

were stated, and a valuable suggestion made at one of the conversational meetings of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. S. Walker remarked that he had used tan, sawdust, litter, leaves, &c., but he believed short, newly mown grass one of the best things,—he had mulched a great deal with it, and found it laid close to the soil. He also recommended the succulent weeds of the garden or roadside. He found tan and sawdust to be useful merely by retaining the moisture. D. Haggerston had found sedge from salt marshes best, particularly if cut short; a good watering upon it made it lay close to the ground. He found it excellent for strawberries. He had also found tree leaves excellent, if they had partly decayed, so as not likely to be blown away. Old hot bed materials made of leaves and manure had proved particularly fine. Several spoke of the ill effects of too deep a mulching, but we think the more common error is in spreading the covering of the soil too thinly.

Country Gentleman.

CAREFUL CULTIVATION.

It is of no use to make a garden, plant beds, set out trees, bushes, flowering plants, &c., and then suffer the interest in these things to abate, after the first excitement in procuring them has passed off. Many err, egregiously, in this way. They saw, last year, handsome trees, luscious fruits or beautiful flowers, in some person's garden or yard, and resolved to have the same sort this year for their own. Or they have read in the newspapers, or noticed in a Nursery Catalogue, cert in things described which had awakened an interest in their behalf. So, they send off for some choice Apple trees, or dwarf Pear trees, or hardy Grape Vines, or flowering shrubbery, and when they arrive, laudable pains are taken to prepare the soil well and set them out in good shape. For the first year, perhaps, they will be properly attended to. The ground will be kept loose and free from weeds, and the plant protected from high winds, ranging cattle and vagrant boys. But nature must have her own time, and it takes perhaps years before the fruit shows itself. In the meantime, the novelty has passed away, the excitement abated; the trees are neglected; the earth around them becomes swarded and bound; the lice, caterpillars and vermin are allowed to take possession; the snows have broken down a limb or two; the high winds have given the trees a lurch and half turned its roots out; the patience of the owner is exhausted, and he concludes his original outlay was a waste, and the flourishing accounts he once read, were a humbug. So he blames the newspaper, the catalogue, the nurseryman, and every one but the right one—himself. He is the one at fault. He has violated the

wants of nature, and his shrubbery cannot stand rebellion against her laws. The fruit never appears; or if it does, it is not what was expected of it, and what it might have been,—all because the tree which produced it had been stunted, neglected, starved.

Whatever is worth purchasing is worth taking care of; and it is so ordered in this world that without care we can have nothing. Young trees should have a rich mellow soil; they should be supported by a stake; the ground should be cultivated for some years around it; the aphids and other vermin should be washed off; the diseased or broken limbs should be removed, and the cattle and boys should be kept away from them. With this care, all one's original expectations will be realized in due time. So of pear trees—so of cherry—so of plum—so of grape vines—so of gooseberries, currants, and indeed of everything else in the orchard or garden. *Take care of your things and they will repay you;* neglect them, and then blame, not the nurseryman or newspaper editor, but yourself alone.—*Rural Intelligence.*

SUMMER STABLED HORSES.

Horses which have nothing but dry hay and grain all the year through, must suffer both in comfort and condition. Like other domestic animals they relish variety in their food; and the tendency of such variety to improve the condition of animals has been so often noticed as to have passed into the common proverb—"Change of pasture makes fat cattle."

Truths of this kind seem to be very generally forgotten by some of those who have occasion to keep their horses in the stable throughout the whole year. Many seem to forget or ignore the fact, that when dry hay and unbruised grain may be the handiest and least troublesome feed for their horses, these useful servants are thereby curtailed of comfort and prevented from enjoying that amount of good health and of ability to endure labor, which they might obtain by a somewhat different mode of feeding.

Various methods might be employed to secure some variety in the food of summer-stabled horses according to the varying circumstances of their owners. Roots, corn for boiling, grasses cut green, mashies, and things might be occasionally introduced as agreeable and wholesome changes. At the present time, when hay and grain are so high, economy as well as the comfort of the horses might be consulted by some occasional change of food, and where nothing can conveniently be had but hay and grain, something desirable might be affected, both as regards expense and the health and comfort of horses, by cutting the hay quite fine and steaming it occasionally, and by grinding or bruising the grain. Hay cut and grain ground will go much farther than in the natural state. We know that a horse may be kept in good condition on a daily ration

of three pecks of cut hay and four quarts of Indian meal; and if the yearly amount of such an allowance is calculated it will be found that it requires about a bushel of corn per week, or fifty-two bushels per year, and one ton of hay (which should be of the very best quality) for feeding a horse during a whole year. *This is economical;* and if boiling water should be poured over a part of the hay occasionally and the meal with a little salt added to it, it would give a variety and degree of succulence to the otherwise dry feed, which would make it more relishing and wholesome.

We think this hint, if practically applied, will prove of service both to man and beast—both to horses and their owners. We may add here, being forgotten in its proper place, that horses will sometimes prefer boiled turnips or ruta bagas to raw ones, and meal will make them still more acceptable.—*Country Gentleman.*

THE ONION MAGGOT.

Messrs. Editors:—In this vicinity, for several years past, our onion crop has been a total failure, in consequence of the depredations committed by the maggot. The result has been to give up the attempt to raise them, and but few of our gardeners in this vicinity have sown the seed, considering an attempt to raise them so much time thrown away. But a complete and sure remedy was accidentally discovered by one of my neighbors last season. He had sown a bed of onions, and they appeared to be doing well, till one day when they had grown to about three inches high, he discovered that they were drooping and dying; and from that day forward they continued to diminish, until it was evident, that unless some preventive was applied they must all share the same fate. Ashes, dust, soot, &c., were applied, but with no beneficial results. One by one the plants disappeared, until, as a last attempt to save them, (although it was applied with little faith) the contents of a tub containing the liquid of thoroughly steeped tobacco, in which he had been washing his sheep and lambs to kill their ticks, was poured upon the bed. The insects ceased their ravages at once. The plants revived, and an abundant crop of onions was raised. This is the only maggot exterminator I have heard of, that has proved efficacious, and this one that may be relied on as a sure cure, if bountifully applied.

JAMES FELLOWS.

Salisbury, N. H.—*Boston Cultivator.*

"Grouting" is a simple operation by which the roots of plants taken up in dry weather are coated over with a moist and (sometimes) fertilizing substance, which prevents their dying from excessive evaporation, and gives an impulse to their growth until their existence is rendered certain by a shower of rain. When properly done, it is of great utility, rendering the gardener or planter almost independent of the "seasons."