

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Methods of Keeping and Storing Grapes.

Grapes usually have a comparatively short season, but with care it can easily be extended well into the winter season. Always cut the bunches which are to be stored on a dry day, when the berries are ripe, and carefully remove all the soft, bruised or imperfect fruits and all leaves. Keep the fruit dry, cool, and away from currents of air. Many varieties keep well if simply placed in shallow boxes or baskets, and kept undisturbed in a cool, rather moist place. The following methods of keeping grapes are recommended: Pack the bunches in layers of dry, clean sand; in layers of small grains, such as wheat, oats or barley; or in cork shavings, which may be obtained at a grocer's; in finely cut, soft and dry hay, placing the grapes and hay in consecutive layers.

Place on shelves in a cool, airy room, and after a few days wrap the bunches separately in soft paper and pack in shallow pasteboard boxes, not more than two or three layers deep; keep in a cool, dry room that is free from frost. Cut the bunches with sharp scissors, place in shallow baskets, but few in a basket, and after reaching the house dip the cut end of stems in melted wax. Now take tissue paper, cut just the right size, and carefully wrap each cluster of grapes. Secure shallow tin boxes, place a layer of cotton batting at the bottom, then a layer of grapes, then batting. Three layers of grapes are enough for one box, alternating with batting and topping with batting; then gently secure the lid to each box, and place in cold storage for use in April or later. A dry, cool room will answer well for a shorter period.

Suggestions on Starting to Plow.

A New York State plowman of nearly 40 years' experience thus advises in the *Practical Dairyman* as to the hitching of the team to get the best work out of the plow:

"First, I want a set of whiffletrees, the evenness of which shall be only twice the number of inches in length of the inches in width of furrow that I want to turn. Thus, if I want to plow a furrow of fourteen inches in width, I will have an evenness twenty-eight inches long. Then, I want to let the team out from the whiffletrees to such a distance that I can get the depth of furrow I want, and draw from the notch in the plow clevis at the lower side of the plow beam. The reason for short evenness and low hitch on the plow beam is that the plow will draw level on its land side and will be in position to do its best work. With the average farm whiffletrees we find about a four-foot evenness. This, with the horse in the furrow, would call for the plow to run to the sod nearly two feet; the one holding generally rocks the plow to the left somewhat, to keep his furrow narrow enough, and thus puts the plow out of its natural position. The hitching above the lower notches in the plow clevis to get depth of furrow, draws the plow too much on its point, and a small stone will throw it out of the furrow."

APIARY.

Feeding Bees.

An important part of successful beekeeping is knowing how and when to feed the bees. Food in some form may be required in the spring to help on a colony to full strength in readiness for the honey flow, but it is often of supreme importance at the end of the season, so that there shall be surrounding the bees food enough to serve not only for their early wants but also through the early part of the year. The best bee food at all times is certainly honey, but in its place the only substitute admissible is cane sugar, pure, except for a proportion of one to six of honey, fed in the form of syrup. Quite thick syrup answers well for fall feeding, but it should be given thinner in spring to prevent the necessity of the bees having to fly out for water. Very thin syrup should not be given at any time, as it is liable to ferment and cause dysentery among the bees. A good rule for making syrup is to melt three pounds of cane loaf or white crystallized sugar in a quart of hot water for spring feed, and six pounds to the quart of hot water for autumn feeding, mixing in either case one-sixth by weight of honey. In fall, buckwheat honey may be used, but care should be taken not to have much such honey left in the brood chamber in spring for fear some may be taken to the supers when work commences. This sometimes occurs, especially when the colony has wintered on buckwheat honey.

A simple method of feeding is to place the syrup in a basin and place over it a thin piece of wood as a float, having a few holes bored in it about the size of a finger-end. This should be set on the top of the frames inside the hives, when the bees will soon store it in the empty brood combs. They should be given enough in autumn to make their future safe—about 30 pounds to each colony in all—in time for them to have it ripened and sealed over before going into winter quarters.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail. In cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquiries must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.

Legal.

Removal of Division Fence.

W. E., Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"The Line Fences Act of Ontario, section 15, provides: 1. The owner of a whole or part of a division or line fence which forms part of the fence enclosing the occupied or improved land of another person shall not take down or remove any part of such fence—

(a) Without giving at least six months' previous notice of his intention to the owner or occupier of such adjacent enclosure;

(b) Nor unless such last mentioned owner or occupier, after demand made upon him in writing by the owner of such fence, refuses to pay therefor the sum determined as provided by fence-viewers;

(c) Nor if such owner or occupier will pay to the owner of such fence or of any part thereof such sum as the fence-viewers may award to be paid therefor.

In case such adjoining land is sold before the fence is moved, is it necessary to give the new owner or occupier six months' notice?"

[We think you are not obliged to give a new notice, and it was the duty of the late owner to notify the purchaser that the notice had been given. We would, however, advise you to notify the new owner of the fact that notice was given to the late owner, so that he will not be taken by surprise. Any short, reasonable notice should be sufficient to the new owner, but not to be acted upon until the expiry of the original six months' notice.]

Cheese Factory Patrons' Default.

SUBSCRIBER, Huron County, Ont.:—"A few years ago a joint stock company was formed for the manufacture of cheese. Each shareholder agreed to supply 3,000 pounds of milk for each share subscribed. This year a number of these have refused to supply any milk, and in consequence there will be a deficit at the close of the season, which must be made good in some way. Can the company assess the shareholders who have not fulfilled their agreement for the deficiency?"

[The agreement to send 3,000 pounds of milk for each share would require to be in writing, and clearly proved, in order to be binding beyond the first year. If, however, there was such an agreement in writing, the breach of it of course renders the defaulter liable in damages to the extent his default caused loss. The company would require to bring an action to ascertain the amount and to recover the damages.]

Veterinary.

Calves Sick.

EDWARD A. MILLMAN, Erie Co., N. Y.:—"I have a flock of this spring's calves, and some of them have been taken with sore eyes, and in some water runs from their eyes which takes the hair off wherever it touches. Some of the calves seem to have difficulty in swallowing their food. I have heard of two or three like cases in the neighborhood, and in one case a veterinary surgeon was called, and the lady told him that the milk had been kept in a brass kettle, and the surgeon pronounced that the cause, but our milk hasn't been kept near brass, so that can't be the cause. Two of my calves have died, and I am afraid of losing more."

[Your description of the sick calves is so short and incomplete that we can form no very accurate idea of the true nature of the malady, but it is evident that there is some poison operating in the system, and the difficulty in swallowing you observed was a partial paralysis of the throat through the nervous supply to those parts being disturbed. Are the calves in good clean quarters, with pure spring water to drink, and the general surroundings favorable to health? Is all their food pure, and such as growing calves should thrive on? Please state your management and all particulars fully. We believe there has been considerable anthrax in western New York and Pennsylvania in the past three or four years, but an experienced veterinarian should recognize it. In the meantime disinfect thoroughly with lime wash and carbolic acid, and give each calf 20 grains hyposulphite of soda in their feed daily, and if any more show symptoms of the trouble give enough Epsom salts to purge the bowels freely, and give the same quantity of soda hyposulphite twice daily.]

Warts on Cattle.

H. G. H., Ontario Co., Ont.:—"We have a yearling pure-bred Polled Angus bull which I noticed has a small wart behind one of its ears several months ago. Now his body is almost covered with the same, some single and others in groups. Kindly give me a cure and also state cause, and if they are contagious or hereditary, and oblige?"

[Warts are growths of the epidermis or outer skin. The cause is due to irritation of the true skin, sometimes originating from dirt, mud, etc.

They are not contagious nor hereditary, and very difficult to cure. When present in large numbers an ointment composed of chloride of ammonia, 1 part; vaseline, 4 parts; castor oil, 1 part, has been found of service; also internal administration of arsenic in the form of liquor arsenicalii in the animal's drinking water twice a day, one table-spoonful.

DR. WM. MOLE, Toronto, Ont.]

Umbilical Pyæmia.

T. A. BOWLES, Durham Co., Ont.:—"I would like to have your opinion as to what caused the death of my foal, or could anything have been done for it? The mare foaled on the 27th of July, and up till the 9th of August both were in perfect health. On the evening of the 9th inst. I noticed the foal carried his head in a pointed direction; eyes red as blood; the neck and limbs seemed to get paralyzed; and died in a few hours."

[In these cases very little outward symptoms become visible, and only experience will teach that the disease may be prevented by applying antiseptics to the navel string at birth. The symptoms vary, and given outbreaks will differ materially in their nature. It is known by a variety of names—joint ill, pyæmia, septicæmia—but all depend on the absorption of a septic germ, causing blood poisoning through the umbilical vessels.]

Recurrent Abscess.

W. A. D., Beulah:—"A two-year-old steer had a large lump on shoulder, filled with offensive pus, and very painful. Made incision below and one at upper side, and syringed out with carbolic solution from top, dressed with Fleming's Lumpy Jaw Cure. It then swelled larger than ever; a week later removed the scab; this about three months ago. Now the place has healed, but a similar lump or abscess is on neck, about ten inches from former lump on shoulder. What is it, and give proper treatment? It is unlike lumpy jaw. He remains in good condition."

[The abscesses are due to some localized poison in the blood. The treatment would consist of making a large incision in the most dependent part of the abscess, so that the pus would have free exit. Syringe the cavity twice a day with creolin, one ounce; water, one quart. Give internally, morning and evening, in mash, hyposulphite of soda, half an ounce; iodide of potassium, one dram. Continue for ten days.]

Miscellaneous.

Shetland Ponies.

A subscriber in Northern Assiniboia wishes to ask through our columns if "Shetland ponies are being bred in Canada, and, if so, where and with what results?"

[We shall be pleased to have those who have had experience in breeding ponies give the results of their experience to our many readers, and to those who have Shetlands for sale our advertising columns are open.]

Uneven Gait of Horse.

ARTHUR GILBERT, Oxford Co.:—"I have a fine-bred three-year-old carriage horse that wades a little with one fore foot. Her leg is straight and all right, but when bringing it forward throws it out. Can she be shod to help her; if so, will you kindly let me know?"

[There are a great many shoeing smiths who profess to be able to change the gait of a horse by a variety of weighted shoes. I myself have not much confidence in the success, and have never been able to detect the slightest difference in the going when using the weights or heavy shoes. However, you might try having a shoe made heavy on the outside quarter and light on the inner with some chance of success.

DR. WM. MOLE.]

A Battle with Couch Grass.

SIR,—On page 384 of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* of Aug. 15th I notice in the Questions and Answers column a communication respecting couch grass, from A. G. J., Simcoe Co. The plan suggested in the answer subjoined (I feel impelled to say for the benefit of the unfortunate farmer) is, I think, unnecessary and impracticable, being by far too elaborate treatment. I am an unfortunate one in this regard, but have not attempted to eradicate the weed until after careful thought and some enquiries as to the best course to pursue. I this season undertook to treat a five-acre field, which has been almost a perfect mat for some time. I began last fall by letting it alone—not plowing at all. When other seeding was pretty well on this spring, and the land had become fairly dry, I plowed shallow as possible and harrowed. In about a week, the grass showing a little, I plowed cornerways and deeper, and harrowed; then in two or three days cultivated and harrowed; then after a week or more gang plowed across and harrowed, just to keep down all green; then about middle of June ridged it in ten-yard lands, deep, and about the 20th June sowed buckwheat, one-half bushel to acre (that is abundance), with broadcast cultivator, and harrowed thoroughly. I examined the field when buckwheat was two inches high and I found scarcely a blade of the grass left. There now grows on the piece a thick mat of buckwheat, 1½ feet high, in full bloom; and having partly drained it, with the intention of thoroughly completing the work this fall, I hope to be rid of the nasty pest and able to grow good crops in the future.

W. S. GROVE, Wellington Co., Ont.
[EDITORIAL NOTE.—We trust Mr. Grove will favor our readers with the final results of his plan of killing couch grass.]