The Farm. 48

Lighter Shoes for Horses,

The wear and tear on horseflesh make quite an item on the farm, and anything that will reduce this friction for the farmer should be welcomed. It has been proved beyond dispute that the average herse is shod with too heavy shoes, and if lighter ones were substituted the animal could do more work with less weariness. shoes have no particular advantage except for large truck horses on stone roals, where shoes wear out quickly. Even in such too heavy shoes cases it is doubtful if prove of any value. Certainly, for farm horses light shoes are much more satisfactory. The effects of such a change are quite noticeable shortly after they are put on, and in a year's time the extra amount of work that is obtained from a horse will more than pay for the shorter time that light shoes may wear.

The main object of the shoe is to protect the hoof, and the lighter it can be made and serve its purpose the better it is for the horse. A good part of the year horses on the farm would be better off without shoes and they can do ploughing and similar work in soft fields without in any way injuring the feet. In winter, when the ground is frozen, it is quite different, and shoes seem necessary at these times. horse weighing 1,100 pounds should generally be shod with shoes not weighing more than twelve to fifteen ounces each. If ounces are added to each shoe the total difference in the animal's shoes is fifteen ounces. In ploughing, cultivating, mowing and reaping a farm horse will walk from ten to twenty miles a day. If it takes about four feet each step the horse will lift half a pound extra on its two feet, or 600 pounds in every mile. If we make the average day's work fifteen miles, the horse wil lift 9 900 pounds extra a day, or nearly five tons. The energy required to lift this amount is wasted and serves no useful purpose. If it could be expended in doing extra work that would, it would nearly pay the animal's keep. Leg weary horses are apt to break down in time and have crooked and ailing limbs. It is not only a matter of humanity, but one of profit, to lighten the horse's burden all we can, and this is one good way .- (C. T. White, in The progressive Farmer.

STRUCK CENTRE When She Found Coffee Was Slowly Killing Her.

Even s very temperate mode of living in regard to food beverages will not avail if the use of coffee is continued A Virginia lady, Mrs. R. F. Miller, of Bedford City, says that she was very temperate in every way. "I did not suspect that coffee was the poison that was undermining my whole nervous system, causing a cond tion of vertigo and headaches, until the attacks became so frequent and violent that I was compelled to give up all lent that I was compelled to give up all kinds of work and forced to lie down most

lent that I was compelled to give up all kinds of work and forced to lie down most of the time.

"My attention was drawn to Postum Food Coffee by the experience of some others in regard to common ceffee, and the thought occurred to me that perhaps coffee was the cause of my trouble, so I began to use Postum, being careful to have it made according to the directions on the package.

"I did not have to cultivate a taste for it for I found on the start that it was a most delicious beverage.

"Day after day I continued to improve but did not dream that it would be such a help, and never since the day I left off coffee and commenced the use of Postum Food Coffee (about nine months ago) have I had any return of the trouble. I have used no medicine or tonic of any kind during this time, and my present condition of magnificent health is due entirely to the use of Postum Food Coffee.

"I have heard several persons say they did not like Postum but in each case I discovered upon inquiry that it was because they tried to make it like common coffee, that is boil it four or five minutes. This will not do, for one cannot get the delicious flavor and the food value in so short boiling. The directions are plain enough, and it only requires a little patience to bring out the beautiful flavor.

"The doctors find Postum one of their most valuable side in their treatment of cases like mine."

Benefits From Competition.

There are some astonishing statements in George Monro's paper on "Growth of the Fruit Trade" in the new number of the Royal Horticultural Society's journal. When he started as a fruit salesman in 1871, he says, there were only three regular fruiterers in the city, and about as many at the West End, although several others used to take shops for two or three months in a year to sell strawberries, in the first instance, keeping open as long as they could get anything to sell. Greengrocers p ocured choice fruit only when it was ordered, and the bulk of the trade was done in the Central-ave., Covent Gar-den. Even orange), Mr. Monro says, did not come in great quantity until 1860, when the duty was taken off, and for some years afterward there was little beyond our own orchard produce arriving regularly, so that there was no constant supply of fruit all the year round until about twenty-one American apples followed years ago. oranges, and bananas and pineapples later on, while the present great supplies of tomatoes and grapes, with numbers of other fruits from foreign countries, are comparatively recent acquisitions.

Home producers will possibly be surprised to learn that in Mr. Mouro's opinion the foreign fruit trade is really to their advantage, for, by keeping the country furnished freely all the year round, it has led to the opening of a great number of fruiterers' shops, which could never have paid expenses had they been supplied only during those parts of the year in which home produce is available in abundance It may be that this view of the case will be rejected by many growers who have seen prices brought down 50 per cent or more by foreign competition; but it is a fact that gluts were frequent in the days of high prices, whereas now any quantity of good fruit can always be disposed of. The enormous development of the production of grapes and tomatoes is referred to by Mr. Monro, and the fall in the prices of these products, as he points out, has been tremendous; but it has been brought about by home rather than foreign competition, a result of the enormous multiplication of hothouses in this country .- (London

Winter Rhubarb.

Do you like rhubarb? Do you remember how pleasant it seemed in the early spring days when nothing like it was to be had Would it be pleasant to have it even earlier when the first spring fever comes on, or as winter begins to slacken its grip? Can you scare two or three hills from the garden? There ought to be plenty there, so that they will not be missed. If so, go and dig up these hills, or even one large hill, at the time when the ground freez s L it lie on top of the ground exposed to the cold until thoroughly frozen, then take it to the cellar, banking a little moist earth around the roots. Some of the weaker crowns and roots may first be trimmed away, since they will not produce good stalks. If there is a furnace in the cellar, long before spring comes these hills will produce fine stalks. They will waste no nergy in extra leaf surface; nearly all will be bright, crispy stalk.

If the cellar is too old and they slow in coming, a barrel may be set behind the kitchen stove, one hill placed in this and a canvas thrown over the top. If the appearance of a barrel in the kitchen is objectionable, a more pretentious cabinet may be made of lumber, which will answer the same purpose. Simply see that the soil is kept moist, and soon there will be rhubarb ready for harvesting That which remained in the cellar will be along a little ahead of that outside, even if the cellar is cool, and in either case will well repay the slight effort needed to get it .-(Fred W. Card, Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station

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