

Value of Sheep for Enriching Land.

Some fifty years ago Anderson said :

"One thousand sheep folded on an acre of ground one day, would manure it sufficiently to feed one thousand and one sheep ; so that, by this process, land which, the first year, can feed only one thousand sheep, may, the next year, as a result of their own droppings, feed thirteen hundred and sixty-five."

Sprengel allowed that the manure of fourteen hundred sheep, for one day, is equal to manuring highly one acre of land, which is about four sheep per year. Mechi, a still more recent authority, estimates that fifteen hundred sheep, folded on an acre of land for twenty-four hours, or one hundred sheep for fifteen days, would manure the land sufficiently to carry it through four years' rotation. In the United States, much less attention has

been paid to this item of profit to be derived from the flock. Only upon the poorer lands, and then only from the exceptionally few close observing and calculating men, do we meet with any notice of it at all. Not so in England and France, where the necessities imposed by density of population, and consequent enhanced value of land, compel recognition of every minutia of profit by the cultivator of the soil. There the feeding and grazing of sheep enters into the system of rotation with invariable regularity. Without the sheep of England to-day her agriculture would be a failure. Their value to English agriculture is to be found in their manure. Though not of themselves profitable, they make it possible for other branches of agricultural industry to become so. Professor Coleman, of the Agricultural College at Cirencester, once said :

"It is not difficult to show that sheep alone, apart from their influence on the corn crops, will not pay a living profit after all the expenses of growing the crops are considered."

M. Thiers says :
"The agricultural industry of France cannot dispense with sheep."

Science has lately made the gum washed from fleeces at the factories contribute to the fertilization of soils. Mr. Hayes tells us that the French chemists, M. M. Maumone and Rogelet, have established very recently at the great seats of the woolen manufacture in France, as at Rheims and Elbeuf, factories for putting the new industry which they have created into practical operation. They induce the woolen manufacturers to preserve and sell to them the solutions of yolk obtained by the washing of the raw fleeces in cold water, and pay such a price as encourages the manufacturers to wash their wool

methodically, so as to enrich and improve the same water with the yolk of a number of fleeces. These scourings the chemists carry to their factory and there boil them down to a dry, carbonaceous residuum. The alkaline salts remain in the charred residuum, and are extracted by lixiviation with water. The most important of the alkalies obtained is potash, which is recovered in a state of great purity. It is computed that if the fleeces of all the sheep of France, estimated at 47,000,000, were subjected to the new treatment, France would derive from this source alone all the potash she requires in the arts ; enough to make about 12,000 tons of commercial carbonate of potash, convertible into 17,500 tons of saltpetre, which would charge 1,870,000 cartridges.

Insects of some kind are injuring the growing wheat in Southern Minnesota. The cedar timber in Southern Tennessee is also suffering from defoliation by worms.

THE CENTENNIAL.—Mr. Landreth, Chief of the Bureau of Agriculture, announces that special displays of dairy products will be held during the first week respectively of August and September. The August exhibition will comprise only cheese; the September exhibition butter as well as cheese, the cooler weather then permitting a display. The exhibition of the present month having been such a full success, it is anticipated that equal energy will be displayed to assure the exhibitions of the next two months. Awards will be made at these times in accordance with the rules of the Commission.

A subscription is being taken up to present Mr. Simon Beattie with a testimonial for his services in importing stock. Mr. Beattie is about to leave Canada, and reside in Scotland.

Foot Disease in Sheep.

Veterinary surgeon Felizet, draws attention to the continued success attending the employment of caustic lime for the foot disease in sheep. It is very laborious to touch the feet of a numerous flock of sheep with the usual astrigent, solution of copperas, white vitriol, calcined alum, or spirits of turpentine. Instead form a species of enclosed "run," fifteen yards long by two wide. Make a well-trodden floor ; raise a border with puddled clay round the enclosure, so as to secure the uniform depth of nine inches towards the middle of the run ; pour into this bath four barrels of water, and distribute over the bottom 2 cwt. of quick lime, covering all with a dozen bundles of the refuse fodder from the racks so as to form a carpet. Drive the sheep into this foot bath 100 at a time, and compel them to well pass and repass from

one end to the other. The spread fodder prevents the feet sinking too profoundly, and acts as a brush at the same time for forcing the caustic solution to enter the nails. The bath must be made entirely new once a week, as the lime absorbing carbonic acid loses its causticity. It is a common practice to wet the straw intended for thatching purposes with a solution of quick lime ; the straw becomes thus more durable, incombustible, along with possessing sanitary advantages.

Fistula of the Withers.

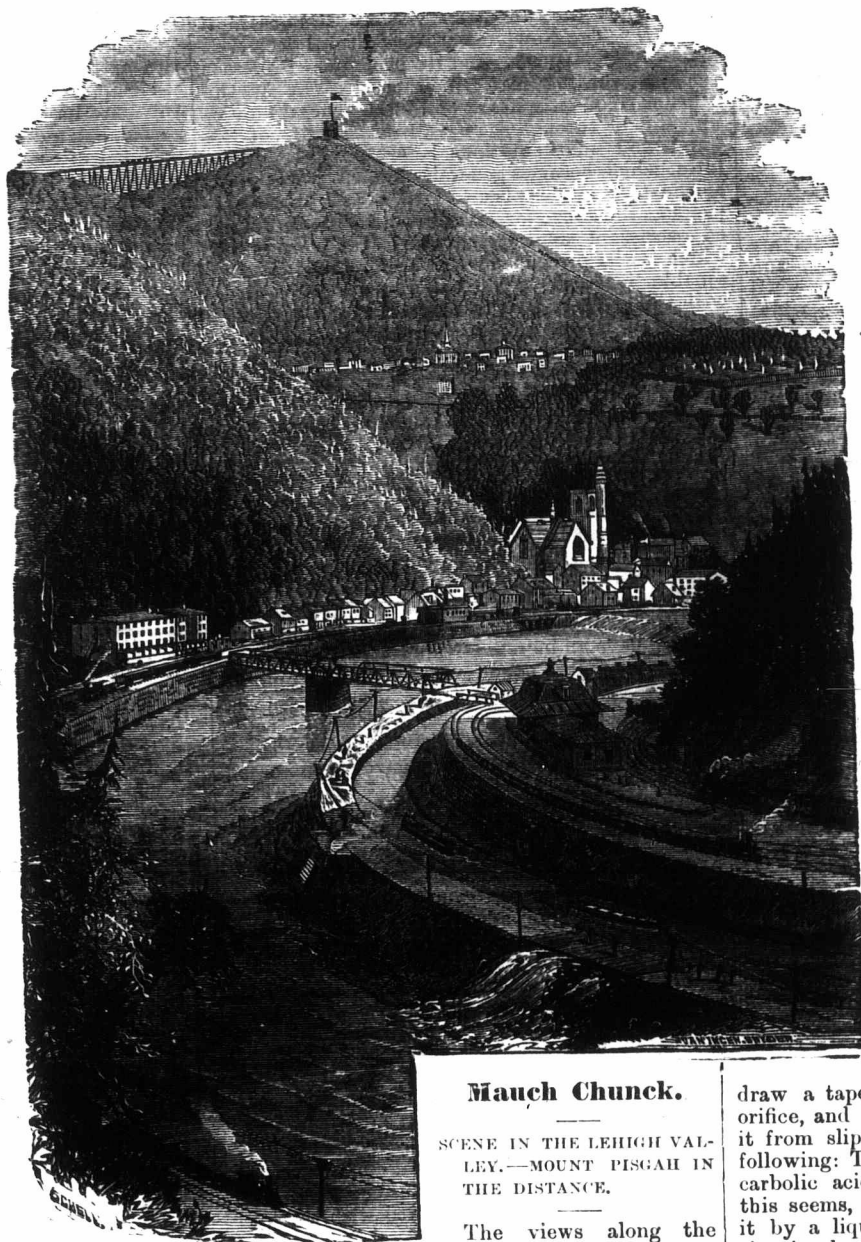
Lawrence W. Cogley inquires what to do with a young horse which has suffered for four months with fistula of the withers, that alternately heals up and breaks out again. The case will demand rather violent surgery, and it would be well to place him in the hands of an efficient veterinarian. The course to pursue is to lay open freely wherever a fluctuating sensation on pressure shows the presence of matter. Examine the wound thoroughly, and if any disease (bare exposed and rough) bone exists on any of the spinous processes, this must be removed. It will be best done with bone forceps, but may be effected with a chisel in careful hands. It should be removed until a healthy pink surface is exposed. No less important is it to secure a free dependent opening, from which the matter may run as soon as formed. To this end probe the sac to find its very lowest point, and, making a free opening into this with the knife,

draw a tape through from the upper to the lower orifice, and tie a large knot to each end to prevent it from slipping out. Then inject daily with the following: Tincture of muriate of iron, one ounce; carbolic acid, one drachm; water, one pint. If this seems, after a time, to lose its effect, replace it by a liquid containing a drachm of chloride of zinc in place of the tincture of iron. New sacs of matter forming must be opened at once, and treated as above.

A five-year old stallion, Governor Sprague, a descendant of the Hambletonian stock, was sold at Dexter Park, Chicago, to Mr. J. J. Case, of Racine, Wis., for the sum of twenty-seven thousand, five hundred dollars. He is entered to run at the Centennial Stallion Race, at Philadelphia, in the early part of September.

The foreign commissioners at the Centennial are about to pay a visit to Canada. It should be borne in mind that the finest agricultural country is west of Hamilton, Toronto or Guelph, and the finest scenery and minerals are east and north.

The advertisements of the National Art Company that have appeared in this paper are in no way connected with it. Some have written to us regarding non-receipt of pictures, but, as far as we can learn, those that have sent proper addresses have received them.



Mauch Chunk.

SCENE IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY.—MOUNT PISCATAWAY IN THE DISTANCE.

The views along the Lehigh Valley are so beautiful that it is worth the journey to all lovers of

beautiful scenery. The accompanying illustration gives but a very faint idea of the reality while passing along the Valleys, viewing the Mountains in the distance, covered with farms and foliage. The scenery is beautifully grand, but when on the top of some of those high altitudes, tearing along at railway speed, the sight is terrifically grand, and will send a thrill of fear through many a person, even although they have strong nerves. One might pleasantly spend a day in descending coal mines and ascending mountains. The village or town is very pretty. Nestled on a mountain gorge, with rocks in some places ascending hundreds of feet above the houses. In some places the rocks overhanging the railroad. Space prevents us from encroaching on other departments. Pages could be written on this wonderful, pleasing, picturesque locality. If you go to the Centennial, be sure and see Mauch Chunk and you will be satisfied with the result.