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PIGS

(Continued from page nine.)

cooking the skin. As soon as the hair and scurf slip easily from the surface scalding is complete. If it is suspected that the water is too hot, scald the hind end of the hog first; if too cold, the front end, in order to always get a good scald on the head, which is difficult to clean.

The scraping should begin just as soon as the hog is removed from the water, and the more rapidly it is done the easier it will be. The head and feet should be cleaned first, as they cool quickly. A small hand "candlestick" scraper is a very convenient tool for the purpose. It may be purchased at almost any hardware store for from 15 to 25 cents.

After removing the hair from the body the hog should be hung up and rinsed with hot water and then with cold, scraping down with a sharp knife to remove all hair and scurf from the body.

MANAGEMENT OF THE BROOD SOW.

There is a larger proportion of losses caused by bad management of the brood sow than with any other kind of breeding stock on the farm. Many farmers seem very indifferent toward the brood sow, while they bestow a great deal of attention and care on other breeding animals kept by them.

The management of the brood sow should be systematized and carefully planned to secure the best possible results. The income and the profits depend largely upon the management of the brood sow previous to breeding and during the period of gestation. To neglect to give the proper attention at this important period is to invite failure and losses.

The time of year when the sows should be bred to farrow is of prime importance. Heavy losses very often come from too early farrowing in the Winter and early Spring. In this climate it is not safe to plan for arrival of pigs before March. The season should extend from March to June for Spring litters, and from August to November for Fall litters.

It is a great mistake to breed young sows too young, and it is another mistake to plan to have them farrow early in the Spring or during cold weather. On account of the lack of size and lack of quiet disposition usually possessed by mature animals, the young sow is likely to be uneasy and cause the loss of many small pigs. They should not be bred before they are eight months old, and ten months is better, and it is best to encourage the development of bone and muscle before they are bred at all, because they have a double office to perform, that of maintaining themselves and keeping up the growth of their own bodies at the same time they are carrying the young. Breeding sows too young tends to early maturity and reducing the number of pigs in the litter and the size of the animals themselves. To breed sows on the fourth day after farrowing does not generally bring satisfactory results, and we do not therefore recommend farmers to experiment in that direction.

DIET FOR THE BROOD SOW.

The brood sow should have a variety of feeds to be in good condition at breeding time. Sows when gaining at breeding time will produce large litters, healthier and stronger pigs. They should be kept gaining from time of breeding to time of farrowing. This is an important suggestion too often overlooked the average individual who has not had the experience necessary to prove what is required of the breeding animal during this critical period. While we urge the importance of feeding and feeding well during the period of gestation, we wish to caution against heavy feeding of feeds that tend to fatten instead of promoting health, strength and growth. To

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

For January 3, 1915.

GOD'S PATIENCE WITH ISRAEL.

Judges ii., 7-19.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely." — Hosea xiv., 4.

The first five verses of this second chapter of Judges are evidently a repetition of the chapter in better at the end of the chapter than at the beginning of it. Verses 6-9 are a repetition of Judges xxii., 8-31. And the remainder of this second chapter of Judges is a sort of introduction to the series of stories of which the book is composed.

God promised Moses that His angel would go before Israel and cut off their enemies before them. "And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before thee." Then He said, "I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased and inherit the land." (Gen. xiii., 20-90.)

The account of Joshua's triumphant campaigns in the earlier chapters of the book of Joshua would give the impression that he had conquered the whole country completely, but as we read on we find that while he and his army passed through the country and utterly defeated the armies gathered to oppose him, there were still large tracts of territory which had not been subdued.

In Joshua xiii., 1 we read that God said to Joshua, "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." Then the unconquered areas are defined, and God said to him, "Now, therefore divide this land for an inheritance unto the nine tribes and the half tribe of Manasseh." (Josh. xiii., 7.) And as we read on, we find that each tribe was expected to make good its claim to the land allotted to it by conquering the people that were still living on it, and that in many cases the Israelites contented themselves with so much of the land as they had already acquired, and did not try to drive the Canaanites out of the parts which they still held.

The tribes of Ephraim and Manasse complained to Joshua that he had not given them enough land, because they were "a great people." And Joshua said, "Yes, you are a great people; go and conquer some more country, and cut down the woods." (Josh. xvii., 14-18.)

It was not because God was not able, or was not willing to help His people to complete the conquest of the country, "by little and little," in proportion as they would have been able to occupy it, that these aliens were allowed to remain; but because the Israelites had not faith enough to claim God's promised aid and take possession of the land in His name. The promise of God was, "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you." (Josh. i., 3.) They had a clear title from God to as much of the land as they had faith to take, but no more; and because they failed to take all, they did not get peaceful and undisturbed possession of any of it.

"And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord that He did for Israel."

"And the people served the Lord ever generation which knew not the Lord, not yet the works which He had done for Israel, and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim." The word Baal means lord, or master. Baalim is the plural form of it. Ashtaroth is the plural form of the name of the goddess Ashtaroth, who was worshipped with very immoral ceremonies.

It is strange that a nation which had been so miraculously delivered from Egypt, and so miraculously supported in the wilderness, and had been enabled to conquer seven nations greater and more powerful (Deut. vii., 1) than themselves, could in a few years turn their backs on their God who had worked such wonders for them, and who had promised them help as long as they were faithful to

Remember

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THE SIRE.

With every breeder of hogs on the farm the sire should be given a great degree of consideration. As an almost invariable rule, the mature sire gives better results than the immature sire. Sows bred to mature sires of good form, strong, healthy, and of a prolific families, will give much better results than when coupled with young, immature sires, no matter how well bred. The practice of allowing the sire to run with the herd of breeding sows would discourage for several reasons. First, they are an annoyance. Second, they are likely to do much harm during the period of gestation; and, thirdly, it is injurious to the sire. Then by all means breed the sow at the proper time and keep her by herself during the period of gestation, or with a herd of sows, and make the quarters comfortable at all times. The matter of comfort during this period has much to do with the disposition of the progeny.

(Excerpts from an address by Prof. George A. Brown, at the Michigan State Round-up Institute.)

THEY WERE WITHOUT GUILE

Men were deceivers, ever. They were near neighbors, accustomed to ride home on the same East Side electric car, at least once a day. Each had completed the morning's work and was hitching homeward for lunch.

When the car was within three blocks of the point where they were to alight, one of them pulled out a pair of gloves and began hurriedly to put them on. The other followed suit, remarking: "Funny, but you are so near home, why the gloves?"

"I forgot them," was the reply. "My wife insists that I shall wear them. I carry them in my pocket until I am near home, wear them into the house and thus present prima facie evidence that I have obeyed orders."

"I do exactly the same thing," said the other deceiver. Then they both looked at their glove-clad hands and grinned as they nudged each other.

CRADLE HYMN

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His head.

The stars in the bright sky look down where He lay— The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowly, the baby awakes But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus. Look down from the sky And stay by the cradle till morning is nigh.

—Martin Luther, in Educational Review.

WILLING TO STAY

Mrs. Atwell had had a quarrel with her maid Lizzie, and the maid remarked that she would leave. "Lizzie," said the mistress, serenely, "you must stay until I get another girl."

"I intend to, mum," said Lizzie. "Sure it's only right some wan should tell her the kind of woman ye are."

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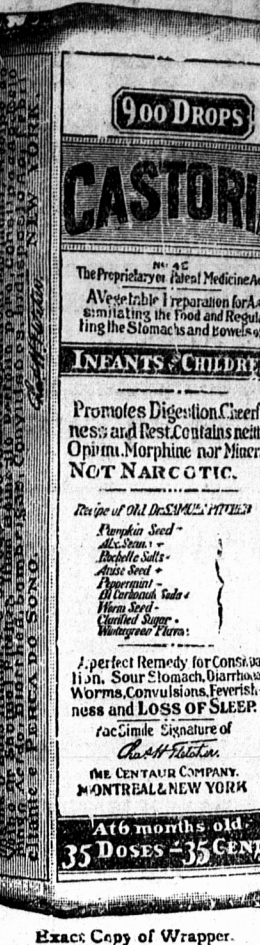
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