

potato and deserving the praise he gives them, but they will be found not to be invulnerable. The potato disease is almost without doubt established to be caused by a fungus, although some attribute it to an insect. Some potatoes by reason of a strong constitution are less liable to its attacks or better able to resist them, yet all are more or less exposed to the danger, and none are entirely free from it.

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*Written for the Canadian Agriculturist.*

## **DOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE-BOOK.**

Upon each of the following brief notes a large article might easily enough be written, but brevity in such cases is generally more acceptable than extended observations.

### **1.—CATTLE AND PUMPKIN SEED.**

Pumpkin seed have the evil effect of rendering milch cows dry. I was once led to believe that they were good for feeding milch cows, and commenced to feed them out to a cow, at the rate of half a bushel per day. At that time she was giving eight quarts of milk per day, but instead of this increasing the quantity it diminished it. I increased the feed to a bushel per day; still there was a decrease in the quantity of milk until the pumpkins froze up, when she did not give but four quarts a day. The cow did not fatten, and the reason for the decrease in quantity of milk I could in no way account for. I then took out all the seeds, when lo, the change!—instead of five quarts of milk a day I got nearly nine in a short time.

### **2.—SALT FOR HORSES FEET.**

Common salt absorbs moisture from the atmosphere. Here it has been in some instances applied with great success, for keeping the hard bound hoofs of horses moist. The hoofs of some horses become dry and oftentimes crack, thereby rendering them lame, if the animals are driven on hard roads. By bathing the hoof and fetlock joint with a salt brine three times a day lameness from the above cause will be avoided. It is a common practice with some blacksmiths to rasp cracked hoofs in order to render them more tough, but salt brine is far superior to rasping for effecting this object.

### **3.—LOCKJAW IN HORSES.**

Veterinary physicians pursue a method of treatment for this terrible malady which I never could commend. They can do nothing without blistering, clustering, &c., which rather aggravate than relieve the spasms that usually attend it. Death often ensues by this practice, and the disease has been held to be almost incurable. I have discovered a new system of managing this malady, and nearly all the cases in which I have applied it have resulted favourably. My plan consists of hot water packing

similar to that pursued in the "Water Cure" for the *genus homo*. As soon as the horse is observed to be affected with tetanus it is wrapt from head to tail in 4 or 5 pairs of blankets, which have been wrung out of warm water at a temp. of 200° Fahr. Allow the horse perfect rest and quietness for 2 hours, when warm water of above temp. must be poured along its back outside of the blankets, and another like period of repose allowed, and so on until a cure is effected. A thin gruel of flour, oat, or Indian corn meal may be given, when the animal's jaws are capable of being opened. Any farmer can apply this simple method himself.

### **5.—HONEY BEES.**

From horses to honey bees may be "a step from the sublime to the ridiculous," but never mind, I pick my notes as they come.

About honey bees I always recommend that they should be covered up in the winter, giving only a small vent for the air. I find they live on one-third less food by so doing, and are quite as good as when otherwise managed. I may one day give the readers of the *Agriculturist* my entire original method of managing bees.

### **5.—MILK.**

From investigations lately made upon the normal changes in cow's milk, I found that the quantity of fat contained in milk increases (according to the hour it is drawn) from morning till evening, whilst the whole amount of protein substances remain constantly about the same; the quantity of sugar appears to reach a maximum at midday. The specific quantity was always nearly the same, and from that no conclusion can be drawn about the constitution of milk.

Mabrus' method of preserving milk is very good. It consists in putting milk into a metallic vessel, which terminates at the top in a tunnel-shaped leaden tube; above the milk (the tunnel-shaped expansion) is poured a thin layer of oil, to prevent contact with the air; the milk in the vessel is then heated from 167° to 176° Fahr., during about an hour, to expel the air, and, after cooling, the leaden tube pressed together air-tight, then cut off above the point of compression, and soldered together. I have used this method for some time and find excellent.

### **6.—MANURING.**

"The very worst way to apply manure is spread it out on the field and have it exposed. So I once heard a Professor of Agricultural Chemistry say. He argued that this exposure caused a loss of ammonia by evaporation. From my own practical experience and that of my neighbours, who have adopted my plan, I believe this statement highly incorrect. It arises from spreading manure on the surface of a field; on the contrary, if spread and allowed to lie until it is washed with rains, it is more beneficial than to plow it in at once. When