

GROOMING HORSES.

There are some duties connected with the care of horses in the stable which are by many either neglected or performed in a manner so perfunctory as to be of little real benefit to the animals concerned. Grooming is too often looked upon, even by those who should know better, as a sort of fancy process having for its object only an improvement in the appearance of the animal. It is, on the contrary, of the greatest importance to the health of a working horse that the dirt and scales should be removed from the skin, the pores opened and the sebaceous and sweat glands stimulated to perform their functions in proper manner. The most of the work should be done with the brush, with, of course, a liberal allowance of elbow grease. Curry combs (1) when sharp are apt to irritate the skin, although this objection does not apply to some of the modern modifications of that time honored tool. The mane and tail should be thoroughly brushed from the roots out every day. Mud should not be touched when wet, but left to dry, and afterwards brushed out. By following this last rule and eschewing washing of legs, except perhaps in hot weather, much trouble with scratches and cracked heels will be avoided. The nostrils, eyes and dock may be sponged clean daily. The sheath in the horse should be regularly washed out. Washing horses all over is neither necessary nor advisable, except in cases of skin disease or where vermin are present. Horses coming in wet from work should receive prompt attention, whether the cause is rain or sweat. The best treatment is to rub them till dry, but this is, of course, not always possible. They may be left, after a good rubbing, with a layer of hay or straw between the skin and a loose blanket. Collars and saddles should not be removed immediately from horses when the latter are warm, as galls are very apt to result. Clipping is useful in heavy coated horses called upon to do fast or heavy work during

winter. It is best performed in early November, and I would strongly recommend leaving the hair on the legs below the elbows and stifles, as those parts cannot be clothed and do not sweat to any extent, while the hair is a great protection against cold and wet when outside. Clipped horses should be well clad in the stable and at all times when standing, even for short periods, in the open air. The clothing of unclipped horses is not a matter of great moment, provided their stables are comfortably warm. All clothing should be kept clean.

Horses require comfortable bedding; for this purpose wheat straw is considered the best, as it is certainly the cheapest and most convenient material in this province.

The feet must be kept clean and whether shod or not should be carefully picked out every morning. Thrush is a very common result of neglecting this simple precaution. I need hardly say that even this will fail to prevent trouble if the cleanliness of the floor is neglected. When horses are not shod the feet should be trimmed at least once a month.

Every stable should contain one or more loose boxes, not less than ten feet square. Other stalls should all be single, about five feet in width and nine or ten feet in length. The floors of such stalls should slope about one inch in sixty. By having each horse in his own stall and tying with a block, instead of, as is usual here, to a ring, many distressing accidents will be averted.

“N.-W. Farmer.”

Swine.

THE BACON INDUSTRY.

It seems ill-timed to talk about bacon-hogs after the severe drop in the price of bacon meat on the English market,—nearly one dollar a cwt.—yet this depression, which will only last a short while, should not prevent the farmer of persevering in this industry. Our neighbours from Ontario who are producers of bacon to a

(1) Should never be used except to clean the brush. Ed