

FARMERS' COLUMN.

A bee farmer says: "I find, by experience, that hives painted with Venetian red, or Prussian blue, are in a manner exempt from the ravages of the moth, and that white hives are the ones that suffer."

A correspondent writing to the New York Farmers' Club says that he has known a very foul case to be entirely cleansed by filling it with dry earth and leaving it four or five days. The earth treatment followed by scalding lime-water, will sweeten anything.

FARM WAGGONS.—The first requisite in care of farm waggon is to keep them under shelter when not in use. The most convenient arrangement for this is a shed in which to drive, and from which there is a door into the horse stable. It is better for all wheeled vehicles to stand upon the ground rather than on a floor of wood.

STABLE FLOORS.—The Scientific Farmer says of stable floors that it is common to pitch them back from one to four inches for purposes of drainage. This is all wrong. Any inclination to the rear is injurious, for the reason that the toes of the animals are thereby turned up, and the back sinews, especially of the fore-legs, kept in a sort of unnatural tension. If there is any pitch at all in the floor it should be in the front instead of the back.

DRAINING WET LANDS.—A correspondent of the New England Farmer has drained a once worthless part of his farm, and made it wonderfully productive. The meadow was divided by a crooked stream, which rendered it too wet for cultivation, but by digging a straight ditch through it, three feet wide and three feet deep, with permanent walls to support the banks, and running other drains into this, the land has been improved, until it now produces immense crops of hay and grain. Seventy-five bushels of corn, and from seventy-five to one hundred bushels of oats to the acre, have been raised on the land since the drains were completed. The expense of draining the land has been paid for several times already.

LIME AND MANURE.—At a late meeting of the Elmira (N. Y.) Farmers' Club, a member is reported as having said—"Some years ago I knew a farmer who undertook to improve the manure in his barnyard by spreading thereon unslicked lime. The yard was sheltered, most of the manure being in a basement of his barn, to which the cattle had free access. Returning one night from town he observed an unusual light under his barn, and on going to the spot to ascertain the cause, he found a pile of manure actually seeping out a small flame which would soon have reduced the barn and its contents to ashes but for his timely discovery. He put out the fire and abandoned the use of lime in the manure heap, for the lesson satisfied him that burning would not improve manure."

GROOMING APPARATUS.—An ingenious grooming apparatus—a foreign invention—recently introduced is said to work not only satisfactorily, but to possess some peculiar advantage over the ordinary implements and methods. The device consists of a brush now in use in hair-dressing establishments, and is operated at the extremity of a suitable spindle attached to a series of jointed rods, in such a way that it is capable of being worked by an ordinary fly wheel, which can be managed by a lad. The apparatus is also arranged to work either right or left, so that both sides of the animal can be brushed freely and thoroughly, penetrating the coat of the animal in such a manner as to effect the operation completely, while removing all dirt and secretions without irritation or inconvenience, and imparting to the surface that glossy appearance which it holds to be the test of good grooming.

RICKETS ON RICKETS.—Prof. Roloff of France, on an experiment farm, has been investigating the cause of rickets in young animals, and finds it "due to a stoppage in the development of the skeleton, caused by the want of chalk. In the case of aged animals this chalk is furnished by the greater supply of food they take, finding all the lime required. If the disease have acquired an intensity, it is rarely that the bones resume development, and consequently the animal remains impotent and sorry-looking. For pigs, till six months old, and calves and colts during the first year, it is essential to supply them with fodder rich in lime, or employing phosphate of lime. Done dust is commonly mixed with the young animal's food, and is, besides, very easily digested, a quarter of an ounce daily for pigs, and the double for stock. The chief point is to apply the remedy in time; acid food is said to promote the disease; it does so in the case of pigs fed on sour milk; the lactic acid, uniting with the lime in the ration, is expelled from the system in the form of a chemical salt."

THE HORSE.—If a horse is made accustomed from his early days to have objects hit him on the heels, back and hips, he will pay no attention to the giving out of a harness or a waggon running against him at an unsuspected moment. We once saw an aged lady, says an exchange, drive a high-spirited horse attached to a carriage down a steep hill, with no hold-back straps upon her harness, and she assured us there was no danger, for her son accustomed his horse to all kinds of usages and sights that commonly drove the animal into a frenzy of fear and excitement. A gun can be fired from the back of a horse, an umbrella held over his head, a buffalo robe thrown over his neck, a railway engine pass close by, his heels bumped with sticks, and the animal take it all as a natural condition of things, if only taught by careful management that he will not be injured thereby. There is a great need of improvement in the management of this animal; less beating wanting and more education.

ASHES.—Many farmers have no convenient place in which to store their ashes, and consequently they put them in barrels outside of the doors. Too often these are left uncovered, or the covers blow off, leaving the ashes exposed to the rain or dew. Evidently they do not realize the great value which ashes possess as a fertilizing agent. If they did they would never allow them to waste. On the contrary they would apply them to their crops. If a man has a good place to keep them, one in which they cannot be injured by rain, and in which there is no danger from fire, it is well enough to let a year's stock accumulate and then apply them in the spring. This, however, in case part of them are not needed for crops in the summer. Some of our readers who have ashes of which they ought to dispose in order to prevent loss, may here inquire to what special crops they should be applied at this season of the year. We reply that for onions, ashes are among the best of fertilizers. For this crop they should be strewed along the rows, lengthwise, and the cultivator should then be run between them or else they should be hoed by hand. Applied to Indian corn, a handful to each hill, immediately before a rain, or just before a crop is hoed, they give good returns. They are also very good for vines in the garden. In most seasons the application to grass land immediately after the first of hay has been removed, has a very fine effect and insures a good crop of roven. There are ways enough in which all the ashes that are made can be profitably used on the farm, and they certainly ought to be saved and used to the best advantage.—New England Homestead.

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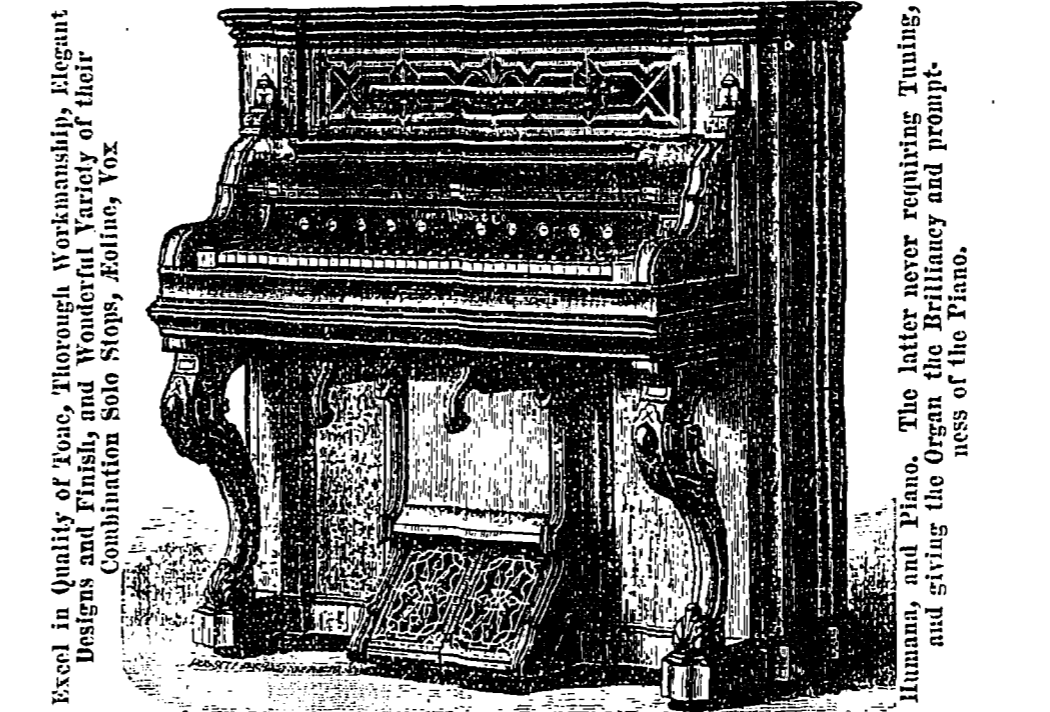
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LIST OF BOOKS, DEVOTIONAL & INSTRUCTIVE FOR THE SEASON OF LENT AND HOLY WEEK.

Table listing various books and their prices, including 'Voice of Jesus Suffering to the Mind and Heart of Christians', 'The Agonising Heart', 'The Perfect Lay Brother', etc.