

## 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. Newsw 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.

The following views about seed potatoes differ somewhat from those embodied in the account of a series of careful experiments which we condensed, about two months ago, from the *New England Farmer*, but we think it desirable to place all sorts of opinions before our agricultural readers whenever there may be room for a difference of sensible opinion. Hints from a practice different from their own are sometimes of value to the most practical and experienced. Indeed, the more intelligent the recipient, the greater the possible value to them of the experience of others. A correspondent of the *Indiana Farmer* gives the following advice regarding the selection of potatoes for seed:—"The selection should be made when the crop is harvested, and before being taken up after being dug. At this time the very largest, smoothest, and most perfectly formed ones can be and should be taken to be used as seed for the next year's crop. This seed should be handled carefully, so as not to bruise them. They should be put into sacks, one bushel in the sack, and stored in a dry, cool cellar, separate, or as far away from other potatoes as possible.

When planting comes, and that time is when the frost is out of the ground and the soil is dry enough to work good, no later than this, for if planted at the earliest possible time after the frost is out they will make their growth before the hot weather sets in. Select the very best portion of the seed, and plant this on the very best ground, prepared in the very best manner, planting large pieces, or whole large potatoes is still better, rejecting or cutting away a portion of the stem end. Giving two feet between hills—rows usual distance, and as soon as the sprouts are two inches high, thin out to one stalk in a hill. This will hasten the growth and maturity, and will make all large, fine potatoes for seed for the next season's crop. The best seed, with best care and culture, grown on the best land may be expected to produce the very best crop.

It is almost impossible to believe that for ages farmers have bestowed no more care on the portion that is to be seed for the coming crop, than they give to that portion that is to be fed to stock or sold on the market, and yet this is true, the practice being to take seed potatoes from hills with several stalks. No greater enemy to a stalk of potatoes can be found than another stalk of potatoes growing near to it. It is, therefore, indisputable to the production of the best stalk that they should be grown far enough apart to give to each stalk all the room required to make the best and largest growth.

The influence of the best seed to produce the best crop may be estimated by the superiority of 'thoroughbred' animals over common stock, and the same principles apply to the production of vegetables and fruits as in the production of the best and finest Jerseys, Shorthorns, Herefords, Normans, Clydesdales, and all other improved breeds of stock. Should each farmer produce the best seed by giving the greatest attention to its production, that is required in the very nature of the case, and suggested by the natural endowments of the plants themselves, great yields and better quality of crops would result."

**APPLES FOR PIGS**—The apple is nearly all carbohydrates—only 0.2 to 0.3 of 1 per cent. albuminoids, with 0.3 per cent. fat and 15 per cent. carbohydrates. Its value simply for the food it contains is 16 cents per 100 lbs., or 8 cents per bushel. But it contains a little pectic acid which assists in digesting other food, and this increases its value perhaps 30 to 40 per cent. A certain proportion of apples would be advantageous in feeding pigs by preventing constipation, thus keeping them healthy, besides assisting in the digestion of other food. The apples should not be very sour. A mixture of sweet and sour works well. It is understood that we mean grown pigs, ready for fattening, and the apples are not supposed to be fed alone. Such pigs will fatten moderately on sweet apples, but it is not profitable to feed pigs on apples alone. It is better if the apples are mashed, pulped or ground, and the other food mixed with this apple pulp. We have seen very rapid fattening when fed in this way.—*E. W. S., N. Y. Cultivator.*

Blackberries increase easily by suckers from the roots, but better plants may be had and more rapidly from cuttings from the roots. These are obtained by taking up the plants with ample roots, and cutting the roots into pieces, about two inches, more or less, in length, and placing them in beds of good rich, light soil, with a little bottom heat, under a glazed sash. The roots may be taken up in autumn, or early in spring. If in autumn they may be kept through winter by placing in alternate layers with soil in a box which has drainage, and be buried in a dry spot deep enough to exclude frost, or they may be kept in a cool cellar packed in damp sand or moss, like grafts, taking care that they are uniformly neither too moist nor too dry. When set out, they should be placed about two inches deep in the soil. If they cannot be easily placed under a glazed sash, the surface of the soil should be covered with mulch. If the pieces of roots can be properly kept through winter, taking up in autumn is the best. Smaller pieces may be used if they can be started in a propagating house, which is well adapted to scarce varieties. When the new plants have grown a few inches, they may be removed to the open ground. Varieties which sucker most freely, may be most readily propagated by root cuttings.

**SOME OF THE CAUSES OF HEAVES.**—Heaves may be caused by continued feeding on dry, bulky and fibrous food, such as timothy and similar coarse fodder, and especially when it is musty and dusty. Over-exertion on a full

stomach has a tendency to produce heaves. The ailment is also supposed to be due to a deranged state of the nervous centres. The disease is incurable, but may be palliated by careful feeding. In cases which have existed for some time, no remedy will remove the distress in breathing. Give only nutritious food, of small bulk, cut hay of best quality, mixed with sound oats or ground feed, slightly moistened with water, also a few sliced carrots daily. Avoid timothy hay and similar coarse material. Give on alternate days, or at least twice weekly, a ration of sloppy food, or bran mash, mixed with a pint of ground flaxseed (not oil cake); or, instead, a mess of steamed or cooked food, with finely cut, sound wild hay. Never feed or water such a horse immediately before using him; and give him only slow and easy, or light work.

**TAPE WORMS**—Sheep that have died in a mysterious manner having been examined after death have been found to have their small intestines packed full of tape worms. The general symptoms of tape worms are alternate great appetite and no appetite; an inclination to swallow stones, sand, ashes, earth, etc., and loss of condition. The droppings are soft and mixed with mucus. The animal gives evidence of internal pain. Great emaciation ensues and death finally results. There are no preventives, for rabbits, squirrels, skunks, dogs and other animals deposit the eggs of the worm in the fields in which they may run. The following treatment is recommended. Take linseed oil two ounces, and spirits of turpentine one-half ounce. Give this dose twice a week for two weeks. If this should not prove effectual, give three ounces of the root of male fern powdered, six hours after giving this give a purgative of linseed oil, and repeat in one week. It is said also that forty drops of oil of turpentine, a drachm of powdered green vitrol and an ounce of common salt, given in milk or gruel, or in linseed oil, is a sovereign remedy. Give the best of food until the condition is restored. Sheep, after they become two years old very rarely become infested with tape worm. It is a trouble that is peculiar to young sheep and lambs.

**THE EFFECT OF DARK STABLES.**—It is claimed in a large proportion of cases where horses have trouble with their eyes, it is due to the want of properly lighted and ventilated stables. The majority of stables are so dark that when the horse is brought out he shows, by stumbling and in other ways, that he can not see perfectly, and this continues until his eyes become accustomed to the light. Any person can readily tell what the effect is by passing from a dark room into the bright sunlight. The change causes pain, and this affects the eye injuriously, in time frequently causing total blindness. Where horses shy on the road it is in many cases due to imperfect sight, often brought on by neglect in providing well lighted quarters for them. The eye is very sensitive and easily injured when dark, close stables are used. Light and proper ventilation can be provided with so little trouble and expense that it is surprising so many neglect these very important conditions when building, and as the result, suffer loss by so doing. Those who have stables already built, can, by a small outlay, make changes when they are needed to let in the light, and it will pay them well to do it.—*Maine Farmer.*

## OUR COSY CORNER.

Popular and charming effects are again produced by fan-plaits, which are set in the side-fronts and centre fronts of skirts, and also laid and pressed in the backs of draperies. Similar decorations arranged to cross the bodice diagonally from the top of the right shoulder to the left hip, where the other portion of the front is left undecorated or has a *revers* or lapel of contrasting goods. Not the least of the attractiveness of this style of ornamentation is its adaptability to contrasting materials and colors, which virtue, of course, invites the economical woman to investigate her stored belongings, where likely she has just the fabric that will tastefully combine with a new woollen material to make a fashionable toilette.

A novelty in sleeves is arranged with two puffs that cover the arm from elbow to shoulder, shirrings being taken between them. This artistic design will not infrequently have the upper puff of some decorative fabric and the lower puff and the plain part of the sleeves of dress goods.

Fanciful effects will be studied as a fine art this season. One of the newest caprices is to ornament basques of dark wool goods with soutache braids of red, white, black, gold or silver. The favored arrangements are parallel lines, V's and yoke outlines, the wrists being trimmed to correspond. Striped goods may be made to produce similar effects. For complimentary mourning silver or violet braids upon black will be a leading style.

Among the basques to wear *en suite* or in contrast with skirts there is a new design with points cut back of the hips. These points will sometimes be tipped with tassels or with butterfly knots of ribbon.

Sailor and standing collars, both elaborately cross-braided or otherwise embroidered, or, perhaps, made of richly decorative goods, will be worn with house and street dresses. Usually these two collars will be sewed to tuckers or otherwise completed separate from the costume, to permit of wearing a gay silk or wrought India mull sailor kerchief that will be a speciality this season.

Another seasonable fancy—an old favorite improved for a representation—is a long, square apron drapery that may be braided about the edges and have a set figure in each of its two corners. Of course, any other trimming, such as folds or strips of ribbon, broad basket galloons, hand embroideries of floss, etc., will be much admired upon this style of apron. Sometimes the lower edge will be deeply ornamented and a narrow but similar trimming will follow the sides up to the waist.