

Dr. Maria Montessori

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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and "it is so lonesome" here in the country! Still others, no doubt, do not find the work of the farm as pleasant as it should be because of some little friction in the home. But whatever the reason, they are going—yes, they have gone—and now a new generation is coming on. What can we do to hold the young people on the farm?

We want these boys and girls; we need them badly, not simply for the work they can do, but for the good of the country. We do not like to think of it that the standard of citizenship shall be lowered, as it surely will be if something be not done, and done soon, to prevent it. What can we do?

In the first place, as it seems to me, we need to help the boys and girls to see that there is no better, no manlier, no more independent and withal any more profitable business in the world than farming. I know great fortunes are not made on the farm as a rule. Still, some men do get really wealthy in that calling. But neither is it a fact that everybody gets rich in the city. In fact, the proportion of the desperately poor is far greater in the city than it is in the country. If we are looking for genuine cases of suffering and deprivation, we do not look for them in the country; we seek the city paths and by-paths. There we are never disappointed. If we can get the young folks to see this we have made a good start.

Then, too, we are doing a good thing when we talk the farm up, not down. Far too often the father and mother by their complaining, fault-finding ways wean the boys and girls from the farm. They get sick and tired of hearing the farm always spoken of as a hard, thankless place in which to live. They go because father and mother have no love for the farm, and can impart no love of that kind to their children. When we speak of the farm, let us speak well of it. It is worthy so to be talked about. It is a fact that people live happier as a rule in the country than they are in the city. Sometimes we have to go and try the city and see what it is really like below the surface to help us to appreciate the farm as we should.

Again, farmer folks might well enter into the hearts and lives of the young people more than they do. The bridge between father and mother and son and daughter is too long. Let's shorten it up and make it easier to traverse! Why not talk to the boys and girls more about the things of the farm, always holding up the attractive and the sunny side? Why not take a real interest in the farm ourselves and not be always looking forward to a time when we can get away from it and become dwellers in the city? Those who are all the time uneasy, discussing the advantages of the life of the city, need not be surprised if their children soon take the road for the hot, restless, unnatural life of the town. For boys and girls are quick to take on the color of the life about them. Sunshine kindles sunlight in their lives. Shadows depress and lure away into the darkness. We do not set traps baited with vinegar to catch the honey bee. Sugar is what does it.

Other links binding the young people to the farm are good books and magazines. I would like to see a good farm paper in every home of our country. It would be a bond of the finest type. The educational value of such a paper can never be estimated. It is school, private adviser and spiritual counsellor. The man who publishes a good, clean, strong farm paper is doing more to mold the lives and the characters of the generation now here and the men yet to be than any other one agency, unless I may except the church. So let us give the boys and girls the best literature of this class we can, no matter at what cost. It is money well expended.

A few books of his own, a pretty room with easy chairs, a table, a few pictures on the wall and a sunny outlook have kept the heart of many a farmer boy true to the country; while the girl who has a cosy corner all of her own, with bright paper on the wall, music, books and a writing desk supplied with pen, ink and paper will hardly feel like hunting the city over for a finer home.

If on top of all this father and mother are always bright and cheery, always living close to their children, giving them a part in all farm operations and studying with them the birds, flowers, trees and creatures of the great beautiful out-of-doors, who can doubt that little by little the tide will turn and the country become once more what it used to be and what it might be again, the dearest place to the young in all the world? These are not any of them hard things to do. They are the things every true man and woman will enjoy doing. And they are what will lift the home life of the farm up to the place it ought to occupy. Is it not worth doing?

N. Y.

O. L. VINCENT.

It is said that there is romance in mixed farming. Quite true, and there is a little money too.

THE HORSE.

Fitting Heavy Horses for Sale.

There are usually two sides to a question. Where horses are the question upon which the discussion is based the two sides are closely defined by a conspicuous line of demarkation, as it was in the horse deal between the Deacon and David Harum. One side is towards the seller; the other is more conspicuous to the buyer. The context of this article is in the interest of the seller. Buyers beware!

"Condition" is one of the most important factors entering into the market value of horses, yet it is to a large extent overlooked by producers. They feel sure perhaps that the quality of bone, shape of shoulder and general conformation will sell the animal, but the average buyer of one or two horses is not yet as wise as he should be. A little flesh, a sleek coat and a round body look good to prospective buyers. The "Scot" in the Old Country does not price the colt that is roughing it in the paddock as quickly as he does the smooth horse in the stall. He has been fitted for a purpose.

Some individuals are ostensibly very much benefited by a period of fitting or fattening. It deepens the chest and flank, it thickens the thighs, it strengthens the coupling, it widens the croup and even improves in appearance the slope of the shoulder. In addition to this, it adds materially to the value of the horse through increased weight. An animal weighing fourteen hundred and fifty to fifteen hundred pounds may, in about one hundred days, be made to weigh about seventeen hundred pounds. Thus the animal has been converted from a farm chunk into a drafter or heavy-drafter. Through test it was ascertained at the Illinois Experiment Station that gains could be made from 12.3 cents to 15.24 cents per pound. The gains were worth 18 to 20 cents per pound, so flesh could be laid on at a profit and at the same time enhance the value of the original animal. The food consumed was corn at 43 cents per bushel, oil meal at \$27.00 per ton, and oats at 35 cents per bushel. These prices will serve as a basis of calculation at the present time.

hand, but a ratio of one to eight existing between the protein and carbohydrates and fat is considered most economical. Some feed as often as five times a day, but the majority dispense the grain in three feedings. On full feed, horses weighing 1,500 pounds on the start will consume from 18 to 20 pounds of grain and from 12 to 14 pounds of clover hay per day. Where corn forms a part of the ration, twelve parts corn to four parts oats make a good combination with clover hay, while if timothy hay be used, one part of oil meal should be added to the ration. A ration of one part bran and four parts corn, along with clover hay, is a safe mixture, but bran can be indulged in to excess when clover is being liberally fed. They are both laxative in nature and impede the rapid laying on of flesh.

Heavy horses are quite likely to stock in the legs, but in case bran and clover or alfalfa do not form a heavy part of the ration two bran mashes per week or some Glauber's salts mixed in the grain will allay the trouble. Fine-boned horses with quality will not demand the same attention in this regard, but drafters and chunks do not all possess these qualifications. A week or more will be required to put the colt into condition and during this time the animal should be exercised very mildly. The danger from azoturia is great when the horse begins to exercise in such a congested condition as exists after prolonged and quiet feeding. To lessen the danger it is wise to diminish the allowance of feed and administer a slight physic the day prior to any activity.

Idleness without exercise is not in the best interests of the horse, but it is usually the mature horse which is fitted in this way and less injury is done than would accrue to younger animals. However, that is the buyer's outlook and it pays the grower well to exhibit his stock with a sleek and glossy coat.

Ground Grain for Horses.

Out of sympathy for the horse, many owners grind their grain, even if the animal evinces no displeasure in grinding it himself. In rare cases this is wisdom; in most cases it is folly. There is a "something" about grain which is lost in the grinding, and in order to observe the value live stock place upon the natural product watch the avidity with which cattle attack the husk or cob of corn.

Experimenters see nothing to be gained in grinding grain, and Lavalard, from his experience with thousands of cab and omnibus, as well as army horses, in France, declares it is not necessary to grind their grain, especially oats. It was furthermore noticed that after a few months the animals preferred to crush the grain themselves.

The Dominion Experimental Farm at Ottawa has been the seat of some trials along the same line and their conclusions are that where a mixture of cut hay and bran is fed to horses having good teeth, there is no advantage in grinding oats. When horses are hard worked and have but little

time in the stable, or when their teeth are poor, it is well to grind their grain. All small, hard grains, such as wheat, barley, rye and kafir should always be ground, or, better, rolled.

With reference to cooked feed, the opinion also prevails that dry food is preferable. The time was when the feeding of sloppy stuff was considered a necessity in wintering brood mares, but experience has shown that dry food is best. Even stallions formerly received their ration of boiled barley twice a week during the season, but that practice is now waning. Experiments have shown, however, that the addition of this material to the grain ration makes no appreciable difference in the manner in which the grain is digested.

There are cases, nevertheless, where poor teeth might warrant crushing or rolling, but often they might be repaired by taking of the rough edges. Too often horses bolt their grain and no matter what is done with it they swallow it unmast-



A Good Morgan.

This breed is being encouraged in the United States.

The management of fattening horses is different from that of other kinds of stock. They should be kept absolutely quiet and fed liberally. A test involving 20 horses, of which seven were not exercised and thirteen walked 28 miles daily for 84 days, showed that the exercised horses gain 41 pounds less or nearly one-half pound per day less than the horses at rest. So far as could be seen, the horses at rest maintained their appetites and good health as well as the exercised horses. In connection with the same experiment, horses were tied in narrow stalls and some were confined in box stalls. Those running loose gained 2.2 pounds per day as against 2.4 pounds gained by the horses tied in narrow stalls. In spite of these findings, some horses might do better in box stalls. It adds to their comfort and a coarse horse would stock less in the legs when allowed this small amount of freedom.

The ration should be governed by the feeds to