

HOME AND FARM.

It is better to fill up the water trough before it is quite empty than to let the cows get very thirsty and drink so much that they won't care to eat for two hours.

It is better to teach the cows gentleness than to saw off their horns.

Farmers can often save valuable trees from being practically destroyed merely by propping them up when loaded with snow. The evil is worse in mild winters, like the present, when the snow falls at a little above freezing temperature and clings to the branches until it breaks them off. Part of the danger may be avoided in pruning. Never train a tree with long limbs parting from a crotch. The weight of the extremities on either side operates as a lever to split the tree downward. Apple trees should be trained low enough so that a weight of snow will bend the extremity of the branches to the ground. This, with a prop near the trunk, obviates all danger.

The thinning of fruit may be accomplished much more easily by cutting out superfluous limbs in trees than by waiting until the fruit is set and then removing part of that. It has the advantage also of letting in sunlight to the centre of trees, where it is essential to the perfecting of the fruit. If the work is done in winter, sap sprouts will start in the spring where the cuts are made, but these are easily rubbed off if taken in time.

Coal ashes if taken daily from the stove are entirely free from water, and excellent absorbents to be thrown in earth closets or privies. Swamp muck is very hard to dry perfectly without passing through a fire, in which case much of it is reduced to ashes or goes off in smoke. In summer time, when coal is not used for fuel, fine dry dust from the roads is as good an absorbent as can be wished, and has besides some manurial value of its own from the droppings of teams.

The idea that sheep can live either in winter or summer without drink is a cruel superstition. In summer sheep feed much at night and in early morning while dew is on the grass, and may not drink much when dew is plentiful. But in winter the food is dry, there is no dew, and eating snow is a very poor substitute for drinking. If anyone thinks snow a substitute for water, let him try it on himself.

Says a writer in an agricultural exchange:—"Love of appreciation seems to be instinctive in the whole animal creation. Whoever does good work is encouraged and strengthened by merited praise. Well does the writer remember a good farmer, whose sleek, fat team horses were admired by all the neighbors round about. This good condition was not a result of their not being worked hard, for the farmer did much of the heavy trucking work of the village, over a hilly road. There was a long steep hill between the station and the village, and here his horses were allowed several resting spells on their way up.

Mr. Small always carried a chunk of wood, with which to block the wheels during these rests. Before he started he always rubbed their noses, patted them encouragingly, and when he gave the word, up they went with a will, till the driver stopped them for another breathing spell.

When they pulled well, he always patted and praised them, telling them they were good fellows; and they seemed so pleased at this little act of appreciation, that it is said they would hardly wait to rest, so eager were they to prove themselves worthy of the praise."

OUR COSY CORNER.

A paragraph on dressmaking in our Cosy Corner of THE CRITIC of February 22nd, has excited a good deal of comment. Many of our lady readers have remarked "how nice," and "what are we to do?" etc etc. Now that is just what we should like to discuss in this column. So if anyone has any ideas or suggestions to make we shall be pleased to hear from them. One correspondent says: "It seems strange that in a large city like Halifax no provision has been made for the education of dressmakers. In other cities we find schools for fitting, cutting and draping, all in separate departments. I very much doubt if a Halifax dressmaker ever designed a garment. Dressmaking is really an art. If only it was considered so by those who practice it, what 'things of beauty,' I won't say 'joys forever,' would our garments be. Only think if your dressmaker took as much pains and pleasure in fitting your dress as an artist does in drawing every line in his picture to make it perfect, what glorious results we should have. There certainly is something radically wrong with our dressmaking system and my idea of it is this. A great many people employ sewing girls for reasons of economy, and it is with these very girls that the fault lies. They practice with a dressmaker for perhaps three months, often less, and then think they are qualified to undertake any kind of work. In many cases they lack taste and ingenuity, their eye has not been trained to color or to outline, consequently styles change places, a stout person appears in a costume only suitable for a slender figure, and vice versa."

Yours, VICTOR.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.

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