

has at length been done and it has been found to possess valuable properties.

I may seem very curious to many, that our common clay bricks contain a valuable metal of peculiar characteristics, which if separated, could be used instead of gold or platinum, in many of the arts. The brick maker as he tempers the mortar for his bricks, or the potter as he moulds a jug, would be surprised to see the germinal extract from that brick or jug a bright strong hard and durable metal; and yet it can now be done. The following is an account given of some of the properties of this metal, called as we before said, a *alumium*.

"As *alumium* is nine times lighter than platinum, and pores is also a surface nine times more extensive than the latter metal with an equal thickness, its substitution for platinum should be profitable of great advantage; above all, that its price has become very cheap. The *alumium* here spoken of is very difficult to forge. In order to form it, it has been found necessary to anneal it at each pass. By dipping copper and electrochemically on a plate of *alumium*, they have succeeded by the aid of rollers in reducing it to very thin plates. *Alumium* acquires by its coloring an elasticity which would make it of use in the construction of all kinds of vessels for assays or analyses. Its metal is so light that, the weights of the system being the same, the arms of the balance are elongated a great deal, and long blades can be placed even at the extreme points of suspension, as on the center of oscillation. The *alumium* does not oxidize at all weighing 20 grammes, the sensibility of the balance would not raise a half-millionth."

Miscellaneous.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

"I would not enter on my list of friends,
(I am acquainted with, and I am in debt and fine rene,
Yet wanting sensibility,) the man
Who needlessly seizes upon a worm!"—*Shakespeare*.

(The independence of the New England Farmer.)

He who knowingly would injure the harmless creature God has made, can have no feeling for human kind. I jury to creatures may sometimes be done by accident, or through necessity. Such acts "need no blame." But he, who, for the sake of gratifying his own passions, cruelly treats those animals God has placed here for the benefit and service of man, is justly deserving no claims to humanity. It is not the man who beats with a good his ox or his horse, to may be called the most cruel or unmerciful; for he who neglects to provide for the comfort and health of his dumb creatures is equally censurable. But in most cases it is pretty true that he who is guilty of the one act, is equally guilty of the other. I have reason to believe, however, that a greater degree of kindness is shown towards dumb animals now, than formerly—that less beating and branding is resorted to in the training of our horses or oxen; yet there are many who still adhere to former customs, a though late discoveries and observations prove that gentle means and mild measures may be more satisfactorily used towards subduing the brute creation. The "whip for the horse" will be out rightly used if the hand that places it is associated with a kind and feeling heart. However great a reformation has been made in the mode of training animals of service, too harsh measures are still used.

The horse, the most noble of all animals used by man, is the most cruelly treated. Even in the present state of civilization, I presume no one horse in five is treated in such a manner as that he lives out the term of his natural life. My opinion is, that if his natural powers were properly cared for, and kindly treated, he would be in as fit a condition to labor at the age of twenty as he now is with present treatment at twenty. Very few horses at the present day ever arrive at the half age in good condition with soundness in body and limb. Hard labor and improper care render him unfit for service at an early age. The constitution of the horse is very similar to the constitution of man, hence, the former is no more fit to bear excessive labor and unkind treatment, than the latter. It is as injurious to the constitution of the horse to keep him at labor in stormy weather, as it is injurious to man; hence it is as necessary for the treatment of the horse to provide for his health and comfort of his team, to us the same care for them that he does for himself.

There is one cruel act of which too many are guilty, and about which I am of former opinion. I have reference to the practice of putting off horses which have become unfit for service, in consequence of old age, to cruel and inhuman persons. Although horses thus put off have saved their masters a fully and doubly paid, both for all they have received, yet still, for the sake of a few paltry dollars, they are sold to those who will cruelly treat them to the last moments of their existence. It appears to me that the man who will thus part with his horse, is as virtually cruel as he who beats him after he has him in his possession. Is it not more an act of mercy to take the life outright of a worn-out creature than to dispose of him to an individual who will kill by degrees?

I have never seen, however, if but one horse, and although he is considerably on the down hill of life, many would not consent to part with him unless I felt sure he was going into the hands of a merciful man. I have respect for the aged; and very kindly persons actually own those animals whose services are so beneficial to mankind.

Who would sell an aged father or mother whose lives had been spent for their children turned off with hard usage and unkind treatment? Because the infirmities of age had rendered them unfit for service? Of course the kinder treatment is their due in consideration of what they have been, and what they have done.

Cruelty to animals, is a subject deserving special attention. Parents ought to make it a point of duty to train their children to be useful to animals, as well as to human kind. If this were more generally done, certainly there would be less unkindness and cruelty to men. The boy who is suffered to grow up with the privilege of inflicting pain upon every animal that comes in his way, is pretty sure to be a cruel and hard master, over whom and whatever he is the control.

"Mercy to him that shows it is the rule
And righteous imitation of it act,
By which heaven moves in pardoning guilty man;
And he that shows none, being ripe in years,
And conscious of the outrage of his mind,
Shall seek it and not find it in his mind."

It is supposed that water containing phosphates and other earthy matters is apt to induce, in the systems of predisposed horses, an *osteific diathesis* resulting in bony enlargements.