

IS PEA STRAW GOOD FODDER.

A correspondent says he has not found pea-straw as valuable for fodder as good oat and wheat straw.—Very likely. And yet good pea-straw may be so cured and fed, as to be worth far more than any other straw, unless it is choice bean-straw. It is more nitrogenous than wheat, oat, barley, or rye straw, and should be fed, to get out its full value, in connection with a small quantity of corn. Sheep that have a pound of corn each per day will fatten more rapidly on pea-straw than on wheat or oat straw. The better plan is to let them have all they will eat of both pea and wheat straw—say pea-straw morning and noon, and wheat or oat straw at night. But we apprehend the trouble with our correspondent is not so much in the way of feeding as in the method of cutting, curing, and preserving the pea-straw. If the peas were allowed to grow till dead ripe, and after cutting were allowed to remain in heaps in the field day after day without turning, and were exposed to rains and dews until nearly all the soluble matter was decomposed or washed out of the straw, and half the leaves were knocked off them before they left the field, and they were stacked in a damp condition, it is not difficult to understand why "the sheep and the chemist do not tell the same story" in regard to the value of the straw. On our own farm we have found pea-straw from a luxuriant crop of peas, cured without rain, nearly as valuable as clover-hay.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

A SHORT-HORN CROSS.

I have kept them pure, crossed the short-horn cow with the Devon bull, and crossed the Devon cow with the short-horn bull. In either way they have made a large return, and paid for their meat much better than pure Devons; but by far the greater success has been to commence with the Devon or native cow and pure short-horn bull, and for ever after using the short horn bull. I have used the Devon bull on the cross from the Devon cow and short-horn bull; but the progeny rapidly declined, and no trace of the short horn remained. In these days of great consumption and high prices, it does not pay to strike to stock the breed of which requires our or five years to mature; but I am firmly of opinion that if pure short-horn bulls were used on the native cows and their crosses in the different districts of the United Kingdom for a few years, our beef supplies would be doubled. Many farmers have a great horror of crossing their stock, whilst others admit that the first cross is all that they could wish, but after that "is all gone, goose" with the next generation. Of such I would ask, Have you ever tried? and if so, How! and, With what object in view. My theory has always been—and practice and observation have fully borne me out—that we can make almost anything we like of our flocks and herds in a few years, by full adhering to pure male animals of the kind we wish them to remain. If beef is our object, use a pure high class short-horn bull always; never by any chance or pretence use a cross-bred bull, even if he be the best animal you can procure, and if the cross were once a dozen generations back. It is the use of cross bred males or cross bred females that has made so many people distrustful of any but the first. I wish to lay great stress on the using of pure-bred short-horn bulls, by which I do not exclusively mean those fancy-priced beasts that figure so prominently in the agricultural periodicals, but ones selected from a good herd; where pedigree signs have been seen for the last twenty years on cows of undoubted short-horn blood, and that have not been artificially forced. It is not difficult to purchase hundreds of such at reasonable prices." *A Correspondent in Mark Lane Express.*

CATTLE DISEASE.

A malady has prevailed among cattle in Washington county, Kansas, which awakens much concern in that locality. The affected animals are first taken with foaming at the mouth, followed by spasms and paralysis; death supervenes in a few hours. The only remedy that has been found effective is a solution of common salt given in doses of a pint or quart. On dissection the mucus membrane of the stomach and intestines was found full of worms.

Mr. John Jackson has sold his three-year-old stallion, "Prince of Wales," to Mr. Draper, of Woodstock, for \$2000.

RELIEVING CHOKED CATTLE.

On an animal becoming choked with any hard substance that cannot pass the gullet, harsh measures should never be used until all others have failed. The practice of placing a block against one side of the throat and endeavoring to break the obstruction with a mallet, as is sometimes practised, is simply brutal. One of the simplest and at the same time most efficacious remedies is to give a half pint of lard oil or melted lard, by drawing out the animal's tongue, raising the head, and administering from a thick bottle. This lubricates the gullet, sickens the stomach, relaxes the muscles of the throat, and in coughing, the lodged substance will generally pass either up or down. If the choking has existed so long that inflammation of the throat has ensued, resort must be had to the probing—any flexible rod, either whalebone, vulcanized rubber, etc., with a sponge or soft substance affixed to the end. Introduce the soft end into the throat, holding the animal's head up, and the obstruction being reached, press it firmly down at any risk, for it is now a case of life or death.

To relieve the inflammation, apply a slip pery-elm poultice, keeping it in close contact with the throat by securing the folds in which it is placed by means of corals to the horns. Keep the animal on light soft food, assisted with linseed tea, until the inflammation is subdued.—*Western Rural.*

We copy the following remarks on this subject, made by a gentleman who has had ample experience in the manufacture of cheese, at a meeting of farmers recently held at Cobourg, and copied from the *Sentinel* of that town:—

In answer to enquiries, he said that the general yield of milk to a cow would be about 20 pounds a day; he had seen them yield 45 pounds. It took in summer from 10 to 11½ pounds of milk to a pound of cheese, but in the fall from 8 to 9 pounds of milk would make a pound of cheese. Last season, in their factory, on an average, 9.92-100 pounds of milk to a pound of cheese. Cows would pay from \$20 to \$30 each; he had known a cow to pay \$40 from the factory. A cow would produce about 289 pounds of cheese in a season. They found this difficulty, that farmers did not get their cows to come early enough in the spring, and very often took them out too soon in the fall, (for the purpose of making butter,) thus lessening the yield of cheese. He approved of growing feed for sorling cows; knew a case where a man kept forty cows, and had only about five acres of pasture; he fed them on vetches, oats, and corn entirely, and his cows yielded a better average than any other sent to the factory. He thought that the house for making cheese and the house for cutting it was better to be separate houses than all in one building. The price realized were better than last year; their average this season was eleven three-eighths per pound.

PURECOLD AIR.

Don't be afraid to go out of doors because it is a little colder than usual. The cold air will not hurt you if you are properly protected, and exercise enough to keep the circulation alive. On the contrary, it will do you good; it will purify your blood, it will improve your digestion, it will afford a natural, healthful stimulus to your torpid circulation and strengthen and energize your whole system. The injury which often results from going into a cold atmosphere is occasioned by a lack of protection to some part of the body, exposure to strong draughts, or from breathing through the mouth. Avoid these and you are safe.

Don't be afraid to sleep in a cold room at night with the window open. Cold air, if pure, will not hurt you at night any more than in the day, if you are protected by sufficient clothing and by breathing through the nostrils. If you do not breathe thus acquire the habit as soon as possible.

If you wish to be subject to coughs, colds and fevers, shut yourself in close, hot rooms day and night. If you wish to be free from their companionship, always have plenty of pure air to breathe, night and day, take daily out-door exercise, regardless of the weather, except as to protection, and eat, and bathe as a Christian should.—*Good Health.*

Hog-skin and cowhide bags hold ten times as much corn as canvas bags do, and cost only about one-tenth as much to get to market.—The corn should be put into the bags before the skins are taken off the animal.

The Horse.

FEED FOR COLTS.

A correspondent of the *Maine Farmer*, who is a successful breeder of horses for driving, &c., gives that paper his method of feeding colts. He feeds all colts as many oats as they will eat up clean, feeding three times a day. He gives weanlings four pounds of oats per day, with eight pounds of hay; to yearlings, five pounds oats; two-year olds, six pounds; three-year olds eight pounds, with ten pounds of hay for each of the last three ages. The colts are all handled from their birth. Even in the winter the young colts have a half hour's gallop daily, while the older ones are regularly driven. A warm bran mash is given once a week, and also three or four pounds of potatoes, occasionally sheaf oats instead of hay, and in cold weather an occasional feed of corn.

CLACKING AND OVER-REACHING HORSES.

Clacking, or, as it is sometimes called, "forging," is the name given to the sound produced by the hind shoe striking the fore one in progression. It is usually heard at the trot, and seldom noticed in adult horses. It is most common in young horses out of condition, and especially noticed when they are tired. The noise is produced by the hind shoe striking the under surface of the fore one, just behind the toe, not at the heels. When the blow has been repeated so as to leave an impression, the marks are found on the inner edge of the fore shoe.—This is important, as it shows us that the length of the shoe is at fault, and it suggests the removal of the part where striking occurs. Removal of this edge is equivalent to making a shoe concave, instead of flat on the ground surface, and such a shoe is found to effectually prevent a recurrence of the objectionable noise.

The ordinary hunting shoe, especially the narrow one made in a "cress," is the best possible form. For harness horses, where more substance is required for wear, the ordinary shoe, seated on the outside instead of the inside, is usually sufficient. A case may be met with in which this alteration is not effective. We must then alter the hind shoes, making them square at the toe, with two clips—one on either side—and set back a little on the foot. The wall at the toe should not be pared off, but allowed to protrude a little.

Too often the hind shoes are the first to suffer alteration, sometimes of a very objectionable kind; for instance, we have seen the toe of a hind shoe made diamond-shaped and prominent, so as to come in contact with the sole of the fore foot instead of the shoe. This is a most irrational, and somewhat dangerous expedient. It leaves the offending part of the fore shoe untouched and favors the infliction of injury to the foot. Even when the hind shoe is only made short and placed back on the foot, there is a risk of the horn at the toe being unduly worn, and there is a shortening of the leverage of the foot, which must more or less effect the powers of progression.

If a horse "clacks," rest contented at first with altering the fore shoes as we have described; improve his condition and ride him up to the bit, but not past his pace.—Over-reaching is an injury to the heel of the fore-foot. It is sometimes merely a bruise but more often a lacerated wound, a small, round portion of skin being left hanging, nearly detached from the heel. The offending part of the hind shoe is its inner circumference or edge, so that the injury must be caused by the hind foot being in the heel, and the skin caught as the foot is retraced. The inner edge at the toe of a hind shoe becomes very sharp after a few days' wear, and will cut like a knife.

As in clacking, the indication for prevention is to remove the offending edge. This cannot be thoroughly done with a file, but when the shoe is hot the edge behind the toe can be cut out with the "fuller" so as to leave the shoe concave. If over-reaching is an accident peculiar to the gallop, it is well always to shoe hunters so as to guard against the occurrence. The neatest and best hind shoe for a hunter is made like a fore one, in a cress, and presents a concave ground surface and rounded edges.

When a heel is injured, it is always well to try and save the pieces of skin. It should not be cut off until it is certain that it will

not reunite to the tissues beneath. One good fomenting on reaching the stable is enough; after that use the simplest water dressing, and under no circumstances use poultices, which only increase the chances of a slough, and retard the healing process. Should healing seem slow, apply a mild stimulant, such as a piece of linen wet with a mixture of carbolic acid, one part, to glycerine, twenty parts.—*Scientific American.*

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

From the time the colt is born he should be taught to regard man, whom he is afterwards to serve, as his protector and friend. A human hand should first lift him gently to his feet, and direct his little mouth to the source of material nourishment. With the human touch he should thus early be made to associate caresses and a supply for all his wants. Instead of yells and oaths, the kicks and blows, he should hear only gentle, loving tones from the attendant's mouth, and pettings from his kindly palm. He should be taught to expect and watch for man's entrance to the stall or paddock where he is kept, as a dog waits for the coming of the master, as the season of joy and happiness. His little dear like limbs should be handled, and he be taught to yield them properly, and without fear, to the master's touch. In short everything that loving ingenuity can devise should be done to impress upon his mind thus early in life that man is his natural protector and friend, between whom and him an intimate companionship has been ordained by beneficent Nature, which insures that he shall be protected and cherished while he serves. The horse has a heart-claim upon us. The young colt is, in some sense a member of the family—one of the owner's household second in rank, and dignity only to the children. So the Arab regards him. The beautiful young thing, with its shining coat and gazelle eyes and sprightly antics; so full of bounding but docile life, is literally his children's play mate. He shares their food, and often their sleeping mat; and a blow dealt him is as promptly resented as if it had been dealt the only son, for whose service in peace and sefty in the hour of battle, the young thing is being raised.—*From Mr. Murray's Book on "The Perfect Horse."*

STABLE FLOORS.

The colt only asks for room to stretch his growing limbs and a roof sufficient to shield him from the storm, undisturbed if he should see a star through the crevice above him, and feel the fresh breeze whistling through a crack by his side. He wants a well ventilated stable and a chance to get out of it whenever he desires to do so. And above all things, let him stand on the ground, if possible, while in his box; and, at any rate, in a yard in which his box opens. A floor, especially a wooden floor, is bad enough for a mature working horse; but to a colt it is almost destruction. I have no shadow of a doubt that we ruin thousands of horses' feet in this country by our plank floors. The wood when dry is a non-conductor of heat, and tends to keep the hoof above its natural temperature, and to remove from it all its natural moisture; and when wet it has a tendency to rise above the surrounding temperature by fermentation. Wet or dry, therefore, wood, whether in the form of a plank floor or sawdust bedding, is very injurious to the horse's foot. And so thoroughly convinced of this am I that I always provide brick floors for that portion of the stall which is occupied by the horse's fore-feet—a practice which has, with the aid of tar-oilment, protected me, for more than twenty years of hard driving on hard roads, from sore-toed horses, and has sent out of my stables a foot which every farrier in town recognizes the instant he puts his batrice into it. For the feet, then, of the colt and the idle horse, furnish the earth as a standing place: for the feet of the working horse, furnish a brick or stone floor. By such a floor can you secure your colt a good foot, a good leg, a well-shaped ancle, and a firm and substantial knee.—*Murray's "Perfect Horse."*

POTATOES AND PROTECTION.

It is reported, we know not with what truth, that, in consequence of the scarcity of potatoes, Congress will be petitioned to suspend the duty of fifty cents per bushel on imported tubers, so as to let them in from Canada, Nova Scotia and the Bermuda Islands.