

chemistry has rendered to the practical farmer.

The result has been produced by several causes. The honest zeal of too credulous parties, who, seeing the first results of the chemist's labor, hastily concluded and proclaimed to the world their conviction that the good time was rapidly approaching when science would do all the work of the farm, that the study of soils and vegetable physiology would soon enable a man to carry enough concentrated manure in his vest-pocket to manure a field.

There are many such over-sanguine men, and there is another class of men who stand ready at all times to take advantage of their credulity and coin it into money. If the man of science should make known to the farmer that the moon's rays had a beneficial and marked influence upon vegetation, this latter class of men would manufacture the concentrated extract of moonshine to meet the wants of the first.

The high expectations of the over-zealous, not being met by the slow advances of science, a reaction takes place in their minds, and they are carried to the other extreme and denounce all science as humbug.

Another cause of the reaction is found in the fact that there exists a class of pseudo-scientific professors whose aim is to take advantage of the willingness of farmers to believe that the revelations of science may be made directly available to them. These self-styled professors will, for a consideration, analyze a sample of a man's farm and write a prescription for the whole plantation by it, warranted to make it produce enormously.

These professors recommend young farmers to turn their attention to the study of chemistry *at least so far as to be able to analyze soils and plants*, intimating that a mere superficial knowledge will enable them to do so. We have frequently seen the analysis, so called, made by such persons, and would much rather have the opinion of an old practical farmer who could neither read nor write, formed upon the bare inspection of a handful of soil, than one of these same analyses of it.

The truth is, there are but few chemists, who are capable of making such an analysis of soils and plants as to be of any value. Organic chemistry is the most difficult branch of that science, and the inorganic constituents of plants are found in most soils in such minute portions that none but a man endowed naturally with the requisite tact as well as a deep love of science, will ever become capable of making a reliable analysis, the minuteness and particularity of which would be incredible to the uninitiated, and the bare details of which few general readers would have patience simply to read.

The duplicity of speculators, the pretensions of unqualified men, and the reaction of the minds of the over-sanguine are the great drawbacks to the advancement of scientific agriculture.—*Louisville Journal.*

KILLING DAISIES.—Norman Porter, Esq., of Berlin, top-dresses two years running with *barn-yard manure* for destroying daisies; the first nearly does the business, and the second makes a finish of them.

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Stable Management.

What a mass of consequences is comprehended in that short sentence, "Stable Management!" What a host of ruined constitutions and crippled limbs has it not to account for! What new diseases introduced, and what old ones perpetuated, by stable management—verily, we should write it rather *mismanagement*? for how, in fortune's name, the absence of everything that could tend to an animal's comfort, and the presence of everything that could tend to the contrary, came to be dignified with the title, we profess ourselves somewhat at a loss to understand. "Stable management!" Shades of departed steeds, from the time that man placed the iron in your mouths, and claimed by might the right to make you slaves, we can fancy the concentrated irony of your version of stable management; we can fancy the "high-mettled racer" telling of his aching limbs and cracked sinews, his heart-sickness from the perpetual hot-air bath in which he spent his best days; we can hear the hack tell of his bad provender, his eyes smarting from the accumulated pungent gases of his badly ventilated home; while the cart-horse is sullenly groaning his disapprobation of the chaff on which he often tries to live and do his duty. What a history we should get of "stable management" if its victims could state their grievances!

But we are forgetting that our intention is to be practical, and not speculative; let us come to plain statements, and answer the question. What is the object of any system of stable management? We imagine, to keep the animals in the best health and working condition on the most economical plan. How are we to do it? According to all that has been said and written on the matter, we may select from twenty systems for the purpose, each one claiming to be the best. Now, we are not going to talk any nonsense about keeping the animals in a condition as nearly as may be to a state of nature; on the face of it, working horses are not in a natural condition; it is not natural to live in stables, to draw loads, or have iron rings nailed on to their feet. What the horse is in his native wilds, wherever they may be, and what he is under domestication, are two very different things; his habits are totally changed, and his functions materially modified. We do not wish to exclude the aids of scientific reasoning on what an animal was evidently intended for by nature, but we do wish to state our conviction that, under totally unnatural circumstances, the question of what is best to do or be done is one to be answered by actual experience—experience founded on correct knowledge of principles; the most philosophically correct statement

may become the most arrant rubbish when some of its premises are altered.

To begin at the fountain head—a word about breeding. We are not about to tell the farmer how long he may work his mare in foal, or what sort of horse is adapted for his country, because we have an idea that farmers are in a great measure like other people; they fancy they know their own business best, and, providing they find a certain system answer their purpose, they are not fond of trying experiments; "and small blame to them for that same." But we must take the liberty of asking some of them why they do not act up to what they know to be correct? They have an idea, we fancy, of the meaning of hereditary transmission of disease; on what principle, then, is the groggy, or broken-winded, or the blind old mare, when no longer of service, kept on just to "get" a foal or two out of her? Do they fancy they are proceeding the right way to continue a healthy stock, or do they make their colts for the same purpose that a certain honest tradesman made his razors—to sell?

Before we can hope to ensure a healthy condition of our studs, we must have a healthy constitution to start with, and healthy colts are only a very common sense consequence of healthy parents; give us fair play, then—in other words, give us some healthy material, and we will endeavour to tell you how to keep it so. First, as to the stable in which our animals for agricultural purposes are to reside. Of course, most of those for whom we write have their stables built; to those who have not we offer a few concise directions; and those who have may modify their establishment accordingly, that is, provided they think it worth the trouble.

1. Keep as far away from a northern or eastern aspect as possible: south before all, and west next.

2. Swear by loose boxes, and don't believe in stalls.

3. Have the floors of brick, nearly level, slightly tending to the drain in the *centre* of the box.

4. Have plenty of light, and have the windows so arranged that you can regulate the quantity as you please.

5. Ventilate! on scientific principles if you can—but ventilate! Have openings above for the foul air to escape, and some below for the pure air to enter. Very little ingenuity is required to arrange some simple contrivance for directing the lower current so as not to strike on the animal's legs.

6. Make each box as high and long and wide as your ground will permit; we don't prescribe any particular number of feet; in reason, you cannot have too much room, and you must have enough to permit the horse to turn easily in all directions.

7. Patronise iron mangers, water troughs, and racks, and let every box have one of each, taking the liberty to put the rack quite low, that the horse may eat his hay in the