

## EFFECTS OF CLOVER HAY ON ANIMALS.

Some late writers have taken the position that clover hay produces a most injurious effect on domestic animals, particularly horses; and that to this cause the great increase of deceased horses is to be attributed. We lately heard a farmer affirm, that he believed the introduction of clover into general cultivation the greatest curse yet inflicted on the country, and assigned as a reason for this singular opinion its effects on animals when used as fodder. Late English writers have attributed to this kind of hay the prevalence of heaves in horses, and the great increase of other diseases that effect the respiratory organs. This is a most important subject, and should receive a full investigation. Clover is too important a plant to be discarded, or condemned, except upon the most satisfactory evidence. Its value as a fertilizer and a preparative for wheat, to say nothing of its use for pasture and hay, would demand that it should not be condemned unheard. For ourselves, we have very little belief in the injurious properties assigned to clover. We have used it constantly for pasture and for hay, more than thirty years, and never, to our knowledge, has any animal suffered from it; certainly, no horse has been taken with the heaves when fed on it, or while in our possession. As hay for sheep, we have considered it unrivalled, and should have no fears that any stock would not winter well with a supply of well-cured clover hay.

And here lies, we think, the great source of objection to clover hay. It is too often imperfectly cured. To save the leaves and the heads, which are apt to fall in handling or curing, the hay is put into the barn while the large stems are full of moisture, or the natural juices, and the fermentation which ensues causes the whole mass to become damp; and if not spoiled wholly, it becomes mouldy, black; and when used, raises such a dust, it is no wonder that horses and cattle are choked or their lungs destroyed. Our experience shows that clover may be perfectly cured without losing any of its valuable parts; cured so that when fed out, no more dust will be flying than from timothy or herd grass, and we shall be slow to believe that from such hay any injury to animals ever ensues.—*Ohio Valley Farmer.*

**LABELS FOR FRUIT TREES.**—The labels which come from the nursery on trees, are not designed to be permanent, and they should be replaced with permanent ones at the first leisure after planting. Be particular that the wire by which the label is attached is not round the body of the young tree, otherwise it will, as the tree grows, be buried in it and materially injure the tree. The very best label we have ever used is a strip of thin sheet zinc, about four inches long and three-fourths of an inch wide at one end, cut so as to taper to a point at the other end; which, after writing the name of the tree, the date when set out, and where obtained, can be bent round one of the small branches, with the writing outside, and as the branch grows it will expand without injuring it.

The ink for writing on these labels is made thus: Take of verdigris and sal ammoniac each 2 drachams; lampblack, 1 dracham; water, 4 ounces, to be well mixed in a mortar, adding the water gradually. It must be kept in a glass-stopped vial. Write on the zinc with the ink, after shaking it well, in a quill pen: and after it is dry you may expose it to the weather or bury it in the ground for years, and it will be as legible as when first written.—*Louisville Journal.*

**A PRETTY PROCESS.**—Among the machines lately on exhibition at the agricultural exposition in Paris, was one for hulling wheat. It is said that by the methods now in use the bran, when it is separated from the wheat, carries away with it at least twenty per cent. of nutritive matter. The new process reduces this amount to four per cent. The hulled grains of wheat, seen through a microscope, present a perfectly smooth and polished appearance, something like that of potatoes when the skin has been removed by washing. The bran itself is but a pellicle, of which excellent paper is now made.—The inventor of the machine, M. Besnere de la Pontonarie, affirms that if this process had been applied to the grain consumed in France the past year, the crops, instead of presenting a deficit of seven million hectolitres, would have shown a surplus of three million hectolitres. (The hectolitre is a fraction over 2½ bushels.) The cost of hulling a hectolitre of wheat by the new process is about four cents.

**PROPAGATING FISH.**—Mr. Roswell L. Colt of Paterson, New Jersey, states in a letter to the Commissioner of Patents, that he has ordered from Scotland the spawn of the trout, carp and salmon, with the view of propagating them in the waters of New Jersey. He suggests that the Patent Office should import for distribution the spawn of the red mullet of Europe, as well as that of the sardines, for breeding in the Middle and Southern States.