

External Parasites on Animals.

Of all the external parasites, the scab insect produces the most terrible ravages; but there are several others of an inferior order, in point of power of annoyance, which are nevertheless very detrimental to the well-being of those animals which have to play the unfortunate part as host to them.

Ticks, fags and lice are common names for three forms of parasitic pests, which are well known to the shepherd and herdsmen. Ticks—that is, the true tick (*Ixodes ricinus*), and the common tick or fag (*Melophagus ovinus*), are constantly found on sheep and lambs. The former is a true and insatiable blood sucker, which buries its sucking apparatus in the skin, and extracts an amount of vital fluid which sometimes fatally exhausts the animal when a large number of the parasites are collected together, and more especially if the subject of attack is a weakly animal.

Some time ago great mortality was occasioned among lambs in Kent, from the ravages of ticks. The season has been particularly favorable to the development of the young brood; and the lambs, which were feeding in thickly-wooded districts, soon became covered with the parasites, whose united efforts soon exhausted the system of blood, and the animals died from hemorrhage. On post-mortem examination, the tissues and organs were found to be completely bloodless, and it was evident that the lambs had been bled to death by the parasites that had attached themselves to the skin.

True ticks are known by their propensity to bury themselves partly in the skin, from which they cannot be detached. The fag, commonly called the sheep tick, on the contrary, will always be found clinging to the wool, and although the parasite wounds the skin in seeking for food, it does not commit so much injury as the true tick does.

Lice infest all animals which are left in a neglected condition; but although they cause considerable irritation, and are very undesirable visitors, it cannot be said that they do any serious mischief. It is true that animals infested by these parasites are usually in an emaciated state; but the debility from which they suffer is not caused or materially increased by the presence of these parasites, which may be looked upon rather as a consequence of a morbid condition of their host. Not because dirt, according to the popular belief, will actually breed lice, but for the reason that the creatures find in the unkempt coats of poor neglected beasts a favorable locality.

Remedies for external parasites are numerous, and most of them are effectual if properly applied; but the treatment which is adopted commonly fails because certain facts in the life-history of the creatures are ignored. In all cases it should be remembered that, besides the mature parasite, there are the young brood and the eggs in various stages of development to be completely destroyed before the cure can be considered complete. The first dressing may dispose of the newly hatched parasites and some of the adults, but a large number of mature eggs will be left, and some older parasites; these have to be got rid of by subsequent dressings, and, in short, the remedy must be repeated until signs of irritation, which indicate the action of living parasites, and have altogether ceased.

Carbolic acid is a powerful destroyer of nearly all forms of external parasites, but requires care in its use. A mixture of one part of ordinary colorless acid with fifty to a hundred parts of warm water in which soft soap has been dissolved, will be generally effective if used freely, two or three times, at intervals of a week. A more simple remedy is common train oil, which is particularly useful, and a remedy for lice; besides these, any of the arsenical mixtures, which are in use for dipping sheep, are actively destructive to external parasites, and, provided that proper care be taken, they are perfectly safe.—*Agricultural Gazette*

Care of Team Horses.

The following good advice to teamsters has been published in the form of a showy poster and sent out by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals:

What constitutes a good driver.—1. A man that sees good care is taken of his horse in the stable, by being well fed with wholesome food of cracked corn and oats, with plenty of good hay. Potatoes or carrots may be given once or twice a week to good advantage. See that he is kept clean, warm and comfortable, with plenty of bedding. A piece of rock salt should always be left in the manger.

ing, taking into consideration the condition of the streets, and the distance to be travelled. Never overload, for by so doing you only distress, strain and discourage your horse, and do him more injury than you can possibly gain by carrying the extra load. When your load is hard to pull, stop often and give your horse a chance to breathe. No good driver will ever resort to the cruel practice of whipping or beating his horse. A light whip may be carried, but there is seldom use for it. Much more can be accomplished by kind treatment and good judgment. Remember, the horse is a very intelligent, proud, sensitive, noble animal, the most useful known to man, and is deserving of the greatest kindness.

Prize Barn.

We gave in a previous number a prize plan of a barn, got up by a Canadian; we now give you the representation of one of the prize barns in the United States.

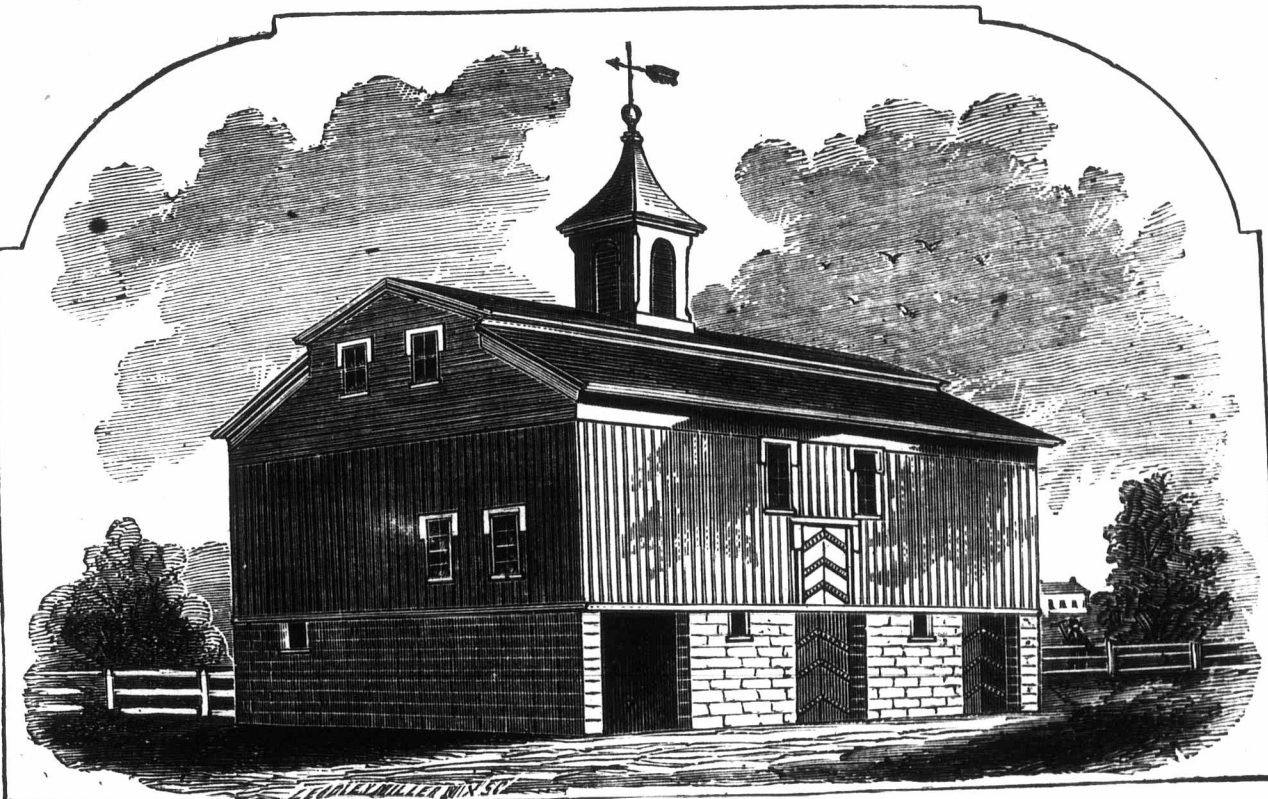
Treatment of the Farm Horse

It is not the amount of food given a horse, so much as gentle treatment and the time and manner of giving him food, that insures good his condition. There are times when he should have a full feed, and there are times when he should be fed in the evening after his day's work is over.

Then, after gratifying his appetite, he will quietly lie down to rest, probably till morning, by which time his food will be digested and his whole system refreshed, and he gets up in the morning with renewed appetite, and his energies prepared to undergo another day's service. His morning meal should not be so plentiful as that of the previous evening, and after partaking of it should be worked moderately for the first hour or two; afterwards, if necessary, his gait may be increased. At midday his

feed should be less than either that of the morning or evening and he will then renew his labor in the afternoon with more vigor and less exhaustion than if he had partaken of a full feed, and will enjoy his evening's meal with greater relish. Were more kind words given to these noble animals we should find their docility increased. Why talk in tones that can be heard half a mile off, when the animal is within less than five feet of you. Where is the necessity for it? Why not speak to him in more gentle and pleasing terms? Rather talk to him in a kindly tone of voice, pat him on the neck, and even sing or whistle to him, for he is fond of music, and those little attentions are sagaciously appreciated by him. He is an intelligent animal, and will obey a command, if given in a gentle tone, quite as readily as if given in tones of thunder. The very best managed teams in the country are those whose drivers rarely speak to them above their ordinary tone of voice. None of the brute creation more readily appreciate kind treatment than the horse, and that fact should ever be borne in mind by those under whose care these noble animals are placed.—*Col. Farmer.*

If stove polish is mixed with very strong soap suds, the lustre appears immediately, and the dust of the polish does not fly.



PRIZE BARN.

2. He should see that his harness is kept soft and clean, particularly the inside of the collar, which ought always to be smooth, as the perspiration, when dry, causes irritation, and is liable to produce galls on the shoulder. The collar should fit closely, with space enough at the bottom to admit a man's hand. If too large, it has the bad effect of drawing the shoulders together. On no consideration should a team or any work-horse be compelled to wear a martingale, as it draws him down, and prevents him from getting into an easy and natural position. The check-rein may be used, but only tight enough to keep the head in a natural position, and it should never be wound around the hames. See that the hames are buckled tight enough at the top to bring the drought iron near the centre of the collar. If too low, it not only interferes with the action of the shoulders, but gives the collar an uneven bearing. Caution should be taken that the girth is not buckled too tight, particularly on string teams, for when the traces are straightened, it has a tendency to draw the girth against the belly, and also distress the horse.

3. See that the horse is kept well shod with a good stiff shoe, always calked at toe and heel on the hind feet, as it is there where the propelling power comes from when heavily loaded. Keep the feet good and strong, but not allowing them to be cut away too much by the blacksmith.

4. The best judgment should be used in load-