HISTORY OF A DEFUNCT HORSE

A young gentleman just out of college, once remarked that it was exceedingly insalubrious to inhale the obnoxious effluvia arising from the cadaverous carcass of a defunct horse. He was undoubtedly right, and science has found a way of remedying the evil. They now make so many things out of the dead body of a horse that the animal must be a remarkably fine one if he was worth as much when alive as he is in the retorts and kettles of the chemist As soon as the horse is dead, his blood is sought by the manufacturers of albumen, and sugar refiners, and by the burners of lamp black. Not a drop of it is allowed to go to waste.

The main and tail are wanted for hair cloth, sieves, bow strings, and brushes. The skin is converted into leather for cart harness, for boots and shoes and strong collars. The hoofs are used for combs, horn work, glue, and in old times were the chief source of the spirits of hartshorn, now obtained from the gas house. The flesh is boiled down in the rendering vat, and much oil and fat is obtained from it. Some of the cheap bits may find their way into the cheap restaurants, and play the part of beefsteak, or help to enrich the hasty plates of soup of those establishments. The flesh left after all has been extracted from it that is of any service, is sometimes burned to be used as a manure, or is worked up into nitrogenous compounds such as cyanides, to be used by the photographer for taking our pictures.

The stomach and intestines make valuable strings and cords for musical instruments, and out of the bones so many useful articles are manufactured that it is almost impossible to make out a complete list of them. Among them are buttons, toys, tweezers, knife handles, rulers, cups, dominoes, balls, and the residue from all these things is burnt into bone black, to be used by the sugar refiner, who thus puts in a second claim upon the dead horse; and some part of the bone black is burned white to be used by the assayer in testing for gold; and when the refiner and assayer have finished with it, it is converted into super-phosphate to serve as a valuable manure on our land. The teeth are used as substitutes for ivory; and the iron shoes if not nailed up over the door to ensure good fortune to the household, are worked up into excellent wrought metal. Some portion of the bone black is converted into phosphorous for the manufacture of matches, and lately a valuable bread preparation is made of the phosphate, and medicines are prepared for the cure of consumptives.

BARN BUILDING.

There is a principle which should enter into the construction of every barn, that its size should be in its height, whilst it height should not necessarily increase the amount of labor requisite for its use; for it will be readily perceived how much the weight of the grain itself must contribute to the capacity of the mow which holds it. A few feet in height adds but little to the original cost; whilst to extend the frame horizontally costs the same, and requires additional roofing, and the advantage of weight is comparatively lost. This height of barn, and economy of labour in using it, is attained by constructing the inner frame with two sets of floors, one above the other, using the upper one to drive into, thus reaching with the loaded wagon the height of the middle mow, instead of the bottom of it, and thus, too, superseding the necessity of pitching grain to any great height. And here it must be observed that the frame across the barn, which is between the floor and the mow, must be so constructed as that there shall be no cross timber in the way of the free use of the horse-power fork.

In barns heretofore built this principle has not been observed, whereby it has been necessary to raise hay over these cross-timber to a height which requires much more time and necessary labour than is otherwise required. The hay-fork should be used with a double pulley, and the horse walking on the opposite floor, can raise, without any extraordinary exertion, as much as the fork can take; in fact, with a mow thus constructed, a horse will, when the waggon is full, throw off almost one-fourth of the load at the first draught; the bottom of the mow being about nine feet below, the hay passes off without the immediate necessity of a man in the mow to dispose of it.—*Ohio Farmer.*

HOW TO SOFTEN HARD PUTTY.

It is well known that common putty, with which glass window-panes are fixed in their frames, is made of powdered chalk and linseed oil. When old it becomes so hard that, in case its removal is necessary, a chisel and hammer must be resorted to. In fact it becomes like a stone, harder than the wood itself, pieces of which often break off unless peculiar care is taken in removing the putty. This hardness becomes a serious inconvenience when a large pane, say of valuable plate-glass, has to be removed for the purpose of repairs in the woodwork, or some other cause. Here the use of the chisel and hammer on the putty surrounding the glass may cause serious damage along the edges, or even total fracture.

An agent to soften the putty in such cases so that it may be removed with ease, is, therefore of some value. This may be effected with a paste of caustic potassa, easily prepared by mixing the caustic alkali, or even carbonate of potash or soda, with equal parts of freshly-burnt quicklime, which has previously been sprinkled with water, so as to cause it to fall into powder. This mixture is then mixed with water to a paste, and this spread on the putty to be softened. Where one application is not sufficient, it is repeated. In order to prevent the paste drying too quickly, it is well to mix it with less water, adding some soft soap instead.—*Manufacturer and Builder.*

TANNING LEATHER.

I send you a recipe for tanning leather, which may prove useful to any farmer not acquainted with it. Soak the hide eight or nine days in water, then put it in lime; take it out and remove the hair by rubbing it, and soak it in clear water until the lime is entirely out. Put one pound of alum to three of salt, dissolve in a vessel sufficiently large to hold the hide; soak the hide in it three or four days, then take it out, let it get half dry, and then beat or rub it until it becomes pliable. Leather prepared