

long and continuous, and he ought to be well supported. Having provided good hay (not the miserable stuff often called hay—no better than, if so good as, straw, owing to want of care in making it, and keeping the worst for home use), the winter should commence as the weather turns bad; at which time the horse should not be left out in the fields, to stand under the hedges or eat grass, which engenders disease and fills him full of grease. The hay should be given in moderate quantities at a time, and the corn should be dry, as nothing is more injurious than soft oats. No farmer need have wet corn, as a very small kiln, which would not cost 20s., would dry all the corn needed. Hay and oats, and occasionally straw, is the food generally used; but I would recommend the oats to be bruised, and mixed with cut hay, and with a slight mixture (if much clover is in the hay) of clean wheat straw either dried or steamed, or boiled; if the latter, a mash should be given in the evening. I am certain from experience, the cooking of food will be made more generally the practice than at present. An addition of linseed-meal is of great use. Turnips and potatoes may also be cooked, and given to horses that plough, &c.; but they are rather of too laxative a nature to sustain a horse that has to work very hard. This may be said to be high feeding; and I expect at least the supply is a generous one. I hold it impossible to get great performances without proper support; and I will condemn the false economy of half starving farm horses in the winter, and having their condition to make up by excessive quantities of corn in the spring, when they are so much wanted. Like other horses, I have never found that farm horses can be kept in good condition for work without always being well fed. It may be said, Where will so much hay be got? I think it can be grown; but if scarce, a little more straw can be mixed with it, in the depth of winter, when in many situations horses cannot be constantly employed. In such cases the steaming of their food would effect a saving; and a mixture of more turnips, chaff, &c., may be used. Some say this plan is troublesome. If the number of horses employed be sufficiently large to employ a man or a boy to prepare the food, the system will amply repay the expense; and in other cases, if the small farmer would take the word troublesome out of his vocabulary, and employ some of his family in the work, he would find his horses fit for work or sale, and his boys or girls instructed in a necessary part of farming knowledge, and he would have more corn for market to prepare him for his rent day. Other objections sometimes arise, such as the expense of corn mills, straw cutters, &c.; but at the price these articles are now furnished it will be a small farm indeed if the outlay is not paid back the first year. Before concluding this part of my paper, let me not forget to urge regularity of feeding, horses well cleaned, stables properly cleaned and ventilated, and every care being taken of the animals. Most farmers perfectly understand these things—practising them is the only thing wanted. Having laid down a few rules for winter feeding, we next come to the spring months; the busiest time of all the year, and when the greatest exertions are required from both horse and man. At this time the work seems almost endless; yet with willing minds in the men, and horses which have been well used in the winter, all will be accomplished in due time, and with as few work horses as circumstances will admit. When the team is in good working order, fewer will do. Too many poor horses have ruined a farmer before he could see the evil; and I need not tell the members of this Club that most horses can eat well whether they can work well or not, hence the necessity of being prepared for the busy months of the year. I strongly recommend the bruising of corn. My own practice is to bruise it or mix the corn with cut hay, which compels the horse to mas-

ticate his food and not swallow it whole. Lately some laxity had taken place in my establishment, and I saw the oats growing amongst the dung of the horse after passing through it. Next as to spring, summer, or autumn feeding. Until the turnip season is over, the horse ought to be well fed with such food as I have pointed out before; and about this time winter tares, clover, and grass may be ready to cut for soiling, which is by far the most economical plan of feeding, besides the great addition made to the dunghill. Here again care is necessary in the feeder. The green food should be given in proper quantities, and not thrown amongst the horses in a promiscuous manner, whether the food be wet or dry. I have seen great waste and want of judgment in soiling—and the animal perhaps eating unwholesome food by its being given in too large quantities at once, and perhaps, after being heated before it is given to the horses. Do all practise what they know? I fear not. The quantity of corn may now be greatly reduced, as the work will not be so severe. You may ask me to point out the quantities of food I recommend. This I think better to leave to the judgment of parties interested. There is no fear of your horses getting too fat, if an acre or an acre and a quarter is ploughed in a day and other work in proportion. The soiling system may be carried on through the whole summer and autumn, if found convenient, but I do not think that it is absolutely necessary; as, after harvest, most farms produce aftermath and rough stubbles, which afford a cheap bite, and will lessen the cost of feeding, which is an object; and some contend it does a horse good to be turned out at this time of the year. I follow that practice generally. I know full well that all the plans I have laid down cannot in every case be carried out; many circumstances will undoubtedly intervene to prevent their fulfilment; but what we have to aim at is perfection if possible, or as near to it as practicable—an approximation to the right course will be gaining much.—Mr. JOSEPH LAYCOCK said: Young stock is often kept sadly too bare. It seemed to be forgotten that their food had to furnish them with bone and muscle as well as flesh, and they had only the run of a poor pasture which afforded them little sustenance. Then again, an error was committed in giving horses an unlimited quantity of food. Instead of filling the rack with hay, the man should bring in his arms as much as would suffice for a meal. By cramming the rack out of a loft above, the hay was affected by the breath of the horses and became distasteful to them and was wasted. When farmers were advised to keep their horses in high condition, they asked where the hay was to be found. But if they would weigh out their hay instead of supplying an unlimited quantity, they would find that 10lbs. or 12lbs. a day would be enough for a horse with about 2 bushels of corn in the week. If more were given it would be wasted. The farmer should also insist on the stable being kept perfectly clean. It should not be, as it too often was, in so foul a condition that the ammonia almost took away your eyesight when you went in; it should be kept like a barrack stable. The horses would then be in a better condition for their work. As to ventilation, it was a common mistake to provide an aperture for the egress of the vitiated air, but to make no provision for the ingress of fresh air to supply its place. He threw out these hints for the consideration of the members, and would again particularly impress upon them the importance of weighing out their hay.—Mr. MATTHEWS said: Mr. LAYCOCK spoke of 10lbs. a-day; the cavalry horse had 14, and he was told, picked up his clean straw into the bargain, and if that was not too much for an idle horse, surely a working horse should not have less.—The CHAIRMAN could only say that he had found 10 lbs. a day to be more than a riding horse could eat.—*Agricultural Gazette.*