

of potash, both pounded fine; upon that I pour two quarts of oil in water, stirring until all is dissolved. When cool, it may be used. I keep it on hand all the time, in bottles. It may be applied with a shoe brush, or anything convenient. If any one objects to the use of this blacking, fearing the bichromate of potash it contains would injure the leather, I would just say that this kind of potash will not injure the leather, even when used in a much larger proportion. The blacking generally contains copperas—a sulphate sometimes made of oil vitriol and iron, and it is found that it will eat out the life of leather, unless used with great caution. When the dye has struck in, I go through the oiling process. Some have a sheet-iron pan to oil in, which is better than anything; but I have a sheet of iron nailed to a board; it is about two or three feet square. This I lay upon the table, and I lay a piece or part of the harness upon this, and with neats-foot oil applied with a paint brush, kept for the purpose, I go over it, till every part is oiled. The traces, breaching, and such parts as need the most, I oil again. For the last oiling I use one-third castor oil and two-thirds neats-foot oil mixed. A few hours after, or perhaps the next day, I wipe the harness over with a woollen cloth, which gives it a glossy appearance. Why I use castor oil for the last coat, is because it will stand the effects of the atmosphere, the rain, etc., much longer than neats-foot oil, consequently the harness does not require oiling so often by its use. One pint of oil is sufficient for one set of harness.

The common way of oiling harness is to apply as much neats-foot oil containing lamp-black as the leather will take up; then washing off with castile soap and water. This way is not so good as mine, because it makes the harness smutty, and also the soap that is used contains barilla—a strong alkali, which cuts up and feeds upon the oil in the leather, and the weather (especially if rainy) soon renders the harness stiff and unyielding as before; the wax in the threads is also destroyed, and the stitches give way. I have experimented with different kinds of oil, and find that the kind, and the process, I now use is the best.

—*New England Farmer.*

SMALL HORSES.—New England has become quite celebrated, the world over, for fine horses, no small portion of which distinction has been contributed by the different branches of the Morgan horse family, and almost the only objection made to them by purchasers is, that they are all too small for common purpose. This objection may not hold good in all cases, with those who own and use them, but it is a most serious one when they are put into market, and especially when brought to our large cities for purchasers.

The idea we intended to convey in our remarks in the last number was, that with more care in breeding, we could have the same horses of the same blood, and the same comparative goodness,

of equal proportion of bone, muscle, activity, endurance and courage, and from one or two sizes larger, which would obviate the only serious objection to our Morgan horses, if the breeders of them would but give them the care and feed necessary to keep them constantly growing, from the time they are taken from the dam until fully matured. By this we do not wish it understood that we would in any way advocate pampering and overfeeding, for this we believe is but little better for the animal, than the neglect which too many of the New England farmer treat their colts from the time they are taken from the mare, until they are of sufficient age to be of some use upon the farm. Colts at all ages should have good care, and such quantity and quality of food as will keep them in a healthy and growing condition, rather than in a high state of flesh. In addition to this, they should have such light work put upon them as to develop their bone and muscle, but not enough or of such kind as to over-task them.

We should think that the average weight of Morgan horses would fall nearly or quite as low as eight hundred and fifty pounds. This, every intelligent breeder knows, is more than a hundred pounds less than it need or should be, and proper and suitable breeding. Indeed, we believe the average could be made a thousand pounds, which, according to our notion, is the best size, when in competent form, for a horse for all the purposes of the farm and road.

Mr. Rarey, in his exhibitions in this and other cities, brings out some very diminutive ponies, scarcely more than two feet high, which he brought home with him from Europe. He thinks they are of the same race of our common horse, but which have run down to their present state from entire want of care. On the same principle we can see no reason why our Morgan horses would not become larger or smaller, according as they are bred, and still retain all the good qualities.—*American Stock Journal.*

THE SOIL BREATHES.—Certainly it does just as truly as you do. A few years since; if it asserted that trees had lungs and breathed, would have been held to an argument to prove it; just as a few years earlier nobody would have believed that a fish's gills, and the leaf of a tree, and the lungs of a beast, all performed the same office, that of aerating the blood. The soil breathes. How does it breathe? Circulating fluid, the blood of the soil, is what this comes to it from the air, and is already saturated. True but this soon loses its gases by contact with the soil, just as the arterial blood from the lungs, loses its oxygen when passing through the circuit in all parts of the body. The blood comes back to the lungs for more oxygen, the blood of the soil cannot do this, so we cannot let the air in, to come in contact with it. I cannot here explain the working of the soil,