

## HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

**THE USE OF SALT ON LAND.**—The use of salt as a fertilizer may be questioned, but that it is of advantage to crops grown on light soils is beyond dispute. Many farmers who are familiar with its use claim that the prejudice against it has arisen from the want of knowledge of how to apply it, or more properly from applying it to unsuitable soils, or at unseasonable times. The farmer that uses salt upon heavy, cold, wet land, need not expect to see any results from it; but if he will try it on well-drained light soils at the proper time, he will be surprised at the results. If salt, say from two to three barrels to the acre, be scattered on the land before the manure is spread and ploughed in, its chemical effect will be to separate or pulverize the lumps of earth, and thus the plant-life will have additional food from which to draw nourishment. A farmer in Ohio, who has raised onions from the same piece of land for forty two consecutive years, says that his first experience in using salt, led him to discredit its advantages, but that he afterwards found that his failure had been entirely due to his having scattered the salt just as the young onion plants were showing themselves above the ground. Of course, the salt killed them, as it would any young plant life; but he tried it the following year, allowing the plants time to grow hardy and strong before sprinkling the salt over the soil. From ten to fifteen days will be time enough for all practical purposes, and if then applied, the yield would be materially increased. For run out pasture land, salt is universally acknowledged to be one of the best immediate restoratives. If you doubt this, take a half-acre lot in your spring pasture, sprinkle from one and a-half to two barrels of salt upon it, and then note the result; first, the salt will pretty thoroughly kill out the weeds; second, the grass will be richer and more succulent; and third, the cattle will prefer grazing on the salted lot to any other portion of the pasture.

**STRAWBERRY CULTURE.**—In Kings, Annapolis, and Queens Counties, strawberry culture has proved most profitable to those who have gone into the business on an extensive scale. From Kings and Annapolis strawberries are shipped to Halifax and St. John, and to the towns along the line of the railway; but the Queens County growers have to depend chiefly for the sale of their berries on the limited local market, and hence we could scarcely suppose that there was any money to be made in the business in that section of the Province, although the strawberries raised are large and of very excellent flavor. If some enterprising trader in Liverpool, N. S., would buy up the strawberries, and forward them by steamer to the Halifax and Yarmouth markets, as well as to the towns along the shore, the strawberry growers of Queens might turn a handsome penny in their business. Apropos of strawberries and strawberry culture, a Nova Scotian assures us that strawberry growers would double their crops if they were not so niggardly about using manure. He always puts on his own land at least 125 loads to the acre, and he has picked during the season from one acre 120 bushels of berries. In New England, where strawberry farming is carried on to perfection, 175 loads manure are frequently applied to one acre, and the yield is sometimes 150 bushels to the acre. These are sold at from \$2.00 to \$3.50 per bushel, averaging \$2.50 per bushel, which is at the rate of \$375 for a crop grown on one acre. We venture to say that there are few farms which yield anything approaching to this sum from many acres in other crops; and so far as we know, it can only be equalled by the acreage return of an apple orchard in prime condition.

**TAKING OUT STUMPS.**—Dear Critic,—Some weeks ago, I noticed an article in THE CRITIC as to the best means of taking out stumps. Well, Mr. Editor, having had some practical experience in clearing new land, I think the method you referred to as followed in the United States, of boring slanting holes, filling them with cheap coal oil during the dry time, allowing the oil to saturate the wood, and then burning out the stump, is a slow, uncertain method compared with brute force, which I take it, when properly applied, will draw out a stump just as slick as a dentist would pull out a tooth. The way I have been used to stumping land in this:—"I take a block and tackle, fasten the rope holding the block securely to another stump; I then have two pieces of timber which I have for the purpose, fastened together A shaped, with one leg near the point to raise it higher than the stump; this I place close to the stump that I wish to pull out, around which I fasten a strong chain; the chain is carried over the timber A in a groove near the point, and to it I fasten a strong manilla rope, which I pass through the block, and then hitch my horse to it. When the stump is very large, I usually cut away the bigger roots, but in most cases this is unnecessary; one, or if needs be, a pair of horses, will draw out the stump before you can say "Jack Robinson," and pull all the roots out with it too. If you or any of your readers can beat me in stumping in this fashion, I should like to hear from them, as I have still thirty acres on my Cumberland farm which I have to clear; and if there is any easier method, I am open to conviction.

Yours,  
A YOUNG FARMER.

**CARNATIONS AS HOUSE-PLANTS.**—All lovers of flowers, and how few there are who do not love to see them, even if they do not care about the trouble of growing them, will be interested in the following remarks of a correspondent of the *Country Gentlemen*:—

"Carnations are capital window plants, easy to grow, thrifty, copious,

and admired by everybody. Their flowers are showy, beautiful, of various colors, deliciously fragrant, and produced all winter long. But young plants are better than old ones, and now is an excellent time to propagate a lot of young plants for next winter's use.

**Propagate from slips or cuttings.** Select robust, stout, stocky, short-jointed young shoots; pluck them out of their sockets, shorten the leaves a little, then dibble the cuttings firmly into sand or sandy earth in pots or boxes. Water moderately, shade from sunshine and keep away from frost. Or just pull away some stocky slips from the sides of the old plants and dibble them firmly into the loam in the pots in which their parents are growing. Some ladies set a saucer filled with water on a bracket or shelf in a sunny window, and lay the cuttings in the saucer, and leaning on its side with their "feet" in the water. A spoonful of loam in each saucer keeps the cuttings in place, and helps them greatly when they begin to root. Cuttings now will take 20 to 30 days to root (earlier, they would take longer); and if the cuttings are poor to begin with, many may not root at all. In greenhouses we insert our cuttings in rows in a shallow sand-bed having a little bottom-heat, and we usually root most all of them.

When the cuttings are nicely rooted, transplant them into small pots or shallow boxes filled with light rich earth, and keep them growing, but in a somewhat cool temperature, till towards the end of April, then harden them off thoroughly and plant them out, in early May, in the garden. Pinch them back two or three times during summer, and lift and pot them in September, using as small pots (about 3-inch usually) as you can well get the roots into. In the summer time, keep the soil loose and clean about them, and in dry weather give occasional heavy soakings. By lifting and potting them so early as September, the plants have a good opportunity of well filling their pots with roots before winter sets in, and this causes them to bloom more freely. A little frost does not, apparently, hurt them, at the same time it does not do them any good, hence after the first of October be prepared to protect them. But if the weather permits, they may be left out-of-doors, in a warm, sheltered place till November.

Never let them suffer from want of water. If they are very thrifty, a little weak manure water once or twice a week in winter will help them; but if they are delicate or look sickly, manure water will injure them.

If green fly or red spider infest them, do not dabble in insecticides, but lay the plants on their sides, and with a sponge and some soapy water wash off the vermin.

Among carnations there are many varieties. The following behave very well with me: Hinz's White, white, often tinged with pink; a large, perfect flower. Portia, bright scarlet; rather small but of good form, brilliant, perpetual and long-stemmed. Lydia, yellow-barred with crimson; often splits, and sometimes is a little refractory; and Black Knight, crimson, suffused with a brilliant glow. We have no pure yellow perpetual carnation, but we have several among summer-blooming varieties.

All kinds of carnations are easily raised from seed. In the case of summer-blooming sorts, we get a great variety in color, many full double and beautiful. But in the case of winter blossoms the results are not so satisfactory. In summer we have plenty of room outside in our garden, and can afford a little space for singles and half-doubles, but in winter our window room is too precious to fill with a lot of single or ragged carnations that need just as much space and care as the choicest and prettiest doubles.

**COOKED FOOD FOR CATTLE AND HORSES.**—Among the improved practices in agriculture which have sprung up during the past few years there are but few that are of greater importance, or more useful when properly applied, than that of cooking and steaming food for live stock. Of the broad principles on which the system rests a few words may be said. The efficacy, usefulness, and profit derived from one food as compared with another depends wholly upon the facility and completeness of its assimilation by the animal, its completeness as a food ration, and its ease of digestion. To cook the food given to stock is to increase its facility for assimilation, to, in other words, aid its digestion. That, speaking broadly, is the one physiological reason why the custom should be commended. But this is not the only reason, for others, of an economic nature, come in to give the system a powerful aid and support. The farmer who has the facilities for cooking food for his stock has, at the same time, a very simple means for giving additional value to damaged hay, corn, meal, or roots; for it is a fact that, by the operation of cooking or steaming, many of these damaged foods, which would be otherwise useless, are made into food of a decent kind.—*Farm and Home.*

**OAT STRAW FOR FEEDING.**—Oat straw when fed in connection with corn and cottonseed meal to cows or young stock is a valuable food. It may also be fed to horses in part in place of hay where much grain is fed. When the hay supply is scanty, and grain is relatively cheaper, straw may be advantageously used to save the hay.

**ADVICE TO MOTHERS.**—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers: there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind.

## A CARD

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, etc., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the Rev. Joseph T. INMAN, Station D, New York City.