

but a pigeon is better bred by nature—he never scratches; hence he disturbs no seeds the gardener may have planted. When he gets into the garden it is either to get a nibble at the pea-vines or the beans, as he is extravagantly fond of both, or to search for weeds.

This fondness of the pigeon tribe for seeds of plants injurious to the farm is much better known in Europe than with us. At one time, in certain districts of France, where large numbers of pigeons had been kept, they were nearly all killed off. These districts had been famous for the fine, clean and excellent quality of the wheat raised within them. But very soon after the number of pigeons had been reduced, the land became overgrown with weeds that choked the crops. The straw in consequence grew thin and weak, while the grain was so deficient in plumpness and weight as to render it unfit for seed. Every farmer remarked the difference when they had only a few. The people therefore returned to pigeon keeping. Every landlord, in renting his farm, required his tenants to build a pigeon-house or dove-cot, in order to insure crops. Many of these were very expensive structures. It has been further observed in other districts in France that where pigeons are most abundant there the wheat fields are most productive, and that they never touch seed which has been rolled in lime."

CURE FOR WOUNDS IN HORSES.



R. H. S. Brown, of Butler Co., Pa., sends us the following recipe, for curing wounds in horses, and says: "I had a mare, which was stabbed very badly in the groin. I tried several remedies, which had no effect whatever: and her leg and groin were very much swollen. I then obtained some smartweed and mullein, and boiled them together, and applied it to the wound as hot as possible, without burning the animal.—This removed the swelling and inflammation; and I then applied a washing of strong soap-suds to heal the wound. I also applied a liniment made of one tablespoonful of spirits turpentine, and one tablespoonful of tar, with one half gill of hog's lard, melted together, which effected a cure; and in ten days my mare was able to go to work. I sent this recipe to the RURAL, thinking it may be of service to others, as it has been to me."

FATTENING ANIMALS IN TOO GREAT HASTE.

SOME suppose that poor animals may in a short time be changed into fat ones, by stuffing them with rich food. The more food they can make them take in a day or a week, the quicker, they suppose, they will become fat and fit for the market. But this is a false opinion, as experiments clearly show. The over-feeding is always wasteful; for after the animals gain but little fat, and the owners begin to think that the fattening of them for market is an unprofitable business. An owner may withhold the proper quantity of food from his hogs and cattle, and even half starve them for months; and then may change his mode of treating them, and glut them with excessive food, and thus hope rapidly to put them into a fat condition; but the attempt will prove abortive, as the growth of the animals from the earliest period of their existence, and their increasing in fat and flesh must continue on without interruption, till they are marketable. Careful observation proves that the profits of raising and fattening cattle and hogs are realised only when they are regularly fed from day to day with neither too scant nor too heavy feeding.

Every farmer who makes the feeding of animals an important part of his business, ought to know that their unremitting growth is the only true and successful way of treating them. This is the course which the most successful pork raisers pursue in feeding their hogs regularly and fully through winter and summer, till they are sufficiently fat in the autumn.

Some object to this mode of treating their animals. They wish to finish the whole fattening process in two or three months, and think it is too expensive to continue it for two or three years. This would be the case, if their way of feeding was the correct one; but it is not, for heavy feeding is not requisite to keep up the continued growing condition of the animals.

Mr. Chase, of Cayuga county, N. Y., carefully weighed every week all the animals he was fattening. To a fine steer he gave daily four quarts of barley meal; and he found the increase in its weight to be 18 lbs. per week. He then tried the experiment of giving it eight quarts per day; and he found the weekly increase of weight was less than when four quarts were given. Twelve quarts were now given daily, and at the end of the week there was no gain of flesh.