find most farmers thoughtful and anxious for information on this subject, though naturally timid in accepting what to them at first seems a theory, but to that class of people who doubt everything but their own existence, and whom I choose to designate as egoists, I make no appeal.

The signs most noticeable are perhaps, first, a hankering after bones and rotten wood by the cows.

We also know how unsatisfactory bones are as a food for cows, and we ask why do these animals whose stomach acids cannot dissolve bones make such frantic efforts to eat unnatural food?

I will answer you in the Irishman's way, by asking another question. What is bone? And I see I must answer my own question. It is largely phosphate of lime. The animal then wants phosphoric acid, the active principle of bone. Have you ever seen the phosphatic light on an old dead log in the woods after rain? Of course you have! There again is the reason the cow eats the dead wood—because of the development of phosphorous.

The weak-kneed pig fed on food wanting in phosphoric acid is another sign, and so is the old sow savagely devouring her young.

The loss of fertility in stock, the prevalence to disease, as, for instance, abortion and tubercolosis, are signs. The giving way of the teeth in the human race again points the way.

The changing of clovers from rich, digestible fodder to tough, herbaceous stuff only fit for rope, is another sign. The softening grain, and the soft yielding straw is still an indication. The clover sickness, which I have seen, has the loss of phosphatic fertility for its prime cause. The spread of disease among orchards because the trees are unable to resist is in the same line.

The shriveled grain and failure to get perfect ripening, except in the most favorable seasons, can be put to no other cause but the want of power to properly ripen. Turn where you will, and the signs stare you in the face.

(To be continued.)

Evergreens

By E. Morden, Niagara Falls South, Ont.

Evergreens are valuable because they are a distinct feature in the landscape for twelve months each year. Austrian and Scotch pine grow rapidly, and are very distinct. They may be made compact by shortening in, and are thus available even in small grounds. The Norway spruce in suitable soil will grow upwards about two feet each year. They make compact hedges when close planted and pruned. When planted from four to eight feet apart they soon make an effective wind-break. Many miles of Norway spruce hedge and wind-break have been planted in the Niagara district. In all parts of the country we find stretches of country through which the winds blow unchecked. A Norway spruce wind break would add much to the comfort of men and beasts for the distance of a mile or more to the leeward. It is strange that so few have even planted a wind-break for their orchards and buildings.

Where such is planted it is desirable to cultivate and care for them for a few years. Later on they will smother the grass beneath them. For ornamental hedges the cedar or arbor vitæ are very suitable. Their fibrous roots enable them to be transplanted safely. They bear close shearing, and with this treatment give very nice hedges. The newer Rocky Mountain evergreens should be better known. They are very hardy, and are now quite moderate in price.

Douglas spruce grows very fast and has a distinct appearance. Concolor spruce has a coarser yet softer foliage, and has an appearance still more distinct. Colorado blue spruce is a slow grower, and has been well advertised. It varies in color, but even the poorer specimens have a color better than the Norway spruce. The Rocky Mountain silver cedar resembles the red cedar, but the silver cedar preserves its beautiful light green color through the whole season. It is a slow grower and a decided novelty. The Swedish juniper is another beautiful novelty, which carries its peculiar light green color right through the winter.

The well-known Irish juniper, forming a columnar pyramid, is of a blue-green in summer, but is rather brown in the winter. The Dwarf Mountain pine, which forms a spreading bush, is very fine for a lawn. It is so little known that it might also be called a novelty.

Brood Mares

In a recent issue the *Horse Breeder* says: "Brood mares should have all the well-cured hay that they will eat when fed regularly three times a day. If, in addition to this, they are fed not less than six quarts of the best oats, there will be but little danger of getting them too fat. Where there is one brood mare in the country injured by overfeeding, there are many that are actually suffering from lack of nourishment. Those who cannot afford to feed liberally had better reduce their stock or go out of business altogether. What has been said of brood mares is equally true of foals of all ages, from weanlings to maturity. Most farmers who raise only a few foals feed too sparingly."

Though these remarks are given from an American point of view they, nevertheless, have some bearing upon the rearing of horses in this country. How often do we see the brood mare on the average Ontario farm a subject of neglect and careless, if not injurious, treatment. Horse-breeders who expect to raise good horses by such methods have evidently missed their calling. Good horses cannot be raised except by giving the brood mare the best of care and attention. The remarks in reference to foals are also very pertinent. From the time a colt is born till it reaches maturity it should receive such treatment in the way of care and feed that will make it grow and develop into the highest type of horse. Of course good breeding and good treatment go hand in hand; but to neglect one or the other is only to court failure and get very unsatisfactory results.

Canadian Butter and Eggs in Great Britain

Recently a London, England, importing firm made some disparaging references to Canadian butter and eggs, which have called forth a vigorous reply in the *Canadian Gazette* of the same place from Prof. Robertson, Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner. He states that the cleanly and skillful methods of Canadian butter making and the cold storage accommodation on railroads and steamships make it possible for Canada to lay down in Great Britain a quality of butter unsurpassed. The trade is growing, and bound to grow, as Canada can produce butter of the very best class, but at a less cost than European countries.

With reference to Canadian eggs being a distinct failure in the British market, as claimed by the above firm, Professor Robertson says: "As a matter of fact, Canadian eggs are distinctly gaining in favor in nearly all the markets in Great Britain. The eggs are of uniformly large size, and carefully selected, and are reported to be landed in good condition as to freshness, cleanness, fullness and central position of the yolk. The Canadian egg case, with its cardboard compartments, is also preferred to the egg cases from other countries. Nearly all the eggs exported from Canada go to Great Britain. In 1896 the quantity of eggs exported from Canada to Great Britain was over five millions of dozens (5,585,725), and in 1898 that had risen to over ten millions of dozens (10,280,466).

A Welcome Visitor

PETROLIA, March 15th, 1899.

I highly appreciate your paper, and it is a welcome visitor to our house every week.

J. A. GLEDHILL.