

## HOME AND FARM.

To many otherwise intelligent men a horse is a horse, "and nothing more." We are not so brutal as the Spanish muleter, who has no name for the animals who earn his living but "Mulo," and scarcely ever utters that lazy generality without the emphasis of a blow or a kick; but we are bad enough, considering our advantages, for most of us treat all horses alike, blind to the fact that there is as much difference between one horse and another, in temper, intelligence, and physical idiosyncracies, as there is between one human being and another. Viewed in this light, the following remarks of a contemporary will be suggestive to the quick-witted farmer.—"Horses have small stomachs; remember this. A good plan is to divide corn rations into three daily portions—the hay, too. Many object to giving hay just previous to work, as it distends the stomach and causes the animal inconvenience. Delicate feeders must be tempted to take their rations, and should never be fed too strongly at one time. A 'Scotch plate' is a rule very generally observed in England—everything cleaned up before placing other food in the racks or mangers. A little linseed boiled to a jelly and mixed with the corn is seductive. Hay dampened and salted will tempt others. Beans, a double handful, are a relish in weakly subjects; pale milk for the convalescent or indisposed; damp bran and oats are engaging for others. Some stooms give carrots and tires in small quantities. Carrots superinduce diabetes if given in excessive quantities. The peculiar habits of horses demand the attention of all horse owners and grooms. A sufficiency of flesh is all that is required, and not 'hog fat' or 'beastly fat,' as some phrase it. One idea, very good for some horses, is not to leave them no option but to take all their drink at twice or three times a day, but to leave them a bucket of water to sip out of, so to speak, as they feel inclined, to moisten the food they are eating. We think oatmeal water would also be a capital thing; its sustaining and thirst-quenching powers are abundantly evident in its use by firemen and stokers in steam vessels, and it would be found correspondingly valuable in hot weather. In fact, we ought to judge of, and treat our horses as we should do ourselves, bearing in mind the attribute of infinite variety which is one of the chief features of God's works."

We scarcely presume to think that it is all owing to our not infrequent remarks that we fancy we see less of the bearing-rein abomination in and about Halifax than formerly, but we do still see it, occasionally in its most obnoxious shape—that buckled to the top of the head, in which form it is not only more cruel than through the neck-swivels, but an absolute desight as a part of the harness. When *will* people learn common sense. In England, where the splendid carriage horses are checked up tight in this way for the express purpose of making them toss their heads, the practice is said to sometimes induce a sort of poll-evil, from the continued unnatural friction of the process joining the head and neck.

Professor Lawson's Government Crop Report for July sets down more than half a million of acres as the area of hay land which has to be mown every season in Nova Scotia. It is to be hoped that the fine weather which set in early last week will enable our farmers to get in their hay in good condition. Do not forget the advantage of using a little salt as the hay is stacked in the mow.

The report on crops generally is promising. It would seem, however, that there is room for increase in the acreage devoted to peas and beans. Potatoes, on the whole, seem to promise a good average. There is a slight increase in the area of carrots, which is desirable. Professor Lawson remarks that they should be sown very early in sandy soil. The area devoted to mangol wurtzel, which is probably the most easily raised winter feed, and at the same time possess perhaps the greatest advantages, might be doubted or trebled with profit.

The promise of the apple crop is perhaps more than fair, though there has been some want of setting from the long, cold, dry season of the early summer, and some damage from caterpillars.

There is room for much extension of the cultivation of small fruits.

There is a decided increase in horses, but not much in horned stock, especially beef cattle.

We notice with satisfaction the establishment of four cheese factories in Antigonish, the products of which are already considered first-class. Butter-making does not show any conspicuous improvement, which we regret, as there is ample scope for increase of quantity, and still more for improvement in quality.

The wheat crop in the United States will probably be less than last year, the losses by winter-killing having been serious in fall wheat, and the June report of the Department of Agriculture at Washington shows a serious decline in the wheat area.

The prospects of the crop in Ontario do not seem to be quite so gloomy as they were depicted a few weeks ago, and they are better west than east of Toronto. Hay there is, however, a bad look out. In many districts it will not exceed a 25 per cent crop. Good timothy is now selling at \$21.00 per ton, which is fully \$4 per ton more than three weeks or so ago.

The monsoon rains were a fortnight overdue in India at last advices; the crop prospects are consequently extremely serious. In Russia, on the contrary, the winter wheat is very promising, the spring crops are in excellent condition, and official reports indicate a yield above the average. In other European countries it is far from being so favorable.

"The horse is the most timid and sensitive of animals, and at the same time, not in all things quick of perception; when he

is doing his best, he simply does not understand why he is urged and beaten. When he is brutally treated, he cannot understand it, he simply submits and endures with the dumb and helpless patience which is so pathetic an appeal to the human brute who, like the coward he is, abuses his unrestrained power over him. It is difficult to understand sometimes what possesses a horse, but we may always be sure that gentleness will prevail sooner than harshness. It is trying sometimes, no doubt, but what is our reason given us for, if we cannot control our own hastiness and vexation? We have seen a mare in an artillery team, which, though not habitually balky, suddenly refused to start; what was the matter with her no one could divine, but when over the idea in her mind was, she was flogged without stint. Well, the poor beast simply seemed unable to comprehend it, and stood in helpless despair with the tears fairly streaming from her eyes. She was ultimately moved by almost dragging her head off with a prolong-rop, and by the force of the other five horses, but it was one of the most painful sights we ever witnessed. Men and farmers, be kind to the poor beasts who do so much for you, for your servant is, after all, capable of very strong attachment, and love is stronger than wrath!

**SOWS EATING THEIR PIGS.**—This is one of the most annoying mishaps that the breeder has to contend with. Gilts are very prone to devour their young, and the habit is most usually contracted from neglect to promptly remove any dead pigs that may have been still-born or overlaid. A very valuable sow of the writer's ate her first litter of seven pigs, and her second of eleven pigs, picking them up as greedily as a wild wolf would have done, unmindful of their piercing squeal, and with a crunch or two putting them out of sight. We came very near doing a foolish thing, knocking her on the head on the spot, and fully resolved she would never have the chance to do the same thing again. But as the months rolled around, we found her with pig again, and in talking with some of the neighbors in regard to it, an old breeder told us that "he had heard, that to give a sow a pound or two of old bacon about farrowing time, would keep her from it." It seemed plausible, knowing that a morbid appetite was a common sequela of pregnancy in the whole animal kingdom. We did not spare the bacon. The day before the sow farrowed, we fed her with several pounds more, probably three or four, at different times through the day, and again the next day. She had littered eleven pigs again; the next time she had thirteen, and the last time fifteen. The precaution of feeding more or less bacon or fat meat was taken each time, and she never offered to molest her pigs, once or twice failing to eat a dead one when she had the opportunity.—*American Agriculturist for July.*

## OUR COSY CORNER.

To extinguish kerosene flames, if no cloth is at hand, throw flour on the flames. Flour rapidly absorbs the fluid and deadens the flame.

For preserving cheese from mould cover the cheese with a piece of cotton or linen cloth saturated with strong vinegar. It will preserve the cheese as fresh as when first cut, and no flies or insects will touch it. The taste of the cheese is in no way affected by the vinegar.

**TO CLEAN SILKS.**—To clean colored or black silks without injury, grate raw potatoes to a fine pulp, add water in the proportion of one pint to one pound of potatoes, pass the liquid through a coarse sieve into a vessel, and allow it to remain till the fine white starch subsides to the bottom. Pour off the clear liquor, which is to be used for cleaning. Spread the article to be cleaned upon a table, which should be covered with a linen cloth; dip a sponge in the liquor and apply it until the dirt is removed. Then rinse the article in clean cold water several times. The following is used to clean gilding, etc. either alone or diluted with water: Quicklime, one ounce (sprinkle with a little hot water to slack it,) then gradually add one pint boiling water, so as to form a milk; dissolve two ounces of pearl ash in  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint boiling water; mix two solutions, cover up, agitate occasionally for an hour, allow it to settle, decant the clear liquid, put into half pint bottles and cork them tightly. This is to be applied with a soft sponge, and then washed off with clean water. It may also be prepared by diluting potash with about five times its volume of water.—*New York Dispatch.*

Flat-irons that show a disposition to rust may, while yet a trifle warm, be rubbed on edges and face with tallow; when next put to heat they should, as soon as warm, have the tallow wiped off with an old cloth, when they will be found bright and smooth.

**GREASE SPOTS.**—To remove grease spots, thoroughly saturate with turpentine, place a soft blotting paper beneath and another on top of the spot, and press it hard. The fat is dissolved, then absorbed by the paper, and entirely removed from the cloth.

The following is said to remove tan and sunburn:—Take the white of an egg and the juice of one lemon, and put in a stout coffee cup. Place on the stove for half an hour, with the heat just sufficient to cook without injury to the cup, and stir occasionally. Apply at night to the hands, face and neck for about a week. It is soft and cooling in its effects.

**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 Diarrhea, 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.