

At the end of the Italian war, 10,000 cavalry were left with no stabling but mere temporary sheds, but the mortality was quite insignificant, and not a single case of glanders occurred. The French Government are now trying some experiments with respect to the results of the exposure of horses to even currents of air, some of the results having proved of a most favorable kind. As might be expected, the effects of the improved ventilation of stables have been still more fully exhibited with respect to sick and wounded horses.

Prof. Simonds, the distinguished veterinarian, in a report to the Royal Agricultural Society on the "Rinderpest," and other epidemics affecting the cattle of Europe, states that he found pleuro pneumonia very prevalent in some localities, and he was not surprised at this when he saw the condition in which the stock were kept, particularly in the vicinity of Rotterdam, in Holland.

He adds, "The cattle are often crowded into stables so thick, that to pass between them is almost impossible. The form and size of the buildings will frequently only allow of a passage along the centre where the heads of the animals nearly meet over their feeding troughs, while the height of the stable is insufficient to allow a person to stand upright therein.

In many of the sheds or stables there are no windows for the admission of light or air. The heat is almost suffocating, and the stench abominable. In such unwholesome, pest-breeding places as these are cattle kept, to the number of forty or fifty, together, and fed on the waste of distilleries."

CUTTING FODDER FOR STOCK.

Pinching winter is now upon us, and the stock of hay in most parts of the country is but scanty. Roots too in many localities are anything but abundant. The farmer will therefore have to use his utmost ingenuity in making the most of what provender he has got in order to carry his stock through the winter in a healthy and thriving state. Now the cutting and mixing of hay, straw, corn stalks, &c., long experience has shown to be economical, more so by far than those who have not practised it generally imagine. It facilitates mastication and digestion: and as the different materials are reduced and mixed, the less nutritive are taken by the animal with the more valuable, and waste is thereby prevented. Hard worked horses are particularly benefitted by using cut food. The following remarks on the subject from the *N. E. Farmer*, are well deserving notice:—

We are decidedly in favor of it; not from any precise and accurate experiments by weight and

measure, but from a close and interested observation of the spending of cut and uncut fodder, and from its effects upon the stock that consumed it, through a period of several years. The difference in feeding out a certain quantity of hay, cut and mixed with a given amount of grain, and feeding out the same amount of hay whole, with the same amount of grain, has been too great with us, to admit of a single doubt of the profitableness of cutting the fodder. Especially is this the case with corn fodder. Fed whole, the cattle will select the husks and leaves, and reject the stems, wherever the crop is a stow one—but when cut, mixed with a small quantity of grain, moistened, and allowed to stand twelve hours, cattle will eat every particle of it, excepting, perhaps, some of the rank and hard points of the stems.

In most hay fed to cattle some portion of it will be less attractive than the rest, and when cattle are well fed, they will leave the poorest, which is quite apt to get under them as litter, or to be at once thrown through the scuttle to the manure heap, or at best, scattered over the yard to be pitched over again or trodden under foot. This is the case with much hay that is too valuable to go to such purposes. When hay is cut this loss is entirely prevented, and it is rare to find anything left but bits of stick or the stem of rank weeds, if such were on the hay.

That the cutting adds anything to the amount of nutriment contained in the fodder, we do not argue—nor does it to the potato we eat, and yet we find it vastly more convenient in a smaller form. It may be urged that cattle are provided with the means of cutting long fodder, and therefore do not need it in a comminuted form—but the buffalo, in his native ranges eats the tall grasses and rank herbage if he can avoid it, but traverses over vast plains to graze upon the short, tender grass, thereby showing a decided preference for his food in smaller dimension than is afforded in corn fodder, or in hay that affords two or three tons to the acre.

We have cut the fodder for a stock of fifty to twenty head of cattle, watching the effect with interest, and come to the conclusion that the process is an economical one—but tested by actual weight and measurement, this apparent advantage might not be sustained, after all.

THE HORSE CLIPPING MACHINE.

Among the many ingenious contrivances to be seen at the Smithfield Cattle Show, in the New Agricultural Hall, will be a novel piece of mechanism invented by two French gentlemen Messrs. DeBanat, which bids fair to outstrip even the sensation cow-milking machine much wondered at in the Great Exhibition, Kensington. This is another instance of the great labour-saving principle which seems to tax the brains of all inventors now-a-days realised in one of its happiest and most successful applications.