

serious unsoundness in a horse he knows to be good. For myself, I have always had a little leaning to the latter view, and I have always been in favor of stallions and mares in breeding classes being examined for freedom from *hereditary* unsoundness, and not for absolute soundness.

As an instance; I remember some four or five years ago at a show looking over the four thoroughbred horses Quito, Bushbolt, Lee Christy and Gladiator; a confrère, who leaned to the professional as opposed to the horsey side of the question, was of opinion that all four should be condemned as all showed more or less decoration from the firing iron. (1) My reply to him was that I had seen very few good thoroughbred horses really sound after their third or fourth year.

The really sound ones we meet with at shows are those that have been put to the stud because they could not earn a cent on the course.

I think I need not say the V. S. in question was *not* Dr Charles McEachran, all round veterinary surgeon and horseman.

WM. WARDLE, JR. V. S.

The Garden and Orchard.

(CONDUCTED BY MR. GEO. MOORE.)

HOT-BEDS.

The season for making hot-beds is approaching, and we give a few lines as to their making and management. In the first instance some fresh horse manure must be secured, and put in a heap, which should be turned over once or twice before the hot-bed is made, to induce gradual fermentation. In making the bed, care should be taken that the manure is spread equally, layer by layer, over its entire surface. In case of the manure being very dry, it may be advisable to give it a slight sprinkling with water, but this is best avoided if possible, because it has the effect of causing the fermentation to be too quick and the heat to be too great and not to last so long. When the bed is made, it may be allowed to settle for a short time, and then the frame may be placed upon it; a few days may now elapse to let the first vapour arising from the bed escape, and then the soil may be placed on it. The soil should be rich, light loam, well sifted and levelled at an equal depth of four or five inches all over the bed, not pressed firmly except round the edges and in the corners to prevent any heat from escaping there. After a day or two, the crop may be sown as near as possible to the surface, the depth being regulated by the size of the seed. Germination will take place and cuttings will root more rapidly when the heat of the soil is about 12 degrees greater than the atmosphere above it, therefore, to insure success, it is well to be provided with two thermometers, one to tell the temperature of the soil and the other that of the air in the frame.

To keep the temperature of the hot-bed equal, in its interior, a plan was recommended by Mr. Wright, late President of the Royal Horticultural Society: A wooden spout or iron tube about 1½ inch in diameter is placed in the manure, going through it from the front to the back of the bed and open at both ends; into this tube are inserted three others, three fourths of an inch in diameter, and these rise perpendicularly through the manure and soil and discharge the heated air which ascends from the larger tube or spout, these tubes can be opened or closed as occasion requires and

(1) Our own two "Irish Birdcatcher" colts were fired at two year-old as a preventive, that grand stallion, winner of the "Chester Cup", about 1842, having suspicious hocks. The colts never showed the slightest unsoundness, though we drove them in London till they were respectively, ten and eleven years old, and then sold the pair for £150. ED.