

HOME AND FARM.

Continuation of extracts from the pamphlet of the N. S. S. P. C.:

The horse may be destroyed by blows upon the head, by the bullet, or by chloroform.

1. *By Blows.*—Having blindfolded the horse, the operator, armed with a heavy axe or hammer, should stand upon the side and to the front of the animal, directing his blow to a point in the middle of a line drawn across the forehead from the centre of the pit above the eye.

One vigorous and well-directed blow will fell the animal, but the blow should be repeated to make destruction sure.

2. *By the Bullet.*—The operator should stand directly in front of the animal, and place the muzzle of the rifle within a few inches of the skull, aiming at the same spot.

One shot is generally sufficient, if properly directed; if not, it should be repeated after the animal falls.

In most instances, so great and instantaneous is the shock to the brain from a bullet that death follows instantly.

A shot-gun loaded with buck-shot is effectual, and may often be more conveniently procured.

3. *By Chloroform.*—Procure a common feed-bag or small sack made of thick cotton cloth, or of any sufficiently strong material, provided with strings or a strap to fasten over the head, and at the bottom of this place a large sponge or a yard of flannel folded to the size of eight inches square.

The sponge or flannel is to be saturated with chloroform and the bag adjusted. If the suffocation and consequent struggling, which at first attend the administration of anaesthetics, are very great, the application of the chloroform may be gradual, the animal being allowed to respire the outward air for a moment, until these effects pass off. As it is by the exclusion of common air, however, that death is produced, the more persistently the administration of the chloroform is kept up, the more speedy will be the desired result.

The dose requisite varies very much according to circumstances. At least sixteen ounces of chloroform should be procured, and it should be freshly applied through a slit in the bag every few minutes until death ensues, which will be from five to ten or fifteen minutes after the beginning of the operation.

The difficulties attending the administration of chloroform to so large and powerful an animal as the horse, particularly at the hands of the inexperienced, render its use less applicable than either of the other methods. In cases where sickness and consequent debility have reduced the animal and made him less capable of struggling, it answers a good purpose, or where a pet horse is to be killed, and the owner is unwilling that the deadly blow shall be struck, chloroform may be resorted to, but, as a general rule, we do not recommend its use where the normal amount of strength still remains.

W. H.—We hear it said by good authority, with which our own experience corresponds, that there is not nearly enough care and discrimination used in the selection of strawberries for planting. Quality is far too much sacrificed to size and appearance, and much of the fine-looking fruit we see is deficient both in sweetness and flavor. "The strawberry," says one writer, "is a strawberry, and it does not seem to make much difference whether it is sweet or sour." The "Wilson" was a good variety, but is said by growers to have lost its vigor.

The "Sharpless" is at present in a good deal of favor by New England growers. The "Crescent" is said to yield nearly double the quantity of other varieties, holds its size, and produces abundant plants for future crops. "Belmont" and "Jewell" are of good size and color, and may also rank as pretty good in flavor.

As far as flavor goes, few of the fine-looking cultivated kinds equal the wild strawberry, which strongly resembles the old "Hautboy," which fifty years ago used to be reckoned the finest strawberry in England. The "Hautboy" itself was by no means a large strawberry, and bore a remarkable likeness to our wild strawberry in form and color. We have often thought it was originally the wild strawberry brought under careful cultivation, and of late years have fancied that something might be done in Canada by improving the wild fruit.

However, this may be, we doubt if our farmers give nearly as much attention to this excellent and wholesome fruit as it would be to their advantage to do. We therefore extract the following remarks on strawberry culture from the *New England Farmer*:

"No farmer should be without an abundance of this fruit in its season. Two square rods will produce a full supply for an ordinary family, and every farmer can afford that space to a fruit that affords so much food and satisfaction. Good grass land is good strawberry land. A deep, rich, moist soil is needed. As it takes one year to grow the plants and another to get the crop, we must manure for two years. Set the plants eighteen inches apart in rows four feet distant. If well manured, the ground will be covered by September by plants set in April. Clean culture must be kept up the first year, but stirring the soil the year of fruiting is not advisable, as too many roots will be disturbed. Cover with something in winter to prevent alternate freezing and thawing, and remove it in spring when growth starts. Market gardeners grow strawberries the first year with early vegetables between the rows, and turn the plants in as soon as they have fruited the second year, and put in a late crop of some kind, thus getting three crops in two years."

The largest show berries are grown from plants potted the previous August, and kept in hills with the runners cut off; but for home use or for profit, set plants in spring, taking them direct from the beds without pro-

vious potting. For family use the rows may be but three feet apart. It is less work, and larger crops will be obtained from new beds set every spring, than if old beds are treated for second cropping.

Manuring, however, may be overdone the first year, producing too rank a growth of foliage, which has the effect of preventing the ripening of the fruit, and leaving it with green points."

An article in a contemporary a week or so ago, expresses some anxiety lest the apple culture of Nova Scotia should be overdone, and that it should entirely supersede the cultivation of the potato in the Annapolis Valley, and the Western part of Hants. It would certainly be much to be regretted if the growth of the potato should be neglected in a mania for planting every available space with fruit trees. At the same time we are inclined to think that, in view of the great failure of apples in Great Britain of late years, that country alone is capable of furnishing a full market for Nova Scotia apples, provided the selection for planting is intelligent, that due care and scrupulous honesty are made manifest in the packing, and that proper measures are taken to extend Nova Scotian connection with the English market.

NAIL THESE REMINDERS TO THE BARN DOOR.—If the iron wedge will not draw, build a fire of chips and heat it.

Heap up and tramp down solidly the snow around the young fruit trees. Water, green food, and meat, fowls must have to prosper during the winter.

Watch the outlets of the tile drains, that they do not become closed with ice.

There is one part of the farm that is not benefited by drainage: the manure heap.

Politeness pays in the cow-stable. A gentle man gets more milk than a harsh man.

Straw and corn fodder are best worked into manure by putting them through good animals.

The best preventive of trouble at lambing time is daily exercise for the ewes during winter.

Take the bridles with you when you go to breakfast, and put them near the stove while you eat.

Separate the weaker animals; they need extra feed, whereas with the stronger they get scant feed.

Profit in farming comes from the maximum crops, the products of winter thought and summer work.

If the chain pump is clogged up with ice do not give the crank a jerk. Both wheel and chain break more easily when very cold.

Every farmer may be the architect of his own fortune, and it is poor policy to let the job out to luck.

Harness hung in the stable is damaged as much by the gasses and dampness there as it is worn by use.

When green wood is used for fuel, part of the heat is absorbed to convert the water in the fuel into vapor.

If you do not wish cloddy and lifeless ground in the spring, keep the cattle off the fields when the soil is soft.—*American Agriculturist for Feb.*

OUR COSY CORNER

WHOOPING COUGH.—If the head be held back and the fingers dipped in cold water, and the water thrown off into the throat, as soon as one drop reaches the throat the spasm will cease.

Coal ashes, mixed with salt and water to a stiff paste, will harden like a rock, and this paste is excellent to fill cracks in stoves, and it can be used to line a coal or soapstone stove.

A GARGLE FOR SORE THROAT.—Make one-half pint strong sage tea; to this add two tablespoonfuls of honey, two teaspoonfuls of powdered alum, and one teaspoonful of borax. Gargle three or four times a day.

It is said that if a head of cabbage is cut in half and boiling water poured over it, it will prevent the disagreeable odor that usually comes from it when cooking.

It is said that the lustre of old picture frames may be restored by washing the gilding in warm water, in which an onion has been boiled, (after dusting the frame with a brush), drying quickly with soft rags.

Flouncing is seen on some of the imported models. This fashion, if revived to any extent, should be kept exclusively for house dresses, as the flouncing adds so much to the weight of the skirt.

Mouse colored outer garments vie with those of dark red in the realm of fashion.

The fashion of wearing colors in petticoats for black costumes will still continue.

Tepid water, not hot water, is recommended for washing the face and hands in cold weather.

Small dinners are more in vogue than usual this season, and in consequence they are less elaborate.

Ferns form the prettiest possible dinner decoration—laid flat on the cloth about the foot of candle sticks or large lamp base they are most effective.

The down quilt, except it be used over the feet, often makes as much discomfort as it does comfort, and is not a wholesome bed covering.