

Farm and Stock.

Keep the Sheep. When grain rules high, most of our farmers plant and sow all they can work. When beef and pork are high in price, and demand good, they go for big beef cattle and fat hogs. With wool at prices over thirty cents per lb., our farmers think wool growing a good business, and every one who can go for a flock of sheep. But when wool sells from fifteen to eighteen cents per lb. a change comes over them, and they want to rid themselves of sheep. Don't do it. Keep all the sheep you have, all the increase you can; buy when you can do so to advantage, and sell only at good prices. You want good reasons for this advice. Well, 1st. You will miss your income from sales of wool if you sell sheep; if you do not buy sheep the low prices of wool will not amount to as much as usual, and you will want to raise or buy enough to have the usual income from wool. 2d. Although the price of wool is very low, we can by good management and care produce wool at still lower figures and be no losers, though I am perfectly willing to sell all the time for big prices. With the present price of wool, how much better can we do than with grain, which has gone down in equal proportion? We pay no high wages to raise wool, and we do pay the highest prices for harvesting and threshing, even out of all proportion to the prices we sell the grain for. Although more money is handled by grain producers, it does not stick to you as the money received from the sale of a clip of wool. Cheap corn will increase wool and mutton in the same proportion as it will beef and pork. 3d. Don't sell wool, only at high prices for some choice sheep, others you cannot get the real value for. Buy when you can at low prices, as you will find those determined to go out of the business. Keep as many as your farm will carry, and be ready to sell good sheep at high prices when wool goes up again, and every one will want to get rich off a flock of sheep. Remember that a flock well managed is profitable for the increase alone, and the wool is clear gain. The price of wool will not go much lower, cannot keep down more than one or two years, and when the turn comes you will be ready for it. 4th. In giving the foregoing advice there are other points of consideration. Buy young, healthy sheep from farms - from stock-pens with contagion - the wool felt and blood - if you want a buck go to a reliable dealer and buy a good one, regardless of price, and raise good lambs, better even than the mothers. Care for the flock yourself. Teach them to know you so well that when you want them they must send some one to do it. When I move my sheep, I go first and they follow.

As winter is almost upon us our farmers should prepare shelter of some kind for all of their stock. The stock will do better, and it will cost much less to winter, and possibly save the lives of some animals.

Bee-keeping for Farmers.

Whether bee-keeping, as an exclusive business, can be made generally successful, or not, is a question still, but, in connection with other business, there is no doubt of its usefulness and profit. While we advise no one to engage in it exclusively, we advise all who are situated so that they can, to keep as many colonies as they can properly care for in connection with other duties. In the first place all farmers should keep them. A dozen colonies can be cared for by any farmer without interfering with ordinary farm work. If he will take a little pride in the work, the apiary can be made one of the most attractive places on the farm, and at the same time one of the most profitable. We know one farmer who keeps about ten colonies, on the average, and besides supplying the table with a luxury all the year round, these ten colonies bring him an average income of about one hundred dollars a year—a sum that supplies a good many little conveniences and luxuries which otherwise would never be obtained. The care of the bees affords him recreation, and cannot be regarded as onerous labor.

Care of Sheep. Those of our readers who are now interesting themselves in sheep will find good reading in the following hints summed up from an essay on sheep management, by Mr. A. B. Kennedy, the noted sheep raiser of Vermont:

- 1. Never starve a sheep if you desire it to do well, especially in summer. 2. Do not feed much grain if you have good hay, but at all events never let your sheep grow poor. 3. Many farmers lose by letting their sheep live as long in autumn without feeding as possible; consequently, if they are in very good condition in October, and lose flesh and are made to starve again, there will be no doubt a better place in the wool.

4. Have your lambs come early in the year, and from all cold winds, and as of your horse. 5. Wash your sheep after shearing, and dry them quickly; so, as I say, shearing is a time that they can be kept in good condition. 6. If sheep are exposed to wet weather, dry them as quickly as possible, and keep them in good condition. 7. A long time, cold winds, and as of your horse. 8. Take good care of the lambs, especially while young. In many cases they are not able to suck the ewes at the start; in all such cases you must feed them.

Cheap Gates as a Substitute for Bars.

A writer in the Rural Home says: 'I have just made gates to replace some old-fashioned pair of bars, that I am heartily tired of opening and shutting. They are cheap, durable and very easily made. Each gate is twelve feet in length by four in height. Five boards, four inches wide are used, besides battens and braces. Battens should be placed on both sides, making three thicknesses to nail through. It does not take more than thirty-three feet of boards, worth perhaps sixty cents, to make each gate. Add to that ten cents for nails, and the value of one hour of your time, and you have the whole expense. A gate of this kind will outlast a framed one costing \$4, and as no hinges are used, that expense is saved also. It is held in position by means of a stake driven in the ground four or five inches from the post; not in a straight line, but a little more than the thickness of the gate toward the drive-way, so when opened the gate can be turned half way around and be parallel with the drive-way. It is kept a few inches from the ground by a strip, nailed to both stake and post, on which one end rests when shut, and on which it slides half its length and then swings round as on a pivot when opened. The strip is usually placed under the second board, in a space arranged for it, by cutting away two of the battens. This strip takes the place of hinges. A gate of this kind can be made in much less time and at a little expense as a pair of bars, and is certainly much more convenient.'

Veterinary Items.

I have a valuable mare, six years old, that was taken last week with violent snorting, and at the same time a thick discharge from nose, with slight cough; this only takes place when taken into the air, never in the stable; her nostrils are, however, always damp; her coat is bright, eye good, eats well, and feels first-rate. She was in a stable in which a colt died of distemper; can it be that? I forgot to say her glands are slightly swollen. I have kept mustard plasters on, and have since tried oil of tar. If you will give me some directions for treatment I shall be much obliged.

ANSWER.—The animal is undoubtedly suffering from strangles or distemper. In ordinary cases very little treatment is required, but in the more serious forms the treatment must be active and thorough. Aconite should be given where there is fever, accelerated pulse and loss of appetite. Haper sulphur should be given every four hours. When there is threatened suppuration of the glands give five-drop doses in a little water. If the abscess bursts internally, and the pus is discharged through nostrils, give mercurius vivus. The abscess should be opened when coming to a head, the pus squeezed out and afterwards injected with a solution of hemlock or mer. cor. lotion twice a day.—Turf, Field and Farm.

I have a very valuable horse which has a very disagreeable habit upon frequent occasions in the summer time, viz: when being driven he jerks his head violently, as if being stung by bees or hornets, sometimes raising up and striking with one fore foot. The horse is in no way vicious, being gentle and kind. Can you give me any information as to the cause, or the remedy?

ANSWER.—The horse is attacked with megrims. Should there appear trembling, convulsions of the body, rolling of the eyes, nostrils dilated, stramonium would be the indicated remedy. Give ten-drop doses immediately after an attack. Afterwards give five-drop doses hyoscyamus, in alternation with sulphur, morning and evening to prevent its recurrence. After giving for one week, cease for a week, and give a dose of sulphur every evening for eight days. The disease is an affection of the brain; some veterinarians have defined it as momentary and passing congestion of the brain.

I have come in possession of a horse, eight years old, who is troubled with a contracted hoof and quarter crack. The latter is almost entirely grown out. The hoof, I should judge, has been contracted for a long time. He goes all right unless he is speeded, when he goes lame.

I have a round shoe on him, keep him on the ground floor and keep the hoof stuffed with cow-droppings mixed with clay. Can I do anything more? ANSWER.—The shoe should be removed once every three weeks, the foot kept well pared out and the quarter, from the crack to the heel, cut away at least one-eighth of an inch, to prevent the animal's weight from bearing upon it, until entirely grown down. Apply neatsfoot oil to the hoof once or twice a day and give five-drop doses of silica morning and evening for one week, then once a day for one week more. Keep the animal on ground floor and soak the foot twice a week for twenty minutes in warm water.

I have a two-year-old stallion that is troubled with worms; those that pass from him are eight or ten inches in length. Please to suggest means of removing them. ANSWER.—Tinct. cina. given in ten-drop doses morning and evening often proves sufficient in expelling the round worm (ascaris lumbricoides). Should this treatment prove ineffectual give two croton beans powdered and mixed with bran mash. Afterwards give tinct. arsenicum in ten-drop doses morning and evening for ten days. Ferr. sulph. given in five-grain doses is also beneficial in many cases.

I have a colt that was hurt in the shoulder last fall; he has recovered from the lameness; but there is a thickness of the skin where the bruise was that has the appearance of containing matter. What remedy would you recommend to remove the same? ANSWER.—Your description would indicate the formation of tumor, which should be opened to allow the matter or pus to discharge. Afterwards inject hemlock balsam diluted, one part to five of water, three times a day. The abscess should be thoroughly cleansed with soap and water twice a day.

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