

## SKILL IN FARRIERY.

By WILLIAM DICKSON, V. S.  
Thanks to the amount of attention which that paragon of horseflesh, the American trotter, has received at the hands of all classes of men, the matter of shoeing for specific purposes has made greater progress in America than in any other country on the face of the globe, and that is a department of the farrier's art which is entitled to the highest eulogium.

There is one instrument which I should like to see, if possible, omitted from the shoeing outfit of every farrier, and that is the drawing knife. The outside, or horny wall, and that portion of the sole which is in im-



FOOT READY FOR SHOE.  
(Showing frog and toe as they should be left.)

mediate contact with it, on which the shoe should rest, are the only portions of the foot which require to be interfered with in preparing the foot for the shoe, and all the trimming that is necessary can and ought to be effected by means of the rasp.

The first illustration shows the only parts which should be reduced when a foot is properly prepared for the shoe. Sufficient care is not always given to shortening the hoof so that its angle should conform exactly to the inclination of the limb. An inspection of the foot in profile is usually the best way of deciding the correct degree of obliquity. Too much importance cannot possibly be attached to this and the succeeding step—namely, leveling the ground surface of the foot. The very smallest deviation from the perpendicular entails disastrous consequences not only on the foot, but on the entire limb.

The different styles of shoes which have been devised are marvels of ingenuity. Many are applicable only to horses used solely for speed purposes, but a considerable number are potent auxiliaries in mitigating the results of natural defects of conformation among animals whose lot is cast in lumbering fields of horse enterprise. Among these are the scoop toed or roller motion shoe for the fore feet, Fig. 2, and the shoe, Fig. 3, for the hind feet, which, while they obviate forging or clicking, a habit harmful to the horse and singularly annoying to his driver, do not in any way tend to inflict injury on the feet or limbs.

The scooped or rolled toe confers a mechanical advantage, enabling the an-



### SPECIAL PURPOSE SHOES.

1. Toe weight shoe. 2. Front view of scoop toe rolling motion shoe. 3. Hind foot shoe to balance the action.—From Russell's Scientific Horseshoeing.

final to get over his toes more promptly and thus remove the front foot from the stroke of the hind extremity, while the lengthening of the branches of the hind shoes retards the flexion and extension of the hind limbs.

Fig. 1 is the most effective model of shoe to square and balance the gait of unmade horses, but the period of its use should be strictly limited and the weight of the toe gradually reduced as the desired gait becomes established.

### Hogs in Cattle Lots.

Of forty-five Ohio cattle feeders from whom definite information concerning their methods of feeding hogs in cattle feed lots has been obtained only ten fed any feeds other than corn to the hogs that gather the grain from the steers' droppings. The other thirty-five feeders either used no feed besides that which was not digested by the steers or else gave corn in addition.—B. E. Carmichael.

### New Arabian Alfalfa.

Of new varieties of alfalfa tested in different parts of the country during the past year the Arabian type is one of the most promising. At Mecca, Cal., this alfalfa has yielded twelve cuttings in the year as against eight for the ordinary type, and at Chico, Cal., seven cuttings of the former as against five of the latter.

### THE EARLY PIGS.

Comfort For the Mother Hog and Her New Family.  
By J. H. GRISDALE.

For a week or ten days before farrowing or parturition occurring in cold spring weather the sow should receive a rather liberal ration of milk producing food, such as bran mash, chopped oats, skim milk, shorts, a little oilmeal, etc., being careful always to see that there are no signs of constipation, that the bowels are quite loose.

The attendant should always be on good terms with every sow. It is this should very particularly be the case for a few weeks before, during the time of and for a few weeks after parturition. By a little petting and a few kindnesses that appeal to her sense of what is due the attendant can win the confidence of almost any sow, provided, of course, that he has not previously won her dislike.

Parturition should take place in a pen specially prepared for the event and for the accommodation of the mother and her family during the first

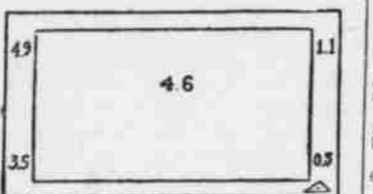
few weeks of their lives. Only a small amount of cut straw or chaff should be given for bedding, thus no opportunity being offered the little ones to get lost or tangled up and so exposed to danger of death from cold, hunger or crushing by the sow. As a further protection a board about eight inches wide placed flat horizontally about eight inches from the floor along the wall, to which it should be firmly attached, will be found of considerable value, affording a space where the little ones can run or be shoved when the mother lies down.

Generally speaking, the less interference at parturition the better. If the weather be cold a good plan is to have some clean dry straw in a box or barrel, into which the little ones may be placed as they are born, being first dried with a cloth. If parturition is slow in cold weather it is sometimes wise to put some warm bricks or flat stones in the box with the youngsters. They should be allowed to suck as soon as possible after birth.

### MIXED MILK.

Easy Calculation in Standardizing or Blending Milk.

"Standardized milk" and "blended milk" are terms applied to milk which has been so modified as to contain a definite amount of one or more of its constituents. The most important and at the same time the most variable constituent is fat. To standardize milk as regards fat is to simply necessary to add or remove a certain amount of this constituent or to add or remove a certain amount of skim milk. One thousand six hundred pounds of milk containing 3.2 per cent of fat may be standardized to 4 per cent of fat by removing 320 pounds of skim milk. A simple method of determining the



### DIAGRAM FOR MIXING MILK.

amounts of skim milk and whole milk or of milks containing different percentages of fat which should be mixed in order to secure a product having a desired fat content is given by Professor R. A. Pearson in a reading course bulletin of Cornell university.

Draw a rectangle and write at the two left hand corners the percentages of fat in the fluids to be mixed and in the center place the required percentage. At the upper right hand corner put the number which represents the difference between the two numbers standing in line with it—i. e., the number in the center and the one at the lower left hand corner. At the lower right hand corner put the number that represents the difference between the two numbers in line with it. Now let the upper right hand number refer to the upper left and the lower right hand to the lower left. Then the two right hand numbers show the relative quantities of the fluids represented at the left hand corners that must be combined to give a fluid of the desired standard which is represented in the center.

If it is wanted to mix the milks from two dairies testing 4.9 per cent fat and

3.5 per cent fat to produce a 4.0 per cent milk, the diagram shows these milks must be mixed in the proportion of 1.1 to 3 or 11 to 3. Thus:

If we have 120 pounds of the 4.9 per cent milk, we must mix with it 32.7 pounds of 3.5 per cent milk, as is shown by this proportion: 11.3 : 120 :: 32.7.

### Profit in Sheep.

As shown by the recorded data for four years, the average cost of wintering sheep at the Mississippi experiment station has been \$1.14 per head. The estimated profits from a flock of twenty-two sheep for last year were \$42.96, and none of the breeding ewes was sold. There is ready sale for early lambs at good prices. Sheep could easily be made one of the most profitable lines of live stock farming for the average farmer in this state.

### Molasses in the Ration.

The addition of molasses to a ration has a tendency to increase the digestibility of both hay and grain feeds. This, coupled with the generally observed fact that molasses contributes toward making feeds more palatable and also acts as an appetizer, gives to molasses a relatively high place as a stock food and makes it more valuable than its analysis alone would indicate.

### For the Farm Dairy.

Work in breeding for milk production at the Canada experiment farms seems to show that (a) superior dairy cows may be found in all breeds; (b) pure bred females are not essential to success in dairy farming, but a pure bred bull should always be used.

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