

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER



TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

[SINGLE NO. FIVE CENTS.]

VOL. XIV. NO. 17.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1863.

{WHOLE NO. 694.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,
AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY
RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.
CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE,
With a Corps of Able Assistants and Contributors.
C. D. BRADTON, Western Corresponding Editor.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER is designed to be unsurpassed in Value, Purity and Variety of Contents, and unique and beautiful in Appearance. Its Conductor devotes his personal attention to the supervision of its various departments, and earnestly labors to render the RURAL an eminently Reliable Guide on all the important Practical, Scientific and other Subjects intimately connected with the business of those whose interests it zealously advocates. As a FAMILY JOURNAL it is eminently Instructive and Entertaining—being so conducted that it can be safely taken to the Homes of people of intelligence, taste and discrimination. It embraces more Agricultural, Horticultural, Scientific, Educational, Literary and News Matter, interspersed with appropriate Engravings, than any other journal,—rendering it the most complete AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER in America.

For Terms and other Particulars, see last page.

Agricultural.

WESTERN EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE HOG CHOLERA.

THE hog product of the North-west is by no means the least item in its contributions to commerce. Were proof needed, it would be found in the fact that the receipts of hogs at Chicago alone, during the season of 1861-2, numbered nearly a million and a half. But there is great danger that this feature of western husbandry has reached its culminating point. This may be regarded as a ridiculous assertion by gentlemen who look upon the West as yet undeveloped; and properly, too, but for the terrible ravages of the disease known by the above name, among the hogs of the West, and the effect upon the producer. There are comparatively few who know the extent of the loss to the country annually by this disease, or epizootic among swine. But little attention has been paid to it by the public press; and, comparatively, no effort has been made by Agricultural Societies, through their Executive Boards, to investigate its character, determine the cause, preventive, or cure.

At the meeting of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, last January, this matter was brought to its notice by the presence of a gentleman named GEORGE W. KINNEY, of Albion, Illinois, who claimed to have discovered a cure for this disease. This remedy he proposed to sell to the people of the State, through their Legislature, for \$25,000. He had asked of the Legislature the appointment of a committee to go with him to the localities where the disease prevails, and determine whether he possessed what he proposed to sell. He also asked the State Board to appoint a committee to go with him and witness his experiments, and report the same, he offering to defray all the expenses of said committee. He was subjected to a rigid examination by a distinguished medical amateur and agricultural editor, which confused him somewhat, and resulted in the members of the Board doubting his sanity. He asked a second hearing, disclaimed any professional knowledge of medical science, but could give the symptoms and remedy. An hour was fixed when the Board should hear him again. Meantime, a distinguished physician, and member of the Board, who had examined many hogs afflicted with the disease, was familiar with it, was deputed by the balance of the Board to cross-question Mr. KINNEY. The writer was present when this examination occurred. Mr. K. gave in detail the symptoms of the disease during the different stages of its progress. Then commenced the examination by the medical member, with an air and manner more worthy a pedantic pettifogger who felt sure of annihilating his victim. But the result of that cross-questioning was not so humiliating to the "Hog Doctor" as was evidently anticipated; and the learned physician did not establish a triumph as he evidently expected to do when he opened his batteries.

The Board did not appoint any committee to investigate the matter. Members called him a monomaniac. Perhaps he is; but his detail of the symptoms, and the fact that he did not propose to cure the diseased hogs in every instance, his confidence in his ability to cure in most cases, and his willingness to bear the expenses attending the investigation, ought to have secured him some official attention from the representatives of the agriculturists of the great State of Illinois. He claimed to have made \$7,000 by his practice

in applying the remedy, during the past year. No matter, therefore, what the private opinion of members may have been, it seemed to me to be the duty of the Board to investigate the matter; and if the result proved Mr. K. an impostor, the public should know it. If, on the other hand, it should prove that he has a remedy, the State could afford to pay \$25,000 for it. The disease has cost its citizens ten times that amount the past year.

Mr. K., finding that he could get no committee, finally offered to put the members of the Board in possession of the secret, and let them determine its effectiveness. Whether he did so, or not, I am not informed. If he did, he was not as sharp as I thought him to be.

Since the meeting of the Board referred to above, I have talked with several gentlemen,—among them one or two physicians,—who have become acquainted with this disease, and all of them agree with Mr. K. as to the symptoms; and those who have made post-mortem examinations agree as to the condition of the lungs, and believe it to be a lung disease, or an epizootic similar to the cattle disease, about which Massachusetts got excited two or three years since.

Mr. KINNEY says the seat, or cause of the disease, is in the lungs. He asserts there are three stages of the disease.

The symptoms in the first stage are weakness of the eyes,—a black spot under the eye. He asserts that only a close observer, who is familiar with the disease, would be likely to detect this symptom, unless it were pointed out to him. A post-mortem examination of a hog killed at this stage, will disclose ulcers on the lungs, and whitish matter beginning to form.

The disease at the second stage is detected by a slight shrinkage of the shoulder, combined with coughing. If the lungs are examined it will be found that the ulcers have become a reddish color, and in these ulcers are found minute worms, which eat up the lungs, and destroy the life of the hog. Large purple spots appear on the skin, also.

At the third stage the hind parts of the animal are drawn up, it refuses food, exhibits weakness, great thirst, and has diarrhea, the discharges being very offensive. The red or purple spots extend over the body.

Mr. KINNEY says it is difficult to cure the disease when it has arrived at this third stage; but he can almost invariably cure it if the effort is made during the first and second stages.

Regarding the lungs as the seat of the disease, of course, the treatment is accordingly; and the remedy is applied by inhalation in most cases. In the third stage, however, other treatment is required.

Such are the symptoms and causes of the disease, substantially, as given by Mr. K. in his communication to the Board. I find the symptoms given are not unlike those given by others who have written on the subject, except that no one seems to have discovered the worms in the lungs. Dr. SUTTON, of Indiana, in a paper published in 1853, says:—"In a large number of cases the respiratory organs appeared to be principally affected, and there was coughing, wheezing, and difficult respiration." But he says, "in those cases where the respiratory organs were the principal seat of the disease, there was generally no diarrhea or dysentery." This assertion, however, does not fail to harmonize with Mr. KINNEY's diagnosis. The difficulty with the respiratory organs being apparent in the second stage, and the diarrhea appearing in the third stage.

But all this is of minor importance, abstractly. It is hoped that some members of the Board have given, or will give, some attention to Mr. K.'s case; and if he has a remedy, let the people know it; if he has not, the public ought certainly to know it. The importance of some attention to this subject is found in the fact that individuals have lost hundreds, and counties in this State thousands, of swine by this epizootic. Large feeders—men who have handled hundreds annually—say they are going out of the business, in consequence of the dangers from this disease. Corn growing and hog feeding has been, and is, a large and lucrative business in this State, Indiana and Iowa. But the heavy losses, sure to follow the appearance of this disease in a herd, is rendering it a business of great risk, and will turn, and is turning, the attention, energies and capital of hog feeders into other channels. Hence the assertion at the commencement of this article. Hence the strictures upon the course pursued by the State Board toward Mr. KINNEY.

It is proper, here, to give some of the means

used by men of experience, both to prevent the appearance and arrest the progress of this disease.

Swine should be kept as clean as possible, in dry and clean inclosures. Good food, pure water and pure air should be secured to them. Salt, small quantities of copperas, sulphur and ashes should be incorporated with their food, and given them frequently. When the disease exhibits itself in a herd, those which appear well should be assorted from the balance and removed to an isolated locality, and the sick ones should be removed from the pens in which the disease has made its appearance. I have seen it recommended to sprinkle powdered charcoal through the pens and in the food of swine. It is a powerful absorbent, and will aid in the purification and recovery of the animal, without doubt. Let those who have learned anything by their experience with this disease, contribute the same for the public good. It will be of interest and value to know how the disease appeared in different herds—what the locality and condition of the animals where it appeared—the kind of diet they were on—the manner in which it discovered itself—the length of time intervening after the attack before the death of the animal—the effect of the different remedies applied, and whether other healthy herds introduced to the same locality were similarly affected. It has been asserted that this disease never leaves a locality where it once appears,—that it is like the Rot in sheep in that it is contagious, and is communicated to herds that are placed in the same inclosures from which diseased animals have been removed. This is an important fact to know, if it is a fact. Let gentlemen give their experience.

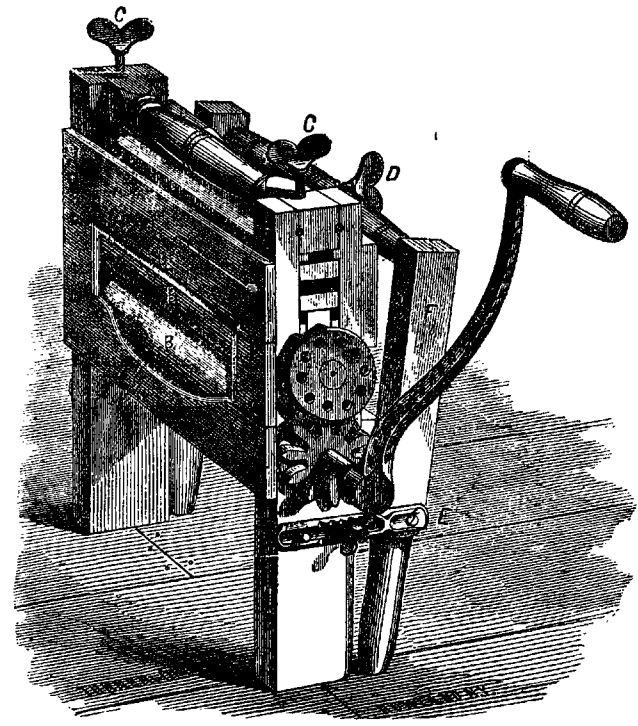
FARMER GARRULOUS TALKS.

"I do hate to see a farmer slouch, slouch, slump, slump, splash, splash, through mud and manure, with his pants down under his feet, as if he were used to it, and there was no way of avoiding it. In the first place, there is no need of it. I know some men who walk in the same path, through the same mud, all their lives, bedaubing their clothes, tracking up the door steps, the piazzas, and wiping the filth off their boots on the good woman's carpet or neatly scrubbed floor. I do not wonder that certain women cease to respect and love their husbands—cease to labor to minister to their comfort, when they manifest so little regard for, and appreciation of, their wives' labors.

"It makes me foam at the mouth to see a man so great a sluggard as not to pave his yards, where his household must travel constantly. My respect for a man who goes about his daily labor on a farm without any regard for the labor he may make or save his wife—who fails to shun dirt and keep himself and clothing clean when he may do so as well as not, without neglecting a single duty as a farmer, is not so great as to prevent me calling him a brute! How easy it is for a farmer to have heavy boots, with large tops to them, in which the extremities of his pants may be kept clean. And overall are economical, to say nothing about the comfort they insure, and the labor they save.

"Why, JOHN, I would not have a hired man on my place, who, in his labor on the farm, did not have some regard for his own cleanliness, in the prosecution of his work. For a sloven is always careless. He is reckless in the use of his employer's property. Such men never were known to do anything neatly and skillfully. They are uniformly botches. They are sure to drive over a big rock and break a wagon axle, rather than shun it; drive over bars and break them, rather than pick them up; drive against a swinging gate and break it, frighten the team and smash the wagon, rather than take the trouble to fasten it back; drop the manure fork, or hoe, or shovel, right where they happen to use it, and drive the load over it and break it, rather than pick it up and put it in a safe place; set the milk pail down in the excrement rather than clean the stable or select a clean place in the yard; milk the cow without cleaning her bag when it needs it; feed the calf in the pail, and then carry what milk is left and strain it in the tub, to be incorporated in the morning cheese. Indeed, there is nothing filthy, careless and reckless which he will not do; and I will not have my reputation as a producer and manufacturer of farm products sacrificed by such slovens.

"Now, JOHN, I do hate to hear those pigs squeal in that way. I wish you would clean out their pen, and give them some clean, dry straw, and some food, and see if they will not become better natured."



THE UNIVERSAL CLOTHES-WRINGER.

[SEE ARTICLE IN DOMESTIC ECONOMY DEPARTMENT, ON THIRD PAGE OF THIS NUMBER.]

ABOUT FLAX.—NO. VI.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—The next, and most important part in the preparation, is the water-rotting. This is done in the Netherlands by placing it in ditches. A bank is formed in one part of the ditch, the side being at about an angle of forty-five degrees. A tier of the small bundles of flax are then placed reclining upon the bank. Mud is then scraped from the bottom of the ditch with a long-handled wooden scraper up to the top of the flax, which is placed with the roots downwards, as they claim that the tops require more rotting than the bottoms. In this manner they proceed until they have deposited their crop, when another bank is formed of sufficient height to allow the water, when the ditch is filled, to cover the top of the flax. The ditch being filled the flax is allowed to remain from five to ten days, according to the temperature of the weather and water. After about five days the flax is examined, by taking hold of the top of a few stalks and pulling them out, when, if the fiber separates freely from the stalk, it is considered watered enough; if the fiber still adheres to the stalk it is allowed to remain longer, always being careful not to have it over watered, for if it is rather short it can be finished upon the grass, when if over watered it is materially injured.

When the flax is properly watered, the operator commences at the end of the ditch where he left off, takes hold of each small bundle, and pulling them over, rinses off the mud, and sets them upon the bank of the ditch but-end downwards, to drain, after which the bundles are unbound and the flax spread upon short grass to dry, and bleach, preparatory to the separation of the fiber from the stalk, or shive. In this process the gum and mucilage, in which the fiber is imbedded, is dissolved, and separated from the fiber; whereas, if spread directly upon the grass, before watering, the gum and mucilage becomes oxidated, and so hardened as to become insoluble in water, rendering the fibers less flexible, and more difficult to separate one from the other, and more difficult to bleach.

Next comes the breaking process. In this operation, by whatever machinery it is performed, care should be taken that the fiber is not submitted to such tension as to break it. The common brake in use among farmers is a bad instrument, having two slats on the upper part, passing its opening between three slats in the lower part. It will at once be seen that by this formation a greater tension of the fiber is caused than would be if the upper part of the brake had only one slat passing between two in the lower part, and the process would be nearer like that performed by passing between fluted rollers which is the more common method in most of the flax-growing districts in Europe. Purchasers in manufacturing districts consider that sample most perfect which approaches nearest to that stripped from the stalk by the fingers without disturbing the flattened fibers as they come from the stalk. Where the rotting process is well performed, and the breaking skillfully done, and

the shives well shaken out, nothing further is required, only that the fiber is to be laid straight and bound up in suitable bales for market. It should not be twisted and doubled up, as has been the custom with our dew-rotted flax, with which every process seemed to be an exertion to see how worthless we could make it.

Where machinery is used other than fluted rollers, the best that I have seen is a cylinder about the size of a barrel, about a yard long, with slats in the periphery of the cylinder, with knives projecting at right angles from the axis of the cylinder. Parallel with the cylinder should be a board of hard wood, over which to pass the flax endwise against the revolving slats. Another board should be placed parallel with the knives, over which the handful of flax, when first taken up, should have the tips passed, to separate the receptacles of the bolls, which may thus be scutched off without a material loss of lint. Taking hold of the tip thus freed from shives, the operator should next pass the points of the roots under the knives, to scutch off the hard points, when the handful is ready to be pushed against the revolving cylinder the slats of which, as it breaks the stalks across the edge of the front board, separate the wood coarse lint thus thrown off is suitable for manufacturing crash. By scutching the ends, as here recommended, there will be a small loss from the fibers without breaking them: The more than by the Russian mode of preparing it, as they leave the ends as they come from the operator should always bear in mind that it is desirable to have the fiber lie in flat strips, as if pulled from the woolly part by single stalks by hand, as it is then better fitted for the next process, which the manufacturers call dressing, but we Yankees would call it hatching.

The hatching process is one of the greatest importance. The first hatchel that flax is drawn through bears some resemblance to those used in families in this country, only the teeth are twice as long, according to their size, and the flax is not allowed to pass down lower than the middle of them. The teeth of this hatchel are not made very sharp, as the object is to get the fibers straight as possible, without breaking them. The next hatchel has finer teeth, with points as sharp as possible. Here the object is to divide the fibers one from another, and this gradation of the fineness of the teeth goes down, according to fineness of the flax required for a particular kind of manufacture,—as when intended for Brussels lace, it is finished on teeth as fine as cambric needles, with points as delicately fine, and through these teeth the flax is continually drawn, until it is divided finer than a human hair. In all stages of hatching, the broken fibers which are left in the teeth, with their ends drawn out in front, are taken in the left hand, and drawn out and laid down carefully, and are called "short flax;" and when the flax is for cloth, this short flax is used for filling, and the long fiber for warp.

