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OLD SERIES]

Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Agricultural Journal.

From the London Farmer's Herald.
ON THE SCAB IN SHEEP.

This disease is held to be as discreditable to the farmer as mange or lice in cattle. But as it is infectious, the most careful men are liable to suffer by it, sometimes from sheep straying either from their own or their neighbor's flocks, sometimes from their rubbing against a post or gate in passing in a road from one part of the farm to another, if an infected animal has previously left the virus; or other accidents may sow this fruitful source of evil. It is far from being confined to half-starved sheep, out of condition; though from their treatment, turned on roads, commons, and waste places, they are more exposed to casualities; but it occasionally inoculates the finest flocks, and if the shepherd is unskillful or dishonest, the breed is irrecoverably damaged or lost. Clater's "Cattle Doctor," published at 6s. contains a very good account of the scab, and prescribes a good method of cure by mercurial ointment; but in this neighborhood, and in Lincolnshire, the preparation of the ointment is left to the druggist, who is also required to be skilful and honest as well as the Shepherd. One pound of quicksilver, well "killed" with 5lbs. of greasy materials is the proper proportion, but a good druggist will mix these articles better and in a more uniform consistence than a farmer can. It is called sheep ointment, and as well as being used for the scab, is by many farmers, indeed the majority of them, applied in the autumn two or three weeks before going to Colseed to all the sheep, excepting lambs, at the rate of 2½ lbs. to the score. The lambs are dressed in the spring before the flush of grass comes, in a still less quantity, to kill the ticks and clean the wool, and is generally found beneficial to the sheep. But to cure the scab 3½ or 4lbs. is applied to the score (20), rubbed in *secundum artem* along several lines on the back, meeting other lines along the limbs; the sheep are shut up the following night, and care is taken to keep them about a fortnight afterwards on dry or spare food. I should have stated, however, that if the infected animals are very bad, the first require "knotting," that is, some ointment slightly smeared on the sore and scabby places which would soon extend all over the sheep; after being dressed with a nearly equal quantity of ointment to each sheep, in a few days they are carefully examined, and if no fresh places have appeared and a more healthy surface is shown on the diseased parts, nothing more is done, but this close watching must be continued, and every means adopted to improve their health. If after a short time a "knot" appears on any of them, or a suspicious scurf, redness, or dirtiness in the skin, the suspected animals must be separated and receive a slight dressing of ointment; if ewes, the mildest means must be adapted to check the disorder without weakening the constitution; a little practice and great attention will seldom fail, with good ointment, to get rid of the pest. The quantity of quicksilver used by some druggists in this neighborhood is very great, the ointment being much safer and more serviceable than any mere liquid application.—J. W., Peterborough.

From the Canada Farmer and Mechanic.
A FACT FOR FARMERS.

Farmers may rely on this fact, that most of their luxuriant cultivated crops are produced by the presence or application of due proportions of *potash*, (as wood ashes, leaf mould, green sand marl, decomposed felspar, saltpetre, farm-yard dung, &c.)—*phosphoric acid*, (as bones crushed, burnt, or dissolved, guano, farm-yard dung, oyster-shell lime, shell fish, corrolites, and super phosphate of lime,) and *nitrogen*, (as sulphate and muriate of ammonia, urine, guano, and animal manures generally,) combined with small quantities of lime, salt, magnesia, &c.

THE FARMERS' FAIR.

TUNE—Auld Lang Syne.

Ye husbandmen, both far and near,
Up, up, stir around, prepare,
With sons, and wives and daughters, too,
To attend the Farmers' Fair.

Bring wheat and corn of various kinds,
Bring all that's new and rare.
And barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, millet,
All to the Farmer's Fair.

Bring pumpkins, squashes, carrots, beets,
Quince, apple, peach, and pear,
Potatoe, turnips, cabbage, peas,
And beans to the Farmers' Fair.

Bring "sheep and oxen," large and fine,
And cows, and horse and mare.
And pairs of horses, asses, mules—
Bring all to the Farmers' Fair.

Bring heifers, steers, and stately calves,
Let "bulls and goats" be there,
Bring natives, short horns, long horns, no
horns,
All to the Farmers' Fair.

Bring porkers spotted, porkers white,
Suit every connoisseur—
Let Berkshire, Byfield, China, Leicester,
Meet at the Farmers' Fair.

Ye wives and daughters bring your best,
And best with good compare;
Bring something that your hands have
wrought,
And come to the Farmers' Fair.

Bring golden butter, melting cheese,
Bring nick-nacks, rich and rare;
Let woollens, cottons, linens, silks—
Bring praises ON THE FAIR.

Mechanics too and artists come,
Bring samples of your ware;
Display the products of your skill,
And crowd the Farmers' Fair.

Bring cultivators, harrows, ploughs,
All made for wear and tear;
Corn planters, drills, yokes, shovels,
hoes,
And rakes to the Farmers' Fair.

Machines for thrashing, fanning mills,
Horse power and smaller ware,
Straw-cutter, Corn-mill, cheese-press,
churn—
Bring all to the Farmers' Fair.

One word to him of generous soul,
Who loves *thus* to prepare—
Oh, let that "Farmers' coat of arms,"
Be here at the Farmers' Fair.

Ye clergy, teachers, students, come,
Come taste the bright blue air;
Pale, sallow, sickly, "feeble folk,"
Turn out to the Farmers' Fair.

Ye Lawyers, Doctors, Merchants too,
Come gather round—for where
Shall non-producers learn their place!
Save at the Farmers' Fair.

Come men and women, old and young—
Let boys and girls be there;
Come rich, come poor, come mute and
blind—
Come ALL to the Farmers' Fair.

Bring smiling faces, cheerful hearts—
At home leave gloom and care—
Let a right good hearty shake of the
hand,
Go round at the Farmers' Fair.

The Farmers' Fair—that glorious day—
May U and I be there;
And friendship, joy, and peace unite,
To bless the Farmers' Fair.

The Farmers' Fair—oh glorious day,
Loved here and everywhere;
Now all in chorus join and raise
Three cheers for the FARMERS' FAIR.

From a Scottish Agricultural Journal.
THE DAIRY AND ITS ARRANGEMENTS.

In the management of cows, we hold that the first essential point to be observed is the construction of byres, for it is easily demonstrable that the want of attention in this particular has greatly con-

tributed to the latent disease which has, for some time past, and is still, in virulent manner affecting the public interest. We therefore propose to enter *seriatim* into the construction and management of cow houses. We differ from those of our brethren of the plough, who may conclude that, when constructing a set of byres, we may as well combine with them the whole set of farm offices. We intend, in a future sketch, to detail our ideas as to the necessary amount of farm accommodation, and have, therefore, at present, only to particularize what is required for dairy purposes.

Byres, or cow-houses may be constructed to contain either a single or double row of cows. Where a considerable number are to be kept, say upwards of twenty, we would prefer a double to a single row under the same roof, by which means we can save unnecessary expense in buildings, and the master's eye can more readily detect any irregularities in the health or management of his stock, while a healthy atmosphere may be as readily provided for in a wide as in a narrow byre. The byre should abut on the straw barn, with an entrance to it, and stand at right angles from it, leaving a space in front and rear for yards, into which the cows are to be admitted for exercise and feeding during a portion of every favorable day—each yard having one or more sheds for shelter and feeding. The yard should be deepened or dug out, so as, after being thoroughly puddled or bedded with clay, and causewayed, to be two feet lower than the paved floor of the byre, or the puddled and causewayed floor of the sheds. Puddling is absolutely necessary in both cases, in order to preserve the liquid manures, and to protect the clay from being cut up in carting out the dung, or from being poached by the feet of the cows, when they have little straw under them, which would be the case after each periodical clearing of the manures—proper conduits must also be constructed for carrying off the liquid to the tanks, as well from the byres as from the yards, affixing proper gratings, to prevent not only the ingress of vermin but the escape of dung into the drains, and through them to the tanks, which should be sunk under the open court of the farm-yard.

Other yards and sheds must, of course, be constructed for the young stock and fattening animals, which we do not approve of housing, for we find that they grow and fatten more rapidly, and at less cost for attendance, than when kept in the best constructed byres.

An ample piggery must also be kept in view on every farm, particularly on a dairy one, and drained, puddled, and causewayed, as in the case of the byres and their yards; this will come under consideration when we treat of the general buildings of the farm.

As we have already said, we prefer a double to a single row of cows where a number are kept; but, as a small number of cows may be kept on the majority of farms in those districts to which our observations are intended to apply, we will first endeavor to point out our ideas with respect to a byre for a single row.

The width of the building, within, will require to be 18 feet, and the height of wall not less than ten feet; we allow no loft, being aware, from experience, that the free escape of an exhausted atmosphere cannot be attained where a loft intervenes between the area in which it is generated and the main place of escape—the roof—where ventilators will be placed not only at the top of the ridge, but at intervals of about 12 feet along the wall-plate on each side. An additional argument against the use of lofts, is the absorption of the fetid gases of the dung by the hay, which is, in this state, returned to the animals for food. Shutters for the ventilators will not be wanted; a steady and moderate current of fresh air will be admitted from the doors and windows, by means of other ventilators to be placed in them; this current forces the exhausted air to the roof, where its escape will be facilitated by the ventilators before noticed. Windows are, of course necessary for light, as well as ventilation, and

may be comprised in the compass of six small panes with opening shutters below one window for every 20 feet will be found sufficient; these may be placed three feet from the floor, and should be five feet in height, giving an equal portion of space to the glass and shutters.—One door to the yard will be found sufficient, with the inner one to the straw barn.

In the interior arrangements, we propose that a path shall divide the cows head and feeding-troughs from the walls, for two reasons; first, that if the heads of the animal is close to the wall, its exhausted breath is forced back from it to be again inhaled, whereas, if sufficient space is given, it will ascend, and be carried off by the roof ventilators. Second, a space of three feet is necessary for the passage and free access of attendants to clean the feeding troughs and feed the cows. Cleanliness is essentially necessary, for milk cows must be high fed, in order to produce the quantity and quality of milk we desire; and, as any want of cleanliness or of regularity in feeding will prevent their eating the necessary quantity, the greatest care of the attendants is required.

The feeding-troughs may be formed of cast iron, closely-jointed stone, or of wood, lined with lead for cleanliness, and will be placed so as to leave a free passage of three feet from the wall. About a foot behind each division of these, is to be fixed the stake or post to which each animal is to be attached by means of a moveable ring and chain, which passes round the neck, each stake or post being distant five feet from the other.

Different modes are adopted, sometimes by forming stalls of stone or wood for each cow (in one well-conducted establishment, slabs of Welsh slate are used), but we are not aware of any advantage, beyond neatness, which these possess over the other; and as, in every ordinary case, the expense would be considered excessive, we cannot expect the system to become general. From the posts to the channel for carrying off the liquid, the distance must not be less than six feet, and will require a slight inclination to carry it downwards. Behind there must be a broad passage of six feet, for carrying off the dung, and for the approach to milk, attend, and inspect the cows. The bed of the animals should be causewayed, as we have before noticed; but both passages should be paved with flag stones, for comfort and ease in cleaning. The whole inside of the walls should be plastered, and receive a hearty washing and lining at least once a-year. This attention with opening the doors and window-shutters every time the cows are out in the yards or fields, will greatly promote their health and productiveness, besides being a preventive of those epidemic diseases now so common.

The double-rowed cow-house will be formed in a similar manner, the internal works differing so far as to bring the passage up the centre of the building, and thus save space in the construction, as well as expense in the erection of the walls and roofing; for in the case of a byre for 20 cows, 18 feet width is required for a single row, whereas 30 feet would be ample for a double row, and comfortably contain 40 cows, one passage answering both purposes. Our readers must bear in mind that, in our plan, the beasts stand with their heads to the wall their tails to the centre. We mention this because, in some double byres, a contrary practice prevails, of which we strongly disapprove. In every case, one or more *separate* houses should be ready for the reception of any animal in an unhealthy state, for as is well known, diseases may be communicated from one animal to another, and the proper treatment cannot be so easily administered as when the objects are separated from each other. Houses, or rather well-sheltered sheds, are also necessary for calves. It is a reproach to Edinburgh that we cannot produce good veal. It is only attention which is required to rear well formed animals for the butcher, and superior animals for reproduction.