Colonial Farmer.

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Correspondence.

For the Colonial Farmer.

RURAL TOPICS.

FEEDING BREWERS' GRAINS.

Many persons, living where brewers grains can be easily obtained, are interested in knowing the value of them, and to what extent they can be profitably fed to cows. It is bad management to feed cows almost wholly on grains, as they injure them for feeding in other ways; and they will immediately fall off in their milk when the grains are discontinued, and it is very difficult to reinstate them in their milk-producing qualities when long fed on them. In brief, it is not good management to feed cows extensively on grains for a long time as they impair their health, and affect in some degree the quality of the milk; therefore, it is not advisable to purchase cows, when their milk is the main object, from one who feed them almost exclusively on grains, or in a large degree. When grains are mixed with meal or bran—two or three quarts of corn meal, and the same of bran, to a bushel of grains; letting the mess lie a day till fermented slightly, no injury results to cows, if also fed moderately on hay. Another good way is to place hay, grains, and bran, or meal, in layers—first a layer of hay, then one of wet grains, and meal, in the proportion of 20 lbs. of hay to 40 lbs. of grain, and four pounds of corn meal, or about these proportions, to be fed after lying a day.

RAISING TURKEYS.

There is no fowl more profitable to raise than turkeys, the bronze variety being the largest and most profitable. They require a free range over the fields, and large flocks often obtain all the food they need in foraging on grasshoppers, and grain fields after harvest. Farmers who have no near neighbors might make considerable money on them, as they always command a fair price in November and December. If one had the conveniences for keeping enough stock to produce 500 turkeys annually he could easily clear $500 on them, and possibly more. A large yard, with a fence 12 feet high, would be required to enclose them at night, with poles to rest upon, some low and some high to give them a chance to reach the highest easily. No protection is needed in the coldest weather, as we often see them choosing the ridge of a barn to roost on in the winter, in preference to roosting under a shed. Around this yard might be placed empty barrels on their sides for them to lay in, first throwing in a few inches of dry earth, over which place some fine oat straw, with a narrow board in front to keep it in its place. A cheap shed on the north side would be a good thing for them to run under in severe storms. Then as many coops would be required as you have breeding turkeys, which should be placed outside of this yard as they hatch; and as far apart as you have space for them, 50 to 100 feet if possible. These coops should be well made, as they will last for many years. Let them be of a triangular shape, and water proof on three sides, the front being slatted up. Make them large, because a turkey with a large brood must have ample space. Where the coops are to be set, it would be a good plan to place a few inches deep of earth, so that the ground in the coops would never be wet in the severest storms; and when the young broods are cooped, very wide pieces of boards should be provided to set up in front of each coop at night secured by stakes to prevent any rats or other vermin from entering them; and also to keep the young turkeys inside the next morning till the dew is off the grass; and if stormy to keep them in all day. Perhaps it would be better to hatch the most of the broods under hens, placing nine eggs under each. As turkey raising is now confined to raising from 10 to 50 upon farms, my remarks, as applying to 500 or more, are not based on actual experience in raising that number, but rather on what in my opinion would be required to make the business a success; and I think the subject one that farmers should consider, in order to make all the money they can in such a branch of business.

HONEY BEES.

Honey bees may be procured in March or April, according to the weather. If very cold, they had better not be removed till April, or early in May. The Italian bees possess a few qualities over the black bees, being less pugnacious, and rather more active; but as they are sure to become crossed with our native bees, if any are kept in within three miles, and the hybrids being more inclined to fight when molested then either the pure Italians, or our black bees, it is a question whether a beginner should not be satisfied with the latter? Italians are selling from $10 to $15 a hive, and the black bees from $5 to $8, according to the style of hive they are in. For selling honey, as a matter of profit, the movable comb hives are much the best; but they are expensive, when they contain the latest improvements, and a full set of honey frames, or boxes, for the cap honey, as it is called, being worth from $3 to $5 each. There are hundreds of cases where from $10 to $15 has been made in a season from one family of bees; but the ordinary profit is $5 each if well managed; but if badly managed all the bees one buys to begin with and all the increase seen disappear. If a man fully understands how to manage bees, he can make money by keeping them, if the locality be a good one. There are men in Central New York, and in other States, who have from 500 to 1,000 hives, and they make a living by the business; but it is unsafe for a man to go into this business extensively, unless he has had great experiences in keeping bees.

STRAWBERRIES—PARRY'S SYSTEM.

Mr. Parry, the great fruit grower of Monmouth county, N. J., adopts the following course as a good one, in setting out strawberry plants: He plows furrows two and a half feet apart, and spreads along them a mixture of equal parts of muck, marl, ashes and ground bone. They are to be mixed a fortnight before using. Three-fourths of a ton of this mixture per acre, gives a luxuriant growth to the plants. The result might not be so successful on all soils. These rows are cultivated with a horse. He finds a good coat of stable manure just before winter, of great importance. Where marl is not to be obtained, a little addition of ashes makes the mixture equally good. In regard to varieties, another grower of this fruit in New York State says that he had the finest show of the Monarch of the West that he ever saw, some of the berries being 8½ inches in circumference. In regard to the Seth Boyden, he says: "A small plat produced at the rate of over $1,700 per acre." He closes his articles as follows: "Every farmer should have for his own table a bed of Charles Downing, for two reasons; that it is a good berry and will bear neglect, returning good for evil far better than onions or potatoes. A few Kentuckys mixed in will give firmness and brilliancy to the mass. Epicures and amateurs can have a yet finer dish and longer season from the following list: Monarch of the West, Wilder, Cumberland Triumph, Black Defiance, White Pineapple, and under proper conditions of soil and culture, Jucunda, Triomphe de Grand, and Dr. Warder. A good list for market in order of value is Seth Boyden, Wilson, Monarch of the West, Wilder, Downing and Kentucky (mixed), Nicanor, Green Prolific, Col. Cheney; the last two mixed with Kentucky or boyden, to bear properly." It is a matter for every strawberry grower to decide for himself whether he will have the rows two and a half, three or three and a half feet wide. In either case the ground will soon be covered with runners. The manner of manuring the land is also a matter for every grower to decide for himself; but if manure is abundant, I think it well to manure the whole land first, and then some can be placed in the hills or furrows, if we so desire to do. These remarks refer to field culture, or growing strawberries by the acre or less.

BARLEY AND OATS.

Some farmers sow barley and oats together, generally one bushel of barley to two bushels of oats. A farmer writes: "We usually seed down to grass with this crop, and are more sure of a catch than with oats alone. The barley and oats make good feed for all kinds of stock, horses, &c., and if harvested before the oats are fully matured, the straw (if well cured without too much rain or dew), will make better forage for cattle than late cut hay. We usually mow this crop by hand. We are fully satisfied ourselves that a larger number of bushels can be raised on a given number of acres than from either barley or oats sown separately."

CLOVER WITH HUNGARIAN GRASS.

I am frequently asked if land can be seeded to clover, or other grasses, with Hungarian grass: I answer, no; unless the Hungarian is sowed so thin as to be worth very little as a crop of hay, or to be cut green for stock. If sown thick enough to make a good crop, the clover or other grasses will be smothered. Hungarian grass is profitable as a soiling crop, to be cut and fed out green, or for hay, to be cut while the seed is in the milk. this is very important, as when cut after the seed hardens it contains an oil which often injures horses. The following questions are asked: "I am at the present feeding it to both cows and horses, and they eat it with apparent relish, and I am inclined to think it superior to timothy or clover. I am so well satisfied with it that the coming year I desire to sow ten acres, and would like to know how to raise three, or at least two tons to the acre. Upon which, sod or stubble, does it do the best? How would you advise it to be sown; by drill or broadcast, and in what quantity?" It will grow on any rich land, and produce two tons to the acre; but the three and four tons to the acre, that we read about, are very difficult to grow. On poor land you will get a poor crop. I do not advise growing this crop on a stiff, sward land, if you have any in good condition that was cropped last year. Sow the last of May to June 10th, a half a bushel of seed to the acre, broad cast, brush it in, and then roll the land. This secures quick vegetation, and leaves the land smooth.

BLUE GRASS AND TIMOTHY.

A writer on grass says: "Prepare the ground late the previous autumn, so that it may have a mellow fresh surface in spring, and very early sow timothy, clover and blue grass at the same time. About two crops of the timothy and clover are obtained before the blue grass gets full possession. After that it chokes them out. The land is not to be pastured in less than two years from sowing."

Miscellaneous.

The Poor Farmer.

Too poor to take a paper,
Too poor to join the Grange!
So when the price was rising,
He did not know the change,
And sold his wheat for a dollar—
Twas worth a quarter more.
And now the man is poorer
Than he had been before.

His neighbor Lookout told him,
This side the market town,
He should have come in sooner,
While groceries were down.
"But then perhaps 'tis even,
Since corn is on the rise,
And what you gain by waiting
Will pay for your supplies."

"Corn rising? why, I sold it!
The chap who bought my wheat,
Said, this year corn is plenty,
But mine was hard to beat,
And so he paid three shillings—
What! everywhere 'tis four?
The difference would give me
A hundred dollars more."

He drew the reins and started,
With spirits sadly down,
And did a heap of thinking
Before he reached the town.
The upshot of the matter
You easily might guess,
This year he takes two papers,
And could not do with less.

Son of the Soil.

American Agriculturist, April 1st, 1877.

This number opens with a large illustration of Carolina Parrots and other American Birds, which is followed by 13 columns (including April Bee Notes), of practical, seasonable hints and suggestions about Spring Work, in all departments. Grafting is so fully explained that, with the aid of the 11 engravings given, any man or boy even, can now do it successfully. This article is alone worth the yearly cost of the paper to those having fruit trees to improve. An important short article and engraving explains not only how to rapidly multiply valuable new potatoes, but also how to save $6 to $8 per acre in planting common sorts when seed potatoes are so scarce and high as now. Getting full light in interior rooms and halls is explained by an illustration of the AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST BUILDINGS, which are lighted by a new and improved plan, of general application.—A variety of Humbugs are shown up in the regular chapter on this subject, a specialty of this journal, and in "Old Seeds with New Names."—Important suggestions are offered to farmers on "Asking Questions of the Soil," by simple experiments, instead of costly ventures in manures, etc. Prof. Atwater, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, explains how to conduct such experiments.—"Ogden Farm Papers" treat of co operative work among Milk producers, and shipping meats abroad—a new enterprise important to our whole country.—Two varieties of swine are described, with fine engravings of Polands and Lancashire Whites. "Among the Farmers, by One of Them," talks about a variety of topics, as Stable Floors, Millets, Coloring Butter, etc.; "Talks on Farm Crops," take up Barley, Oats, and Peas, their relative profit, appropriate soils, treatment, etc., etc. Several pages with engravings describe sundry useful contrivances and implements, a new potato, useful and ornamental plants, etc.; Peter Henderson talks about Geraniums; Prof. Sargent about Planting Native Forest Trees, for Use and Ornament, etc.—"Faith Rochester" has three columns of practical Talks with Mothers and Housekeepers. Vines in Windows, Moths and Millers, etc., fill up the Household columns.—"The Doctor," "Aunt Sue," and others, amuse and instruct the young people with a variety, pictures, etc., including "Bird-Houses that any Boy can Make," described with six pictures showing them; How Things are Done in Other Countries, with a Turkish street scene. Altogether, this number of the *American Agriculturist* is very valuable, as well as interesting, and should be in every home. Price, 15 cents, or $1.60 a year, post-paid. Orange Judd Company, New York, Publishers.

The Ayrshire Cow.

The Ayrshire is a breed that is thoroughly appreciated in Canada, where it ranks next to the Shorthorn in importance. Our farmers possess a great number of as pure bred animals of this class as money will buy, and certainly money could not be invested in a better-paying animal. The Ayrshire is thoroughly hardy, thrives well, gives a great quantity of milk and holds it for a long time—in fact, gives a greater quantity of milk for the food consumed than is given by any other breed. Now that the dairy business has become so systematized that all which a farmer has to do, in districts where factories exist, is to supply as much milk as possible, the Ayrshire is becoming more valuable both as a pure-bred animal and as a means of grading up the native stock. Mr. Ayton, a dairy authority, gives the following description of an Ayrshire:—"Head small, but rather long and narrow at the muzzle; the eye small, but smart and lively; the horns small, clear, crooked, and at their roots placed at a considerable distance from each other; neck long and slender, tapering toward the head with no loose skin below; shoulders thin, forequarters light, hindquarters large; back straight; broad behind; the joints rather loose and open; carcase deep, and pelvis capacious, broad and square, stretching forward, and neither fleshy, low hung nor loose; the milk veins large and prominent; teats short, all pointing outwards, and at a considerable distance from each other; skin thin and soft; hair soft and woolly; the head, bones, horns, and all parts of least value small, and the general figure compact and well proportioned."

There are two other characteristics which seem so thoroughly belonging to this breed that they ought not to be passed over. The one is the black muzzle, and the other is the yellow red, which seems to be the natural color of the race, arranged not in considerable quantities, but in blots and patches. Thus the animals generally present a sort of checked aspect of golden-yellow, red and white.—*Toronto Globe.*

Bringing up a Worn Farm.

Prof. Kedzie, of the Michigan Agricultural College, in an able address delivered before the Michigan Farmers' Institute, lately held, concludes as follows:

I believe the easiest and cheapest way to bring up a worn-down farm is by green manuring. Suppose your farm is too poor for clover, and grass makes only a feeble growth; put on it a manurial crop that will grow, such as rye. Turn this under with your plow, and you can then raise something better. Keep feeding your soil with everything your shovel and your team can command,—ashes,—leached ashes, if you can get them by drawing them within five miles, muck, marl, anything that will bring a green mantle over your fields. Soon you can set the clover-pumps at work, pumping up to the surface the inexhaustible resources of your subsoil.

If any animal dies, don't stop to bewail your luck and exclaim, "Everything goes to the dogs on my farm." Don't send it to the dogs at all, but compost it with muck, or even soil, and thus secure a most valuable manure. Samson performed a wonder by taking honey from the dead carcass of a lion. You can out do that wonder by extracting wheat from the carcass of your dead cow. Pick up all the bones you can find, put them under cover, and mix with them two or three times their bulk of ashes from your kitchen; moisten them with enough water so that the potash may act on the gelatine of the bones; stir them over once a week, and in a month or two you will find the bones so tender that you can cut and crush them with a blow from your shovel. Beat the whole into a powdery mass, and you will have a manure better than the superphosphates which you feel too poor to buy. Give a handful of this to each hill of corn, and see how it will wave its banner of green and pour into your basket the golden ears.

But in bringing your soil into good condition, do not neglect green manuring. Let every wind that blows over your fields bring them a blessing in the shape of atmospheric plant-food. Do all these things patiently and hopefully, without urging your soil beyond what it can do, and you will yet, out of the fulness of a grateful heart, exclaim, "Bless God for the farm."

Location of Houses.

It is a matter of so great importance that everything about the house be made to subserve good health that the first location of a house becomes of the greatest importance. The *Science of Health* makes the following sensible remarks upon the topic, good for all to remember and practice:—

Houses should be built on upland ground, with exposure to sunlight on every side. During epidemics, it has been noted by physicians that deaths occur more frequently on the shady side of the street, than on the sunny side; and in hospitals physicians have testified to the readiness with which diseases have yielded to treatment in sunny rooms, while in shaded rooms they have proved intractable.

Let there be no bogs no marshes, no stagnant water in the neighborhood. Then let the cellars be thoroughly drained. Inattention to this subject has caused the death of many a person. No father or mother could rest one moment in peace while their innocent babes are sleeping in rooms over damp and mouldy cellars. Cellars should not only be drained, but thoroughly ventilated, otherwise the house must be unwholesome.

Let the drains also be constructed for the conduction of slops and sewage of all kinds to a common reservoir, at a distance from the dwelling, to be used for fertilizing purposes.

Plant a Raspberry Patch.

Reader, do you know how easy it is to grow five or six bushels of raspberries every year on a very small plat in your garden? And allow us to ask another question: Do you know that, of all the small fruits we grow in the garden, the rasperry is the best for canning for winter use? If you cannot say yes to the latter question from practical experience, try a few quarts the coming season, and be convinced.

In regard to ease of growing, we will give an item of recent experience. Two years ago last spring we planted four rows of raspberry plants, each about seven rods long; two rows Mammoth Cluster, one row Philadelphia, and one row Doolittle, and Davidson's Thornless. The weeds were kept down, and good culture given with a shovel plow. The second year the crop was over two bushels. The past summer we got over six bushels, giving the greatest abundance for use the year around, and some for pocket-money for the childred. Any one can do this who knows how to grow corn or potatoes. Put out the plants the coming spring, if you have not already done so.

Whipping Horses.

Prof. Wagner, in writing upon this subject says: Many think they are doing finely, and are proud of their success in horse-training, by means of severe whipping, or otherwise arousing and stimulating the passions, and then crushing the will through which the resistence is prompted. No mistake can be greater than this, and there is nothing that so fully exhibits the ability, judgment and skill of the real horseman, as the care displayed in winning instead of repelling the action of the mind. Although it may be necessary to use the whip sometimes, it should always be applied judiciously, and great care should be taken not to arouse the passions or excite the will to obstinacy. The legitimate and proper use of the whip is calculated to operate upon the sense of fear entirely. The affectionate and better nature must be appealed to in training a horse as well as in training a child. A reproof given may be intended for the good of the child, but if only the passions are excited, the object is depraving and injurious. This is a vital principle, and can be disregarded in the management of sensitive and courageous horses at the risk of spoiling them. I have known many horses of a naturally gentle character to be spoiled by whipping once, and one horse that was made vicious by being struck with a whip once while standing in his stall.

Moss-Covered Apple Trees.

Mossy trees in an orchard, generally indicate too much moisture in the soil—that is that the soil needs drainage and the trees require stimulant. Give the ground under the trees a top dressing of muck and ashes, drain the ground thoroughly, scrape off the moss from the tress with a hoe, and wash the trunks and large branches with soap-suds. But we should, perhaps, observe that while mossy trees indicate too much moisture, it is not always the case; for trees on sandy soils are often mossy; and soils are covered with the same species of moss. Moss, therefore, often indicates poverty of the soil, or uncongenial conditions in some way; it may be want of moisture as well as too much. Stimulate the growth, at any rate, as we have above suggested, if the soil is dry or wet.

Value of Condiments.

By condiments we mean substance like sugar, spices, vinegar, and others that are used to impart flavor and piquancy to the staple foods. They are usually regarded as non-essential, and some writers on dietics have gone so far as to condemn their use, unless in rare instances and in the most infinitessimal proportions. Like all good things they are liable to be abused, but when properly used they are valuable elements in our daily food. Prof. Voit, of Munich, than whom there is no higher authority on such a subject, considers that their importance has not been sufficiently recognized. It is not sufficient that food should contain alimentary principles in proper quantity; to render it really nutritious, there must also be a supply of condiments. These have been compared to oil in a machine, which neither makes good the waste of material nor supplies motive power, yet causes it to work better; they render essential service in the processes of nutrition, though they are not of themselves able to prevent the waste of any part of the body. "A dietary deprived of condiments, a mere mixture of alimentary principles without taste or smell, is unendurable, and causes nausea and vomiting." It is not until condiments are added to aliment that it really becomes food. Extreme hunger may enable us to dispense with them, as it may compel us to devour what at another time would be disgusting; but under ordinary circumstances they are an essential part of our diet.

Condiments have an important influence upon the process of digestion and nutrition. The mere sight or thought of a savory dish makes "the mouth water"—that is it makes the salivary glands pour out their secretion copiously, which is an important stage in digestion especially for certain articles of food. Experiments made upon dogs show that a similar effect is produced upon the gastric secretion, and thus the work of digestion is further promoted. The loss of the sense of taste would be not merely a loss of the enjoyment, but a positive injury to the digestive system. The very smell of food may do a person good, just as certain odors will restore a person who has fainted.

It does not follow because condiments are useful, that we may not have too much of them; on the contrary their best effect depends upon their being used in moderation. The more decided the flavor of an article of food, the sooner does it pall upon the appetite. It is one of the peculiar merits of French cookery that flavors are so delicately blended; no one is specially prominent, and yet by their different combinations a wonderful variety of appetizing effects is produced.

Orchards Cultivated or in Grass.

Our horticultural readers have undoubtedly observed that the question whether the orchards will do better under the plough and cultivator, or in grass, has divided our horticultural teachers for a number of years, and that all of the intelligence and experience of the best orchardists of the country is not by any means arrayed upon either one side. While we have men of such extensive research and large experience as the Barry's, father and son, John S. Thomas and hosts of others, advocating clean cultivation, we have, on the other hand, such investigators as Thomas Meehan, Dr. E. W. Sylvester, H. E. Hooker, and many others, who favor leaving the surface of the orchard, and the roots of the trees undisturbed by plough or coulter.

Both parties agree on one point, the necessity of keeping up the fertility of the orchard soil by a liberal application of manure. No intelligent fruit grower pretends that you can gather from an orchard large and successive crops of fine fruit without keeping the trees well supplied with proper food, but while one class favors applying the food to the surface, trusting to nature's operations to convey it to the roots where needed, the other class would work it into its proper place by means of plough, cultivator and harrow.

The advocates of "in grass" culture claim they more nearly follow nature's method of promoting the growth of trees, keeping the surface cool and moist by the mulching of grass and manure, encouraging the roots and rootlets to grow in the most congenial, nourishing soil, namely, that within a few inches of the surface, while they claim that ploughing destroys many of the young, fibrous roots, compelling others to go down into the colder, less active lower soil and subsoil.

The advocates of clean culture contend that manure wastes less intermixed with the soil; that by keeping the surface clean, no plants are robbing the trees of their proper nutriment, while by keeping it mellow the nourishing grasses and moisture of the atmosphere find ready entrance, and moreover, that the frequent working and stirring of the soil promotes its disintegration, releasing to the growing roots, its plant food.

If we appeal to facts, we shall find that many orchards under thorough cultivation for many years, have grown good successive crops, and many under apparently as good culture have borne only occasionally good crops. We shall find that some orchards, that have yielded, annually, a crop of grass for many years, have borne annually or biennially good crops of fruit also. We have a small family orchard of over a dozen varieties of apples, that was in grass when we purchased it, ten years since, and has been mowed every year since, the aftermath dying on the land, and yet this year it is well laden with fine fruit. We cannot conclusively settle the question by appeals to arguments or facts unless experiments shall be made more careful and exhausting, but one thing we are confident we can rely upon without fail, and that is, fruit trees must be fed to produce fine fruit. If they are deprived of proper food so that they fail to make a fair annual growth of wood, they will soon cease to be productive.

How to keep up the fertility of orchards at the least cost is, perhaps we may say, the most momentous question that confronts the orchardist, and one to which we purpose to give further attention.—*American Rural Home.*

INSTINCT OF WILD GEESE.—"Dr. Lankford, who returned a day or two since from the south-eastern part of the State, mentions the following curious fact in natural history. He gives the statement on the authority of Mr. W. R. Smith, a leading farmer and miller living near Morley, in Scott County, Mo. About a year ago Mr. Smith captured two young wild geese and raised them with the balance of his domestic goslings. The wild ones became quite tame and took kindly to the change of civilized life. They adapted their habits of ordinury delights of the barn-yard, and swam in the pond with the tame geese, without showing a disposition to go on a wild goose chase. At length, about the 4th of November, the weather began to change, and after being domesticated some eight months the wild fellows, prompted by an instinct to seek a more sunny clime on the approach of winter, spread their wings to the breeze and started on a migratory tour, flying southward. Their departure was natural and to be expected. After an absence of two months, early in January, great was Mr. Smith's surprise to find, on getting up one morning, that the two wild geese had returned to their old haunts on his farm. They not only returned, but eleven more wild geese came with them as visitors, which they piloted safely from some southern bayou. The new comers made themselves at home, and were fed and fondled by the children. They come up to the mill at feeding time to get their rations, and gabble all together, and put on all the airs of civilized geese who had a good moral training.—*St. Louis Republican.*

The Depth of Trees.

There has recently sprung up some controversy as to the proper depth that trees should be transplanted, and as is usual in controversies of this kind among practical men, there is not the least hope of their ever coming to a common opinion on the question. All this is natural, as perhaps is should be. Different kinds of trees frequently require different modes of culture, beginning with the planting. For instance, dwarf pears should be planted deep, two or three inches below the union of the quince with the pear, in all soils where the dwarf pear ought to be. A fir or spruce should be planted shallow, and so, as a rule, should standard pear and apple trees, as well as most, if not all of the grape family. This exception should, however, be made: In light, porous soils they may be gauged deeper than in clay moulds. Thus, the heavier the soils the shallower should the trees be planted. Such is our experience.—*Ploughman.*

HOG DISEASE.—The attention of the people of the West is now drawn to the subject of hog cholera, and it seems to me sooner or later a correct diagnosis and treatment will be reached. A physician of this county, who is also a farmer, has broached to me a theory which I at first rejected, but on which after further observation and reflection I have come to look on with more favor. The doctor says he is convinced that hog cholera is a disease analagous to measles in the human being. He says that on a white hog the eruption on the skin can often be plainly perceived. He recommended a dose of thirty grains each of calomel and black antimony to the hog, or five or six doses of fifteen grains each, daily, to be given when the first symptoms are perceived of the disorder in the drove.

My neighbors' hogs had cholera and suffered severely last fall, and I kept my hogs up in an inside lot where no other hogs could get to them, in order if possible to preserve them from the disease. Still my neighbors and I think my hogs have had it, but had it light. On the appearance of trouble I followed the aforesaid doctor's direction, and for that reason or some other, my hogs are still alive.—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

Carding the Cattle.

A good idea, that of Bro. Tinkham, of the Green Mountain *Freeman*, to utilize the old worn up corn brooms in the cattle stables.

"We have seen people," he says, "card cattle when we thought neither carder nor animal much enjoyed it; the animal would cringe and shrink away from the card, and the carder would tear round and scold, because it did not keep still, evidently not thinking this was the only way the animal had of telling him he hurt. You never see a man rubbing his back against the door-casing unless it itches, nor do cows care to be carded unless they have they have the same occasion, and then not hard enough to make it a pain instead of a pleasure. We have found an old broom cut off up near the "tying" to be an excellent article for grooming cows, especially about the roots of the tail, where a card will not work; while not harsh enough to be painful, it will scratch nicely and reach where the card will not. About as much solid comfort as usually falls to the lot of mortals in this wicked world, may be taken by the man who loves animals in seeing them stretch themselves under his brush, or follow him about and poke their noses under his arm, or hold down their heads to be scratched, as natural as folks. Try the old broom, boys, and see how it works.

Buy Small Trees.

Nurserymen usually describe trees in their catalogues as "second class," "medium," "first class" and "extra." The difference in these classes is principally, if not wholly, in the size and height of the trees; and as most farmers desire the best, they suppose that the large "extra" trees merit that description, and hence order them. The fact is, however, that a small tree will grow faster and (if a fruit tree) come into bearing condition sooner than a large one; and as the New England *Homestead* states, in half a dozen years the tree that was small when planted will be larger and finer than the other. The larger the tree, the larger the roots which it has, and the larger the roots the less fibres there will be upon them. A tree that has plenty of fibrous roots will grow readily if proper care is used in transportation; but no amount of skill can coax a tree to live and flourish which is destitute of these little fibers. The roots of large trees are always more or less mutilated in the process of taking up, while small trees sustain little injury from this source. Dealers in trees assert that experienced men buy small thrifty trees, while those who are just starting are anxious for the largest to be had. Those who are to set trees the coming season will do well to learn from the experience of those who, at considerable loss to themselves, have demonstrated that small trees are the ones to buy.

Wood Ashes in the Fruit Garden.

Our farmers, and owners of town lots, do not realize the value of ashes as a fertilizer of small fruits and fruit trees.

In an article on the value of this fertilizer, by Prof. A. Hyde, he remarks that the grape vine gives four times as much potash in burning as beech wood; that apple-tree wood ashes makes far more soap than that from forest trees, etc. Our fruits all seem to need more potash than they get from our prairie soils. If you have any doubts in regard to it, try an experiement. Put ashes two years in succession around part of a row of grape vines, or raspberry canes. You will note a great difference not only in the yield, but in the size and perfect maturity of the fruit. In the orchard, an advantage in the use of ashes is fully as apparent. Allow no ashes to go to waste.