

Breeding for Profit.

Prof. Shaw tells the readers of the *Breeders' Gazette*:—
 "The use of a well-chosen, pure-bred sire will secure the transmission of desirable forms to the progeny. Take for illustration the typical beef producing sire. He should be compact in form, broad and level and well fleshed on the back, roundly and deeply sprung in the ribs, broad and full and deep in the chest, wide at the withers, full in the crops and in both fore and hind flanks. He should possess large heart girth, a wide and level loin, a long and broad and deep quarter, a full twist and thigh, and should stand firmly on short legs of medium bone. His head should be medium in size, since by what is known as the law of correlation the parts of the system that we do not see may be judged by those that we do see. Hence if the head were unduly coarse or strong we have an indication of undue strength of bone.

"By the use of a pure-bred sire of good individuality quality will be secured in the progeny. Quality may be defined as the capacity to do well. Its presence is indicated by certain handling properties, as they are termed. These handling properties are indicative of digestion and assimilation of a high order when they are present in a marked degree. Their presence is cognizant to the sense of touch more than to that of sight. Place the tips of the fingers on any part of the back or shoulders or hips, or indeed on any part covered with flesh, and press gently. The flesh will yield softly to the sense of touch and its elasticity will spring it back again to its normal condition when the fingers are removed, if quality is present. Place the front of the hand flat upon the ribs and move it up or down, and the skin will sway gently and readily beneath such a movement if quality is there. So, too, where it is present, the hand can easily fill itself by grasping the hide over the ribs; the hair will be plentiful."

Money in Poultry.

The possibilities of poultry-keeping from a financial standpoint are simply illimitable. Until within the past year or two the United States had to import eggs from Europe and China as well as from Canada, the domestic production not being equal to the consumption. The discrepancy was so glaring that American farmers have taken steps to reduce it, so that the market for Canadian eggs across the border is not as inviting as it was. But Great Britain consumes an enormous quantity more than she raises, a large proportion of which is imported from France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark, and the shipment of Canadian eggs to England has proven an unmistakable success, and can be indefinitely extended. When the period of cold storage supervenes, an almost insatiable market will be opened up in the British isles for our turkeys, ducks and chickens. Shall the Canadian farmer awake to his opportunity? That seems to be the only question. As Mr. A. G. Gilbert of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Ottawa, is accustomed to say, if every farmer would keep one hundred hens in the most approved manner, using the waste products of his farm for food, he could clear \$100 a year quite easily from the flock. This would mean an increase of at least \$30,000,000 annually to the national wealth, and if any farmer feels above keeping hens, or letting his family do so, for the sake of that \$100, what are we to think of the pictures drawn by Grit politicians of the poverty-stricken condition of Canadian agriculture? There is money in poultry-keeping—money for the specialist, and money for the farmer who goes into it as one of the incidental industries of his regular occupation.—*Kingston News.*

Mr. Chip's Big Pockets.

A chipmunk, unlike a boy, has his pockets in his mouth. And they are good big pockets, too. Not long ago a Vermont man thought he would see just how many kernels of corn little Mr. Chipmunk could carry home to his family all at once, so he laid 30 kernels on a board near the barn and then hid behind a sack to watch. Presently Mr. Chip appeared, bobbing his tail and looking a little suspicious. When he felt sure that everything was safe, up he scampered and picked up every one of the 30 kernels and stored them away in his pockets. Next time 45 kernels were placed on the board, and Mr. Chip succeeded in getting every one of them into his pockets, although it made his eyes bulge a little. For the third trial 70 kernels were placed on the board. This time Mr. Chip was beaten. Although he tried as hard as he could, his pockets would hold only 58 of the kernels.—*Chicago Record.*

If the private dairy will adopt the same rules and the same implements that the creamery has, it will turn out just as good and uniform a product as the creamery can.

Cannibal Plants.

It has been proved time and again that the so-called "cannibal plants," of which the Venus fly-trap is the type, are much more healthy when allowed their regular insect food than when they are reared under netting or in any other manner which excludes them from their regular meat diet. The above is an oddity of itself, especially when we consider the fact that there is a certain school of botanists which teaches that cannibal plants make no use whatever of the insect prey captured by them, but it is nothing compared with the bold assertion made by Francis Darwin. That noted scientific gentleman bravely meets the "vegetarian botanists" with the assertion that all kinds and classes of plants, whether known as "meaters" or not, bear more and heavier fruits than those that are not allowed a flesh diet. He grew two lots, comprising various varieties of the different common plants.

One lot was regularly fed (through their roots, of course) with pure juices compressed from meat, the other with water and the various fertilizers. The final figures on this odd experiment proved that the plants which were fed pure meat juice bore 168 fruits of the different kinds, while the unfed plants of the same number and original condition bore but 74. Also, that the pampered plants bore 240 seeds to every 100 borne by the plants that were not given a chance to gratify cannibalistic taste. This is certainly a discovery worthy of much careful study and extensive experiment.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

A Land Without Animals.

Japan is a land without the domestic animals. It is this lack which strikes the stranger so forcibly in looking upon Japanese landscapes. There are no cows—the Japanese neither drinks milk nor eats meat. There are but few horses, and these are imported mainly for the use of the foreigners. The freight cars in the city streets are pulled and pushed by coolies, and the pleasure carriages are drawn by men. There are but few dogs, and these are neither used as watch dogs, beasts of burden nor in hunting, except by foreigners.

There are no sheep in Japan, and wool is not used in clothing, silk and cotton being the staples. There are no pigs—pork is an unknown article of diet, and lard is not used in cooking. There are no goats, or mules or donkeys. Wild animals there are, however, and, in particular, bears of enormous size. One of these Mr. Finch saw stuffed, in a museum, he describes as "big as an ox." Beside a stuffed museum bear is preserved, in alcohol, the mangled body of a child the bear had eaten just before being killed. War, of course, is acquainting the Japanese with the use of animals. The army has cavalry horses, and others to drag the field guns. The Empress, also, in obvious imitation of European royalties, is an expert horsewoman, and saddle horses are kept for her use.—*Popular Science.*

Animals Without Stomachs.

Cats get along perfectly well without stomachs, according to experiments recorded in the Archives de Physiologie. In one cat, which lived for forty-eight hours after its stomach had been removed, the œsophagus was found to have been completely united with the intestine. Another cat, which weighed four pounds when it lost its stomach, was alive and well and weighed four pounds and a half three months and a half after the operation. It found difficulty in digesting pure milk, but got along nicely when the milk was mixed with yolk of egg and rice, and ate cooked meat, cheese and puree of potatoes. This proves that all three classes of food, albumenoids, fats and farinaceous substances, are digested by the gastric cat. As it has been previously proved that dogs can do without stomachs, the next step would seem to be the production of gastric man.

Pin Money.

All ladies know what pin money is, but it may be interesting to them to know the origin of the expression, and also to know that it is directly connected with New Year's day. Until the beginning of the sixteenth century the only pins used by the poorer classes were made of wood. In fact, they were not pins at all, but skewers, which, for the use of the wealthy, were of boxwood, bone and silver. At the period above named the metal pins now in use were invented, and people of fashion were eager to possess them. They at once became the most popular and acceptable New Year's gift for ladies, but it soon grew customary to give, instead of the pins themselves, the money with which to purchase them, and this was called "pin money," a term which gradually came to be applied to all money given to ladies for dress and personal adornment.

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