

THE FARM.

Value of Straw for Fodder.

BY H. REYNOLDS, M. D.

Straw is generally regarded by farmers as of little value for feeding purposes, and large quantities are wasted every year. When fed alone, straw is not a profitable feed. Cattle can eat barely enough of it to enable them to hold their own. Such feeding is never profitable with any kind of farm stock. If in feeding straw the choice were to feed it alone or not at all, it would be better not to feed it at all, but farmers are not restricted to that alternative. Additions of grain may be made to the straw so that the ration will, at a small cost, be made as good as that of the best hay. Much of the profit in farming is obtained by good management in selling that which will bring the best price, relatively, and transforming the less saleable products into saleable forms. The farmer who has an abundance of hay and straw should not feed out his hay and allow his straw to be wasted. He should feed out all his straw, and then the surplus fodder will be in hay, which is readily saleable at a good price, while if he had first fed out the hay the straw would have been left, and must be wasted, as there is very little sale for such coarse fodder.

UNDERDRAINING.—Says the Country Gentleman:—"If the roots are given a chance to find their way well down there will be less hurt from drought. Underdraining should be the immediate work on our clay farms. It is here where the harm to clover results, also to wheat, and to some extent to timothy and some of the other grasses. We have to come to the underdraining sooner or later, and why not get the benefit now? There are many excuses, I know, but 'where there is a will there is a way.' There is little profit and often less in farming wet clay. Drained, it will in general be profitable for several years without manure, sure to pay the expense of underdraining in that time."

CONCERNING FOREST TREES.—In the prairie country the establishment of woods is an easy and surprisingly inexpensive task.

The restoration of forests to the formerly wooded districts also presents no great difficulties. Nature, if let alone for a few years, would soon accomplish the work; though, of course, man can get the work done more thoroughly to suit himself if he will assist or control nature.

The preservation of the forests now standing is a matter of infinite importance.

If it were certain that the price of pine a half century hence would be materially higher than it is at present, it might be profitable to plant many a barren waste with pine. And if there were a prospect that walnut would continue in fashion for furniture, almost any good land south of latitude 43° might be profitably put under this wood. But there are certain liabilities in the way of damage by insects and fire to be reckoned with, and these enemies might sweep away the fruits of fifty years' investments in a very short time.

In the west the setting out of trees has been so simplified and systematized of late years that nurserymen will contract to plant a given number of acres with yearling catalpas or other trees, and will defer receiving payment for three years. At the end of that time, they will be entitled to only two cents a tree for every tree then living on the planted track. Of course what is done on the American prairies can be done in our North-West, and under these circumstances we must expect our prairies soon to show the clumps and belts of young trees which everywhere strike the eye of the traveller in the Western States.

SHEEP, BEES, FOWLS.—Three important things on the farm returning most profit on capital invested; three things affording most gratification to a cultivated taste, while uniting pleasure with profit; three things requiring a high degree of intelligence, care and gentleness in their management, are sheep, bees and fowls.]

The family raised to care for and attend these three things will acquire a degree of refinement foreign to a large majority of those deprived of their educating influences. They will grow up wiser, more intelligent, more refined, and in every way better men and women.

The farmer's family brought to devote a part of their time to the care of sheep, bees, and fowls, will acquire gentleness of manners, careful habits, and keenness of observation.

ROAD DUST.—Store a quantity in barrels to be used as dust baths for the poultry in winter. It is absolutely necessary to their health, cleansing their skin and feathers from vermin and impurities. Powdered sulphur mixed with the dust will also aid in freeing them from lice.

FATTENING HOGS.—Do not forget to give charcoal liberally. When pigs are not confined to a corn diet they are apt to suffer from a disordered stomach, which is relieved by charcoal. An occasional handful of wood ashes and sulphur will also be found beneficial.

HEALTH HINTS

POSITION IN SLEEPING.—It is better to go to sleep on the right side, for then the stomach is very much in the position of a bottle turned upside down, and the contents are aided in passing out by gravitation. If one goes to sleep on the left side, the operation of emptying the stomach of its contents is more like drawing from a well. After going to sleep, let the body take its own position. If you sleep on your back, especially soon after a hearty meal, the weight of the digestive organs, and that of the food, resting on the great vein of the body near the backbone, compresses it, and arrests the flow of the blood more or less. If the arrest is partial, the sleep is disturbed, and there are unpleasant dreams. If the meal has been recent or hearty, the arrest is more decided, and the various sensations, such as falling over a precipice, or the pursuit of a wild beast, or impending danger, and the desperate effort to get rid of it, arouses us; that sends on the stagnating blood, and we awake in a fright, or trembling, or perspiration, or feeling of exhaustion, according to the degree of stagnation and the strength of the effort made to escape the danger. But when we are not able to escape the danger, when we do fall over the precipice, when the tumbling building crushes us, what then? That is death! That is the death of those of whom it is said, when found lifeless in their bed in the morning. They were as well as they ever were the day before, and often it is added, 'and ate heartier than common!' This last, as a frequent cause of death to those who have gone to bed well, to wake no more, we give merely as a private opinion. The possibility of its truth is enough to deter any rational man from a late and hearty meal. This we do know with certainty, that waking up in the night with painful diarrhoea, or cholera, or bilious colic, ending in death in a very short time, is properly traceable to a late large meal. The truly wise will take the safer side. For persons who eat three times, it is simply sufficient to make the last meal of cold bread and butter and a cup of some warm drink. —Hall's Journal.

EXCELLENT NERVE.—A correspondent writes to the Scientific American that the worst toothache, or neuralgia coming from the teeth, may be speedily and delightfully ended by the application of a small bit of clean cotton saturated in a strong solution of ammonia to the defective tooth. Sometimes the late sufferer is prompted to momentary nervous laughter by the application, but the pain has disappeared.

FOR DIPHTHERIA.—Dr. Revillout states that lemon-juice, used as a gargle, is an efficacious specific against diphtheria and similar throat troubles. He has successfully employed it for over eighteen years.

COUGH GARGLE.—The paroxysm of coughing may often be prevented or cured by using a little salt as a gargle. It will stop the tickling in the throat.

SCIENCE.

TIME FOR PAINTING.—Paint is best applied to wood buildings in the winter, or from November to March. The reason is that in the warm weather the oil soaks into the wood leaving the body on the surface and it wears off rapidly. In cold weather the paint dries slowly and makes a hard surface which lasts.

A very large spot was seen on the sun on November 21 from the Harvard Observatory. It was so conspicuous as to be seen with the naked eye. This is thought by some observers to go far toward verifying the theory that the northern lights, which have been so remarkably brilliant for several nights, are primarily caused by this solar phenomenon.

COTTON A WONDERFUL PLANT.—Since I have studied the character of all the great Southern agricultural staples, and the special relations of each of them to the life and civilization of the people, the prominence always given to cotton does not seem strange or unaccountable. It is a wonderful and peculiar plant in its adaptation to the varieties of soil and general environment which it finds in different parts of the country in which it is grown, and also in its relation to some features in the character of the people who are engaged in its culture. It will grow on almost any soil and in almost any possible situation, in the latitude in which it belongs. Where the soil is generous the quantity of the fibre which is produced shows that the plant has very great power of assimilation and appropriation for whatever elements of nutrition are contained in its food supply. On the other hand, if the soil is excessively poor and sterile, cotton will still grow. It now wastes no strength or food on stem or leaf, but puts all its material and force into flower and seed. It is the fact that cotton is a seed fibre that makes it so valuable to this country. If it were the fibre of the stem or bark, as is the case with flax or hemp, much of the land of the cotton region, and much of the cultivation employed upon it, would be entirely inadequate to the production of the fibre in paying quantities. But nature cares more for seed, of course, than for anything else, and in making the seed of the cotton plant she makes the fibre which is of so great value; and in soil almost utterly barren and with scarcely any cultivation, there will still be matured, on each dwarfed and stunted plant, a few bolls of fairly good, marketable cotton. —Atlantic Monthly.

If any one asked you what the color of pure water was, what would you say? A celebrated chemist in Germany has long been trying to find out: and he says it is a shade between blue and green.

When a man pays for his board he should be allowed to eat a great deal. The man that is born to be hanged will never be drowned, but it is best not to venture too far beyond your depth, young man for all that.

Orthography and pug dogs: The fashionable young ladies at a watering-place hotel a few nights ago organized a spelling bee. The belle that wore the most expensive jewelry was the worst speller, and twelve out of fourteen went down on the word 'separate'; 'phthisis' floored them all, and one of the cooks was called in to spell the word for them. A young lady who fondled a pug dog and wore diamond earrings maintained that d-o-w-t was the way 'doubt' was spelled when she went to school.

'Always pay as you go,' an old uncle said to his nephew. 'But, uncle, suppose I have nothing to pay with?' 'Then don't go.'

It was at the home of the bride's parents after the wedding. On a table were exposed the costly presents. Two gentlemen were examining them. Said one of them suddenly, "These, you say, are the bride's presents, but what does the groom get?" 'Oh,' replied the other, 'he gets the woman.' First gentleman—Is that all? Poor fellow!

—Boston Transcript.



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