Mr. Sayre—How many times a day do you feed, Mr. Closs?

Mr. Closs—I feed coarse feed three times, and grain once; the lambs are fed twice, the ewes once. I like to feed the grain about two hours after they get their hay the first thing in the morning. While they are eating the grain, I see that they have plenty of water. In the afternoon I feed corn fodder, which has been planted quite thick and cut with a corn binder and shocked up into large shocks. When it is cured we haul it and stack it up. We run it through the cutter and we feed that in racks with a tight-bottom, and what grain there is in that corn becomes mixed with the cut fodder. I think we have better success and there is practically no waste. We cut it because we can feed it in better shape than by scattering it over the yard.

Question—Do you add any feeding property by cutting?

Mr. Closs—No, I can’t say that I do, but I consider that I save considerable.

Question—What do you do for grub in the head?

Mr. Closs—I don’t believe in grub in the head.

A Member—Grub in the stomach is the best thing for it.

BREEDING AND CARE OF SWINE.

GEORGE WYLIE, Leeds, Wis.

It was Artemus Ward who said “Old George Washington’s forte was to not have any public man of the present day resemble him to any alarming extent,” and it would seem to require a search light turned on the fraternity of breeders at the present time, to discover on whose shoulders the mantle of Thomas Bates or Amos Cruickshank has fallen. While these men were not exactly swine breeders, if it is true that breeders, like poets, are born, not made, no one will doubt but that they could have made as great a success with swine as they achieved with cattle.

At almost every cross-road nowadays we find a breeder of some kind. It requires no great amount of skill or judgment to breed animals with mere pedigrees, if that is all that is desired, and in too many cases it seems to be the objective point most in view, but the ability to breed an-
mals with more merit than their immediate ancestors, is a gift that few men possess. Of course none of us like to be told that we are lacking in the ability necessary for the successful breeding of swine, and in many cases bitter experience and financial loss is a more potent argument than good advice.

Pork For Profit.

There is more money in straight, legitimate pork raising than in selling your best pigs for breeders at from $5 to $10 each. In slang parlance a pedigree may catch a “sucker,” but the run of that kind of fish among farmers is getting fewer every year. The farmer is the arbiter standing in the feed lot between the butcher’s block and the breeder, and he tells the breeder what the block requires. The breeder who fails to give the farmer just what he calls for will in the end find a shrinkage in his financial receipts. For years past the farmer has asked for more bone and substance. The breeder has pointed to the show ring and said that the fine boned ones were winning.

Breeders should aim to breed the kind of hog that will make the most pork on the least food and in the shortest time. When swine are bred for mere fancy points, and when constitution and substance are lost sight of, they cease to be profitable assimilators of food. The best show sow in the herd may be a long way from being the best brood sow. A certain ranginess and roominess is necessary in a brood sow. The best show pig may have for a dam the smallest sow in the herd, but as a rule it is not safe to select breeders from that class.

Too Much Corn.

The tendency of all swine raised in the corn belt is towards fineness of bone and a general weakness of the muscular system, caused by too exclusive feeding from pighood to maturity on corn, and no matter how carefully breeding stock may be selected, if these selections are not supplemented by proper food such as will maintain the bone and muscular system of the animal, the result will be degeneracy of the stock.

A natural tendency to fatness is necessary in the show pig, but pretty much all of our improved breeds of swine as shown in these days, have as strong a tendency to lay on flesh as it is safe to encourage in breeding animals. We can safely forego a little of the fattening tendency provided we secure in the prospective breeder, ranginess and a tendency to growth. Breeders of swine in the show ring do not study the economical side of the food question; they are out to win, fat covers a multitude of sins, and feed is no object. The same hog on what is termed “farmers’ keep” might cut a sorry figure in the show ring. At the present time professional breeders of swine are striving for a close built, compact, fine boned hog, mainly because this kind can be brought to a finer finish, and on that account it is the type that is winning prizes at the fairs. Relatives of a prize winner usually find ready sale, even though they may have serious defects in conformation. The closely build, compact animal, with a new milk finish inside, and a coat of sweet oil externally, carries off the “blue” in what fashion terms a “hot ring,” and the boys fall over each other in the rush to buy everything of the same strain in sight, whether good, bad, or indifferent, at fabulous prices. They usually realize in the end, however, more heart ache than profit, in the transaction. In fact, so strong has this tendency become, that with the Poland-China breed it has reached an era of wild speculation, and in the language of the Breeders’ Gazette, “some one is dealing in mere brass, and fondly nursing the hope that it is fine gold.” Either the judgment of many of these investors is pitifully weak, or they
are recklessly pursuing the matter simply as a game of chance, just as they might engage in a hand at "draw poker." In either case some one is bound to lose.

**Pedigreed Hogs.**

The history of stock breeding abounds in speculation in paper pedigrees, which have in each and every case finally landed those who were unfortunate in following it far enough squarely in the ditch; usually the daring speculator has escaped, leaving the innocent purchasers holding the bag. The worst feature of all is that such booms invariably do untold damage to the breed. They lead to the use of inferior stock bought at high prices, simply because the animal happens to be related to some other animal that has gained notoriety either in show or sale ring; they lead to neglect of patient but unbounded merit and exaltation of blue blooded inferiority, thus removing the highest incentive to the production of the best stock regardless of the whims of fashion; they discourage, in short, all progress along rational lines and disgust all men of sense.

A good pedigree is a fine thing to have provided the animal that goes with it has the individual merit to back it up, but at the present stage of advancement in swine raising, a scrub with a gild-edged pedigree, and there are such, should be worth no more than any other scrub. The ultimate end of all swine is the butcher's block, and the animal that gets there with the greatest profit to the man that feeds him is the kind that will win in the long run. Swine are so short lived, they reach maturity so quickly, and multiply so fast, that any man or set of men who attempts to "corner" any particular family or strain of blood, are simply starting a campaign of democracy that in the end will prove disastrous to all concerned.

**DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Everett—Tell us how to feed the brood sow during the winter months?

Mr. Wylie—I can only tell you how I handle my brood sows. In the first place we prefer to have our brood sows if they are mature, that is, yearling and two year old, go into winter quarters in rather thin condition, not poor and not fat. We want to keep them gradually gaining, clear through the period of gestation and clear up to farrowing time in the spring, when we want them in good flesh and heart. But if they are last spring pigs, we prefer to have them in good flesh all the time. We want to get as much growth on those sows as we can. In my experience, it is almost impossible to get young sows too fat for breeding purposes provided that the flesh is put on with the right kind of food, and she can run around and take plenty of exercise. Now, the feed that you give her during gestation, cuts a very important figure. If you feed them exclusively on a carbonaceous diet, such as corn, the chances are that the pigs in the spring won't amount to much. We feed them a ration that is bone and muscle forming in its character; we feed them oats, shorts and corn in about equal parts, and we feed each of those foods separately. We feed the oats the first thing in the morning, unground. In feeding those oats we spread them out thinly on a tight floor; if you feed them in a trough they will bolt their food, but if you spread them on a tight floor they pick up a few kernels at a time and they masticate more thoroughly, and it takes them a long time to eat. You know a hog's time isn't worth anything, anyway, and in picking up the oats in this way, it keeps them at work two or three hours every morning. This is more important than it seems; it gives them a certain amount of exercise, which is quite important for the brood sow. You can keep no animal in the highest vigor and health
without a certain amount of exercise. We feed the shorts, made into a slop, and feed them at noon and feed them warm. A pig's stomach is a very expensive place to warm ice water, give them about all they will eat of this warm slop. In the evening we feed the corn. In addition to all this we feed a certain amount of roots—mangel wurzels we feed—but any other kind of root will do just as well. We feed them mangels because we can raise a large crop on a small piece of ground, and we feed them not for any flesh forming qualities they possess, but for the purpose of keeping the animal's system cool. The farmers of Wisconsin do not appreciate roots as they should as a food for any kind of stock in the winter time. In addition to this our hogs have at all times free access to salt, to charcoal and wood ashes, and with this treatment we have never failed to raise litters of strong, healthy pigs.

Question—How many hogs do you generally raise in a year?

Mr. Wylie—About a hundred.

Question—What is the best care to give a sow after farrowing up to the fifteenth day?

Mr. Wylie—in the first place keep away from the sow entirely—do not bother her until she gets up of her own account and looks around for something to eat. Then give her less than half a pailful of lukewarm water into which you stir a handful of shorts. This, with a small ration of roots at each feed, should be her entire ration for the first few days; you want to be very careful not to start a greater flow of milk than the pigs will take. See that she doesn't get too much to eat, especially if she is a mature brood sow, with a small litter. If it is a young sow with a large litter you can increase the feed a good deal quicker, bringing her onto full feed in a week or ten days, while a mature sow with few pigs, perhaps ought not to get to full feed until the pigs are three or four weeks old.

Question—What is the proper age for young sows to breed?

Mr. Wylie—They should not farrow at less than a year old.

Question—What would you recommend for early pasture?

Mr. Wylie—As good an early pasture as we get is oats sown very thick and before the frost is out of the ground, at the rate of five or six bushels to the acre. Mud them in, if necessary. It comes up as thick as grass and it will last almost the entire season. It will last until some of the oats head out and the hogs will eat the oats off the top of the stalks. We always have an oat pasture. We find them very nice around the yard in spots that have been worn off the previous season. We sow the oats to prevent the weeds coming up, and without plowing, but harrowing thoroughly.

Question—Do you ever sow peas?

Mr. Wylie—Yes, with good success.

Question—Do you put rings in their noses?

Mr. Wylie—No, sir, unless it is some refractory old sow that thinks she owns the place.

Question—What do you consider a good sized litter?

Mr. Wylie—Some men would not be satisfied with twenty-five. I am satisfied with eight or ten. For a young brood sow five or six is enough. Fourteen brood sows at our place raised ninety-six pigs, a year ago.

A Member—I have a friend who wrote me that he had thirty, and they only raised a hundred last year; he is getting tired of it.

Mr. Wylie—that man doesn't know his business. His sows are lacking in constitutional vigor and substance.

Question—Do you make it a point to keep a brood sow as long as she appears to be a good breeder?

Mr. Wylie—as a rule we only keep the brood sows until we have something as good or better to take her
place. When the brood sow gets to be four years old, she is a little harder to keep up, and if she has a daughter as good as she is, or two of them, we let the old sow go.

Question—Isn't it a fact that old, heavy sows will kill their pigs?
Mr. Wylie—Not with me.

Question—Don't you find that hogs will root up your pasture if you don't ring their noses?
Mr. Wylie—If there are grubs in the pasture they will root for them and they ought to get them—it is the best thing for the pasture; but if the hog's system is kept from being feverish, they will not root enough to hurt anything. Of course, in very hot weather they will root so as to make a cool place to lie in.

Question—Do you ever feed any clover hay?
Mr. Wylie—Oh, yes, but it is not very filling.

Question—Isn't it necessary to keep some old stock in order to keep up the constitution and prevent your hogs from running out—getting too fine bone?
Mr. Wylie—There may be a point in that. A matured breeding sow raises stronger and better pigs, as a rule, and more of them at a given age.

Question—What would you advise breeding for, large frame and bone, or fine bone?
Mr. Wylie—You want a hog with plenty of constitution, plenty of substance, plenty of vitality; you don't want a hog so fine that the constitution is all bred out of him, as some of our finer strains are, today. Our brood sows are lacking in size as compared with former years.

Question—What weight brings the best price on the market?
Mr. Wylie—About two hundred pounds.

Question—Do you think your method of feeding prevents hog cholera?
Mr. Wylie—I think it does, to a certain extent. I think that if hog cholera was in the neighborhood, it would not prevent them getting it. I know of no cure for hog cholera.

Miss Cunningham—All intelligent farmers know that the germs of hog cholera have been discovered. We also know that they are worse in the fall than at any other time of the year. We know that at that time our hogs are covered with flies, and each hog receives probably ten thousand punctures from the bites of flies, and we ought to know that these germs are continually boring into the throats and abdomens of our hogs. Now, with all these facts, is it right to say that hog cholera comes from feeding corn? Is it not from the bites of flies? Moreover, I can take a bulletin issued from Washington and prove that they come more from the bites of flies than from feeding corn.

Mr. Wylie—I am not prepared to say anything about it at the present time. We are possibly on the eve of having lots of light on this subject.