# c., 1885

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## DEC., 1885

#### ADVOCATE. FARMER'S THE

#### **Causes** of Colic.

The horse has a comparatively small stomach which is adapted to the use of concentrated food, and this should be mixed with bulky or fibrous food, says the Nat. Live Stock Journal. In a state of nature horsez live upon grass and its seed, but the seed is not eaten alone. It requires bulk as well as nutriment. The bulky or fibrous food must be eaten with the concentrated, so as to separate the particles of meaand render the mass as it goes into the stomach porous. It is quite easy to see why the stomach should be in a porous or spongy condition. The gastric or digesting fluid must circulate through this mass of food in order to effect digestion. If corn be ground into fine meal and moistened it becomes very plastic, and adheres in a solid mass, almost impenetrable to any liquid. Now when a horse masticates corn meal so that he can swallow it, saliva must have saturated it, and it becomes a plastic, adhesive mass; and being in this condition in the stomach of the horse, the gastric juice cannot penetrate it, and the muscular movements of the stomach cannot break this adhesive mass so as to allow the gastric juice to circulate through it, and therefore it cannot be digested. And it is for this reason that whole corn, or that very coarsely ground, may be fed to a horse with less danger of colic or other diseases, induced by a feverish stomach, because, in the form of cracked kernels, it cannot adhere in a solid, plastic mass, and what is not digested will pass away in the droppings. But in this case of the plastic dough, the gastric juice only comes in contact with the outside, and the mass remains so long in the stomach as to create more or less fever, and cause colic or other disease.

### Fresh Air in the Horse Barn.

The importance of supplying an abundance of fresh air for the horse barn is generally admitted, though frequently neglected. A very striking example of its importance was furnished by experiments conducted in the French cavalry service, and the results of an increased allotment of space for each horse. Previous to the change, the space allowed to each animal was 700 to 900 feet of air. Under this regulation the deaths from glanders-and this is espedeserving of attention at this timeaveraged fifty-one in each one thousand head during ten years; in the same period the deaths from all diseases reached ninety-four in one thousand. The change in space referred to increased that allotted to each animal to 1,800 feet, with the result that during the next period of ten years the deaths from glanders were reduced to ten in each one thousand head; and from all diseases, from ninety-four. as above "stated, down to twenty seven in each thousand. Observation has shown similar results in the case of all live stock. - [Nat. Live-Stock Journal. When colts are snedding their teeth, the soft structure behind the upper front teeth will sometimes be found red and swollen. This condition, called lampas, is also found in older horses and is caused by digestive disorders. The affection may be detected by the awkward manner in which the animal takes its food, occasioned by the pain, when the tender palate may be seen projecting beyond the teeth. Feeding hard, unground grain has often had a beneficial effect; but the usual local treatment is to scarify the part with a knife or lancet, making the wound extend half an inch back from the teeth. In some instances an astringent lotion is applied. If the patient is suffering from costiveness, give a purgative.

### Sorrespondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.-1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. If an answer is specially requested by mail, a stamp must be enclosed. Unless of general interest, no questions will be answered through the ADVOCATE, as our space is very limited. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Matter for publication should be marked "Printers' MS." on the cover, the ends being open, in which case the postage will only be 1c per 4 ounces. 5. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed. 6. No questions will be answered except those pertaining purely to agriculture or agricultural matters.

Correspondents wanting reliable information relating to diseases of stock must not only give the symptoms as fully as possible, but also how the animal has been fed and otherwise treated or managed. In case of suspicion of hereditary diseases, it is necessary also to state whether or not the ancestors of the affected animal have had the disease or any predisposition to it.

In asking questions relating to manures, it is necessary to describe the nature of the soil on which the intended manures are to be applied; also the

nature of the crop. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

of correspondents. "How Should Farmers Spend their Even-ing of draw a dark and gloomy picture of farm life. G. R. drew a dark and gloomy picture of farm life. If it possible that in as fine a Province for all sorts of grain, fruits and vegetables, that the tiller of the soil has to labor from daylight till dark, with no time to improve the mind, if he wants to keep out of the Sheriff's hands? He says few farmers have to me if some of us would read more useful books on farring, probably we could get along with less to me if some of us would read more useful books on farring, probably we could get along with less mers' houses and see how much reading matter they get in a year. Maybe the local newspaper, and that have no inclination for reading? Go to some far-mers' houses and see how much reading matter they get in a year. Maybe the local newspaper, and the thing to amuse them, and at the same time useful thing to amuse them, and at the same time useful thing to amuse them, and at the same time useful thing to amuse them, and at the same time useful thing to amuse them, and then have them doing formes of a habit than a matter of necessity, and it is nore of a habit than a matter of necessity, and it is nore of a habit than a matter of necessity, and it is nore of a habit than a matter of necessity, and it is nore of a habit than a matter of necessity, and it is nore of a habit than a matter of necessity, and it is nore of a habit than a matter of necessity, and it is nore of a shabit than a matter of necessity and it is nore of a shabit than a matter of necessity and it is nore of a shabit than a matter of necessity and it is nore of a shabit than a matter of necessity and it is nore of a would Farmers Spend their Evenings?'' divery well till describing the young farmers' man-ners in company and at the table. When a person hers in company and at the table. When a person is food into his mouth,'' appears more is food into his mouth,'' appears more is is food into his mout

whether you wish merely to keep the stock over winter, or to fatten them. As it does not pay to keep animals without obtaining some increase, we presume you wish to fatten them. In this case the less oat straw you feed the better, and the hay must be of first-class quality, if your object is to obtain profitable results. You will find that some of your animals will eat more than others, and the same animal will have a better appetite one day than another. On an average, however, a 900-lb. animal will consume daily 18 to 20 lbs. of your hay and straw mixture, with 10 or 12 lbs. of oats. In this proportion you may feed all that the animals will eat. Cows in calf may be fed less oats, but the quantity should be increased towards calving time. If you can get bran or oil-cake at reasonable prices, it would pay you to substitute 3 or 4 pounds of it daily for the same quantity of oats, and a few roots would make an excellent substitute for a portion of the coarse food, especially for a change. Feed regularly three times per day.]

an excellent substitute for a portion of the coarse food, especially for a change. Freed regularly three times per day.] Trems from Manitoba.=We have been favored with a beautiful season in this locality. The fore part of haying was pretty wet, but it cleared off and farmers got their hay saved in good condition. The grain was cut and stacked with scarcely any rain. Threshers are now busily engaged in threshing. Grain is turning out well—wheat, 20 to 40 bushels per acre; oats, 30 to 50 bushels; barley about the same as oats. Prices are very good; 70 cts. have been paid for wheat, 50 to 70 being the average; barley and oats, 20 to 30 cts. There has been a great deal of grain frozen this year, so that it is of no use; many fields have not been cut at all. In our neigh-borhood we came off safely, no grain having been frozen. I think this is as good a part of country as is in the Province. It is favorable for all kinds of farming. There is excellent feed for cattle during summer, and plenty of hay can be out for winter feed. Our land is what is known as brush land; it is slower to make a farm, but the land is the best. Nearly six years have passed away since I came to this Province. It was then a vast field of bush as far as you could see, and not a house to be seen. But now I can count hundreds of buildings from my own door. I can see the Village of Neepawa, which is about nine or ten miles away. The brush is dis-appearing very fast, owing to the great brush fires in appearing very fast, wring to the great brush fires in the spring, so that it looks quite cheerful now, and I think in a few years we will have a fine country. Here. The M. & N. W. R. R. runs through our centre from forst. Although we are encumbered with lands are all taken up, but there is a lot of H. R. lands are all taken up, but there is a lot of this pouth-west to north-east for nearly one hundred of grain. The wheat that took first prize in Minne-dors this fall is equally as good as that which took first prize at the Central Exhibition, in On

[We thank our correspondent for his interesting letter, and we hope he will write to us again. We hope his remarks will stimulate farmers in other

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RPENTER. Winona **Cutting Fodder for Stock.**—As you are an authority on agricultural matters, I take the liberty to write, asking your opinion regarding long vs. cut fodder. What saving ought there to be by cutting, and how many feeds ought horned cattle to get to one of long? Fodder is very scarce here, and being an out-of-the-way place, is very hard to get. I will be short of hay, but have a quantity of oat straw, and was thinking of investing in a power straw-cutter, power being on hand, and mixing with ground oats. What quantity of each should be used, cut straw and ground oats? And what quantity should each animal receive? T. J. T., Cumberland Mills, Que.

[Fodders, when fed without grains, do not usually require cutting. However, if you wish to feed hay and straw, your object being to have the straw eaten up clean, it is then better to cut both and mix thoroughly. When hay is fed alone, it is not necessary to cut it, but if grains form part of the ration, it is usually better for most cattle that the former be cut and mixed with the latter. Your ration of oat straw, hay and oats would not be a paying one for fattening, but would keep the animals in good condition. The mixture would depend entirely upon

parts of the great Northwest to send us a few lines occasionally. Bear in mind that we want truthful statements on the bright and the dark side of Nor'west life.]

Fish C ulture-In answer to numerous inquiries with reference to fish culture in Canada, we inform our readers that the Government have a large number of hatcheries about which a report has just been issued, and will be sent to any person on application to the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Ottawa The Government, however, have no carp fry for distribution, and in order to ascertain if such could be procured from the Fisheries Department at Washington, we wrote to Spencer F. Baird, Commissioner of Fisheries, Washingson, D. C., U. S.,

and received the following reply:-"As a matter of international reciprocity, and in acknowledgment of similar courtesies extended to us by foreign Governments, it has been been our custom, whenever practicable, to comply with re-quests for either eggs or fish from individuals or so-cieties of such countries when these are transmitted to us through official channels. In the case of our immediate neighbors, Canada and Mexico, we have heretofore been glad to comply with all requests for carp made by individuals, when such fish are de-sired for pond culture; and this we shall continue to do unless the applications should multiply to such an extent as to make a serious drain upon our supply. It will give me pleasure, therefore, to respond to occasional applications made by persons in Canada." and received the following reply:-