

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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grazing as much of the land is far too valuable for this class of farming, but where the owner or renter is bent on seeding down he should either keep enough cows to raise young stock to graze on it or should purchase cattle. At the present time with stockers so high the former would be the better plan. When stockers may be had at a reasonable price some could be picked up for grazing, and it looks as though there would be no trouble in selling them either as feeders or finished beef for some years to come. Some of the hay would be necessary to feed the cows or store cattle over winter, and thus at least a part of the crop would be returned to the land which grew it. This is not as good as returning it all, but "a half loaf is better than no bread," and selling hay continuously year after year must eventually lead to the no-bread stage. If you must "farm easy," keep stock at least during the summer that your land may not become impoverished and force you to work in your old age.

Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M.A.

One of the very daintiest of all the flowers found in our woods is the Star-flower, with its white, six-pointed star on its delicate pedicel and whorl of six pointed leaves. This species may be readily identified from our illustration, which is from a photograph taken in the New Brunswick woods.

Another very pretty flower which is abundant in the Maritime Provinces is the Bluets. The flowers are either pale blue or white with yellow centres, and are shown in fig. 2.

Canada has a rather sparse reptilian fauna, and the largest and most powerful reptile we have is the Snapping Turtle. It inhabits slow-running, muddy rivers and streams, ponds and marshes. The name of this species is derived from its method of defending itself by snapping at its aggressor. In snapping the rapidity with which the head is lunched forward rivals the dexterity of the rattlesnake. So quick is the movement that the eye is barely able to follow

it. Backed up by a pair of keen-edged, cutting mandibles and jaw muscles of tremendous power, the stroke of one of these reptiles is decidedly dangerous. As in their haunts these turtles lie embedded in the mud at the bottom of the water, the rapid movements of the head and neck are important in the capture of fish which form a large portion of their food. Beside fish the Snapping Turtle eats young water-fowl, which it stalks beneath the surface of the water, seizes by a quick dart of the jaws and pulls down to drown and be devoured. It never feeds unless under water, and if it captures prey on the bank it retreats into the water to devour it. In fact it seems unable to swallow unless under water.

In the early summer the female leaves the water and prowls about seeking for a place to deposit her eggs. She often wanders some



Fig. 1—Star Flower.

distance from the water, and selecting a suitable spot, scoops away the earth to form a hollow into which she crawls and moves about until the loose earth falls over her. Thus she is hidden until the eggs, which usually number about two dozen, are deposited. As she crawls forth she rears up, and the earth which has been on her back falls over and covers the eggs. The eggs are white, perfectly round, and have a thin shell. At my summer cottage at Puslinch Lake I had a garden on the bank of the lake, and Snapping Turtles found the loose soil of the garden so much to their liking that they were always digging up my young tomato plants in excavating their nests.

Turtles are wonderfully tenacious of life, and an excised heart of one of these reptiles will beat for hours after removal from the body as long as it is kept moist.

A fish which has a very wide range in Canada is the Lake Trout or Namaycush, often also termed Salmon Trout. It is found in most of the large lakes, and in many of the smaller ones, from New Brunswick to Vancouver Island and northward to Labrador, Hudson Bay and Alaska. It is the largest of the Trouts, reaching a length

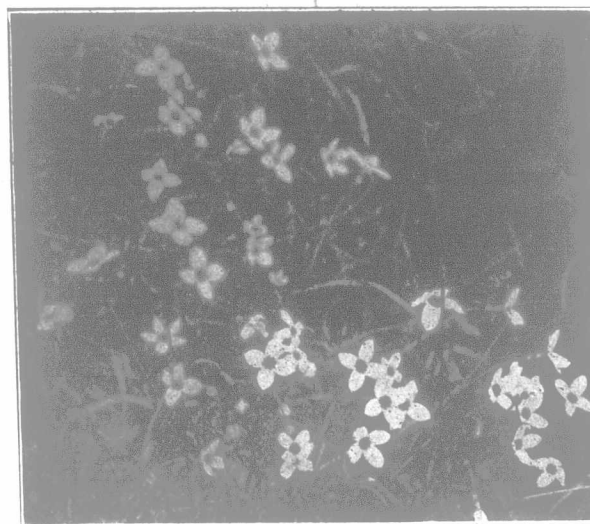


Fig. 2—Bluets.

of several feet, and a weight of sixty to a hundred and twenty-five pounds, though the average weight is about fifteen pounds. This species is omnivorous in its feeding habits, but its principal food appears to be soft-finned fishes.

The Lake Trout spawns on the reefs and lives, at other times, in deep water. The spawning season begins in Lake Superior late in September, in Lake Huron the height of the spawning season is in early November, and spawning continues into December. The spawning grounds are on the reefs of "honeycomb" rock, ten to fifteen miles off shore, and in water from six to a hundred and twenty feet deep. The usual number of eggs laid by one individual is about 6000. By anglers it is usually taken by troll-

ing with a spoon or a live minnow, and by commercial fishermen with gill-nets or pound-nets.

The Lake Trout fisheries of the Great Lakes are exceeded in value only by those of the Whitefish. At one time this species was so abundant that it did not command a price at all commensurate with its edible qualities, but of late years, as the catches have decreased, the prices have soared. This is one of the fish which has yielded most satisfactory results with artificial propagation, and the Government hatcheries have succeeded in arresting the depletion of the supply.

THE HORSE.

If you have a real good colt lay plans to exhibit him next fall.

Hard-worked horses at grass must have grain, or they will fail in condition.

It seldom pays to leave an inferior colt for a stallion. Better castrate him.

Grade stallions must go in a few years. As far as your breeding operations are concerned they should be gone now.

We all like to see filly foals, but a horse colt of the right kind will make a profitable gelding if he is not good enough for stud purposes.

A good horse race still draws a crowd. Fifteen thousand were present at the Woodbine on opening day, and twelve thousand on the second day.

A good feed of grass is a great system renovator, and every horse should have a chance to build up his condition by being allowed a free run on pasture for a time.

If the right kind of a stallion does not come close to the farm, it will pay to lose a little time from the regular farm work and take the mare to a really good horse.

Get the mare bred as soon as possible now that the warm weather is here. It is sometimes not advisable to be in too big a hurry earlier on when the weather is cold, as more difficulty is generally experienced in getting the mares with foal.

Indigestion in Horses—III.

Spasmodic Colic.—Probably the most common form of indigestion in horses is that form commonly known as "spasmodic colic." Some horses are particularly predisposed to it. It consists in a spasmodic contraction of a portion or portions of the muscular coats of the intestines, usually of the small intestine. It is not uncommon for the muscular fibres of the neck of the bladder to be also involved. The disease is usually due to improper food or improper feeding, sudden changes of diet, exhaustion from over work, particularly if associated with long fasting. A drink of cold water may cause it, especially if the animal be exhausted by a long journey or several hours hard work, or be excessively watered. Some horses are particularly predisposed to attacks, such as those in which there are concretions of different kinds in the intestines, abscesses in the mesentery, parasites in the intestines, ulcers in the stomach or intestines, cancer or chronic thickening of the intestinal walls; also those with congenitally or acquired weakness of the digestive powers or disease of the digestive glands.

While simple spasmodic colic is a comparatively unimportant disease which readily yields to treatment in most cases, fatal cases have occurred, the patient dying from exhaustion, and a post mortem revealing no lesions or chronic disease of the digestive tract, the only abnormal conditions being a rigid contraction of small portions of the small intestine. Repeated attacks of colicky pains occurring in a horse without apparent cause indicate some structural change in the digestive organs, in many cases the presence of the concretions or tumors in the intestines. If such be present and are movable, we are justified in assuming that they occasionally, by change of position, occlude the canal, and thereby check the backward passage of faecal matter, check peristaltic motion and cause severe pain. In such cases the violent movements of the animal are likely to dislodge the obstruction, reopen the canal and consequently relieve pain. In other cases the obstruction does not become dislodged, the case does not yield to treatment, and after several hours inflammation of the bowels results and causes death. A post mortem reveals the