Agricultural.

CORN SUGAR REFUSE.—The refuse from the corn or glucose sugar works is worth very little as feed. A trial of some of it recently convinced the writer that it was not worth its cost, which was 15 cents a bushel. It is chiefly the husk of the corn after the starch has been made from it.

LIME FOR MANURE.—There is no value in ground limestone as a fertilizer. Lime, which is burned limestone, only is of value. Fresh burned lime is the best, but the mild or air-slaked lime which is to be procured very cheaply as waste from the kilns, is of some value. It is necessary to use one-half more.

SHEEP FOR WOOL AND MUTTON.—For a light pasture the common native sheep should be chosen. It is useless to try to keep up finely-bred or large-bodied sheep on poor pasture, any more than the heavy Shorthorns could be maintained under such circumstances. The native sheep can be readily improved by crossing them with Southdowns or Shropshires, either of which would be suitable for light rough pasture. The so-called "Down" breeds are Southdown, Oxford-down, Shropshire, and Hampshire-down. These breeds are so called from the "downs" or grassy rolling chalk or limestone uplands upon which they are chiefly kept in the south and southern parts of England.

DOCKING LAMBS.—Lambs should be docked when two weeks old. Their nerves are then not very well developed and they do not suffer much from the operation. If it has not yet been done it should be done at once. It is a necessary operation and cannot well be dispensed with. It may be made almost painless by placing the animal against a suitable block, on which the tale is spread out. The skin is drawn up to the rump, and the tail is severed in an instant, about two inches from the root, by a sharp blow of a a mallet on a sharp chisel or large knife. The stump is covered with tar, by which the wool is matted over them to exclude air and flies.

EFFECTS OF DISTEMPER.—A horse that coughs should not be left out at night this season. The discharge at the nose which follows distemper is the result of the continued inflammation or catarrh of the nasal membranes. This may be treated by giving hyposulphite of soda in one-ounce doses for three or four weeks. As this salt acts on the blood as an antiseptic, and tends to counteract the ill-effect of the absorption of the purulent secretions, besides removing this foul matter from the blood, it requires to be given for an extended period, and often for a month. As it is doing the horse good continue it. The cough may be helped by the application of mustard paste or turpentine to the throat.

SWELLING OF THE LEGS.—A dropsical condition of the legs is often caused by some unhealthy state of the blood, due to ill-nutrition or to the absorption of unwholesome vapors, or to disease of the heart. In the latter case treatment is rarely of use; otherwise, any course that will remove the occasion of the trouble will afford relief. Usually it is sufficient to give a diuretic to cause increased action of the kidneys and so remove the impurity from the blood, and an antiseptic and tonic to benefit the digestion and improve the nutrition. Give one dram each of saltpetre and sulphate of iron every morning, and one ounce of hyposulphate of soda with a dram of powdered gentian, in the evening for 10 days. Give the horse regular exercise every day, and rub the legs briskly morning and night with a rough cloth. If the woollen condition is not reduced in 10 days, give one dram of iodide of iron, in place of the saltpetre, and continue the others for 10 days or more.

THE ARRANGEMENT OF STABLES.

It is not surprising that the horses employed in cities and kept in city stables should be in danger of occasional attacks of diseases of the respiratory organs when the conditions of the weather are favorable for such outbreaks. That these diseases, too, should be general and epizootic in their character is by no means to be wondered at, because the circumstances which makes them possible and those which make them actual are generally prevailing, and are everywhere effective. But it is not expected that farm horses should be so frequently attacked by these diseases, because they are neither worked so hard nor so vigorously as city horses; are not exposed in severe weather, whether it be hot or cold; are fed more healthfully and may be very easily subjected in many ways to better sanitary treatment. The life of a city horse does not average more than six years, but that of a farm horse may easily be twice or three times as long, the difference being due to the easier circumstances and the better care of the farm horse. Nevertheless, the farm horse does not enjoy all the pleasures of life which one might expect from its possibilities on account of the neglect of its owner or the inferior arrangement of its lodging. The farm stable is rarely well lighted, well ventilated, or well drained, and the farm horse is, in this respect, worse off than the better-lodged city horse. All these defects are detrimental to the health of animals confined in such stables. Want of light injures the eyesight, and where there is insufficient window space there is usually want of ventilation. In consequence of this the stable is filled with foul air, impregnated with acrid and pungent vapors of ammonia, which irritate the mucous membranes and keep them in a constantly inflamed condition. For want of drainage the floor becomes saturated with manure, which gives off these vapors abundantly, and one who has entered a close, dark, farm-horse stable, on a damp wintry morning, may know by the effect upon his own eyes and nose how disagreeable and injurious is the foul air with which it is filled to the unfortunate animals which have been compelled to spend 12 hours in it. Many of these stables are in basements, and these are rendered worse than others by the warmth and dampness of such places. It was in stables of this kind that the disease of 1872 prevailed very extensively, and every horse in wide localities was disabled at the same time. It is in such stables too that pleuro-pneumonia is prevalent among cows, for there are no other conditions that are so provocative of bronchial and lung disorders as those found in close, low, warm and damp underground stables. A stable should be well drained. Wooden floors are very undesirable, because the earth under them becomes saturated with foul moisture, which vitiates the atmosphere. An earthern floor is equally undesirable for the same reasons. The best floor is one of stone or concrete, properly graded, with drains to carry off the moisture, and which can be washed down with water once a day. The floor should be made water-proof in the following manner:—The floor is first dug out to the depth of a foot and filled in with gravel as coarse as can be procured. This is smoothed off to the proper grade from front to rear, which should be three inches in ten feet. Cobble stones may then be bedded and rammed down evenly until the whole floor is laid, with the drains made wherever they may be required. A quantity of hot gas is then brushed over the stone and dry sand is thrown over it until the stones are evenly covered. This sand is then saturated with gas tar and is rammed down, with more sand added to absorb all the tar. A final coating of tar is given, and is dusted with coarse sand. When this floor is hard it will be very durable, quite water-proof, dry, warm, vermin-proof, and in every way conducive to health and comfort. It will be suitable for either horses or cows, as the horses will not cut it up with their shoes, and if they should it is easily repaired.

The height of a stable should be at least eight feet. This provides good ventilation, and if windows are well arranged the ventilation may be made perfect. The usual small windows in stables are objectionable, as they furnish neither sufficient light nor air. Long, narrow windows that reach to within a few inches of the top are preferable, or a swinging narrow horizontal sash, arranged so as to open outward at the top, to afford direct egress to the impure air, and to deflect the fresh incoming air downward, may be fitted above the ordinary window. The light of a stable should always come from above, and be directly in front of the horses. A side light is injurious, because the light falls unequally upon the eyes, one of which being in the dark and one exposed to strong light are both strained. A north light is the best, and if the window must necessarily face in any other direction they should be shaded either with shutters or by covering them with lime-wash colored blue with indigo, or by spattering them with blue paint. This can be well and neatly done with a stiff new brush, by touching the glass with the ends of the bristles, held directly to the glass, or by striking the brush against a stick and causing the paint to spatter in small spots, until the glass is about half covered in a regular, even manner with the spots.

The drains from a stable should be connected with the gutters, and be carried into the yard or to the manure heap. Otherwise the gutters may be filled with some absorbent, as dry muck, or sand, and if they cannot be flushed out occasionally they should be covered with the absorbent when the stable has been cleaned out. It will pay liberally to keep a barrel of plaster in the stable and dust the floor with it after each cleaning, as the plaster absorbs all the ammonia, deodorizes and sweetens the stable, and saves all the ammonia from loss. The fact is, nothing is lost by the labor spent in keeping a stable clean, for the saving of the ammonia which would otherwise escape will more than pay the cost, and leave the comfort and other advantages for profit. Ammonia is the most costly ingredient of manure and fertilizers, and that which is lost by waste about the farm buildings and yards every year is worth a large sum of money.

It might be well to mention the necessity for watching very closely the first approach of any trouble with the respiratory organs of our farm animals, especially horses, at this season. At the first appearance of such trouble the use of warm bran mashes, a dose of cooling laxative medicine, and protection of a blanket for a few days, will usually avert the danger at once, while a few days' neglect may very easily lead to a serious attack which will lay up the animal for some weeks, if it does not produce permanent damage.

"So," said a lady to a strong minded friend, "so you and Mr. B. are soon to become man and wife, I hear." "I beg your pardon, we are to become woman and husband," was the haughty response.

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