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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 and should 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 get the sows fat during that period is to invite disaster, because theey will become clumsy and lazy, which is pretty sure to bring about disastrous results.

Some succulent feed should be given during the whole period of gestation; also some laxative feed like wheat bran should constitute part of the ration. Constipation is the cause of more loss at farrowing time from a fevered condition, which induces delirium and the sow to eeat her pigs than any other one thing we can mention. A small amount of roots can be fed with safety, but do not feed heavily on roots during severely cold weather, as it will chill the sow and often induce premature delivery.

Forage feeds of some kind should be furnished during the Winter. We know of nothing better than alfalfa and clover hay, and if it can be steamed and mixed with a sloppy feed, all the better.

While it may seem to some a large amount of trouble to keep records of the breeding animals in the herd, the careful breeders finds it an absolute necessity. Designation marks can be made upon the ear and a record kept in the record book as to time of breding and the time when the pigs are expected. Previous to the time of the arrival the sow should be given a comfortable pen by herself, in which there is a reasonable amount of fire, dry litter, but avoid a large amount of litter, as the pigs are likely to get entangled in it and laid upon. A record of the feed given during the period of gestion and during the first three weeks after the pigs are farrowed will enable one to refer back and find which methods if more than one are adopted, have succeeded best in former use.

EXERCISE.

Exercise is of prime importance with the brood sow, as she cannot be maintained in a healthy condition without an abundance of exercise previous to breeding and during the period of gestation. Exercise enables the sow to keep control of herself, and if not overloaded with flesh, they will be nimble, active and strong. Sows of the improved breeds that are inclined to take on flesh readily aree inclined to remain in the nest too much. In order to encourage and enforce the proper amount of exercise it is a good plan to allow the sow to either follow cattle, or to travel some little distance to the feeding place at least twice a day. Exercise is one of the best preventives of many diseases that overtake the brood sow and her pigs. While we suggest the importance of exercise and the use of certain kinds of feeds, specially those that are rich in protein, we will caution against the use of highly concentrated feeds and too much tankage, which tends to cause the pigs to be limp and lifeless while young.

Mineral matters of some kind should be kept where the sow can heelp herself, and we suggest the following combination of feeds that will serve as a corrective of many difficulties, especially internal parasites:

Two bushels of bone meal; three bushels of wood charcoal; one bushel of wood ashes; eight pounds of salt; two quarts of air-slacked lime; half a pound of coperas, thoroughly mixed.

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 we would discourage for several ressons. 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 nighbors, acustomed to ride home on the same East Side electric car, at least once a day. Each had completed the morning's work and was hicing 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 hate 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 gove-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 lowin, 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, sererely, 'you must stay until I get another girl.'

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

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"My left side pained me all the time and just before my periods which were irregular and painful it would be worse. To sit down caused me pain and suffering and I would be so nervous sometimes that I could not bear to see any one or hear any one speak. Little specks would float before my eyes and I was always constipated.

"I cannot say too much for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Liver Pills, for there are no medicines like them. I have taken them and I recommend them to all women. You may publish this testimonial" — Mrs. STEPHEN J. MARTIN, Chesterville, Ontario, Canada.

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 detached fragment, and would have fitted in better at the end of the chapter than at the beginning of it. Verses 6-9 are a repetition of Judges xxic., 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. xxiii., 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 had 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 Johusa xiii., 1 we read that God said to Johua, "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 trib) was expected to make good its claim to the land alloted 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 Manasseh 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." Se Josh. fivii., 84-18.

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 possessian 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 er 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 Ashtoreth, 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 Him, and could begin worshipping idols; yet that was the natural course of things because the natural heart of man is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God. (Rom. viii., 5-8.)

Man is a strange contradiction. He does not know himself, and cannot realize the deceitfulness of his own heart.

The whole history of the Israelites from beginning to end is designed to be a revelation to us of the perversity of human nature and the blindness of men to their own true interests, and of the patience and long-suffering that God's love for men often compels Him to punish them in the hope of turning them from the error of their ways. Invariably but not always visibly, sin begins to bring its own punishment in this life. The sinner does not always see any evil consequences of his sin. There are always evil consequences, and very serious ones, but the injury which the sinner does to himself may affect only his spiritual nature, and the man who is not even conscious of having a spiritual nature cannot feel an injury done to that nature. Yet that is the worst kind of injury any man can suffer, because the spirit of man is the real man.

We are exactly in the condition of these Israelites, except that the country which God has deeded to us and requires us to conquer and occupy for Him is in our own hearts. Po us also comes the promise, "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I gen unto you;" in other words, every spiritual blessing which we have faith enough to take as a gift from God, and to keep possession of by the grace of God, is ours for the taking. And in our case also it is true that we cabnot have peaceable possession of any spiritual blessing unless we press on to gain complete possession of all that God has promised us. And we cannot with impunity slight or undervalue God's gifts: for we are reminded that the Israelites who refused to enter Canaan when commanded to do so, because they would not trust God to give them victory, were turned back to wander and die in the wilderness.

The third and fourth chapters of the epistle to the hebrews should be read carefully in connection with this lesson. For us also there is a "land of rest," a restful condition of soul which God has promised, and for which He commands us to fight. Only as the fruit of victory, won by faith, can we obtain that "peace" which was our Lord's parting legacy to all His disciples. (John xiv., 27.)

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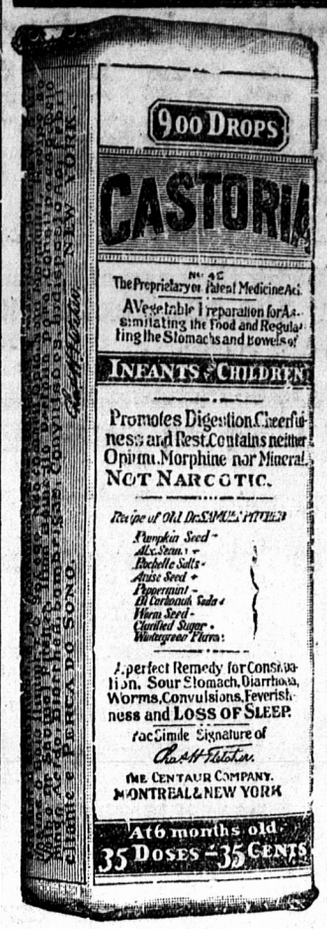

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