using plenty of bedding. You can let 3 or 4 of planks AA run below the floor to keep it secure, and the top can be made firm by letting them run up and fasten to upper floor.

FOR SHEEP KILLERS.—In those places where sheep are destroyed by dogs, I would recommend that the services of Constable Strychnine should be secured to protect the flock.—*Saratoga*.

AN ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY of great importance, if verified, has been made by a French veterinary surgeon, who, noting that the "foot-and-mouth disease" seemed invariably to spare cattle affected with cow-pox, has vaccinated a number of oxen as a preventive measure, with the result that "not one of the twenty-five beasts successfully inoculated has, up to this date, shown any sign of foot-and-mouth disease, although living among animals largely infected with it."

MANAGEMENT OF COLTS.—Like all other young and growing animals, colts require an abundance of fresh air and exercise, and should have free opportunity of indulging in the gambols, and frolics, and races to which their nature prompts them, and which is so essential in order to properly distend the lungs, swell the veins, invigorate the entire system, and make a hardy, healthy, active horse. Give muscle and bone-forming food in abundance, but feed corn sparingly, and, if at all, only in the coldest weather. Oats and wheat, bran and grass, and hay in abundance, will make the colt grow; and exercise, with protection from severe storms, will keep him healthy.

HOG MANURE—A Somersetshire farmer speaks highly of hog manure for growing turnips. He says from his knowledge of its excellence he was induced to try it as a manure solely for his turnips, and tested it against guano and bone dust. The result was that it was equal to the guano and beat the bone dust. One part of his farm was a clay and the other a sandy soil. The result of the test was the same on both. He tried the manures on other farms and the result was always the same. To carry out the plan, suitable farm buildings are necessary. He has a large dry shed in which he puts, first of all, a layer of dry coal ashes, about a foot thick and four feet wide, to which the deposits of the hogs are taken, both liquid and solid, and as soon as the liquid begins to ooze out, more ashes are added, and so on, until the pile is about four feet in thickness. He then commences a fresh pile and treats in the same way. After lying some time, the heaps are turned two or three times and thoroughly mixed, and then the manure is fit for drilling. By this means he manures in one year forty-five acres of turnips with the most satisfactory results.

SPAYING SOWS.—The veterinary contributor to the *Chicago Tribune* says:—"It is well enough known, and I will not deny it, that a female animal in which the sexual impulse has been destroyed, will fatten much sooner and more readily than one in which the sexual organs are in their natural condition; but, notwithstanding this, the operation of spaying pigs and calves is of very doubtful value, for the same cannot be performed without opening the abdominal cavity, and an opening of that cavity causes always more or less inflammation in the peritoneum, or serous membrane investing the whole internal surface of the abdomen. This inflammation, in a great many instances, will effect an agglutination of a part of the intestines to the wounded part of the peritoneum. In some cases the inflammation will spread, and will become extensive and severe enough to constitute a dangerous peritonitis. Still, if such cases of severe peritonitis are left entirely out of consideration, those other cases, in which the bowels grow fast to the place of operation in the wall of the abdominal cavity, are frequent and injurious enough to more than counterbalance the advantages that can ever be gained by performing that operation; for such an agglutination of the intestines will seriously interfere with the peristaltic motion of the bowels, and, in consequence, will disturb the digestion and process of nutrition."

SCRUBS VS. GRADES.—A correspondent of the *Utica Herald* has been experimenting as to the relative profitability of scrub and grade cattle. Probably he does not believe in scrubs much after such an experience as he reports. He says:—"Two years ago I purchased 100 calves. They were of all grades, from scrubs to high grades. At the same time I had a few refuse thoroughbred calves that were not such as I desired to keep as breeders, and consequently turned them out and wintered them with the lot I had purchased. They were so kept until a few weeks since, (all together,) when fifty-one choice steers were selected and sold. Two thoroughbred shorthorns were included. The lot averaged 1,370 lbs. The shorthorns were again weighed, to see how they compared. One weighed 1,570 and the other 1,600 pounds, or about 14 per cent. more than the average of the whole lot, including themselves. One of the scrubs was then reweighed, and made 1,150, or about 28 per cent. less than the shorthorns. This lot were all three-year old steers, and had the same fare from calves. The purchaser of these cattle placed the value of the shorthorns at \$1.50 above the value of these common steers, which at least would be 30 per cent. Now, 30 per cent. in value and 28 per cent. in size would make 58 per cent. in favor of the shorthorns. This advantage is due entirely to the superiority of the shorthorns as a breed, their keep being the same from calves. And this is not quite all; for a part of the scrubs are yet unsold, not being fit for market."