

VALUE OF GOOD BLOOD.

BY WM. A. CONANT.

It is an old saying, generally adopted by good farmers, that if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well. Why not apply this maxim to the selection and rearing of animals? True, it costs more in the outset, but is it not the wisest and best in the end? It costs no more for the man who has a reasonably comfortable place for his stock, and plenty of good feed to feed it out to No. 1, high grade, or better, pure bred stock than to ordinary mongrel or scrub stock. But there is a vast difference in the value of the various grades besides the pleasure of owning and caring for a good animal.

Now let us figure a little and note the difference. The good Short Horn, at 2½ years old, will weigh 1,600 pounds, worth 4 cents per pound, equalling \$64. The native mongrel, equally well kept, will weigh 1,400 pounds at the same age, and sells from 3 cents to 3¼ cents, making from \$42 to \$45.50 for the same labor and feed. The scrub is away down; 1,200 pounds is all he will weigh at that age, feed him as we will, and 2½ or 3 cents per pound is all we can get, \$30 to \$36. This is the difference here and now when cattle are cheap. How will it be when prices are high, and first class steers will bring 6 cents or better within the next two years? Then the good mongrels will bring about 4 cents, and the scrubs about 3 cents per pound. The first class animal brings \$96; the native, \$56; the scrub, \$36.

Gentlemen, you pay your money and take your choice.

And the same good old adage will apply to the rearing of swine as well as cattle, with some less difference in the end. We want a hog that we can sell at from 6 to 9 months old, weighing from 180 to 250 pounds, with good hams, shoulders, sides and back, and the more lean, and what is called marbled meat in proportion to the fat, the better. The experience of my life proves to me that the English Berkshire comes the nearest to filling the bill of any of our well-known breeds of hogs.

As a rustler among cattle the Berkshires are unequalled. His eyes and ears are always open and he has his nerve along and no one drives over him, and no fighting or rushing cattle cripple or kill him. He's an all-around, up-to-date hog. But let no one think that because he is a good hog that he will grow big and fat on dust and sage brush, or in a lot fit only for a frog pond. He can't make you any money that way. He will do his best, and, having the best constitution and most genuine grit of anything on split hoofs that wears bristles, he can and will pay better than any other race of hogs that I have ever seen.

But there are other very fine breeds of swine. Poland China and Essex, and of the white varieties, the Chester Whites, Leistershire White, Yorkshire and several other breeds, which are all good hogs, and all have their admirers. But why not raise the best, the healthiest, the strongest, the best formed, the most choice meat and the best seller in market? Why not raise the Berkshire, the hog that stands pre-eminent over all breeds of swine.

A cure for cattle fever has been discovered by a Denver physician.

His plan is to exterminate the insect known as the tick, which abounds on fever-stricken cattle, and through the means of which the disease is communicated. To do this the cattle are forced to swim through a solution in a vat. What the solution is, is not known at present, but crude petroleum is used.

When the experiment was tried 27 head of very "ticky" cattle were forced to swim through the solution, and it was noticed that while standing on the dry boards there was almost a perfect rain of ticks falling off the cattle. They were put into a special pen, and the next day, just 17 hours after the experiment, a rigid examination was made and the examiners failed to find a single tick in the whole herd. There was no damage done the eyes of the cattle dipped, and not a single bad effect resulted.

If the remedy proves to be all that it is claimed, the cattle market will experience somewhat of a revolution, and about 500,000 head of cattle will be shipped north each year during the now prohibited season, which extends from February 15 to November 15. The "fever line," from beyond the limits of which no cattle can be shipped to the North during the prohibited period, as it now stands stretches from ocean to ocean, and Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Virginia, part of West Virginia and Louisiana from the district affected.

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