

Farmer." He is a thoroughly good fellow and has many humorous stories of life at the O. A. C. in the early eighties.

J. J. FERGUSON, '94.
Sussex, N. B., Feb. 4, '99.

Craining and Feeding the Colt.

There is a prevailing tendency among farmers who breed and rear colts for their own use, to get them into harness as quickly as possible. This mode of management is not harmful if judiciously practised: but, too often, from ignorance of a few underlying principles, it results in materially injuring the normal development, and hence the usefulness, not only of the young animal itself, but also of the horse into which it would develop. As many will be working colts this spring for the first time, a few remarks on some of these principles may be helpful to those who desire to so handle their colts that no injury will result.

When a colt is made to do his first really hard work in the spring, it is generally observed that, under the care of the average farmer, he gradually loses flesh until by the time the season is over the loss is very marked. This results too often from a desire to get more work from the colt than he is capable of doing. Like all other young animals he is tender, and should be handled carefully. In the first place, he is timid and easily excited; and in the second place he is growing, that is, building up bone and tissue in his body. These then call for careful training and skilful feeding.

When the colt is young he is forming habits which will remain with him throughout life. It is important, therefore, if he is to make a good horse, that in his training certain principles be observed, whereby desirable habits may be instilled, and objectionable ones avoided. A gentle colt will make a better horse in every respect than will a fiery, easily excitable one, but especially from the feeder's standpoint. It is well known that excitement causes an increased secretion of urine and also increased perspiring, both of which are injurious to the best development of tissue. Scientists tell us that the former is due to an increase of protein consumption in

the body. If the food supplied is not sufficient to make good this increased consumption, the secretion will take place at the expense of the animal's muscles, and this is of very frequent occurrence throughout the country. Again we are told that too large a proportion of albuminoids in the food also increases protein consumption. If we have, then, to supply a food richer in albuminoids we may increase the evil rather than mitigate it. Then again, as a result of perspiration, the animal drinks more water, and it has been found that excessive drinking of water also increases protein consumption. Furthermore, scientific investigation has shown that normal work does not increase this consumption, but that exhaustion does. If then, excitement and exhaustion are so injurious they should be avoided. How is this to be accomplished? By careful training, which should begin at once, but gradually. The colt should first become accustomed to the bit, then to the collar, and so on, until finally the whole harness may be used. After a few days he may be attached to a light sleigh, and then by gradually increasing the work, he will by spring be in good condition for work on some of the lighter implements of cultivation. But above all things let him never be unnecessarily excited or exhausted.

But while the colt is receiving his training, the feeding must not be overlooked. It should be borne in mind that he is still growing and that to facilitate this growth, mineral and nitrogenous foods are chiefly required. The former is generally sufficient in ordinary feeding stuffs, but the latter is often very deficient. If a colt is to grow and do work at the same time, the food fed must be richer in albuminoids than given to mature animals. Here is where many feeders make a serious mistake. They feed the colt exactly the same as the older horses, and as a consequence, protein consumption goes on at the expense of the young animal's muscles, which is soon shown by his altered condition. There is however, a limit to the proportion of albuminoids which should be fed, for they are rich in nitrogen and nitrogen is a very expensive constituent in fodders. A safe rule to follow in feeding, not only colts, but also