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GOSSIP

TAKING CARE OF THE HARNESS.

"There is nothing like leather." But there is nothing like knowing how to keep your leather goods in fine condition, too. Leather is composed of a mass of fine tendrils, intimately interlocked and entwined. When in good, pliable condition, each tendril is capable of much stretching. If allowed to become dry and hard, when the leather is subjected to a severe pull, the tendrils break instead of stretching. But this does not mean that leather boots or harness should be kept soaked with oil or dressing. Elbow grease applied in quantity is better. "All dressings should be applied sparingly" is the sound advice of a big saddlery concern. Black oil should always be used on black harness and not neatsfoot oil, as the latter will draw out the black dye and leave the harness brown. The black harness fats now on the market make excellent farm harness dressing. They contain the "nourishment" necessary for keeping the harness in good order. But first, all dirt should be washed off with luke warm water and ordinary soap. The black fat should then be applied with a cloth, given a short time to penetrate the leather and then rubbed dry with another cloth. Some make the mistake of oiling without unbuckling the harness. The parts that need nourishment most are under the buckles where the metal causes hardness and brittleness. If people would vary the holes of the harness occasionally it would last much longer.

An objection to neatsfoot oil is that it inclines to wash off the beeswax from the stitches, leaving the bare thread, which then soon breaks.

A Gourlay piano in the music-room denotes musical culture throughout the home just as surely as you can estimate the intellectual aspirations in the home by the class of books in the library.

GERMANS TAKING TO DOG MEAT.

Not only is the flesh of horses and mules eaten in Germany almost as much as in France, but also there is a growing consumption of dog meat and in some localities dogs are fattened for market and there are several special places for slaughtering them. The use of dog meat is said to have had its origin in Saxony and there are statistics going as far back as 1869. But on June 3, 1900, a law was passed which authorized the sale and consumption of dog meat all over the German Empire.

The taste for dog meat is reported as extending throughout Silesia and into Bavaria. In Munich dogs are regularly slaughtered and the flesh is sold by low-grade butchers. The Germans, however, declare that they do not buy it in that region and that the demand is confined to the lowest class of Italian laborers. No dog flesh is sold in Berlin as yet.

THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC FARMER

The first scientific farmer, so far as the records show, was one Jethro Tull, an Englishman, who wrote and labored in the cause of agriculture between the years 1680-1740.

Tull claimed that, since it was from the soil that plants derived their nourishment, the finer the condition of the soil the better would be the results to the farmer.

He also insisted upon deep plowing to give moisture to the plant's roots, and upon frequency of cultivation to keep the surface open to the influence of the rays of the sun.

In a word, it was the Englishman who first strove to impress upon men's minds the idea that farming was a science, and that in order to get good crops, agriculture needed to be carried out upon scientific principles.

Tull furthermore believed that there was no reason why agriculture should be carried on almost wholly by brute strength. He believed in saving as much of man's labor and strength as

possible, and he set himself to the task of finding ways and means of doing farm work that should be an improvement upon the old muscle-wearing methods.

His thinking took shape in the invention of a horse hoe, a grain drill and a threshing machine—not much of a threshing machine, it is true, as compared with those of to-day, but still a great improvement upon the old-time flail.

The impetus given to scientific farming by Tull started the movement which was later on taken up with enthusiasm by Arthur Young, the correspondent and friend of Washington.

Young did a great deal for agriculture. By his pen, by travel and painstaking investigation and experiment, and last but not least, by a series of bright and useful inventions, he did more for the ancient art than any man of his day and generation.

With the birth of modern chemistry, and through the writings and experiments of such men as Sir Humphrey Davy, Thomas Jefferson, Justus von Liebig and others, agriculture began to look up as it never had before, and to-day, as a result of those men's labors, the farmer is beginning for the first time since farming began, to get from the earth something like a fair return for his toil.

A SIPHON FOR THE BABY

A new method has been discovered whereby milk may be kept perfectly fresh for many months, the process consisting merely in charging it with carbonic acid gas under pressure, and keeping it thereafter bottled in a cool place until it is wanted for use.

For this purpose newly pasteurized or clean, fresh milk is taken and charged with the gas in tanks, exactly as water is loaded with carbon dioxide in establishments which put up that innocent fluid for sale at "soda" counters. From the tank it is transferred to syphon bottles, in which it is held under a pressure of about seventy-five pounds.

The bottles should be stored in some place where the temperature is not higher than sixty degrees. If preferred, they may be kept in the household refrigerator. Though the cream separates in the flasks, it may be thoroughly re-mixed by a little shaking as the milk comes from the bottle. It comes out as a foamy mass, and has a slightly acid, pleasant flavor.

Kept in the manner above described, carbonated milk will remain in excellent condition for at least four or five months. Not only does it afford an agreeable beverage, but it is likely to prove a valuable food for invalids and children who are not able to digest ordinary milk easily. Its possibilities have been developed through experiments.

The experts of New York State Agricultural Station engaged in this work state that, in order to prepare the product successfully, the milk should be drawn as clean as possible, and promptly cooled below forty-five degrees Fahrenheit. All vessels with which it comes into contact, from milking to bottling, should be carefully sterilized before using. It should be carbonated within a few hours; or, if this cannot be done, it should be pasteurized before being charged and bottled.

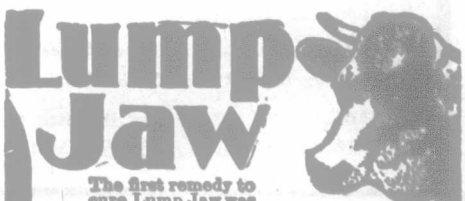
On July 13th the citizens of Guelph, Ont., declared by a small vote of 342 against 236 in favor of a bylaw for the raising of \$10,000 and the giving of a site on the market square towards a building to be erected by the Provincial Government for the enlargement of the present accommodation of the Winter Fair. It is understood that the Government will be expected to enter into an agreement to continue the Fair at Guelph for a period of years, probably ten. The present agreement has still two years to run. The architect of the Department of Public Works has been working on the plans for the new building, and it is hoped to have it already for occupation during this winter's exhibition. Matters have moved rather slowly up to date, but now that the by-law is passed the authorities are looking for better despatch.

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