

field for work. Look at the old homesteads and clearings to be resuscitated, and the great Far West to be brought into culture, while on the other hand the storehouses are replete and treading on each other's heels.

I have shown you how the Romans treated their land and made the most of it. The noblest families deriving their names from the ground produce; how they studied distinction of soils; manures—how particular they were, what care they bestowed! We can most assuredly take a leaf out of their book on this valuable article. They allowed no superfluous water to damage their crops; their grain crops were hoed and weeded, and no thistle allowed to injure their neighbors' crop. Were we more particular in this point the Canadian thistle now so overrunning the country would soon be brought within compass.

We can trace many of our late inventions to the Romans, and the old saying is verified, "There is nothing new under the face of the sun." The late invention of the cornheader, lately introduced in the West and which is likely to be greatly used in England to enable the farmers there to save their crops in wet seasons, leaving the straw to be harvested when the fine weather comes, took its origin from the Romans, at least the idea of it, for we find they used to head their grain, and deal with the question of straw afterwards. I must now close my lecture on this subject, which has been rather unusually long. My next article will be "On the Agricultural Effects of Lime on Land."

AGRICOLA.

### Veterinary.

**Q. A COW SUFFERING FROM DIARRHEA.**—When a cow—say a young cow—has been very bad with looseness of the bowels for a period of 3 months or more, and getting low in condition, how should she be treated?

**Ans.**—If the cow is otherwise healthy, has no cough, eats anything, but drinks a great deal, a liberal allowance of dry food, such as hay, good cake, etc., should be given, avoiding succulent roots or wet fodder. Do not allow her to drink immoderate quantities of water. If she exhibits a desire to drink largely, substitute for the ordinary drinking water such substances as thin oatmeal gruel, well boiled; or take the jelly, free from seeds, obtained by boiling linseed, and dilute it with water until it is quite thin. Starch gruel, well boiled and cooled, is also of service. The following medicine should also be given: Laudanum, one ounce; powdered catechu, two drachms; powdered aniseed, one ounce. Mix and administer two or three times daily in gruel.

**Q. A COW WITH SWOLLEN KNEES.**—A young cow whose knees are greatly swollen. Would oil of bays, iodine, etc., be of any avail in reducing the swelled knees?

**Ans.**—For chronic swellings of all kinds in animals few applications are so satisfactory in their results as biniodide of mercury ointment. This should be well rubbed into the parts three or four times, if necessary, allowing an interval of from ten to fourteen days to elapse between each dressing. Any scurf which may form should be removed by washing with soft soap and water one or two days before re-applying the ointment. Many cows confined in byres have enlarged knees, due to bruising in getting up and lying down. In such cases, where the cause is constantly in operation, treatment is not likely to be very satisfactory.

### Lampas in Horses.

The term lampas is used to designate a fullness of the bars or roof of the mouth immediately behind the incisor teeth or nippers in the upper jaw. Lampas is found in all colts during the period of dentition. In many, little or no inconvenience is occasioned by it, and its presence is unnoticed; while in others the great tenderness of the parts causes the animal to refuse his feed, in consequence of which he is too often compelled to submit to an operation as barbarous as it is cruel, that of burning out the bars of the mouth with a red hot iron, thereby destroying the function of the part, and leaving the roof of the mouth sore for some time afterwards. This system of treating lampas was only practiced by the farriers (horse shoers) who were at one time the only horse doctors, hence the name of farrier, many of whom still continue the operation. That this practice was condemned long before the veterinary profession was known. We strongly condemn the practice of burning the

swelling down with a red hot iron. In most cases it will soon subside of itself, especially if a few mashes be given, aided by a gentle alterative. If need be a few moderate cuts may be made across the bars with a pen-knife. This latter course meets our approval, which experience has proven correct. —[Mich. Farmer.

### Garden and Orchard.

#### The Edelweiss.

The cultivation of the Edelweiss, has, as yet, been seldom attempted in this country. The reputation of this plant has, however, preceded it, and to many of the numerous visitors to Europe that annually leave our shores for Alpine tours its features are familiar. Slowly the fame of the Edelweiss has spread in all directions from its mountain home, until it now promises to become known to most plant-growers and plant-lovers.

The Edelweiss, with its whitish, velvety surface, cannot be called beautiful, and it probably owes



its charm to the fact that it luxuriates most freely in those mountainous regions which other vegetation has nearly deserted, and in those circumstances it appeals not only to the senses, but to the imagination, and we invest it with the moral qualities of purity, bravery, fortitude, and fidelity, to correspond to its physical qualities of hardness and endurance. Its culture has only recently been attempted, but now is becoming somewhat common and quite successful. Almost every returning traveller from the Swiss mountains brings home a branch of these flowers, and, as they are everlasting, may be kept for several years as a memento of pleasant mountain travel. It is said that in Tyrol and German Switzerland this flower is taken as an emblem of purity and virtue, and every lover offers it to his sweetheart. In some places it is the pride of the bridegroom to gather from the rocks with his own hands the flowers that the bride wears in her wedding dress. It loves lime and sunshine, and must be exposed to the sun and grown in a limestone soil. We would suggest the growing of this plant and think it highly adapted for rockeries, etc. —[Vick's Magazine.

**ASHES FOR FRUIT TREES.**—When apple or pear trees become diseased from being planted in unfavorable or ill-prepared soil, or from lack of food, they are very apt to be attacked by insects, which, if in healthy condition would probably be unknown. Certain washes, such as lye (a solution of pot-ash), have been applied with success in destroying the insects and restoring the tree to health. But for our own practice, we have, for the last two years, applied a much simpler remedy with more success, as it causes the old dead bark, the chosen hiding-place of the insects, to cleave off, leaving in its place a smooth, healthy surface. This is simply, after a rain and while the bark is yet wet, to throw on dry wood ashes until the power of retention is full. If rain soon follows, the strength of the ashes is carried into every cranny of the old bark, and the effect is, working cleanliness on the tree. If there is no rain, the ashes will remain and be working their good effects, and be ready for action when the rain comes. The operation of throwing on the ashes is easily and quickly performed; if the tree is in a bad condition it is easily repeated until the insects are all destroyed, and a new healthy bark covers the tree. Insects' eggs will never hatch under the influence of ashes. Two objects are gained by the operation—the ashes furnish food for the tree as well as destroy its enemies, and impart cleanliness to the tree,

### Pruning Out-Door Grape-Vines.

Formerly no one thought of pruning his out-door grapes before February, but latterly the fall or early winter is preferred by most people. In our own opinion we do not think that it makes any difference what time it is done, so that it is before the sap starts in the spring; hence February—we should say in the first half of the month—is probably as good as any other time, and our own vines are mostly attended to in that month, and we have been about as successful in raising out-door grapes as a majority of growers. The pruned vines should be allowed to lay flat upon the ground, as it is warmer there than on the trellis, and they should remain there until the buds have started in the spring, which will have the effect of causing buds to strike low, and thus provide new leaders to take the place of old ones. Rampant growing vines should be cut back more severely than slow growers, and none should be trellised higher than about six feet from the ground. Lateral branches—the fruit-bearers for the year—should be cut back to two or three buds. The soil in which grapes are grown should be kept in the best condition—ground bones being probably the best fertilizer—and should be stirred several times during the growing season.

### Clematis.

One seldom sees a plant of Clematis doing service as a climber on a porch or trellis in the country. This we believe due to the fact that its merits are so generally unknown. Clematis Jackmannii is perhaps best known and most generally cultivated. Its merits have been mentioned in previous floral notes, but the half has not yet been said in its praise. For more than a month a single plant of this variety which we pass daily, has been covered with the pretty velvety, purple bloom, new blossoms rapidly appearing in place of those whose petals were scattered. It gets no extra care, beyond an occasional showering from the garden hose to remove the dust of the street, but it is one of the most showy and beautiful things in a garden full of rare shrubs and exotics. The Clematis is perfectly hardy and requires but a good soil to flourish thrifty, though it thoroughly appreciates a liberal mulch and plenty of well rotted manure. It likes a sunny position, but does well in an open and airy situation with less sun. There are two kinds, one flowering in the spring upon wood of the previous season's growth, the other blooming in summer and upon wood made the present year. In cutting back this must be borne in mind. No hardy plant is more beautiful for covering arbors, screens, archways or trellises, as besides its persistent bloom its foliage is neat and pretty. It is worthy a place in any garden and will never fail to more than satisfy expectation.

### Moss Mulching.

This comparatively new feature in the culture of greenhouse and window plants has given very satisfactory results during last winter, and will recommend itself as worthy of adoption by all growing plants in the greenhouse or dwelling. Wherever a collection of plants is grown, however small the number, it may be used with advantage.

As the pots containing the plants are arranged on the benches or stands, the spaces between them are filled with moss to about half an inch above the rim of the pots. This prevents the rapid drying of the soil from evaporation or from the glare of the sun against the pots, and creates a moist atmosphere about the plant, which, in dry, heated rooms, is an important matter in cultivating plants. This lack of moist air is the greatest source of failure in window gardening.

Plants grown by this system require less frequent applications of water, thus causing a saving of time and labor. Besides, the fertility of the soil is not washed away by constant dribblings of water and does not become soggy or sour. I would not recommend mixing any fertilizer with the moss, as it draws the young roots from the soil, and they spread in every direction through the moss, and when the plants have to be moved, these roots become disturbed and broken, resulting in injury to the plant. The fertilizer had better be given in solution to the plants when required.

In addition to these advantages, the moss, by covering unsightly pots, gives a neat appearance to the plants, making them appear more like a natural group in the midst of a velvety lawn than like stiff pot plants. —[American Garden.