

ing bandage is often very serviceable in closing the wound and arresting the bleeding by pressure. This consists in a long, narrow bandage, rolled from each end; then, by applying the central part opposite the wound and drawing each roll forward, the edges of the wound are brought together and pressure applied.

Bleeding having been checked, all foreign substances must be removed; and this may occasionally be a matter of some difficulty, as in the case of punctured wounds inflicted by pieces of wood, stakes or rails, slivers or broken pieces may be left in that may easily be overlooked. This should be done without washing if practicable; but when dirt, dust, &c., render washing the wound necessary, tepid water is all that is required, and this should be gently squeezed from a sponge or cloth held over the part. It cannot be too strongly insisted that irritating or stimulating applications to a flesh wound are always injurious, and always retard the healing process. All foreign matter, blood clots, &c., having been removed, the edges of the wound must be brought together by means of stitches, which may be either of wire, catgut or silk; or the parts may be held together by pins, similar to "pinning up" after bleeding, using as many pins or stitches as necessary. These should be about an inch to an inch and a-half apart, and not drawn too tightly.

In order to check the excessive swelling and inflammation that frequently results from lacerated and contused wounds, fomentations of warm or tepid water, according to the season, are beneficial; and if the fever should be high a purgative should be administered. In deep wounds it is best if possible to have a dependent orifice, so that the matter from the wound may be discharged from the bottom. The dressings or local applications to wounds should be of the simplest character. The eminent surgeon, Sir William Ferguson, preferred cold water, and its value has often been noted in veterinary practice. Or carbolic water may be used—one part of carbolic acid to eighty or a hundred of water. It will be found better to use mild lotions rather than ointments or oleaginous preparations, as these cause dirt to adhere to the part, and it will be more difficult to keep clean, cleanliness being an important consideration.

Wounds are healed by the processes of adhesion, also by suppuration and granulation. In the horse, healing by adhesion seldom takes place unless in slight incised wounds, in a great measure owing to the difficulty of keeping the parts perfectly still. If healing by adhesion does not take place, a discharge of a watery fluid occurs, and this is succeeded by "pus," or matter. If the pus is cleared away and the wound examined, it will be found to be filling up with a number of bright red granulations which bleed readily when touched. This is nature's mode of filling the cavity caused by the injury. The process of suppuration is longer in coming on in the ox tribe than in the horse, and the pus or matter is of a different character. Instead of being, as in the horse, yellowish, creamy and liquid, it is more like thin curd, and has a very unpleasant smell.

Wounds of the muscles heal much more rapidly than any other part. Wounds of ligaments and tendons are slower in healing, and injuries to bones still more tedious, as they frequently will not heal until a part exfoliates and is cast off. This may be known by the exces-

sively fetid smell of the wound. Wounds of the skin are also tedious, as new skin is never produced in the middle of a wound, but it gradually grows from the edges until the wound is closed. This new skin never produces hair, therefore it is of importance not to cut off or destroy any skin that can be saved, so that the blemish or scar may be as small as possible—though the old skin is often in time drawn over the wound by the new to a great extent, and the expected scar much diminished.

The Farm.

Our North-west Letter.

Among your many correspondents from this Province, I seldom see any from our farmers along the main line of the C. P. R.; some in fact are from districts where we think wheat growing a very risky business, while numbers complain of frozen crops, distance from markets, etc., etc. Now, sir, these "mountains and molehills" are likely to create an unfavorable impression of our Province generally; my intention is to try and give your eastern readers a glimpse of what I consider a successful locality. Virden is on the main line of the C. P. R., about fifty miles west of Brandon, and is the principal town in the county of Dennis. A few miles to the north, the Assiniboine river pursues its tortuous course. This district supports a sturdy body of yeomen, who are at the same time enriching themselves and their country. South, about twenty miles, is to be found the Pipestone Creek, certainly deserving a more dignified title—the famous valley of which produces an average of forty bushels of wheat to the acre, and where are to be found some truly magnificent farms. To the east are the Sandhills, the poplar of which supplies many with fuel. To the west we have "illimitable prairie," and that, too, of good quality. Throughout all these districts are to be found not only good farms, but good farmers; mostly successful men. If evidence of this was wanted, no better proof could be given than the substantial outbuildings that are taking the place of the sod and straw protections, in the quantity and quality of the stock, and the legitimate improvement that is taking place in all that is desirable. Let us return to our town and see how it compares with others of the same age. Eight years ago there was not a vestige of anything to be seen, not even a railway track; to-day there are two elevators capable of holding 50,000 bushels of grain; one-hundred-barrel grist mill; between 25 and 30 stores, comprising dry goods, groceries, hardwares, drugs, stationery, jewellers, tinsmiths, bakers and confectioners, milliners, tailors, book and stamp makers, feed and flour stores, butchers, barbers, furniture, etc., etc. There are also bankers, financial and estate agents and solicitors, several builders and blacksmiths; five implement firms have substantial warehouses; five hotels provide plentifully for man and beast. The Grand Central and Virden Houses being really first-class, the former would, I am sure, compare favorably with any in the Province. Again, we find livery, sale and feed stables, cheese factory, three churches, and good school, while on all sides are to be found substantial, and, in some instances, really handsome residences; we have here also what is not to be found in your transitory town ("which to-day is and to-morrow is cast into the oven"), by a good brass band showing a spirit of enterprise and love for refinement, which music invariably

stimulates, that is truly commendable. On the banner of our curling club success is plainly written. What? No, sir; we do not lack what I know rejoices your heart, a farmers' club. I hardly know whether I ought to dignify it with the above name, but simply allow it to pass under the title given it by its promoters, namely, farmers' meetings. These are held every fortnight, at which papers are read on subjects of interest, while much good accrues from these meetings. Still it is a lamentable fact that much is also desultory, for instance, as a mere hypothetical case, say the use of various green fallows to plough under for a crop of wheat. Mr. Haphazard has tried such a thing, and sees no good from it; Mr. Careful Calculator, on the other hand, has had great success with it. Mr. Pompous does not agree with Mr. C. C., but coincides with Mr. H., but would rather have his system than all the green manures in creation. Thus the discussion proceeds with perhaps a dozen speakers, when the chairman sums up, with becoming impartiality, saying, like Sir Roger de Coverley, that there is a good deal to be said on both sides. These discordant results may very often be traced to a difference in the conditions under which the experiments were made, the soil in the one case lacked the elements contained in the substance employed, while the other contained them in as large quantities as the crop could take up; or, in the manure employed, two substances required by the crop were plentiful, while, perhaps, two others were lacking. To quote an authority, experiments of the kind to be conducted properly, require a knowledge of the constituents of the soil and of the plants to be received on it, and a knowledge of what portion they derive from the soil and what portion from the atmosphere. But I am digressing, my only reason is the interest I take and the importance of farmers' clubs, if conducted on right principles. Why is there not a more general and legitimate interest taken in these clubs? I think the main reason is, so many fail to avail themselves of the stimulating influence of the agricultural press. Strange, indeed, it is there should be in so many cases antipathy to "book learning and farming." I fail to see what a farmer is to lose by being intelligent. What odds whether he gets his experience from the press, his neighbor or himself, so long as he gets only good, sound, practical ideas. None of us object to take our political news from a paper, we are also willing to take our market reports, historical and general information from papers, still many do not care to receive from this source information relating to their business. How is it every other class of men but farmers benefit by reading. Art, science, commercial men, mechanics, in fact all professions and trades are proud of their paper, and why not the profession on the successful pursuit of which all these others stand. If our farmers could be only brought to remember that much, if not most of the contents of our agricultural papers are written by hard-working, practical farmers; that the editors' business is not to palm off on unsuspecting men absurd ideas, but to scrutinize and sift all that comes, and obtain whatever has been proved by fact, to choke off imposters by exposure, to obtain from practical men whatever is of use to publish for the benefit of their readers, in addition, spreading among us workers such sound, well-approved, scientific knowledge as shall be of use to us on the farm or in the dairy. But I am trespassing on your