

Stock Department.

Affection in Animals.

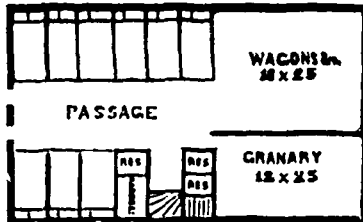
An article in a recent number of the *Turf, Field, and Farm*, after describing the evidences given by dogs, camels and horses, that they are sensible to kindness and appreciate and remember good treatment, concludes as follows:

Birds show as much affection as is shown by animals. A lady returning from Cuba, two years ago, brought a parrot and presented it to little Katie. The bird was fresh from the tropics, and the child had just been transplanted from the genial climate of Kentucky to the chilling atmosphere of New York. New faces and new scenes greeted the eyes of both child and parrot—the latter named Pouta—and each seemed to look to the other for comfort in the lonely hours of the slow revolving days. Katie took the bird from the cage, gently stroked its head and back, whispering endearing words to it all the while, and the bird nestled more closely to her young breast, with a kind of low clucking indicative of sympathy. Time passed, and the bird of green plumage and the bright-eyed, flaxen-haired girl, became inseparable companions. Katie fed her pet with the choicest sweetmeats, laughed with it, cried with it, and developed in its heart a strong, overdoing we'll of affection. Two years have strengthened the early tie, and now the attachment of the parrot for her kind protector is remarkable. When Katie is long absent, it will mope and piteously cry for her; if she enters the room when the bird is in one of these sad moods, it will fly to her with a wild scream of delight, and when she takes it in her hand, it will kiss her lips, lay its head against her warm, rosy cheek, and repeat the endearing phrases that she has taught it. At such a time lay your hand roughly upon the flaxen-haired girl, and Pouta's eyes will turn green with rage, her feathers ruffle up, and she will fly at you with savage fury. Strike her, but you cannot beat her off. When she fights for the idol of her heart, there is no cowardice in her nature. She will scream and renew the attack until you desist, or she lies panting and exhausted on the floor; and when strength returns to her, and the rough hand has been removed from the object of her affection, she will flutter back to that object with cooling words of comfort, as if she were the only protector that Katie had in the world. It is a remarkable instance of devotion, and we must accept it as another evidence of the fact that kindness begets kindness—that the affection of animals and birds is not the weak, ephemeral, effervescence of the moment. The sentiment that attaches them to reasoning beings is not impulsive; its growth sometimes may be slow, but when once matured, its fidelity is only measured by the lines that mark the limits of life. Surely from these examples we can deduce a lesson. Let men, in controlling animals, remember that they are capable of affection, that they are faithful when an attachment is formed, and then make this affection the key to the government of them. If you have a balky, a vicious, or an unruly horse, harsh treatment will not make a better animal of him, or render him more tractable. The more punishment inflicted upon him by impulsive hands, only widens the gulf that separates you from the sentiment by which he may be controlled. Be kind to him, win his confidence, and then he will cheerfully obey your every command. Do not approach him as a mechanical, unthinking brute, but approach him as you would approach a reasoning being. An animal that is capable of such warm attachment, is capable of understanding who is worthy of such attachment. Kindness is the golden key to affection, and from affection spring obedience and fidelity.

A Good Horse Barn.

W. B. SMITH, of Syracuse, has erected a good and convenient barn, chiefly for the use of a part of the horses which he employs in his extensive nursery. The accompanying figure is a plan of this barn. It is thirty feet wide, and seventy-five feet long. The passage through the centre is ten feet wide, and admits readily the driving of wagons through it. The stalls on each side are ten feet long, (opening at the rear into the passage,) and glass windows are placed in front of each. Most of the floor of these stalls is made of slats, one and three-fourths by three inches, and an inch apart, through which all the liquid manure escapes, and drops on the manuring compost heaps below, leaving the stalls always dry. Adjoining the granary are reservoirs for the temporary

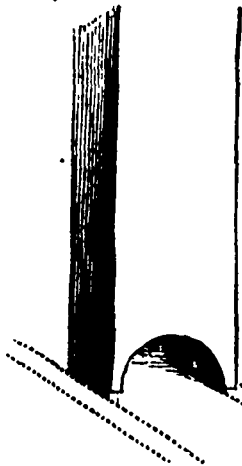
reception of feed for the horses, so arranged that three different teamsters may each draw feed from these separately, without interfering with the supplies of his neighbor. In the absence of an arrangement of this sort, as every one who employs several teamsters knows, they are tempted to take more than their due proportion of grain, and to interfere with their regular supply. Once a month these reservoirs are each filled with just enough feed to last the month through, and the granary is then locked. Each man is furnished with an accurate measure, and a padlock and



key to the slide at the bottom, through which he draws the feed. The bottom of each reservoir is made sloping, so that all will run out through the opening, which is high enough from the floor for sliding the measure beneath it. By this contrivance, (which is not entirely new,) the owner or manager secures perfectly uniform and regular feed for all his teams, with only a few minutes attention once a month—the reservoirs being marked or graduated, so as to show precisely the amount of their contents.

The cellar or basement is eight feet high; the main floor nine feet, and the upper portion, which is all hay-loft, is ten feet more to the eaver.

The arrangement for feeding hay to the horses is the same as that now adopted in some of the best stables. The hay is thrown down from above through



a square board tube, placed perpendicularly and standing in one end of the manger. A semi-circular opening, next to the manger as shown in the figure, allows the horse to draw from the bottom of the tube all the hay that he wants, without the inconvenience of having his eyes and nose filled with hay-seed, or of breathing on and encasing unpalatable the hay which he does not eat, resulting from the use of racks. These tubes may be about eighteen or twenty inches square, and should be as smooth as possible on the inside, the lower end being two or three inches larger than the upper, so that the hay will drop or settle freely, and not become fastened or lodged in it. Openings, with doors opening outward or with slides, may be placed at different heights, for convenience in throwing down hay, as the height of the snow varies.—*Country Gentleman*

PRODUCTION OF SEX.—J. W., of Etobicoke, states that for five or six years past he has invariably succeeded in obtaining a heifer calf by taking the cow to the bull before milking. We publish his statement according to his request, but we very much doubt whether the rule he thinks he has established will be borne out by a more extended experience. The same correspondent wishes his brother farmers to be reminded that Alsike Clover matures its seed the first season, and should not, therefore, be sown with Timothy or other grass.

Treatment of Brood Mares,

MARES should be treated during gestation as naturally as possible, whether by this is meant either the actual time of birth or the whole period of bearing. Their work should never be severe or long continued, and their keeping such as would supply both mare and foal with ample nourishment. Too high condition might not be better than moderate order, but it would be vastly preferable to any stinging or scanty fare. In the event of breeding at three or four years old, they should be at pasture all the season if possible, and in the winter should have no work, only moderate exercise, to keep them growing constantly.

Breeding later in life, after the mare has been worked, she should be kept at grass as much as possible, and if required to work, great care should be taken to prevent any over-work, or undue exposure, and the feed should be liberal to support not only the mare but the foal. With care and good treatment, the colt may not suffer or be any the worse for the use of the mare during the earlier stages of pregnancy, but no such tax as hard work and breeding can be imposed on any animal, without injury. For some time before the birth, she should be at pasture if possible, and if not, should have a box stall and a yard for exercise, and entire freedom from restraint in her motions, by tying, &c.

Generally speaking, no other or peculiar care is required than nature gives the mare the instinct to seek for herself, though if we artificially interfere with this instinct, we ought to provide as nearly as may be the natural conditions of the animal.—*Hon. J. S. Keyes.*

Summer Fatted Hogs.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER

SIR,—There has been a great want experienced with regard to summer fatted hogs. Indeed, we might say it has continued ever since pork-packing in Canada has become an established branch of its trade.

Numerous letters have appeared in the CANADA FARMER from time to time, setting forth the advantages of summer feeding, and in all cases where the experiment has been fairly made, it has proved to be satisfactory; but after all the publicity which has been given to the subject, the subscriber was much surprised to discover last summer that not a few farmers and dairy-men expressed their regret at being ignorant of the fact that there was a some market for their fat hogs even in the dog-days; had we known this, they would say, it would have been convenient for us to have had our hogs ready much earlier.

As before stated, the English appetite for Bacon is growing more and more for the fresh, newly-made article, and prejudiced against such as becomes hard, salted, and rancid by a few months' keeping. Our curing houses are supplied with ice in abundance, and there should be plenty of fat hogs to keep them going. There is every reason to expect prices will be good, the best guarantee of which is the low stock of bacon in England at the present time.

J. T. DAVIES,

Ontario Packing House, Hamilton.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We may add that, besides the writer of the above letter, in whom we have every confidence, there are, both in Hamilton and Toronto, other dealers who are prepared, we understand, to buy fat hogs during all seasons of the year. We may mention the name of Samuel Nash, Market Street, Hamilton, and William Davies & Co., Toronto, as reliable parties engaged in this business.

CHAFF FOR FODDER.—"Cultivateur" writes: "In your issue of March 2nd, an able article appeared 'On the Food Value of Straw'; I would like to know whether the chaff of the oat and wheat straw is included in the table of chemical analyses? What is the theoretical value of oat and wheat chaff for fodder? I understand that considerable wheat chaff is fed to horses in some parts of England, but I do not know whether it is that the chaff is more valuable as fodder than finely cut wheat straw, or because there is less trouble in preparing it for the stock. Now if chaff is more valuable than straw, the farmers should know it, as very much is wasted by them for manure every year."

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The chaff, if it has been kept dry, and has not been soured by heating in a damp mass, contains usually more nutriment than straw, and as every practical farmer knows, affords excellent fodder.