LIVE STOCK

CARE OF SHEEP.

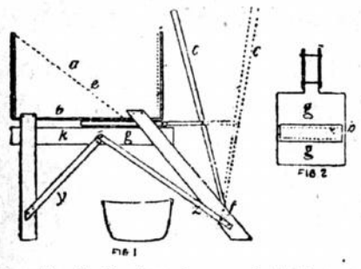
The Critical Time for Sheep the Early Spring Months.

If there is one time more critical than another for sheep, that time is the last of winter and through the early spring months, before getting out to pasture. While in winter quarters, one of the most essential things in successful management is a clean, light, airy and dry place for the sheep to lie down in, with room proportionate to the number. No animal kept on the farm—if we except poultry—is so susceptible to the effects of foul air caused by poor ventilation, or no ventilation at all, the foulness arising from the accumulations of filth, waste straw and hay heating and decomposing in the housing departments.

Variety of food is an all-important thing to be considered in the management of sheep during the winter. This is necessary to the health of the animals, as well as to the best bodily development, the growth of wool, and the well-being of the progeny. The breeding ewes, in order to produce strong, vigorous lambs, must be kept in a healthy condition during the days of pregnancy. The sheep, more than the horse and cow, is subject to constipation when kept on dry feed. This condition should be guarded against by careful attention to feeding. Constipation is the bane of all pregnant animals, and a cause of the death of more young lambs than any other one disease. The remedy lies in a variety of foods—succulent foods, as supplied in roots or ensilage. Foods abounding in protein elements should take the place of highly carbonaceous foods for sheep at the barn. This is found in clover hay and the mixed grasses, rather than in timothy fed wholly or largely. Corn ensilage—siloed with the ears about mature—abounds in carbonaceous material, but its succulence when feeding it in connection with clover hay, a concentrated ration of cottonseed meal, oat-and-pea meal, linseed meal or bran, of all the above properly balanced, forms about as good feed for breeding ewes as can be found. Corn meal is too heating and fattening. On the other hand, oats and bran carries no danger when fed to the flock from grass to grass again. If to the mixture linseed meal is added to make one-fourth of the whole, and fed at the rate of one pound daily of the mixture for 100 pounls weight of sheep, the flock will keep in fine condition.—L. F. Abbott in Orange Judd Farmer.

A Mechanical Root Cutter.

Where stock is kept in any considerable quantity and roots are fed them a steam power root cutter is almost a necessity. Where but a small herd or few animals are kept a home-made cutter may be made to fill the bill. In the cut illustrated, Fig. 1 shows a cutter complete. The figure above Fig. 1 is a basket to catch the roots as they fall from the knife at g. The frame or box, a, of heavy lines, is made of 1¼ by 4 in stuff, or a shoe box can be made to serve as a hopper by cutting out about seven inches from the front end and then placing a board, e, diagonally as shown. The heavy platform, k, is supported with legs and z and y are cross pieces for increased support. An old hand saw blade will serve for a slicing knife. It should be 5 or 6 inches wide and 10 inches long; if less than 6 inches the back of the slide can be made level with the upper side of the knife, by a thin piece of board. In Fig. 2 the knife b is fastened to the slide g. The board should be about 15 inches long and wide enough to correspond with the width of the box. Before fasten-



ing the knife in place a hole is cut through slide g 4 inches wide, the edge being even with the edge of the knife. The knife is raised from the slide g by a piece of lath ¼ inch thick and fastened by screws. In Fig. 1 the slide g is worked by the lever c, being fastened as in Figs. 1 and 2. Two pieces of 1 by 1¼ inch stuff 6 inches long are bolted loosely to the lever and slide. An old shovel handle 4 feet long makes a good lever and is fastened to the cutter leg at f, which is a board the same width as the hopper and extending down to the slide against which the knife comes at each stroke. The slide is inserted from the front before the stubbing board is put in position. The board should be made adjustable to be removed to sharpen the knife.—R. Logan, Branch County, Mich., in Farm and Home.

Baked Bones.

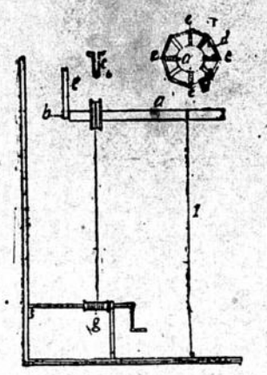
A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker, who seems to be very confident and positive in his statements, says:

"I got eggs all through the cold weather, and here in Montgomery county, Pa., in seven winters have never failed to fill my egg basket. I will let the readers of the Rural New Yorker into the secret of my success. The main part of it is baked bones. The bones are placed in the oven and when sufficiently baked, are taken out and crushed with a hammer or common bone mill. I feed them every day one-half ounce to each fowl. I regard the baked bone superior to the raw, and a better egg food.

"Hen houses should face the south with enough windows to give plenty of light and warmth, no ventilators, have matched board floors, with a layer of coarse straw changed every week. Constant work in cold weather, brought about by scattering wheat in the straw, is another secret of my winter yield of eggs. This and the baked bones are the mainsprings of my "good luck."

Home-Made Butchers' Windlass.

Conveniences for butchering should be in every community. A plan of one in common use in the East is given below. First, prepare a strong timber, a, 6 or 8 inches in diameter and nearly as long as width of the barn. Bore a three-quarter inch hole at each end and drive in each end an iron, b, letting it extend about 2 inches. Then take two pieces of old iron, c (I use wagon tire), and bend in the form of V, fastening each end to the beam above. The iron or roll, b, will fit in the point of the bent iron, c. With a two-inch augur bore two holes at right angles through the roll, about a foot from the end; then take eight pieces of 2 by 4 material, four of them made to fit the augur holes. The other four should be 3 or 4 inches shorter and nailed in between. Then take some



Butchers' Windlass.

strips of ½-inch stuff, 4 inches wide, d d, and nail to the ends of the eight pieces of 2 by 4. Nail strips on the edge of the 2 by 4 to keep a rope in place. If a large wheel can be secured and attached to the beam, a, it will be unnecessary to make one. A half-inch rope will hang any beef. Wind it several times around the wheel. Fasten two ropes, one is shown at f, to the roll about 6 feet apart, long enough to reach the floor. Construct a 3 inch roll 15 inches long, g, about 3 feet from the floor, with a crank attached to wind the small rope on. Attach the rope taut and the windlass is complete. I can dress and hang a 1,000-pound beef alone and can take down a quarter or side and leave the rest hanging. It is a simple, strong and cheap windlass.—E. N. Fisher, Hampden County, Mass., in Farm and Home.

Rules for Breeding.

Like begets like, only departing under strange and extraordinary influences.

Nature's laws are unerring, and, when scientifically directed, success is always attainable.

The male should invariably be line bred. His pedigree, form, constitution and disposition are his chief requirements, and should be as near perfection as possible.

Inbreeding is desirable where positive qualities are well established, and are transmitted with a certainty and strength that can not be reached by any kind of miscellaneous breeding.

The male should not be confined in dark and foul stables, but should have light and exercise and be fed with strict reference to strength and vigor.

The female requires light, air, and exercise, with a proper amount of food containing the proportionate elements of growth for the foetus.

The female should not be allowed to associate or have in sight inferior animals while in sexual heat or in early stage of pregnancy, but should familiarize with the best of her kind.

Kind treatment and regular attendance are strictly essential to success.—Ex.

Live Stock of South America.

South America has 63,418,000 cattle, 118,229,200 sheep, and 5,000,000 goats. Of these the Pampas of Argentine has 23,000,000 cattle, Brazil 18,000,000, Chile 6,000,000, Uruguay 8,000,000, Venezuela 5,000,000. Argentine has 80,000,000 sheep, Uruguay 23,000,000, Bolivia 7,000,000, Venezuela 4,000,000 and Chile 4,000,000. Venezuela and Argentine each have 2,000,000 goats and llamas.

With such immense numbers of cattle and sheep rapidly increasing, and some of them being improved by the importation of pure bred bulls and bucks from England, they will give us stronger competition in the European markets unless we grade up with more pure bred sires and raise a better class of stock. They can raise them cheaper and sell them cheaper on their boundless ranches than we can on our high priced lands, but we should be better able to raise high-class stock than any ranch country.

Stock Notes.

Cotton seed oil is said to be fatal to cattle ticks.

The Cornell station says that heavy-milking ewes, two years old, are best for early lamb-raising.

If your pullets have been properly cared for they should be laying nicely now.

Do not keep the hens until they become too old. The pullets and yearling hens pay the best.

If your hens are lousy they will not lay. A hen cannot fight lice and fill the egg basket at the same time.

The Russian war office thinks it has discovered that gray horses have more strength and endurance than brown ones.

Experiments with feeding wheat have shown that when wheat and corn are the same price per bushel, it pays better to feed the wheat and sell the corn.

One year old is soon enough for sows to breed to attain the best results. At this age they will pass the farrowing ordeal better, be better mothers, and the pigs will be larger and grow more rapidly.

If you intend to breed any sort of stock the coming season, try and get it better than you ever had before. Better not breed at all if you can't improve upon what you have been doing in the past.

STRANGE VISIONS.

HALLUCINATIONS HARD TO EXPLAIN BY EXPERIMENTERS.

Crystal Gazing a Fad—Psychical Research Society Trying to Find Out Why People See Queer Things in Goblets and Globes.

CRYSTAL visions are the latest fad of the Society of Psychical Research. That association of progressive savants has devoted much of its attention recently to the ability of certain persons to produce hallucinations by gazing into glass globes or goblets of water. It has obtained data of startling results and is preparing to astonish the world with a mass of learned literature which it is collecting, says New York World.

Professor H. J. Hyslop, of Columbia College, is the most active member of the society in New York. Though he is a scientist of the most severely practical type, he is convinced that the illusions of crystal-gazers are well worthy of study, as having possible bearing upon undiscovered scientific truths. With clear, unbiased mind, he gathers all the statistics he can find and turns them over to his fellow-seekers after knowledge. During the past few years he has studied carefully several cases that have come under his personal observation and has furnished to the society much interesting information concerning the strange phenomenon.

It should be premised that the society is not an organization with a hobby. As its name implies, its object is to search for all stories, histories, autobiographies and traditions that may possibly have anything to do with psychical phenomena. It is absolutely unprejudiced and makes no attempt to shape facts. All it tries to do is to collect them. If the trend of the evidence it gathers leads to a belief in the supernatural, it is satisfied to accept spiritualism or any other doctrine that may be established by the facts; if the mass of testimony leans toward materialism and a denial of the existence of everything spiritual, equally good. It is simply a jury of scientists and other thinkers prepared to try the case of the Seen vs. the Unseen upon its merits.

Professor Hyslop was quite willing to talk of crystal-gazing when a Journal reporter saw him in the crowded library of his residence, No. 519 West One Hundred and Forty-ninth street. After having prefaced his remarks with a reiteration of his disinterested position upon the question, he went on to say:

"Crystal visions are among the most curious of unexplained phenomena. Strictly speaking, they have little scientific value, so far as I know. They are simply hallucinations produced by gazing at a crystal globe or a glsas of water, and seem to have little if anything to do with the will of the individual. Often the illusions are mere mosaics of previous incidents in the experience of the gazer; sometimes they are visions of things which the gazer has never actually seen, but which like most so-called 'strange' dreams, may easily be imagined by anybody of active fancy.

"Still, I have witnessed many startling coincidences in connection with those same hallucinations. It happens not infrequently that the gazer sees in the crystal or water scenes which have actually happened, or possibly, are actually happening at the time. Then it is that the phenomenon seems to encroach upon the realm of the supernatural, and is called by most unthinking persons 'second sight.' As a matter of fact, nothing has been adduced to show that the coincidences may be explained as an instance of clairvoyance. In fact, I am tempted to throw the clairvoyant out of the reckoning altogether, as almost unworthy of consideration in the question.

"Telepathy, in my opinion, may prove to be part of the cause of the phenomenon. What I mean by that qualified statement is that if other facts yet to be established happen to prove conclusively that there is such a thing as telepathy, or thought-transference, I shall be nearly willing to accept it as an explanation of the faculty of crystal-gazing. There may be many other ways in which the existence of the telepathic communication may be demonstrated. As I say, crystal-gazing is not sufficient in itself to do so, but we may ascertain in the future that thought-transference is responsible for the visions seen in the crystal.

"Remember, the scene in the crystal is not a complete hallucination. In the first place, the image is seldom, if ever, the actual size of the supposed scene. If a gazer has a vision of a man, the figure seen in the crystal or water is always much smaller than the man himself. So the vision is not a perfect illusion. In fact, the gazer is never deceived by the vision, but always realizes, even while seeing it, that it is only a hallucination.

"Again, the vision can generally be traced to the observation; unconscious at the time of the object or objects seen in the mirror. It is surprising how many things we see without realizing that we are looking at them, and still more astonishing how we remember sights that have never attracted our conscious attention. You may be walking along the street and see a woman with a red shawl. It is almost certain that the garment, being unusual under the prevailing fashions, would attract your attention immediately. You might not notice, however, that the woman wore a black bonnet, if there were nothing unusual about it; but weeks afterward the unconscious observation of the bonnet might crop up in your memory. Possibly you could not recollect when you had seen a woman in a black bonnet; or, at any rate, that particular black bonnet; nevertheless, the image of the black bonnet might be almost indelibly impressed upon your mind and cause you to do not a little guessing.

"The most remarkable case of crystal visions that has ever come within my personal observation is that of the wife of a Brooklyn clergyman, a most estimable lady, who would be greatly pained to see her name in print. Therefore you must pardon me for keeping her identity secret. I can assure you, however, that I have utmost faith in the sincerity of her statements, and, in fact, know her to be incapable of deceiving either herself or me as to the manifestations of the phenomenon. For the purposes of this interview I shall call her, with your permission, Mrs. D.

"For many years this lady has had crystal visions frequently. She can produce hallucinations by gazing into either the globe or the goblet. Most of her visions are merely mosaics, as in other instances, but some of them have been, if nothing more, curious coincidences.

"One day, looking into the globe, she saw a woman, evidently ill, lying in bed. Alongside the woman was a little child—how old, she could not determine. She conceived the idea that the woman was her sister-in-law, who was in the West, but she could not recognize the face. A few minutes later she saw a vision of the graveyard in her native town, and noted with interest that the gate and walls were just as she had last seen them in early youth. The interior of the cemetery, however, was strange to her. She could not find a single one of the dozens of monuments and headstones with which she had been familiar, and that fact led her to believe, for she is interested more or less in psychical research and understands something of her own phenomenon—that the vision was a mosaic. Bear in mind, the memory retains thousands of unimportant scenes and bits of scenes, which it jumbles together just as you shake up the pieces of colored glass in a kaleidoscope, producing an endless variety of combinations.

"Mrs. D. knew, however, that her brother was down with typhoid fever at the family home and that he was not expected to live. She momentarily expected a telegram summoning her to his bedside, and all her baggage was packed, in preparation for a hasty start. The visions, following so closely the latest letter she had received from her parents, worried her sadly, and she was just about to leave for her home, when she got a letter or telegram saying that the crisis of the disease had been passed and that her brother would recover.

"Three months later she went West and, with great difficulty, drew from her father and mother, both of whom were bitterly opposed to psychical research, facts that completed the coincidence. They told her that her brother, during the worst hours of his illness, clung to the delusion that his wife had presented him with another child and that he saw it constantly lying on the bed beside its mother. Then, too, at the time when he was most dangerously ill, his relatives were so sure he would die that his other sister, a young girl, was already discussing with her father the advisability of purchasing a plot in the new cemetery, as the old graveyard was in such a hopelessly dilapidated condition.

"Now, those facts may be taken as explanations of the two visions seen in the crystal by Mrs. D. The hallucination in regard to the mother and child may have been transferred to her by her brother, although he was delirious, and the conjunction of ideas in her sister's mind in regard to the old and new graveyards may have caused Mrs. D. to see the vision of the cemetery with the familiar gate and wall, but not the strange tombstones. Telepathy may have been the process by which those ideas were transferred from the minds of her brother and sister to that of Mrs. D. and thrown by her into the crystal visions.

"For the gazer appears to have the power of projecting ideas into the crystal, though involuntarily, and thus forming the visions. A thought occupying the mind of the gazer may be made external by a process opposite to that of ordinary sight. When you see anything in the ordinary way it is because rays of light travel from that object to the retina of the eye. Similarly, an image formed in the brain may travel outward along the optic nerve and the outer eye, and be projected into the globe or goblet. This is not speculation, but a fact well within the knowledge of any oculist.

CRYSTAL GAZING, THE NEW FAD OF SOCIETY.

Armenians Shrewd and Tricky.

F. Marion Crawford, the novelist, who has met many Armenians in the East, says of them: "I doubt whether they are the innocent, confiding, inoffensive Christians that the American people believe them to be. My experience with them is that they are the sharpest, shrewdest and trickiest of all the Eastern people. They say in Turkey that it takes ten Jews to equal one Armenian, and five Armenians to equal one Persian in sharp business dealings. They have many able men among them, and I doubt not that their leaders have to a certain extent fermented this trouble, hoping that the governments of Europe would interfere, and that Armenia would be entirely freed from Turkish rule. I would rather trade with a Turk or a Jew in any part of the East than with a Christian. I have the highest respect for Christianity, but the Christians of the East are not like us. The business-men among them are to a large extent a set of sharpers, so much so that the words Oriental Christian in the minds of the Eastern travelers is almost synonymous with that of a thief."

His Last Blissful Thought.

The old organ blower of Pinkelbury lay dying. The curate was visiting him. "Would you mind, sir, asking our organist to play the 'Dead March' over me?" asked the sick man.

"Certainly I will, Jones," said the curate.

"Thankee, sir. None o' that 'ere tweedle-dum Beethoven, you know, sir. Only Handel's."

"I am sure he will do it," responded the curate.

The old man lay placidly for awhile, then exclaimed with fervor: "How thankful I be that I shan't have to blow for him when he plays the loud part at the end."

The Working Class.

Over three-fourths of the membership of the churches of the United States are composed of the working classes.—Rev. T. B. Neely.

A TERRIBLE AUDIENCE.

Ticket-of-Leave Men See the Ticket-of-Leave Man Performed.

"Having had a long rest from acting," a well known actor relates, "I returned to Melbourne to play a short engagement with my former partner at the Haymarket and then sailed to Van Diemen's Land, now called Tasmania. This lovely island had formerly been a convict station, where life-sentenced prisoners from England had been sent. There was at the time I speak of, and is now, a most refined society in Tasmania, though among the lower class there was a strong flavor of the convict element. I acted the 'Ticket-of-Leave-Man' for the first time in Hobart Town, and there was much excitement in the city when the play was announced.

"At least 100 ticket-of-leave men were in the pit on the night of the production. Before the curtain rose I looked through it at this terrible audience. The faces in the pit were a study. Men with low foreheads and small, peering, ferret-looking eyes, some with flat noses and square, cruel jaws and sinister expressions—leering, low and cunning—all wearing a sullen, dogged look, as though they would tear the benches from the pit and rob the theater of its scenery if one of their kind was held up to public scorn upon the stage.

"The first act of the play progressed with but little excitement. These men seemed to enjoy the humorous and pathetic side of the story with great relish, but when I came upon the stage in the second act, revealing the emaciated features of a returned convict, with sunken eyes and a close-shaved head, there was a painful stillness in the house. The whole pit seemed to lean forward and strain their eager eyes upon the scene, and there were little murmurs of recognition and shakings of head, as though they fully recognized the local illusions they so well remembered; deep-drawn sighs for the sufferings that the hero had gone through, and smothered laughs at some of the old well remembered inconveniences of prison life; but their sympathies were caught by the nobleness of the hero's character and his innocence of crime, as though each one of these villains recognized how persecuted he had been.

"As the play progressed their enthusiasm increased. Whenever the hero was hounded by a detective or ill-treated by the old Hebrew they would howl with indignation at the actors, and when he came out unscathed at the end of the play, a monument of persecuted innocence, they cheered to the very echo.

"This performance rendered me extremely popular with the old 'lags' of Hobart Town, and I was often accosted in the street by these worthies and told some touching tale of their early persecutions. In fact, they quite looked on me as an old 'pal.'

"These courtesies were very flattering, but the inconvenience that I was caused by being poked in the ribs and winked at now and then, as much as to say, 'All right, old boy, we know—you've been there,' rendered my favoritism among those fellows rather irksome."—Boston Post.

Tailor Gowns.

The tailor gown, in all its simplicity and beauty, is one of the favorite spring costumes, and deservedly so, for there is nothing prettier or simpler than a well made tailor gown.

Skirts are to be narrower this spring but will be cut in very much the same way, fitting smoothly over the hips, the fulness all in a small space in the back. The bell skirt, somewhat fuller than it was two or three years ago, is to be worn, and it is one of the most becoming of all skirts. Dark blue is to be a favorite color, and a great many costumes have already been made up with plain skirt and smart little jacket trimmed with black braid. The effect is somewhat of a military jacket, and the braid is put on in front and around the coat; sometimes frogs are used in place of the braid. These jackets are always tight-fitting.

Tan and gray cloths are also made up in these gowns, and there is a certain shade of warm chestnut-brown serge which is also fashionable.

The Eton jackets will be worn with the spring costumes, and an unusually pretty style has the skirt very much gored, and opening at the side of the front breadth like the bicycle suits. An Eton jacket fitting tight at the back has revers turned back from the waist to the shoulder, and lined with blue satin. With this is to be worn a silk blouse of blue and white checked silk. Odd colors are combined in these costumes; blues are lined and faced with green and heliotrope; browns also have heliotrope or yellow or red, and although there are only glimpses to be seen, those glimpses give a touch of color which makes the gown chic, or otherwise.

Shepherd's plaids and checks of all kinds are made up into skirts to be worn with fancy waists and black jackets, and there are some entire costumes of the plaid. One of dark green and white fine check has linings, facings and bands about the skirt of dark green satin.—Harper's Bazar.

Old Ribbons.

Ribbons are to be extremely fashionable again, and already they are being put to new purposes in a way of trimming for evening and other smart dresses, while at the same time milliners are once more resorting to them. It is principally owing to the sudden reaction in favor of a simpler style of hat for ordinary wear that ribbons are to the fore again at the milliner's. For the sailor-shaped silk hat and the smooth felt Amazon hat turned up at the side, ribbon trimmings are required to compose the decoration, with the addition of quail or cock's plumes, or sometimes a large bunch of flowers. The ribbon is banded round the crown and arranged in simple bows on one side.—Boston Times.

He Got It.

"Ma'am," said Mosely Wraggs, who stood at the kitchen door, dripping with rain, "I'm not askin' ye fur anything to eat this time, but——"

"Well, what do you want?" sharply demanded the woman of the house.

"Would you mind givin' an old wetter an umbreller?"—Chicago Tribune.

The Way to Do It.

Mrs. Trivvet—Miss Elder is trying to make a new woman of herself.

Mrs. Dicer—Is she?

Mrs. Trivvet—Yes; she has already knocked fifteen years off her age.