cause, that they were incapable of performing their usual work; but after clipping would rapidly regain their lost condition, and perform twice as much labor. There is no stronger argument in favor of clipping that can be adduced than this, for if a horse is not kept comfortable he will not maintain his condition. The loss of heat, and too great strain on the fluids of the body are not, in our opinion, the only harm that result from undue sweating in cold weather, but in addition there is a constant sense of discomfort experienced until the coat becomes dry, which is frequently some hours after work; and all this time the unfortunate animal is suffering.

Certainly something can be done by endeavoring to rub the sweating animal dry, but anyone who has attempted this on a horse with a winter coat, knows that it is a Herculean task, and one likely to be very frequently neglected. A clipped horse, if much exerted, sweats even on a very cold day, but when he is brought into the stable he can be thoroughly dried in a few minutes, and have his blankets put on, making him perfectly comfortable, and capable of enjoying his rest and food, and consequently, profiting from them. What a marked difference between the long, thick, wet-coated horse, and the dry, short-coated one, with his warm blankets! It is this latter condition of comfort and thrift, that the so-called "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals" is trying to do away with. This illustrates how far misdirected zeal may go astray. It may be said, why not blanket the long, wet-coated horse, and keep him warm and comfortable?

It is true he may be kept from becoming chilled by blanketing, but he cannot be thoroughly dried in this way, consequently he is still subjected to the *very relaxing effects* of a wet coat, the injuriousness of which is clearly evidenced by loss of condition. Clipping, however, though most beneficial under some circumstances, is liable to abuse. For instance, the man who clips his horse and does not blanket him warmly, is only receiving a portion of the benefit to be derived from the practice. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon, that the body should be kept *very warm* with blankets, in order to derive the full benefit of clipping. We have heard the absurd excuse made for not blanketing warmly in the stable, that the horse so blanketed is apt to shiver while being hitched up in a cold place. It is forgotten that this is only momentary discomfort when compared to the constant exposure to insufficient warmth in the stable.

We have heard horse owners express disappointment at the condition of their horses, and on inquiry find they grudge the expense of a few dollars for sufficient clothing, only using one light blanket on each horse, when they should have at least two warm ones. Discretion also requires to be used in the choice of subjects for clipping. It should not be done in an indiscriminate and wholesale manner. Horses used for slow work, or those driven fast for only short distances, and that make frequent stops, are seldom benefited by removing the coat. Those used for driving purposes, that only get an occasional trip and don't seem to suffer any loss of condition, it is not so necessary to clip. Some horses, particularly well bred, fine-coated ones, are often not benefited much.

By keeping some horses in good condition, by good feed, regular work and grooming, and by attending to blanketing as soon as the weather gets at all cool, the necessity for clipping may sometimes be avoided. In our opinion, however, in any case in which a horse's work causes him to sweat freely, and it takes him long to dry up after work, it is a most humane and beneficial act, and in addition, is true economy, as it promotes condition and increases an animal's ability for work.

'tis better to delay clipping until well into November, if possible, for then the coat does not grow so quickly, and if blanketing is well attended to, there will be no further occasion for clipping again during the winter.

Questions and Answers.

If there is any subject bearing upon this or any other department of our JOURNAL upon which you desire information, write us, and we shall be pleased to intrust your query to competent persons and publish the answer thereto in our earliest issue, and if an immediate answer is required, such will be gladly given if a postage stamp is enclosed. Write the queries on paper detached from all matters of business, sign your full name and address as a guarantee of good faith, and write only on one side of the sheet. We request the assistance of our readers in making this a useful and interesting feature, and we shall always be pleased to hear from any either desiring information or obliging enough to give it for others, upon any topic within our field.

Injured Sow—N. W. T., Pincher Creek, Alta, N. W. T.—I have a thirteen month old Berkshire grade sow which experienced considerable difficulty in farrowing her first litter. In consequence of the delay only three out of the litter of eight have survived. Owing to this fact several of the sow's teats have become spoiled. I wish to learn whether this sow will be of any further value for breeding purposes or no? [It is not an unusual matter for sows to lose the use for a season of some of their teats, but these generally become alright again after the next farrowing. For breeding purposes the sow will be serviceable. It is not a trouble likely to be permanent, nor is it one that will be transmitted to the progeny. -Ed.]

Patella Displaced—Subscriber, Grenfell, Assa.—This occurred in the case of a filly now two years old, by being tramped upon at the stifle joint. When the swelling subsided it was out. Bandages and liniments were used in vain. First summer and winter it was out most of the time, and the second summer it was in place the greater part of the time, but latterly it has been snapping in and out with every step. During the second winter it was in all the time except when lying down, and so it continued through the early part of the summer. Since she became fat and flabby on grass, it has been snapping in and out occasionally. Is it likely to become permanently right through natural maturity and strength? Should anything be done? If so, what? [As the filly gains age, the chances are she will get strong in the joint. It would be well to apply a cantharadine blister two or three times, at intervals of one month. She should be well fed and allowed gentle exercise.]

Curing of Heaves—G. P.—I have a young horse that has the heaves. I would like very much to know the best treatment that you could advise. [Restrict the quantity of bulky food. Feed good hay in moderate quantities; keep the bowels moderately active with laxative food, such as bran mash and roots, or boiled food, given two or three times a week at night. Give tablespoonful doses of Fowler's solution of arsenic in the food twice a day for a week or two at a time. May repeat the arsenic for a second term, after an interval of a week. Ground linseed in quantities of a pound a day is also beneficial.]

Treatment of Scratches—F. A. F., Wardsville, Ont.—Please favor me with your opinion as to the best treatment of scratches. [The treatment for scratches depends upon the stage of the trouble. In a recent case or one in which the skin is sore, and inflamed, a poultice should be applied for from twelve to twenty-four hours, in order to relieve the soreness. If the skin is raw, apply a couple of times a day the following lotion: one drachm sugar of lead, half a drachm of white vitriol (sulphate of zinc), to one pint of water. When the skin is dry and inclined to crack, use oxide of zinc ointment, or glycerine and carbolic acid, in the proportions of eight parts of the former to two of the latter; avoid washing the parts as much as possible, but when they become scroofy, scaly and scabby, occasionally wash them well with lukewarm water and castile soap, removing all scabs and scales. Rest is almost imperative in the majority of cases, until cracking of the skin ceases, then the skin should be softened with glycerine before the animal is used, to avoid its cracking again. If the roads are damp and muddy, and particularly if it is cold, avoid exposing the animal to these injurious influences. Many people think the constitutional treatment is of more importance than the local, which is a mistake in the majority of cases. If, however, the subject is suffering from some derangement of the digestive organs, or the blood is out of order, a purgative is generally beneficial. Attention should also be paid to the diet, avoiding that of a too stimulating character.]

The Farm.

Lucerne.

Those who have found lucerne or alfalfa a success or failure will be ready to accept the conclusions which the Washington Department have advanced. These concisely summed up, show that the drawbacks to alfalfa are: it is not easily established; it is less hardy than clover; if allowed to grow too long, its stocks become hard and woody; except in dry regions, cattle cannot safely be pastured on it; it requires peculiar treatment to make good hay. On the other hand its merits are: when established it does not run out; it withstands drouth much better than clover; it grows rapidly and may be cut early in the season; it gathers a large amount of nitrogen from the air, as well as from the soil, and is, therefore, very valuable as a fertilizing crop; it furnishes several large crops of green fodder each season; when properly cured it makes excellent hay; it is relished and digested by all farm animals, and is an excellent flesh and milk producer; it makes muscle rather than fat, and is, therefore, valuable to use with corn and other fat-producing crops to make a well-balanced ration for cattle.

Wood-ashes.

On the question of wood-ashes Dr. Hoskins makes an interesting statement. "*About 50 bushels to the* acre of ashes, averaging 5 to 6 per cent. of potash, which will grow clover, when turned under the second season, will give 25 bushels of wheat, where 10 bushels of rye would have made a large yield without ashes, and *where clover would have made no considerable growth.*" This fully endorses what we had to to say in our last number, in respect to our exports of ashes. Ashes are valuable, not only for clover, but are of special worth for the orchard and vineyard. *Even if they are leached, do not waste them, for they* yet contain valuable plant food, though not in nearly the same quantity that unleached ashes do. Potash is an absolutely necessary element of plant food and the cheapest form of it, that the farmer can use, *is that contained in wood-ashes.*

Save the Liquids.

It is not generally known that in comparison with solid excrement, the urine is much more richer, and is also more valuable, pound for pound, than solid manure, because of the fact that it is really a solution of nourishing plant food. The urine from horses is six times more valuable than their solid excrement, and the liquid manure from cattle is four times more valuable than the solid. Under common circumstances the urine may be nearly all saved with the abundant use of straw, and completely so by the additional use of gypsum in dusting the stable floor. As it is far from good policy to "save at the bung to waste at the spigot," care should be taken when the liquids are all saved in the stable, that they are not filtered out of the manure pile into the nearest creek. To do its allotted work, a plant must be fed with nourishing food, which can most profitably be obtained through the agency of domestic animals. To give a crop manure that has been filtered by fall and spring rains, and blackened by the summer's heat, is exactly similar to throwing away the tea and offering one the steeped and insipid leaves.

The More Valuable Grasses.

Of the many grasses that will grow in this climate, the number of them which are very valuable is not very large. A knowledge of the more valuable of them is necessary to successful farming, as also of their special adaptations. To impart this knowledge, in some measure at least, is the object of this paper.

Timothy is perhaps the very best grass that we have. It grows well on almost any kind of soil that will produce fairly well, but is best adapted to loams that are rich in humus, and least adapted to sandy and gravelly soils lying upon a shallow subsoil. It sells well in any market when properly saved, and no grass has yet been introduced that will equal it as a food for horses. It grows well along with clover, especially the second and third years after sowing, and is easily cured in an ordinary season. The seed is also cheaply purchased in most seasons, and starts readily on properly prepared soils. Timothy does not stand the drought very well, as its roots do not penetrate deeply, but it is uncommonly hardy in its resistance of the adverse influences of frost and the cold winds of winter. It is peculiarly adapted to prairie