NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELPARE IS THE INTELLI GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE PARMER.

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write'it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the DEMOCRAT, Bellefonte, Penn'a," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

Agricultural Editor's Table.

WE are indebted to JOSEPH HARRIS, of "Moreton Farm," Rochester, N. Y., for his late catalogue of Cotswold sheep and Essex pigs. Mr. HARRIS is one of our most careful and conscientious breeders, and anything he sells will prove to be precisely as he has recom-mended it.

THE ourrent number of "The Husbandman," a weekly agricultural journal, published at Elmira, N. Y., under the auspices of the "Elmira Farmers' Club," has made its appearance on our table through the kindness of some unknown friend, to whom we desire to express our obligations. The Husbandman is a handsome paper, of the size and form as THE DEMOCRAT, well-printed and carefully edited. We congratulate the "Elmira Farmers' Club" upon having so elegant an exponent as The Husbandman and we congratulate the farmers of Chemung county upon having in their midst so valuable and wellsustained an institution as this club.

WILMER ATKINSON, of the Farm Journal, has placed us under obligations for a neat little pamphlet on the "Culture of Small Fruits," a copy of which he will send free to any one sending him their addres by postal card.

Care of Poultry in Winter.

We are almost afraid to write what we know on this subject, for two reasons. First, the careful poultry keeper will hardly believe we are stating facts; while the great majority, whom the shoe may pinch, will scarcely thank us for exposing them. This matter, however, must be reformed, and the sooner we begin the

Too many farmers take so little interest in their poultry, as to leave it to take care of itself, for the most part. These are, universally, the ones who declare poultry-keeping does not pay. But, we protest, these men are not competent to give an opinion. If it were possible for their fowls to rise up in judgment against

To force fowls to hunt their own living; to expose them to all the vicissitudes of the weather; to chase them out of the barn or stables, when they have crept into them for shelter, or to find something to eat, is simply to abuse them, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals should look after their owners. When, after being thus abused, they are slandered, and declared worth less nuisances, it is adding insult to

On very many farms the fowls may be seen, this cold weather, huddled on the sunny side of a building or straw stack, with frozen combs and wattles, waiting for the warmth of the sun to give them some comfort. They may steal as much as they can eat as long as the pigs are fattening, if they be not shut out of the pen, but, after "butchering" is over, they live a more precarious life than the "tramp" in the highway.

is a better way to care for firsts. No one should keep fowls by disabusing my mind of the com who is not able and willing to pro-vide some sort of shelter for them, and give them a reasonable amount of care. As we have stated already in these columns, the accommodations meet not be expensive, but they should be comfortable. If nothing better can be had, a "lean-to" may be bailt against a building, or bank, or fence, with rails or poles, and neatly covered with straw or corn-fodder. Make the covering thick enough to keep the wind and rain out, and put enough perches in to accommodate all the occupants. Make the place as large as will be necessary to give Menty of room for all the fowls, and with reasonable care in feeding and sentering, they will do very well, provided they have not been too much admsed before being put into such quarters.—Practical Farmer.

Tailow for wagon grease—says
"Frather James"—and there is nothing better or cheaper. Melt the tailing better or cheaper. Melt the tailing better or cheaper. Melt the tailing in enough to make it see third full or less when melted.
Fill the vessel with coal-oil and set it can of doors to cool. Pour off what is remains on the top, and you will have a splendid grease for all kinds of wagons, and of just the right coal in summer than in winter. Be coal in summer than in winter. Be save to use enough coal oil to have a the sheep are manure-Tallow for wagon grease—says "Brother James"—and there is noth-

EDITORIAL NOTES.

GEORGE SLAUGHTER, a farmer Orange county, N. Y., found thirtyeight of his fine flock of sheep dead one morning lately, and of the remaining fifty-five but five or six were uninjured. Another farmer, in Carroll county, Ohio, lost one hundred and eight head of sheep between June 28 and December 4. Dogs did the business in both cases. One of the crying needs of the farming community just now is more dogs Sheep are of no account anyway.

THE Patrons of Cayuga county, N. Y. have a "Fire Relief Association" which conducts its business at a cost of less than a one-tenth of one per cent. on the amount of property insured. This looks as though "administrative ability" and "business capacity" were not altogether wanting, among even farm-

As an evidence that the business, or profession, or calling-which ever you please to call it- of farming is rapidly taking its proper place of amportance in all the world's affairs, we notice that even the great magazines of the country, supposed to be devoted chiefly to matters interesting to literary or scientific people, are giving a generous share of their attention. The October number of Harper's contains a description of Mr. Starr's celebrated butter farm, known as "Echo Farm," in Connecticut, and the January number of Scribner's has an illustrated article on the Bull's Head, Cattle and Horse Market of New York, containing a deal of information and numbers of hints of great value to all thinking farmers.

Ar the late Birmingham, Eng., fat cattle show, a single animal, a cross between a Shorthorn bull and Called cow, and weighing twenty-five hundred pounds, took not only the "first prize in the class of cross-bred," but \$920 in special premiums, "besides the Elkington Challenge Cup." That is making beef to some purpose. And only to think that the happy winner of all these premiums had all that mountain of beef left to dispose of at fancy prices.

Tue terrible "cold wave" through which we have just passed will, we fear, tell with adverse effect upon the coming wheat crop. Wherever we went we saw wheat fields blown almost or entirely bare, and the young plants exposed to the severity of the wind.

The Fiction of the Sheep's-Foot.

The erroneous notion, still current in various quarters, that something can ome of nothing by the gracious aid of sheep, is successfully combated by a practical flock-master, who, writing in The Cincinnati Times, presents in sprightly fashion a few truths for whom they

We frequently see absurd statements to the effect that "the sheep's foot turns all to gold"; and that there is no steadier or surer way to fertilize a barren-field than to put a flock of sheep to pasture upon the briars and weeds in it; that, in effect, sheep will live upon the poorest food and make the richest manure and are thus the very best stock a farmer can keep on his farm. But those "who have been there" know better. "Sheep are always an unhappy flock"-over semper infelix pecus—wrote the old author Virgil, and many a man who has been deluded into keeping sheep in the vain hope of finding gold i truth about it."

Now, having been through the mil mon fallacies about sheep, I warn in tending shepherds that there is nother domestic animal that needs be ter care or food for profitable thri than sheep; that out grinding manure-mills comes not ing that is not first put into the hop per; that yet with proper care an skill, a well-selected flock of the right kind of sheep, in the right place, ca be made to pay 100 per cent. of the cost every year. It is true that flock will clear a field of weed briers and rubbish, and will enrice

it; but it will not live upon these. To relish this rough herbage, th sheep must be fed liberally upon su plementary food, such as bran, meal, cut clover, grass or green corn fod-der, and always a pint a day per head of linseed oil-cake meal, bran or other grain food. Then with this alloy. sheep's foot will take on a gold

The fact is, sheep are manure-spreaders, rather than manure-makers.

The fact is, sheep are manure-spreaders, rather than manure-makers.

We feed them with the material; they take their pay out of it, and give us back the remainder, transformed into a substance of equal value—be-

cause it is more available—with that which they receive, and they get fat meanwhile in doing it. Just as we give the mint a bag of gold dust and we get back exactly the same weight of gold dollars, while the corners are fed apon it—but without the dust we get no dollars. So with sheep; if we don't feed them with the materials needed to make fat for themselves and rich manure for us, they will be as upprofitable as Pharaoh's lean

TIMELY TOPICS.

Barrel a few long keeping apples and place them on the ice in the icehouse for use next April or May.

Tarsed building paper, tied about the trunks as high as the full width, is a safe and effective protection against rabbits.

Study up the fruit question now.

Study up the fruit question now.

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the trees!

Farmers usually kill and market

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S should be kept to produce his next year's supply.

A small amount of oil cake given to fattening animals will assist great-ly in the fattening process. One pound to five pounds of corn meal will be found to have an excellent effeet. It is a good way to feed it with cut straw or corn fodder.

Mr. Charles Robinson thinks that if we are properly prepared we can make butter as cheaply in Winter as in Summer. If properly fed and cared for a cow will do as well in the stable and upon grass. Even in the East there is yet much room for im-provement in Winter care of stock.

The judges at a poultry show in Canada the other day were discourteous enough to wash all the sable off the legs of Black Spanish, and paint from the feathers of game fowls which an ingenious amateur had fixed up expressly for the occasion with a nice regard to all the artistic points demanded by the standard of excellence for perfect

Farmer Mechi speaks of it as "an unprofitable mistake" to suppose that sheep do not need water. He invariably gives them the opportunity of settling that question for them-selves, and it is suprising to see how much they drink, especially milk-giving ewes, and all sheep when eat-ing cake, meal, etc., in addition to their green food. He attributes his trifling loss in sheep and lambs dur-ing the past thirty years to their having constant access to water. Snow will not answer as a substi-

I have found that bees in movable comb hives require more care in wintering than in plain hives. There is so much more air space around the frames that the hives are neces sarily colder than where the movable frames are used. The honey-board ought to be taken off and a piece of wollen cloth or carpet tacked on the top of the hive. One or two strips should be laid across the frames to keep the cold from them; a news-paper folded neatly and laid over the cloth completes the preparation."

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