HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them

Lord Wolseley, a keen observer, and a man by no means destitute of scientific knowledge, believes, or did believe when he wrote his "Soldier's Pocket Book," in the effect of the so-called changes of the moon on the weather. But the following from the *Popular Science News* seems to us to be the reasonable view :—

"During a long storm, persons who are well versed in weather-lore are often heard to console themselves with the prediction that there will be a change of weather when the moon changes. Nasmyth and Carpenter characterize as a popular error, in its most absurd form, this belief that the gradual turning of the moon's face towards and away from the sun, could, at certain points, upset the existing condition of our atmosphere, generate clouds, and pour down rains. In England (and the same may be said of much of America) the weather changes about every three days, and there is a change of the moon every seven days, so that many coincidences must occur. Those who believe that "the moon rules the weather," always credit such coincidences to lunar influence. But the theory is untenable unless it applies to every case, and unless the same effect is always produced by the same cause. To suppose that a change of the moon will turn dry weather to wet, or wet to dry, indiscriminately, is the merest childishness, and contrary to all meteorological records."

It certainly seems to stand to reason that the periods of the moon, as recorded in the almanac, being only the notation of a precise amount of obscuration, or freedom from obscuration, can scarcely, at an arbitrary moment, exercise influence on the weather.

We have received the "General Regulations and Prize List of the Agricultural Exhibition for Halifax County," to be held at Dartmouth, on the 5th, 6th and 7th October.

The Prize List is of a very considerable amount; we cannot spare time to add it up, but we would suggest that, in future programmes, it would not be amiss to specify prominently the total sum to be distributed.

The Regulations appear to be well drawn up, and are perhaps not too precise as to the conduct of exhibitors, under awards which may possibly not be to their entire satisfaction.

The Classes embrace stock of all descriptions, and there is a class for rabbits. Roots and vegetables, dairy produce, grain, woollen goods, agricultural implements, fruit, plants and flowers, ladies' work, boots, shoes and leather, furniture, wooden-ware, manufacturers in metal, fisheries (in which we do not notice nets or other appliances), Indian work and taxidermy, are all provided for, but we fail to see any list for poultry; surely this is a singular omission. The list is printed by Messrs. James Bowes & Sons.

There is but one way in which to be certain of a horse's age, *i. e.* by the appearance of the teeth, which undergo certain changes yearly up to a certain age; but if you have not the practical eye of one accustomed to horses, the only means of acquiring the requisite knowledge is to procure a work on the horse containing engravings of the marks at different ages. We believe there is a sort of chart of the mouth published. Probably any Veterinary Surgeon could tell you where to order it.

A. G. W.—Can you give me a cure for scratches? Apply a lotion composed of sulphate of zinc, three drachms; carbolic acid, one drachm, and water, one pint. Use a little of the lotion daily. Or this may be used:—Give in the morning a drachm of iodide of potassium in the feed; in the evening one ounce of hyposulphite of soda, continue for a month. Wash the legs with warm water and then apply a solution of one drachm of sulphate of zinc in half a pint of water, with half a pint of glycerine added. Avoid mud and wet manure on the legs, and feed no corn during the treatment.

The following treatment has also been found advantageous:—Take white lead, ½ lb.; sugar of lead, 1 oz.; white vitrol, 1 oz.; lard, 2 lbs.: beeswax, 2 oz; sweet oil, ½ pint. Rub up Nos. 1, 2 and 3, with enough of No. 6 to bring to the consistence of thick paint, melt the lard and beeswax together, mix all, and stir till cold. Apply twice daily, after cleansing and rubbing dry.

SOUNDS.—A well developed mare may be put to breed when three years old—certainly not earlier.

Movable fence panels are very convenient on the farm and about the barns. Any farmer will readily see many uses such panels can be put to.

A New York farmer says he always failed to get a crop of turnips until he used unleached ashes to fertilize the ground. Ashes will raise a crop on any kind of land.

Mr. Munson, of Otsego County, N. Y., raises very smooth, fine looking potatoes. He depends entirely upon superphosphate of lime, one tablespoonful to a hill, which he applies by dropping it directly on the seed, which he plants on the hilling up system He is never troubled with scabby potatoes.

An Ohio farmer created considerable consternation at an Institute held at Marietta by addressing the meeting on the subject of Wife Culture. It was a branch of husbandry they had not been in the habit of considering. He recommended as essentials in this cultivation, the providing of proper labor-saving conveniences for the house as well as the barns, the refinements of life, and time spent in its pleasures and amusements.

We have probably experienced the greatest heat we shall feel this year during July; nevertheless, the following observations from the *American Agriculturist* are worth perusal :—

We have known farmers in a wooden country, who appeared to look upon trees only as things to be cut down, and in clearing their land, would not leave even a small grove in a pasture. We once remonstrated with such a farmer, whose answer was: "When I want any trees I can plant 'em." "Did he ever plant trees in his pasture?" Not while we lived near him; but his animals, as do those of too many others, sweltered August after August in pastures, in which a small grove of trees would have been a great comfort If the pasture is utterly shadeless, it will pay to make a shelter. Set up forked stakes, lay poles across them, and lay on a brush roof as a shelter. If the dead leaves look rude, they will make a most comforting shade for animals of all kinds. Cows in full flow, if they get overheated—in fact, sunstruck—will fall off, and often be nearly useless for the rest of the season. It is very difficult to restore such cows, but careful nursing will help. Prevention here is better than any amount of cure. Build a shade. Not only should animals at pasture have shade, but water. A well is better than nothing, but if a stream, however small, can be made to afford a constant supply, by all means utilize it. Often a spring, at no great distance, may thus be utilized at a cost of little labor, and less money. .....Animals at work during the day, should have a run at pasture at night. If there is a stream at not too great a distance, give them, as well as the boys, a bath after work is over.....The pastures will not fall short, and those who have followed our advice to provide a supply of fodder corn, will rejoice that they have this succulent feed to keep up the flow of milk. Shade, abundant pure water, a full supply of fodder corn, with grain (corn and oats ground together, two quarts at a feed), will carry the cows through this trying month.

OUR COSY CORNER.

For cottons and other printed fabrics that are likely to fade by washing, a half pint of salt dissolved in boiling water is an excellent color setting. Drop the fabrics into this liquid while at its hottest, and let them remain until it is cold, when they may be rinsed in clean water, dried and ironed upon their wrong sides. It is surprising how much dye from certain colors will remain in the salt water, without depriving the material of but little, if any, of its brightness. It is said that an intermixture of ordinary vinegar, in the proportion of a tea-cupful to a gallon of cold rinsing water, is excellent for fixing or brightning the tints of pink and green cottons. A tablespoonful of sal-soda dissolved in a gallon of cold rinsing water is also said to improve blue and purple cottons or linens.

To prevent all colors printed upon cottons and linens from what is known as "running," it is safest to wash them in cold, salted water; but if the fabrics are more than dust-soiled this water will not cleanse them.

Before ironing laces or embroideries pull them into shape with the fingers while they are damp, and carefully pick out their edges; then lay them, wrong side up, upon a piece of flannel that is very thick or doubled several times. After smoothing the damp article as much as possible with the hands, lay upon it a piece of fine cotton its own color, and press with an iron that is moderately heated. If the article has become dry or nearly so while drawing it into shape upon the flannel, dampen evenly the cotton cloth that is laid over it and press until dry. Fine lace edgings, such as Chantilly and Valenciennes, should be wound about a bottle and sewed in place before dipping into the mixture of borax, ammonia and water. They may be squeezed with the hand while still rolled, and after the soil disappears most of the dampness may be removed by hand pressure: the bottle should then be filled with hot water, and set where the inner heat and outer air will dry the lace quickly. Remove the lace, lay it upon flannel, pick out its purled edges, lay a damp cloth upon it and iron quickly, using considerable pressure.

In the first washing of fancy silk stockings boiling water should be poured upon them and left until cold, then rub the stockings with the hands and rinse them thoroughly. Much dye may leave them, but when they are dry, it is not likely to be missed. Hanging delicate stockings in a dark place to dry is said to be beneficial to them, because a bright light fades all silks more or less, and when wet all dyes are sensitive to its influence. Black stockings should be rubbed through water containing a little ammonia, then rinsed in clean water. All stockings should be washed on their right sides, then upon their wrong sides, and pulled into shape with a little damp but they should remain unturned until dry. They are never ironed. Fastidious persons draw the stockings while wet over forms of wood, upon which they are allowed to dry; and it is a good plan, especially for cotton hosiery.

CURRANT WATER ICE.—One pint boiling water, one pint red currant juice, one pint of granulated sugar and the juice of one lemon. Boil together for five minutes the sugar and water. When cold add the currant and lemon juice, and freeze.