

WORK TO BE DONE.

There is scarcely a good Farmers' Club to be found in this Dominion. At the annual meeting you might bring forward plans to endeavor to have one established in your locality. The most enlightened may learn something of value from the observation of the most obscure; if you are well informed, you might with pleasure and profit impart useful information to others. A half-a-day or an evening might be profitably spent weekly, during this season of the year, in discussing agricultural subjects. In the busy season the meetings might be held monthly. Do not attempt to have everything just your own way; hear and encourage the remarks of any; by a little friendly talk you may have the best Agricultural Club in Canada; try it. A few dollars expended in this manner would be well laid out, and return better interest than bank stock. It is your duty, if you are a farmer, to attend the annual meeting, and when there, to show that you are alive to your interest; let not the mere nomination and seconding of a candidate, and the listening to a long, dry address satisfy you: ask for information, give suggestions for improvements. Do not let the business be hurried through in a half hour; if any officer cannot patiently wait one good half day in the year, to be devoted to the annual meeting, elect another; limit the time of speakers, and even the length of time given to the President's address—give all an opportunity to make a few remarks that desire to do so; the more you can induce to express their views, the greater will be the interest taken in your Society. The most retiring and reserved member may perhaps give you the most valuable hints.

We are informed that thousands of kegs of butter are now lying in the farmers' and dealers' hands that is not worth over 5c or 6c per lb.; much of it will be sold at the counters of retail dealers. To persons that are not judges of butter, it might bring higher rates, but most of it must be exported as grease. The loss to your pockets might be averted by proper information spread through an Agricultural Club. Knowledge is power, and power is equivalent to money. Agricultural clubs would increase the spread of knowledge and thus increase your wealth. Who will be the first to move for a Club in your locality? Remember "Cast thy bread upon the waters," &c.

Hints for the Season—January.

BY "HORTUS."

The spring-like weather of the past month has given great opportunities for working in garden and orchard when we hope has been taken advantage of. However, let nothing be neglected, good care is everything.

GRAPE VINES must be pruned in the fall or winter season and covered up, not so much from the frost as the bright sunny days of the spring. To the uninitiated the pruning of the vine, apparently, seems a very difficult matter. Nothing more simple. The principal object is keep plenty of young wood for fruiting, cutting out the old wood. Bone dust is the best fertilizer for the vines. Fill your soil with it and you will be rewarded with fine grapes—early and well flavored.

SMALL FRUITS.—The farming community are waking up to the fact that the growing of fruit pays, and nothing better than currants and raspberries, and one living within a radius of 20 or 30 miles from large cities, or even farther, now that we have such abundant railway facilities for shipping, may go into this business and will be astonished at the amount of profit there is in it. Of course care and labor is required, but nothing more, in proportion, than any other kind of a crop. A per-

son might have 20 acres of black currants alone and he would find a ready sale for them at \$4.50 a bushel. There are hundreds if not, "millions" in it.

Don't put off trimming your bushes till spring; now is the time if not done earlier. Thin out the old wood, keep the centre open and saw the wood to make cuttings of.

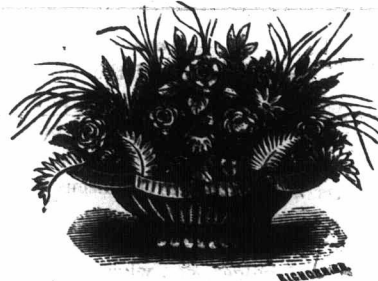
These may be cut in lengths 10 inches long, tied in bundles, and stored away in cellar, in sand or sawdust. They will be found ready for planting in spring.

Scions for grafting should be gathered and kept in cool place. Look after your apples; go through them and pick out all decaying ones. Last summer being so dry that apples became very ripe and are not keeping well at all this winter, so do not store or keep them too long.

MULCH around all bushes and fruit trees with manure. Cover asparagus with same, ready for forking it in spring. Protect your young strawberries with pine branches or other litter, so as to lodge the snow—"nature's overcoat."

Protect your young trees from mice by banking up with earth or by tramping the snow firmly around them.

Have all bulbs and tubers, such as gladiolus, tuberose, dahlias, cannas, &c., put in a nice dry place.



HOUSE PLANTS require plenty of sunshine and will not thrive very well till the days begin to lengthen. Do not water too much, but regularly, and in even quantities. An occasional shifting or repotting will add much to their growth and give finer blooms. If your roses are troubled with the mildew, sprinkle the foliage liberally with sulphur, pick off all decaying leaves, and often turn your plants to the light, they are so apt to get one sided in window culture. The green fly, a troublesome, minute insect, can be kept down by fumigating with tobacco smoke. At this season of the year a nice assortment of window plants may consist of geraniums, roses, lilies, carnations, hyacinths and heliotropes, Chinese primroses. This would give variety of bloom and foliage, with the richest of fragrance.

Dry Feeding and Impacted Intestines in Horses.

BY PROF. JAMES LAW, ITHACA, N. Y.

At the present season we have many complaints of sickness from costiveness in connection with the change to dry winter feeding. In some animals there is simply a dry, firm condition of the dung with some loss of condition and of liveliness. In others there is acidity of the stomach, with a rough coat and a propensity to lick earth or lime; in others with a lack of vigor and of lustre in the coat, there is an occasional attack of looseness of the bowels, followed by more or less confinement. In some there are occasional colic pains, with a tendency to look at the flank, to move the hind feet uneasily, to paw with the fore feet, to crouch, to lie down and rise again. This may recur after every feed, or it may appear but once a day, and usually after a meal, for eight or ten days in succession. It may be associated with more or less drum-like distention of the abdomen, and a rumbling sound; or the dung may be passed in hard

round masses, darker than natural, and polished on the surface and covered with a film of whitish tenacious mucus. In almost all cases the animals are lacking in power of endurance, and sweat easily under exertion. In the worst cases violent colics set in, the dung is passed in small masses of one or two balls only at a time, and, after a while, defecation is altogether suspended, inflammation sets in, and the patient too often perishes.

For these various morbid conditions the change to winter management is largely responsible. This is especially the case on breeding farms, and with the young stock which has run at pasturage during the summer. The confinement of the small yard, or, still worse, of the stable, renders slow and tardy the circulation, which was free and bounding under the active stimulus of the lively and unrestricted movements on the open pasture; the process of absorption and secretion become correspondingly sluggish with the circulation which supplies their motive power. The natural digestive liquids of the stomach and intestines become defective in amount, digestion becomes slow and imperfect, the bile is thrown into the bowels in lessened quantity, and the bowels failing to receive their normal stimulus become torpid and allow of the formation of solid accumulations in different parts, giving rise to more or less disorder and ill health in different cases. When we add to this the effect of a close, impure atmosphere in retarding the natural changes in the blood, and leaving that vital fluid less fitted for the support of the various functions, and finally the influence of a dry diet of hay and grain, we have reason enough for the sluggish movements, the disorders and obstructions of the digestive organs.

Vital functions do not readily accommodate themselves to extreme and sudden changes. When effected by slow degrees the most extreme transitions will be borne by the system, so that a herbivorous animal may be made to assume the character of a carnivorous one, or a carnivorous those of a herbivorous. Thus Islandic cows are taught to subsist on fish; some horses of Hindoostan acquire the habit of eating flesh, and even European horses have come to relish animal soups given to bring them up from a state of debility. In the same manner our domesticated dogs and cats come to live on vegetable mush, and change their blood and secretions accordingly. But none of these can be submitted with impunity to any sudden change of this kind. The natural instinct is repugnant to the change, and most of them will rather starve than suddenly turn to such unaccustomed and unsuitable food. Against these extreme changes the instincts prove a sufficient protection, and the animal can only be brought to relish the new aliment by mixing it in small and gradually increasing doses in the former food, and thus the alimentary canals are brought round to it by degrees, and a perfect digestion and assimilation are effected. But this does not hold, when the change is less radical, when the new aliment is one to which the animal has been already accustomed at a former period of its life, or when the new comers are tempted by the example of those that are already habituated to the new food, to take to it and eat it greedily. Then the stomach, failing to accommodate itself to the new demand, does not digest the food quickly and thoroughly, and becomes clogged or overloaded, or passes on into the intestines a mass of partially digested material, and no way fitted for perfect digestion by the juices of the intestine, and the bowels accordingly become blocked, disordered, distended with wind, and irritated.

To obviate these troubles the first essential is to avoid a too sudden transition, either to the inactivity of the stable or to the hard, dry feeding of winter. As the grass begins to fail in autumn, the