

farmer can be found who is not inquiring for cattle; and the few that are for sale are held at prices which are simply preposterous. In consequence of this scarcity, much of the fodder on hand this spring remains unconsumed, and any amount of hay will be summered over. There is, perhaps, as much old hay on hand now as was raised in 1881; and pastures are too rank in growth to be good grazing.

Now one cause of this condition of things is the Jersey infatuation. The demand for cows of this strain has become so general, that Jersey bulls have almost a clear field. As no one wishes to raise steers of this kind, the male calves are slaughtered at the earliest possible moment. Every butcher's wagon passing by is crammed full of them; and the stock supply is thus daily growing less. Fully 100 per cent. more cattle are needed in this county to stock it properly than are now held, and neither calves nor cattle are in sight nor in prospect. The curious feature of the situation is that while cows are high and stock cattle out of reach, butter in the local markets is a drug. Except to regular customers it goes begging in the market at 12½ cts. per lb. If the calves produced were worth raising, this state of affairs would not have come about, for any one can see that it is more profitable to feed milk to calves, and much less trouble than to work it into butter at 15 cts. per lb.

If it were a settled matter that the "little Jerseys" are more profitable as butter-makers than larger breeds, it would still be clear that this part of the country at least has too many of them. Butter is overdone, while the pastures are in danger of growing up to weeds. The question is whether it is profitable to stock the country with a breed of cattle designed only to produce cows; and the relative price of cattle and butter certainly compels a negative reply.

So long as a heifer calf will sell for 25 dol., or a cow at the usual fancy price, of course there are some who will continue to breed for the market. It will be the business of this class to display their wares and sound the praises of their favourite, just as it was the business of a certain class in ancient days to lift up their voices in behalf of the great Diana of the Ephesians. A breed which is worthless for one of the chief ends of stock raising, should have an unquestionable pre-eminence in the direction of its superiority, and it should be bred solely with reference to that end.

The Jersey no doubt has its place, but the verdict of those who have given the matter attention is, that it is not adapted to every-day use; even native stock is in many respects preferable. But the Jersey

fashion has been contagious, and like the influence of fashion generally, it has had an unreasoning sway. The reaction has been slow in setting in, but butter at 12 cts. and calves at 10 dol. is an argument which fashion cannot rebut.—*James L. Taylor, Seida Co., U. S. A., in the Agricultural Gazette.*

CARE OF HORSES.

Successful farming is next to impossible with the use of inferior horses. Even when the best animals are secured skill and care are required to maintain them in proper working condition. Inefficient team help increases the cost of almost every farm operation, and makes high-priced labor expensive by diminishing its effectiveness. With careful but liberal feeding, and thorough grooming, a good team of horses should thrive even after performing a good day's work every working day in the year. In some avocations men work every day through the year with the exception of Sundays, and, though this may not be the best practice for men and women, yet it is because of a finer nervous organization, which is not presumed to be an impediment in case of the average work horse. Muscular weariness alone is relieved by regular rest at night, and also that of one day in seven set apart for that wise purpose. In the care of the horse, if the grooming be faithfully performed, it goes far towards resting the tired muscles after a hard day's work. We have in mind a most careful horse owner, who is accustomed every night to thoroughly rub and brush the wearied muscles of his team of horses. From the fresh and lively appearance of his horses and their disposition to work, we fancy this grooming is quite as important a factor in the well-being of his team as the grain which is fed to them. These horses have not yet been fed heavily, yet, from spring until fall, working every day except Sundays, the team continues to improve.

The mistake commonly made by farmers is in giving their horses too little grain in winter, or when not working, and then overloading the animals' stomachs when heavy work has to be accomplished. Grain thus fed not only fails to strengthen but also absolutely weakens. It is really a tax on the digestive organs, to which they are not accustomed, and are therefore unable to bear. Every person knows, or lucky indeed is he who does not, the sudden weakness which almost invariably accompanies any derangement of the digestive organs. The same is true in case of a horse, and such a derangement generally follows any sudden increase in food just as hard work begins. In fact, sudden changes of food in kind as well as in

amount should as far as possible be avoided.

A certain but moderate proportion of green food should form part of the daily ration for horses in winter as well as summer. At no time, however, should a working team be allowed to fill itself with grass to the exclusion of more substantial food. One feed of carrots daily through the winter is better with two feeds of grain than the feeding exclusively of grain rations morning, noon and night, without the roots. In a limited extent as an auxiliary feed carrots are worth as much for horses as oats, and more than corn. This latter grain, so well adapted for nearly every other purpose, is not well adapted to horse feeding. Some horses can consume corn without bad results, and it is a good sign for a horse that can, since it shows his digestive apparatus to be in excellent order. But, as a rule, a horse corn fed will not be able to do as much work as if given oats. When the corn does not cause colic, it may be given before hard work begins, but after that the oats are worth as much per bushel as the corn, though it takes only thirty-two pounds of oats to make a bushel and fifty-eight or sixty of corn. In hot weather the oil and starch in the corn are worse than wasted. The poor animal is hot enough already, and he needs strengthening, not heating food. We are aware that many heavy, slow-moving city draw and truck horses are fed a large proportion of meal, yet this does not change our opinion of its comparative value.

After spring plowing and planting are finished, it is the habit of many farmers to allow their horses to run down, to give them less care and little or no grain, not infrequently turning the team out to grass until heavier work is resumed. There are many excuses given by the average farmer for following this practice, yet there are many solid reasons for its discontinuance. Keeping a team on grain is expensive, especially if the home supply runs out, as is often the case after a hard spring's work. The feed, however, need not be so heavy during the summer, yet a few oats or a little mill feed should be given daily. If hay runs short cut clover, or the richer grasses by the roadside, let it cure in the sun and be drawn to the barn. The feeding of this cured clover and grass will be a change that the horses will appreciate, and such a feed will not work the injury sure to be occasioned through turning them out to fresh green grass. Occasionally a city horse is sent to the country to spend the summer. When he arrives his flesh is firm and his muscles are strong, yet after a few weeks on grass he becomes, unless judiciously fed, weak and flabby, and it requires several months of careful feeding