

tions on agricultural and other useful and important subjects.—The work is illustrated by a wood cut, and will be sold at about one shilling and three pence. Merchants living near a French population, will do well to take a few copies.

BRIEF HINTS FOR MARCH.

Every thing relating to the winter-keeping of cattle must be considered by farmers at the present time as of the first interest. We have heretofore spoken of the great benefits derived from cutting straw and hay. These benefits have been satisfactorily determined by direct experiment; they may perhaps be ascribed not only to the operation of cutting, rendering this food more palatable to the animal, and thus inducing it to eat a sufficiency; but also to its causing the more complete mastication of its food, and of course contributing to the more complete extraction of the nutriment it contains.

If corn stalk fodder is cut up about one quarter of an inch in length, cattle will eat it entirely without any thing else being mixed with it. To accomplish this is of great importance, as the centre stalks which are commonly rejected by cattle, are the sweetest and most nutritious part. If one of the improved cutting machines could be attached to the horse power of a thrashing machine, corn stalks could be cut cheaply and with great facility.

It is a very suitable time during the present month to procure and collect scions for grafting. In some instances, as when the trees from which they are to be taken are ready at hand, cutting them may be deferred till spring; but in most cases, the business should not be put off till then, as the multiplicity of other avocations prevents the attention to it which is requisite; for the greatest care should be taken to procure the best varieties, and the present season of leisure admits of this being done properly. A little additional care may well be taken, when it is remembered that after the scions are once procured, it is as easy to graft and raise good as bad varieties. Early fruit is always exceedingly desirable, coming at a time when, on account of the previous want of fruit, it is so acceptable. We last summer, at the time of wheat harvest, visited the garden of a cultivator of fruit who had taken considerable pains in this respect, and found fully ripe three varieties of apples, two of the pear, two of plums, three of apricots, and one variety of peach just beginning to be ripe. A succession of fruits is also of the first importance. Scions should be carefully labelled at the time they are cut from the tree, if preserving the names correctly is any object. They may be preserved from drying by burying them in earth neither wet nor dry, in a cellar or other suitable place, taking particular care to protect them from the mice.

Before spring opens, the farmer should attend to the performance of whatever can be done now, and which may prevent interruption in the busy season of the year. Wood should be drawn, cut and corded rails split and drawn where needed, corn selected and shelled, and tools repaired.

Where there will probably be a deficiency of tools, it may be now conveniently supplied; and in procuring new tools care should be always taken to get the best, even though they may cost a little more. Where a man can do one third more work by using a good tool, he will soon pay for the additional expense.

A common but expensive mode of raising calves, is to suffer them to suck the cow. The practice which not unfrequently occurs, of suffering calves to run constantly with the cow, should be strongly reprobated, as the milk is drawn irregularly, and not often clean, and the cow is consequently soon spoiled. Where the calf sucks regularly, and the milk is drawn completely from the udder, the expense should deter from the practice, as the milk will be worth more during the season, than the calf in the autumn. But if the calf is soon weaned to obtain the milk, a good animal cannot be obtained, but poor, stunted, ill shaped calves will be produced.

A good way to raise calves, is to let them suck the cow a few days, then let them suck the finger in a pail of new milk until they learn to drink, then mix a small quantity of water with the milk, at the same time adding meal and mixing it, and then gradually substituting water and meal for milk, until the milk is entirely discontinued. Thus sudden changes are avoided, which are always injurious to calves. Warmed skimmed milk may be used in place of new milk, after the first few days.

Calves, as well as other animals, should have a good supply of clean litter.

Milk your cows clean, if you do not wish to spoil them. Sore teats may be prevented by washing them each time before milking with water.

Working cattle and horses must be kept in good order, that they may perform labour efficiently in the spring. It is better to give animals extra feeding, if by doing so they can do twice as much work, and consequently enable the man who drives them to do twice as much.

Clover seed may be sown any time during the month, and when the season of freezing and thawing the soil arrives, they will be gradually worked into the ground by the operation. This is found by repeated experiment to be better than to defer it till the ground becomes settled in spring.

Pruning the raspberry should be performed as soon as the snow is off the ground in the spring. Clear away the old stems, cut away the small shoots, and leave four or five of the largest and strongest of last season's shoots in each bunch, for the next crop. These should be cut off to three or four feet high, and tied to stakes driven in the ground to keep them erect. Early in the spring the ground should be cleared of grass and weeds, and loosened about them.

Grafting plasters may be now made, and we have found the cheapest and by far most convenient material to spread the wax upon, to be brown paper. A sheet may be covered by spreading the wax with a knife, and then cut by scissors into plasters of the required size.

Grafting wax may be made by melting together the following substances:—2 parts tallow, 2 beeswax, 4 rosin; or 3 rosin, 3 beeswax, 1 tallow; or, 4 parts pitch, 4 rosin, 2 beeswax, 1 hog's lard, 1 turpentine.

SEPARATION OF FLOCKS.

Every farmer who has been, or is, a wool grower, is well aware, that much of the weight and quality, and consequently value, of his wool, is depending on the state of his flock in the spring; and of course he is sensible that much care and attention is requisite to bring his flock through in good heart and condition to that season of the year. This care and attention becomes particularly necessary, when the winter like the present has been of unusual severity, totally depriving the sheep of any green food, unless provided them by the owner; and as an additional evil, in most cases completely debarring them from the desired use of water. A knowledge of these facts, however, seems to produce little practical effect on the great majority of our farmers, who with flocks increased to hundreds, pursue the same course they did when their care did not extend to as many dozens; and hence it is usually the case that in the spring severe losses are sustained among all classes of the flock, both by poverty and its usual attendant disease. In obviating these evils, and giving the whole flock what is termed an equal chance, there is no method more effectual than to divide a flock into sections, and keep them separate from each other. In addition to the fact that where large numbers of sheep are fed together, the vigorous and active ewes obtain far more than their proportion of the food intended for the whole flock; their crowding together in large masses renders the air impure, and thus becomes one of the most frequent and fatal sources of disease. In dividing a flock, some farmers recommend a separation of them into four parts—wethers, ewes, lambs, and a hospital department consisting of the weak and sickly of all classes. Such is the course pursued by those extensive and successful wool-growers, the Messrs. Jarvis of New Hampshire; but for all practical purposes, however, at the present season of the year, unless the number in each division would be too great—from fifty to seventy being as many as ought to remain together—a separation of the flock into two parts will be sufficient; one part to consist wethers and ewes, and the other of the lambs and such of the other part as are evidently too weak to share equally with the first division. The lambs, and the weak ones, should there be any such, should have particular attention paid to them, as they will most commonly amply repay by their superior value any extra care bestowed. They should be fed with plenty of fine sweet hay, clover, or rowen, and occasionally receive a few turneps cut fine, a small quantity of oats, and a