

Mr. H. E. Buck, Lancaster, Mass., is a breeder of poultry, who devotes his chief attention to Plymouth Rocks, and the highly spoken of Wyandottes. The *New England Farmer* has an engraving of a magnificent looking Plymouth Rock cock—Blue barred Pilgrim 2nd, which seems to be about as near perfection as has been produced.

Keep the harnesses well oiled and give them an occasional dressing of harness soap. When cleaning look out for weak spots, and, if any are found, have them mended and thus avoid a runaway.

Charcoal is an aid to digestion and should be given occasionally to fowls and swine. Corn burnt on the cob is the best form to give it in, and a little properly charred will benefit the human organism.

From an experiment tried at the New York experiment station, it would seem that coal ashes hitherto accounted almost worthless possess some value when applied as a mulch to the strawberry bed.

Farmers and horsemen who raise colts and fillies should look well after the condition of the colt's feet until they arrive at the age of three years. Many young animals have deformed feet through the neglect of the breeder. The toes are frequently several inches too long and the weight in consequence is thrown chiefly upon the heels, producing low weak heels and a far too great obliquity of the pasterns. With careful treatment, such a gradually shortening the toes, leaving the heels untouched, etc., the feet in time grow into natural shape, and the pasterns acquire their proper shape or slope. In other cases when the feet were almost perpendicular through the toes having worn away, the desired end was obtained by gradually lowering the heels. The changes produced in young animals by such simple means are so great that I believe badly shaped feet would scarcely ever be seen in well bred horses if they were not mismanaged or neglected while young and growing. The external form of the hoof is influenced by the pressure of the internal parts including even the bones, but as the latter become consolidated with age there is more difficulty in modifying their shape, and so far as I have seen, but little improvement can be effected after a horse is three years old.

OUR COSY CORNER.

A great many black hats and bonnets are worn.

Lace is the favorite trimming for evening dresses.

Armure silk is the latest fancy for brides' dresses.

The orange buds and blossoms are not the only flowers chosen for brides' wear this season. The small white bridal roses, tea roses, white lilacs, lilies of the valley and other white flowers are given them for garnitures.

It was Mrs. Mackey who started the fashionable fever for black underwear by wearing it under a wondrous ball gown of black tulle, with diamond ornaments, that she wore in Paris at a private fancy ball, at which she personated the Queen of Night.

And now word comes from Paris that the ostrich plume is restored to favor, while the demand for ostrich feather boas and ostrich feather trimmings of all kinds, and ostrich tips as well, is so great as to create a fear that the ostrich farms of Australia cannot supply what is called for.

None but young girls wear the catagon tied in a bow in the nape of the neck. Young girls' evening dresses are made in the Directoire style, with a low plaited bodice and short puffed sleeves, a short waist, a straight skirt, very little looped, and a very wide sash tied at the back or one side.

Tulles, gauzes and crepes are the favorite materials for ball gowns. The tulle without tinsel or beads are preferred, but the gauzes are nearly all shot with gold or silver threads in lengthwise stripes or lines across the goods, or in crossbars or plaids. The crepes are plain or embroidered in gold, silver or bright colored silks, or in silk the color of the crepe.

The young Princesses of Wales are having now winter gowns made. One set of dress is made of a checked tweed, the squares being of the size of dice, in dark blue, brown and white. These are made with skirts, simply draped, and tight bodices of dark blue cloth, with jackets of the tweed, fastening with one button on the chest, just like a riding-jacket. The jackets are turned back, with a man's collar, and lapels faced with dark-blue cloth. The high collar of the tight fitting bodice beneath is also in blue cloth. Another set of their dresses is in a very soft, thick, warm tweed with faint checks in black, amber and dark red. These are made with tight-fitting bodices and collars, to be worn with a collar and tie like a man's. The skirts are gracefully draped. The third set is in a material which is a little like frieze, or the rough tweeds that men's suits are made of. The skirts are plain, meeting in front in plaits, and draped at the back. The bodices are made Norfolk jacket shape.

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