

THE TWIN QUESTION.

Sidney, April 20th, 1857.

SIR,—In the March No. of the *Agriculturist* I saw a letter from S. B. S. concerning Twin Colts, and also a letter from Francis Colman, stating that females of the horse kind do make good breeders, but as for the cow kind, he never knew a twin heifer to breed. Now, as to the latter, I can say with certainty, that I raised two twin heifers; one of them is still living, and will have, in a few days, the fourth calf; the other had two, and is now dead. If you think these facts worthy a place in the *Agriculturist*, please insert them.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN GILBERT.

REMARKS.—The question is not whether heifer twins will breed, but whether a heifer twin, of *bull* and heifer, will ever do so. The former is not disputed, the latter is. Though in the latter case, the female exhibits no marks of a hybrid or mule, she is called a *free martin*, and never produces young. So say the authorities. The doubt with S. B. S. was whether the same result happens in the case of twin colts, being male and female. That question does not appear to have been yet answered satisfactorily.

THE TANSY, AND ITS VALUE.—M. De Morogues announces that this plant—dried—is excellent sheep food, and that, when fresh, it makes capital litter for domestic animals. Its peculiar balsamic odor most effectually drives away fleas. A lapdog sleeping on a bed of fresh tansy, is immediately freed from these vermin. It should be renewed when the leaves are quite dry. This seems a better application of the plant than following the example of our grandmothers and making it into cakes.

HOW TO DO UP SHIRT BOSOMS.—We have often been requested by lady correspondence to state by what process the gloss on new linens, shirt bosoms, &c., is produced, and in order to gratify them, we subjoin the following receipt:—"Take two ounces of fine white gum arabic powder, put it in a pitcher, and pour on a pint or more of boiling water, according to the degree of strength you desire; and then having covered it, let it stand all night; in the morning pour it carefully from the dregs into a clean bottle, cork it; and keep it for use. A tablespoonful of gum water stirred in a pint of starch, made in the usual manner, would give to lawn, either white or printed, a look of newness, when nothing else can restore them after they have been washed.

SAFETY FRICTION MATCHES.—A recent English invention consists of matches made of sulphur and nitre only, without phosphorous, while the phosphorus, is applied to the sand-paper, with which the matches are ignited. To us, this seems only to transfer the danger of ignition from the match to the sand-paper. But if this is kept in a safe place, or if it be carefully fastened on the wall, near the place where the matches are to be used it may be a valuable improvement. It is a good fashion, in regard both to convenience and safety, always to hang up pieces of sand-paper, ornamentally bound and otherwise made tasteful in appearance, as we do a watch-case, by the side of our beds or bureaus, by the aid of which a match may be ignited without trouble. One will last, if properly secured, for a long while.—*Plough, Loom and Anvil*.

CHEAP PAINT.—If any of your readers wish to use a very cheap and substantial paint, of a drab color without lustre, let them mix water lime with skimmed milk, to a proper thickness to apply with a brush, and it is ready to use. It is too cheap almost to estimate, and any one can put it on who can use a paint brush. It will adhere well to wood, whether smooth or rough—to brick, stone or mortar, where oil paint has not been used, in which case it will cleave to some extent, and form a very hard substance, as durable as the best oil paint. J. M. CLARK. *Throopsville*.