

too great a resemblance exists. Doubtless the word 'condition,' as applicable to horses in general, admits of various interpretations, and may refer to different states according to particular breeds, and the nature of the work they may be destined to perform. Condition in the heavy draught, the dray, or farm horse, will imply, with other things, a round, plump, heavy figure, as a ponderous carcass will materially assist in moving heavy loads at a slow rate, especially on streets or common roads. Condition, again, in the race horse or hunter, implies well developed, fine, and firm muscle, fitting the animal for quick and agile movements: and this cannot be accomplished by rotundity of figure or fatness of carcass." Mr. McGillivray then refers to the causes of acute indigestion, an affection induced most commonly by an animal having eaten too freely of green succulent food, such as grass in the early part of the season, or green tares, &c.; or it will occur at any time, if such food be consumed in too great quantities; large quantities of potatoes, boiled or raw, will have the same effect. A horse suffering from an attack of acute indigestion, induced by any of the above causes will present the following symptoms:—Paroxysms of intense pain, with heaving at the flanks; at an early stage he lies down, and immediately gets up again; if at liberty to do so, he turns round and round, frequently voids small quantities of dung, makes repeated attempts to urinate, often puts the nose to the side, distention commences, when down he attempts to roll; sometimes a twitching of the subcutaneous muscles is seen, the animal has an agonised look, apoplectic or phrenetic symptoms appear, vulgarly called staggers; this is followed by great debility, and the membranes of the eyes are inflamed. All these symptoms increase in intensity, and if not speedily removed, the animal sinks to rise no more. In the absence of a veterinary surgeon, the chief remedies applied by Mr. McGillivray appear to be a drench of tincture of opium and sweet spirit of nitre in a bottle of tepid water.

Another cause of derangement and disease in the digestive system, is the practice of putting horses to hard work immediately after they have been freely fed. It is well known to professional men, that severe exercise retards, if it does not altogether stop, digestion. It is no easy matter to experiment on the horse, so as to have proof positive of this doctrine; however, we have proof by direct experiment made on the dog. The practice of allowing horses to drink largely immediately before going to work, is a very dangerous one, even independently of the food. The quantity of water given, and the manner in which horses are allowed to take it is another important question in stable management well enforced by Mr. McGillivray. Horses, he well contends, should be regularly and frequently supplied with water of good quality. A gentleman

who keeps horses constantly on the road, observed to us, in speaking of a servant—"That was the best keeper of horses I ever had; none ever had my horses in such good order, and it was with water and regularity he did it; he was always giving them a little water. There could be no other difference, as my loads are always exactly the same and my allowance of food is the same." It should be remembered that the stomach of the horse is comparatively small: We believe that of the largest horse would not contain four gallons; and if he is allowed to drink largely soon after feeding, the food will be washed out of the stomach in an undigested state, and will ferment in the large intestines. Colic, or gripes, is a disease, in our opinion, very often the consequence of the state in which the food is supplied to the animal. Fully two-thirds, it seems, which occur annually in the practice of Mr. McGillivray, are between the middle of October and the end of the following December. Moreover, these cases of colic are mostly confined to horses fed upon new straw and new corn. He thinks that if horses were supplied with well-seasoned hay and oats during autumn, two-thirds of the cases of colic would disappear. Mr. Cowie, of Halberton, who has tried many experiments on the cooking of food for horses, thus sums up the result of his valuable experience:—"I never cook any food for my horses; they are all fed with bruised oats, and straw or hay occasionally in spring. It is a great mistake not to bruise the grain for old horses or greedy feeders, as they eat so much of it without being masticated. The veterinary surgeon to Barclay and Perkins' brewery horses told me that he tested the result of giving horses unbruised oats, by making some of them swallow them in a ball, when he found that nearly half of the grain was voided quite sound, and even vegetated on being put under ground.

The remark of Mr. McGillivray, as to the often diseased state of the livers of high-fed cattle, is one which has often engaged our attention. That diseased livers rather tend to make sheep fatten faster in some cases, was an observation perhaps first made by the celebrated Bakewell. It is a well known fact that overgrown livers of geese, so highly prized by the Strasburg gourmands, are produced by high feeding the animal whilst it is kept in a warm temperature. It is pretty certain, however, that the animals whose livers are diseased do not possess all those properties most essential to the farmer's profit. And as it is known that certain mineral substances, when taken in small doses, materially promote the fattening of animals, it might be well if some careful experiments were made as to the action of these and other chemical substances in preserving the liver from disease. If the circumstances in which a fattening animal is placed has so material an influence upon its health as to render it worthy of the stock-

owner's careful attention, equally important to him are the hereditary tendencies and predisposing cause of disease which may be commonly so safely calculated upon by the considerate purchaser. On the hereditary diseases of cattle, a recently published and valuable prize essay, by Mr. Finlay Dun will repay the farmer's perusal (*Jour. R. A. S.*, xv., p. 76). He names, as the more important hereditary diseases of cattle, diarrhoea, rheumatism, scrofula, consumption, dysentery, malignant tumours, and the affections depending on a plethoric state of body. He enumerates the characters which it is desirable for cattle to possess, that they may perpetuate in their offspring a healthy and vigorous constitution. The head small, muzzle fine and tapering, nostrils large and open, the eyes full and lustrous, ears small, and not too thick, the head well set on the neck, the distance between the ears and the angle of the jaw short, but the width behind the ears considerable (no dairy cow should have a short thick neck), the chest wide and deep; the girth, taken immediately behind the shoulder, should closely correspond with the length from behind the ears to the rise of the tail; the carcass of a barrel shape, for a thin, flat-ribbed animal eats largely, thrives badly, and is unusually liable to diarrhoea, there should be little space between the prominence of the hip and the last rib, the quarter large, the measurement from the prominence of the haunch backwards to the rise of the tail, and downwards to the hock, as great as possible; the lower part of the haunch thick and broad, the hide thick and pliant; smallness of bone is a sure indication of early maturity and aptitude for fattening. These, amongst other characters and qualities enumerated by Mr. Dun, indicate the possession of a vigorous and healthy constitution, and freedom from all inherent disease.—*Mark Lane Express.*

#### STILTON CHEESE.

MR. EDITOR,—Most of your readers have no doubt eaten the famous Stilton cheese. This cheese was first made, we are told, by a near relative of the landlord of the old Bell Inn near Melton, Leicestershire, England, where its reputation was such that it sold for a long time for half a crown per pound. I am not aware that any attempts have as yet been made to produce Stilton Cheese in the United States; but Mr. Henry Parsons, of Guelph, Canada, has manufactured it of a quality said by good judges to be equal to that made in the mother land. There appears to be nothing very peculiar in the process as detailed by those who understand it, and considering the cheese really possesses the high superiority justly claimed for it, the only thing surprising at all to me is, that its manufacture has not become, not only common, but universal.

As some of your readers may have a curiosity to know the process, I will give a recapitulation recently given me by a dairyma-