

a less bushy tail. They were much like those lately observed in Mexico, and I have never seen such dogs elsewhere. Their color was a whitish tawny, like that of the Eskimo dog.

Confirmatory of these observations is the following note by J. L. Wortman in the report of the Geological Survey of Indiana for 1884:—"During extended travel in Western United States, my experience has been the same as that recorded by Dr. Coues. It is by no means uncommon to find mongrel dogs among many of the Western Indian tribes, notably among Umatillas, Bannocks, Shoshones, Arapahoes, Crows, Sioux, which to one familiar with the color, physiognomy, and habits of the coyote, have every appearance of blood relationship, if not, in many cases, this animal itself in a state of semi-domestication. The free inter-breeding of these animals, with a perfectly fertile product, has been so often repeated to me by thoroughly reliable authorities, and whose opportunities for observation were ample, that I feel perfectly willing to accept Dr. Coues' statement."

To these statements may be added those of Mr. Milton B. Peirce, published in *Forest and Stream* for June 25th, 1885, as follows:—"Hybrid wolves have always been very common along our Western frontiers. I have seen several of them, sired both by dogs and wolves, and all I have seen resembled wolves rather than dogs." It is to be hoped that our mammalogists may collect and examine this subject, particularly the skulls and skins of numerous specimens, both of dogs and wolves, and the hybrids between them. Further observations are also needed as to the fertility of the hybrids.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN STABLES.

Spirit of the Farm.

When we consider for a moment the number of diseases of a contagious nature to which horses are subject, and the careless manner in which they are exposed to the same, it is astonishing that we do not have epidemics of this kind oftener with our horses. To fully appreciate the risk that is incurred, we need only visit the city or country towns on court days or Saturdays, and see the number of horses of all kinds and conditions that stand tied and almost touching each other in every available space about town, to say nothing of the numbers that are packed together in the public stables. The latter, as a rule, are much safer from coming in contact with disease than those outside, for no sensible stable-man would admit an animal inside of his stable that is affected with any kind of contagious disease if he knew it; but it often happens that neither the owner of the horse nor the stable-man is aware of the disease until it is too late to remedy the evil.

Contagious diseases of a most virulent character may be perpetuated for an indefinite length of time by feeding horses in stalls where the disease has existed. Of this kind we may mention glanders and Spanish itch especially. Either of those most fatal disorders may be conveyed to other horses by feeding in a stall where horses suffering with them have been kept. To destroy the virus, take a pint of sulphuric acid and put it in a bucket of water, and with an old mop wash all parts of the stall, especially the trough and manger, as well as the sides of the stall. Then put a few pounds of stick sulphur in an old iron pot, and, stopping the stable as well as possible, burn it, so as to fumigate the stable thoroughly, taking due precautions against fire. It is a good plan to set the pot in a tub of water; then whitewash with lime and carbolic acid. This will protect them thoroughly.

The Shorthorn cow Thorndale Rose 24th, for which Mr. H. Y. Attrill of Goderich, Ont., paid 500gs. at the Audley End public sale, June 26th, and her heifer calf, has reached the stock farm of her owner.

BONES DISSOLVED WITH ASHES.

Thomas D. Baird, Greenville, Ky., in Farm and Garden.

In dissolving bones with ashes, there are several things to be considered to prove successful. The ashes must be good; those of oak and hickory I find the best. Some say that wood grown on low land will not make soap, consequently will not dissolve bones. As I have always burned wood from off ridge land, I cannot answer for this. The ashes must be kept moist, just so they will not drain. They should be kept from freezing. If suffered to freeze, the process ceases. The smaller the bones the quicker they will dissolve.

This is the way I have managed my bones for the last two years. As fast as ashes can be had, they are put in barrels, the bottom is covered with about six inches deep in ashes, then a layer of bones, then a layer of ashes, then a layer of bones, and so on, until nearly full, and then finished with a layer of ashes. I use two-thirds ashes to one of bone. The ashes are kept wet all the time with soap-suds or chamber lye. When one vessel is filled, I then put in another until I have all the bones used. If I still have ashes, they are barrelled away until near spring, then they are put in a hopper as if used in making soap. When I wish to use the bones, and I find them not sufficiently dissolved, I put ashes and bones in a large kettle; the ashes in the hopper are leached and the lye put on the bones and ashes, and the whole mass boiled until the bones are entirely consumed. The mass is now in a doughy state; this is mixed with loam enough to make it dry as wanted. It is now ready for use.

When lye is not to be had, this mass is boiled with water, but it is not so good and takes longer to dissolve the bones.

I have heard it said that caustic lime would dissolve bones as well as wood-ashes, but I have not tried it, and cannot speak from experience.

ADVANTAGES OF UNDERDRAINING.

It prevents drought.

It furishes an increased supply of atmospheric fertilizers.

It warms the lower portions of the soil.

It accelerates the disintegration of the mineral matters in the soil.

It causes a more even distribution of nutritious matters among those parts of the soil traversed by roots.

It proves the mechanical texture of soil.

It causes the poisonous excrementitious matters of plants to be carried out of reach of their roots.

It prevents the grasses from running out.

It enables the surface soil to be deepened by removing excess of water.

It renders soil earlier in the spring.

It prevents the throwing out of grain in winter.

It allows works to be done sooner after rains.

It keeps off the effects of cold weather longer in the fall.

It prevents the formation of acetic and other acids, which induce the growth of sorrel and other weeds.

It prevents, in a great measure, the evaporation of water, and the consequent abstraction of heat from the soil.

It admits fresh quantities of water from rains, etc., which are always more or less imbued with the fertilizing gases of the atmosphere, to be deposited among the absorbent parts of soil, and given up to the necessities of plants.

It prevents the formation of so hard a crust on the surface of the soil as is customary on heavy lands.

It prevents in a great measure grass and winter grains from being winter-killed.

SILAGING FIELD CORN.

New England Farmer.

When the silo excitement first began to rage in this country, under the teachings of Dr. Bailey and others, it was thought necessary to grow corn of some immense variety specially for ensilage, and "ensilage corn" to mean corn grown for fodder exclusively. Some of the conservative farmers have objected to the silo system, because they have found that where they have devoted large space to the growth of fodder corn, they have sadly missed the grain which was formerly raised under the old system.

Mr. Whitney, of Williston, Vt., after trying ensilage corn and field corn in comparison, decided that the field corn must not be given up. The farmers near the canning establishments have considered themselves specially favored, because they could sell the ears when in milk, and then have the fodder left in the very best condition for ensilage.

Mr. N. B. Douglas, of Sherburn, has gained a point the present season by successfully curing common field corn, and getting the fodder into the silo while in its green state. He picks the ears when scarcely past the milk, or just as the grain begins to glaze, and throws them in small heaps of a bushel or less in rows through the field, leaving the husks on. The fodder is then cut and stored in the silo just as if grown specially for that purpose. The ears are left in the field to cure till dry enough to husk and store in narrow cribs built in the open air. After a rain the heaps are sometimes stirred a little to aid the curing. This can be done quite rapidly with a fork. A portion of the corn was stored in the husks while yet green, in unused out-buildings, being laid about a foot deep on the floors, but it did not cure nearly as rapidly or as well as that left in the field where sun and air had full access to it.

Mr. Douglas is much pleased with his experiment, and thinks this is one of the last silo questions to be solved. He raised 700 baskets of ears on seven acres, and estimates 50 tons of fodder in the silo.

Putting the fodder in the silo saves all the labor of stocking, with the advantage of being at once safely stored and out of the way. The silo not being filled by the corn some forty tons of apple pomace from a cider mill has been recently put upon the top, both for weight and to be used as ensilage in the winter, pomace being found to be an excellent and cheap cattle food for milch cows.

Mr. Douglas is cultivating forty five acres, and has fodder enough on hand to winter fifty head of cattle. He will sell considerable of his best hay at \$20 or more per ton, and use the proceeds for buying cotton seed meal or other grain to use with his cheaper fodder materials.

CATTLE IN SCOTLAND.

The Aberdeen *Free Press* gives a table which shows the remarkable fall in the prices of Scotch Polled cattle since 1882, in comparison with Shorthorns, which have been steady in the north of Scotland. The tables are:—

	Number.	Average.	Total.
1882—Polled.....	341	\$314	\$107,292
Shorthorns.....	547	131	72,048
1883—Polled.....	242	242	58,590
Shorthorns.....	481	146	70,489
1884—Polled.....	773	183	141,637
Shorthorns.....	762	137	105,249
1885—Polled.....	585	128	113,740
Shorthorns.....	720	122	88,322

It will be seen that the numbers of cattle offered have increased year by year, but that this increase in Shorthorns has not affected the prices, while in Polled the reverse is the case. In 1885, 885 cattle only realized \$6,500 more than 341 did in 1882.