

Next feeding hay : for my own part I believe in feeding hay off the ground ; but if this is objected to, by all means use and iron racks, in which dust and hayseeds cannot accumulate.

The old wooden mangers, close at the bottom, are a perfect nuisance, and few men can be got to clean them out. Then, wooden feed-boxes, if used for mash, always get sour.

Coming to the care of harness, of course we cannot expect it to be done up with Harris's harness composition, but it ought to be kept clean and soft by means of hot water, soap, and some dressing—castor oil and lamp-black being I think as good as any. But more important is the putting on of the harness ; especially of the collar, which of course it is needless to say must fit the horse ; but what is the use of a good fitting collar if a mane three feet long is to be left on the off or near shoulder as the case may be with no attempt made to pull it from beneath the collar ! Sore shoulders are the sure result, and many a farm hand has wondered that was the cause of them.

Another thing, which should not be forgotten, is to scrape out the dried sweat from the lining of the collar, and to sponge it clean, or the lining will soon get hard and lumpy : another cause of galled shoulders

I might here remark that galled shoulders might in most cases be prevented if horses were hitched up for say, an hour a day a month before spring work begins ; thus getting their shoulders hardened. As it is in many cases, horses, which have fed on soft feed and done no work all the winter, are expected to go out the first day the land will carry them in the spring and draw the harrows for 9 or 10 hours over a fall furrow. Anyone who has ever walked behind the harrows knows this is no holiday.

Another great mistake, as I think, is leaving working horses out at pasture at night too late in the fall. I have known horses, working hard all day at fall-plowing, given a feed of oats, then turned out on after-grass eaten down by cows, on which they could find nothing but hoarfrost ! Would it not be better to have them in the stable even with nothing better than straw to eat ? I think it really pitiful on a cold morning at the end of October, or at the beginning of November, to see six or eight heads hanging over the gate nearest home, and each trying who can get furthest over with an intense longing for stable

and oats, even if work must follow. To come to my own ideas as to the care of farm horses, I do not believe in coddling them too much. Some men think a horse cannot live without the very best quality of oats and clean timothy hay. The very sight of a head of clover would frighten them. For my part I have never considered clover as rank poison ; in fact, I think if cut early enough and well saved it is a very good hay, quite as good for horses doing slow work as timothy, if not good enough for race horses. (1)

Beginning with winter, I think a feed of oats morning and noon, and a feed of boiled barley with moulé or bran at night, and two or three feeds of hay—some feed only morning and night, but I think it better to divide the same quantity into three feeds. I will not enter into the old rule of thumb quotations of weights and measures ; this must be left to the judgment of the man feeding who should know the requirements of each individual horse. I should say from 10 to 12 quarts of oats or their equivalent in barley, and from 10 to 15 pounds of hay, a fair allowance.

Horses should be kept exercised two or three times a week, at the least, in harness. What good does it do to turn a horse out in the yard and have him stand at the stable-door and ask you to let him in ? Yet we often see this done. When the spring work commences, horses treated in this manner will not be likely to lose much in condition.

In summer—hay and harvest—I think hay and a feed of oats at noon are sufficient ; of course, as a rule, they are then at grass at night.

The feeding during the fall work should be the same as in spring, and I again protest against leaving them out at night too late in the season. I have not mentioned carrots or turnips as feed, as I am a firm believer in the old saying, that a horse should eat nothing which grows beneath the ground, and that roots should be left for cattle and sheep. However, I think a few carrots are often useful in case of sickness, where a horse is off his feed and requires tempting. (2)

With regard to medicines in the stable, I think

(1) We need not tell Mr. Wardle that in London, clover-hay which, there, is never given to any stock but horses, fetches about five dollars a load (2016 lbs) more than the best meadow hay. But then, in England, clover is always "cut early and well saved," barring bad weather. Ed.

(2) And we must not forget that carrots act on horses as a powerful diuretic. Ed.