

We might give them the game flavor; impart to them to piquancy of flesh found in various kinds of wild birds; and even render it so odorous and fragrant as to surpass them all. The effect that the nature of the flesh has on the quality of the flesh of animals, is well known. That of the caper-caille has a scent of the fir-shoots on which the bird feeds; those inhabiting low wooded regions, have less flavor than such as live on mountains. Domestic rabbits are always insipid when compared with wild ones. Birds feeding on certain berries—for example, of the juniper—acquire the flavor of their principal food. Such instances might easily be multiplied. They are sufficient to countenance the idea that, by mingling aromatic substances with the farinaceous aliments which form the basis of their food, we could impart will the flavor of our poultry, when subjected to forced feeding. Substances for this purpose might be derived either from the mineral or vegetable kingdom; from the former judiciously. Flavored berries, such as the juniper, the aromatic buds of trees, the tops of late plants, such as thyme, lavender, odoriferous barks, &c., would form materials to work upon. They would not require to be used but towards the close of the period of fattening, as such treatment would be sufficient to perfume, and give to the whole flesh of the animal. In this way the value of our most common fowls might be equally increased, and they might be brought to equal, and even surpass many kinds of game."

## Veterinary Department.

(Conducted by A. Smith, V. S.)

### Hunters, their Riders, and Breeders.

The majority of our hunting men of the present day will ride (with saddle and bridle) not more than fourteen stone; they are mostly strong, active, skillful horsemen, who must and will be carried wherever the hounds go. Need we wonder then, that they have considerable trouble in feeding, and have to pay enormous prices for horses that can go and galloping freely, and going with such a burden on their backs, field after field, through a strongly enclosed country. We pay as much or more attention to condition than ever we did. Our hounds are now run with more speed than formerly. Foxes are frequently rattled into and worried in less than twenty minutes. Our hunters have plenty of speed and blood, but many of them lack that essential quality in horses, "substance." Every body will know that the faster the pace in the field the greater will be the danger of accidents, when riding a horse under great exertion. But if he must keep pace with the field, we must select a horse with some blood in his

veins; I may almost say that racing blood of the purest kind is essential in these days when fast runs are all the fashion. But where is the class of horse now bred which combines racing speed with substance sufficient to carry a fourteen or fifteen stone man, with perfect safety over a rasping country. The refuse of the racing studs are certainly not the class of animal adapted for a service of this kind; they have been bred solely for their own single quality of speed, they were never intended to carry a man—only *baby jockies*. The useful farmer's nag bred in some countries is strong enough to carry an elephant at his own pace, but that pace is not half fast enough for our modern breed of foxhounds and style of riding up to them. We want pure blood combined with great substance, to carry men of average weight with safety and credit. There are many such horses bred, and are to be procured, but the demand for them far exceeds the supply, and it is no uncommon thing for gentlemen to give from two to three hundred guineas for such an animal. Is it not, then, desirable for farmers to turn their attention to the production of such animals. Ours is the best horse breeding country in the world. We have, I am sure, both sires and dams sufficient, with every requisite quality, to form the nucleus of many more breeding studs.

If men can be found to select them, and capital to pay for them, and with judgment and energy to enter into the business with a will and determination to carry it out liberally, I doubt not that a princely fortune would be the result. We have many intelligent and scientific farmers, men who make but few mistakes in breeding cattle and sheep; why do not they pay more attention to the breeding of horses, which would sell as readily, and at more remunerative prices than any other kind of stock. It is as easy to produce a valuable horse as a weedy screw, by paying proper attention to the breed and quality of the progenitors. But many of our farmers breed from worn out mares, and any travelling stallion that happens to pass by the farm, irrespective of all combinations of make, shape, or quality; in many instances both sire and dam may be weak in the loins, touched in the wind, unsound in the hocks, or otherwise afflicted with disease common to most aged horses, and the produce, as may be expected, turns out weak, weedy, undersized foal, with long, bad-shaped legs and feet, like its sire, coarse in its head and general appearance like its dam, without the speed of the former, or the strength of the latter, but almost sure to be afflicted with more or less of the bad qualities of both. This most prevalent error is the cause of farmers paying more attention to the breeding and fattening of cattle, sheep, or pigs, than to the breeding of valuable horses; because after keeping their colts to the age of two, three, or four years, about twenty pounds is considered a fair value for the mongrel bred brutes.