

a small quantity of bran regularly, mixed with the oats when they are fed whole. This is probably good practice, but I prefer giving the bran by itself. It makes a variety, and the horse relishes it, for he likes a change of food occasionally as well as other animals. In winter, or any time when a little grass or other green food cannot be obtained, it is good practice to feed a few roots, as a small turnip or a carrot or two, every day. In changing the food, as from hay to straw or from straw to hay, from one variety of grain to another, or in commencing to feed grain to a horse not accustomed to it—in fact, any change should be made gradually. Sudden or violent changes are very productive of digestive derangements. Many serious, and often fatal, cases of acute indigestion are caused by what may be called mistaken kindness on the part of the owner. For instance, it is not unusual for an owner, who contemplates making a long journey with a horse unaccustomed to driving, to give him a double ration of grain and then start on the journey. The extra quantity of grain in the stomach, combined with the extra exertion, causes an attack of acute indigestion, which, unless promptly and energetically treated, will probably prove fatal. In such cases it is better to feed the animal rather less grain than usual, and then, in order to compensate him for the extra tax upon the system, feed more liberally for a few days after the journey. It is dangerous to subject a horse to hard or fast work immediately after eating a full ration of grain. At least a few minutes, say half an hour, should be allowed for digestion. Neither is it good practice to give a horse a full ration of grain immediately after being subjected to severe exercise. Some horses will stand it all right, while others will not. The digestive powers of horses vary greatly, and unless a person knows his horse very well he should be very careful on these points, and even though we know our horse, it is dangerous, as the constitutional condition of the animal may be such as to render him at certain times more liable to digestive derangement than at others, and we are unable to tell just when such conditions exist.

As to watering horses, my opinion is that, with few exceptions, when a horse is thirsty he should have all the nice pure water he will drink; the principal exception being immediately after he has been subjected to excessive or severe exercise and is very warm and thirsty. In such cases he should be allowed to drink a limited quantity only, and after he has cooled off be allowed to quench his thirst. However, it is very seldom that a horse at ordinary work, either on the farm or on the roads, is too warm to be allowed water. In hot weather, of course, he will perspire freely, and I have often known horses to be brought in from the field in this state, and the driver, thinking him too warm to water, take him to the stall and feed him, and not give any water until he was brought out again to work after noon. This I consider is cruelty. The poor horse certainly cannot enjoy his meal while he is thirsty, and will not eat heartily; then he will probably drink large quantities after the meal, and this has a tendency to force the food into the intestine before it has been properly acted upon in the stomach. Horses should have all they want to drink before meals, and again after. In such cases they do not drink much after meals. Some horses will suffer from colic or indigestion if allowed water after meals, and of course such must be made an exception of. It certainly is good practice, where practicable, to allow water between meals, especially in hot weather. In regard to watering horses, if the driver considers what he likes himself, and treats his horse as he does himself, he will not go far wrong. Whenever he feels thirsty he wants a drink, and he is safe in assuming that the same principles apply to his horse, and, as before stated, there are few instances in which it will not be safe to allow his horse to gratify his appetite.

The King's Race Horses.

Diamond Jubilee, the four-year-old son of St. Simon and Perdita II., who carried the colors of his Royal owner to the front in the Two Thousand Guineas, the Derby, and the St. Leger, has been taken out of training and sent to the stud at Sandringham. The close of his racing career has not been what one might have wished, for, transferred to the Duke of Devonshire, like the rest of the King's racehorses at the death of Queen Victoria, he ran for the three £10,000 races this season, but could not do better than run second in one and fourth in the two others. In the course of the three years that he was in training he won five races worth about £31,000, including the sums which he received for running second. The King is now in the unique position of having three full brothers in his stud: Florizel II., whose first lot of three-year-olds has been of rare and singular merit; Persimmon, whose stock have not made so good a beginning; and Diamond Jubilee himself. Nor must it be forgotten that another brother, Sandringham, who had been very highly tried, but could not stand training, was sold for a large sum for the stud in America.

Horse Training and Education.

This is my favorite season of the year for harnessing the green colts.

As mentioned in a previous article, "When training a colt do not forget to study his disposition and always avoid quarreling with him." For instance, if he is a spirited fellow and wants to go, let him do so with all his might if no other gait will suit him. So many men try to teach a horse to go steady by holding him back. This is one of the things that is so hard to compel a colt to do in harness. Now, just try to force him to go steady, and see him balk and flounder and show all kinds of ugliness. He has been bred to go—then do not quarrel with him about that. To start a colt in harness is a very important event in his life. Then we must make a good preparation of harness and a strong two-wheeled rig; one that will not be easily upset. Any man that is able to do any kind of tinkering can get an axle and a pair of strong wheels. Put upon them a pair of poles 10 ft. 6 ins. long; set them wide apart on the axle, and place a strong crossbar back far enough so that an ordinary tug will reach it at full length; place a whiffletree upon this bar; now fasten a seat as low down as possible. What I want is to give an idea of measurements, etc., and leave the reader to imitate the common road cart to finish the rig out. In such a cart a man can sit behind the wildest horse, in a smooth field, and feel comparatively safe. This is one of the great secrets in training—fix your trappings in such a way that you feel safe, and then, and not until then, are we ready for any green colt. I nearly always use the cart.

In training saddle horses, we find many who are not expert enough in the business to mount

caps, using revolver, and at last the shotgun. Ride into the city: take after a street car, but be sure that there is not one chasing your horse too; chase the cars around for awhile, and then let him chase a steam engine for a change, and he will soon begin to think that he is "cock of the walk." You may recommend him to a customer when he has been educated in this way.

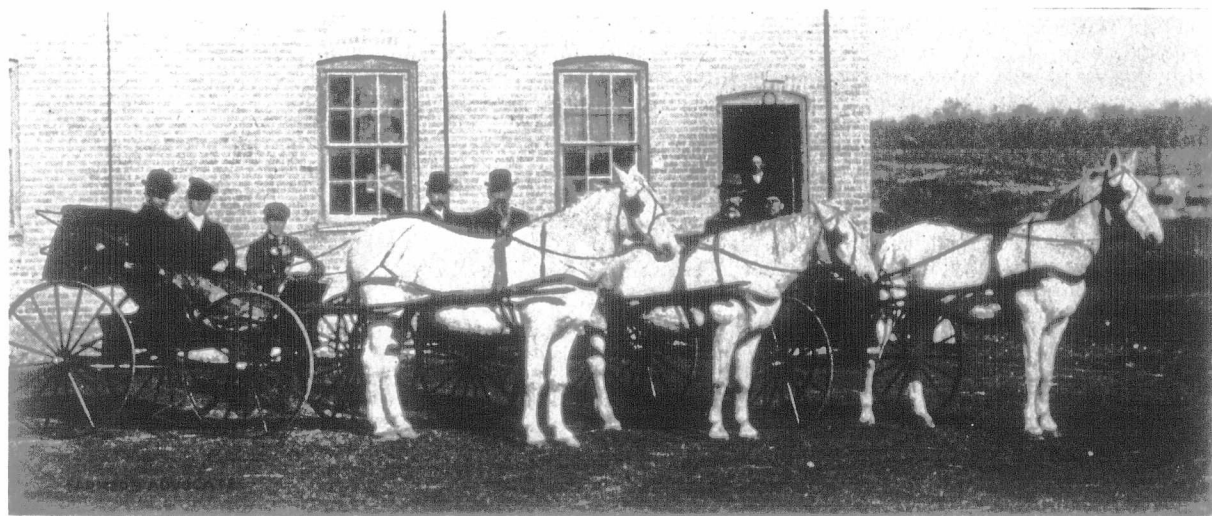
SANDY COLTS.

Kindly forward your renewal subscription to-day for the best and most attractive agricultural paper published—the "Farmer's Advocate."

Three Old Horses.

Referring to the old English horse portrayed in our November 1st issue, Mr. A. R. G. Smith, of Waterloo County, Ont., sends us a photograph of three old white horses in his possession, and writes as follows:

"These three horses are still alive and in better shape now than they have been for years. They are white; when they were young they were iron-gray in color. They are aged, respectively, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, and thirty years. They are the offspring of one mare. The two oldest are 'Argentiles,' a Lower Canadian horse, a descendant of 'St. Lawrence.' The youngest one is by 'Clydesdale Jock.' The oldest one, 'Polly,' took my father and mother from their wedding, on Jan. 31st, 1877. A few days ago I drove the youngest one to a place thirteen miles from here, and came back the same afternoon. She did not seem a bit the worse of the drive. These horses have been working constantly, doing the farm work and on the road until last year, when we decided to let the oldest pair ease off. We had a team of horses, each seven years old, that never worked until the previous year. We expected the old mares to die, but they never did. If we



A TRIO OF FARM MARES, AGED 28, 29 AND 30 YEARS.
OWNED BY A. R. G. SMITH, NEW HAMBURG, ONTARIO.

and stay with a wild horse. To such a one I would say, be cautious. Work around him for a while before you attempt to ride him. Substitute a dummy for a man at first—any person can make one. It is made like one end of a saw-horse—simply two sticks crossed and fastened together. Just make one, set it upon the colt as a man would sit; fasten a strap or rope to the feet as a belly band; use a crupper, running straps from the latter to the top of each stick or arm; then put on the reins and fasten to the bridle-bit and let him go in a training yard or shed. When he has been harnessed in this manner a while you may attach a long line and guide him for short spells, giving rest between. This treatment will prepare him for some outdoor exercises, after which he may be ridden by any ordinary horseman. Now all this schooling may not make him a first-class saddle horse. Saddle horses are born and not artificially made altogether, and tastes differ somewhat. One man likes a pacer, and another does not, and so on. Some people would not ride on a saddle, and would prefer walking. Generally speaking, the latter is a man who does not know a saddle horse when he sees one. A genuinely good saddle horse is a luxury. Green colts that would make good saddlers are not too plentiful in this country. When you find one you find a prize, but it takes lots of patience and skill to make him a top-notch, even then; but when you get him there you may expect a good long price for him if you choose to part with him. He may be taught to lope by holding him firmly and touching his shoulder continually with the riding-whip. Practice him in a lane; place a pole upon the ground across the roadway, and ride him over it; have it raised up an inch or two, and repeat. By gradually raising the pole we teach and practice the horse to take a good hurdle. Get him accustomed to firearms by snapping gun

worked them they would work, but if they were idle for a day or two they had to be broken over again. The oldest one is shod all around. I use her to drive to the post office, four miles from here. She was a kicker, and was fed in the stable for twenty-four years. Of late years she has become less furious, and we let her out to pasture. She is still the "boss" horse, and nothing delights her more than to get at the watering-trough and keep the other horses away. The other horses are all afraid of her. The oldest ones were always driven together. They were a great team. My uncle, Mr. J. Cook, now governor of Berlin jail, told me recently that in the year 1883 he drove a man from Hamburg to our place to see them, and he offered father four hundred and fifty dollars for the team, but he wouldn't sell them. Mr. Ferguson, the undertaker, of London, Ontario, wanted to buy them, but as father positively refused to sell them, he made no offer. These mares were raised on our farm, and have been in our possession since they were foaled. The two oldest ones never had a colt, but the youngest one had four colts, one of which we sold as a two-year-old for one hundred and thirty-five dollars. To give you an example of what they still do, I may say that I was drawing cord-wood to-day with the team of which the youngest horse is one. Her mate is her own daughter, which is in its twentieth year.

Correction.

Mr. D. Lawrence writes: "I notice one or two mistakes in the article in Nov. 15th issue re Crab fence. In the 4th line I am made to say a 'hand adz.' It should have been a 'hand axe.' Then, further on it reads that the '5-ft. stakes should be chamfered on the one side.' It should have read, '5-ft. stakes should be chamfered on the one side of the upper end.'"