

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

KICKING MARE.

I have a mare that is somewhat of a kicker, not very bad, but at times worse than others; but she is unpleasant to work with. What can you suggest to make her safe to work with? Would breeding her have a tendency to cure this vice?
SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—In driving singly in shafts kicking can be prevented by a strap buckled to the shaft on each side and passing over the rump, through a loop on the crupper strap. Working in double harness, prevention is not so easily managed. It would appear that by using breeching with straps snapped into a ring in a martingale at the belly-band, kicking could be to some extent prevented. To make this more effective in a bad case, a strap around each hind pastern, running through the ring on the breeching on each side, and to the ring on the martingale, or through a small pulley fastened there, might work well. We would not advise breeding her, as if worked, her kicking might cause abortion. And the vice might be inherited by her foal.

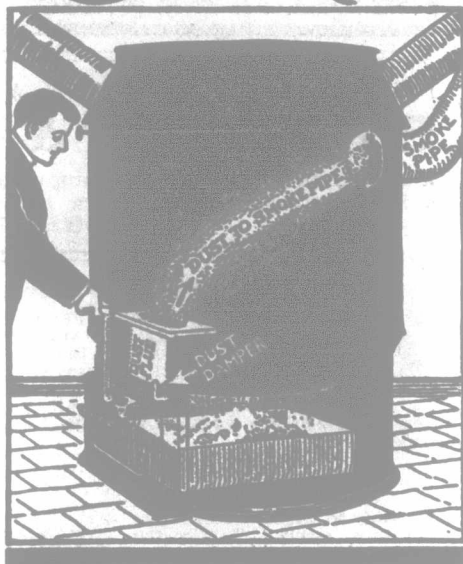
LIGHTNING-ROD WIRE.

Some time ago you gave a plan in "The Farmer's Advocate," describing how a farmer might put lightning rods on his own buildings. What would you think of using No. 9 copper wire (one strand)? Would it answer better than steel wire? I can get No. 9 copper wire for 33c. per pound, which would make it very cheap. I have a good many buildings to rod, and it would be very expensive to have it done by the agents.
J. G. L.

Ans.—No. 9 copper wire, one strand, would certainly make a lightning rod that would be useful and cheap, but nine strands of No. 9 iron or steel galvanized wire, twisted together, would be better and cheaper. Sir Oliver Lodge, the eminent electrician of England, the best authority on lightning rods in the world, while not discouraging the use of copper rods altogether, says that iron is to be preferred. He gives, as his reason, the fact that when lightning is discharged by means of a copper conductor, the discharge is of so violent a nature as almost to amount to an explosion, while with iron it is withdrawn as efficiently and more quietly, and, therefore, with less danger of a fire being started. T.

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DIVISION OF ESTATE.

The father married some thirty-five years ago. Wife died, leaving an only son, who is now thirty-three years old, and has always stayed at home. Then, about eighteen years ago, he married again. Wife died again, leaving an only son, who has always stayed with his mother's people. Supposing father died without a will, how would the property be divided, there being a hundred-acre farm? Can first son claim more property than second son, or what would be reasonable proportion for second son under circumstances?
READER.

Ontario.

Ans.—The estate would be divided equally between the two sons.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ENGINEER.

1. What experience and qualifications does it require to run a steam threshing engine in Manitoba or Saskatchewan?
2. If a certificate is necessary, where and how would one secure it?

FARMER'S SON.

Ans.—In Manitoba, anyone who has had some experience with a traction engine stands a chance of getting work during the threshing season, as experience is the only qualification; but in Saskatchewan, in addition to a general knowledge of traction engines, one must secure a license from the Provincial Government. These may be had for a nominal fee by applying to the Provincial Secretary at Regina.

CASTRATION OF COLTS AND PIGS.

1. Do you think there is any more danger in castrating a one-year-old colt, providing it is done the same as in the case of a bull or a boar, by well scraping back the cords, and having everything clean and using a little weak carbolic solution in the cut afterwards, than in using the ecraseur—I mean the chain? I might say I had a yearling castrated last year, and both claims came off the cords before the colt got up, but I believe it was the carbolic acid that saved the colt.

2. To castrate a six-months-old pig, and then put it up to fatten after running on grass for a while, would it affect the meat if killed in two or three months?
J. W. F.

Ans.—1. It is possible, but we would not care to take responsibility of so advising. There appears to be more danger of loss from amateurs undertaking the operation in the case of colts than of other animals, though even professionals too often bungle the job.

2. If the animal at that age has not been used for breeding purposes, and has run on grass for three months after, we should say there would be little danger of the meat being affected.

JUNIPER AS FENCE POSTS— ARRANGEMENT OF PIGGERY.

Are juniper posts as good as cedar? What is the average life of either? I have a building, 18 x 36 feet, which I am going to use as a hog-house. How shall I lay it off? I want to have room in it for a boiler.
E. McF.

Ans.—1. From the opinions of forestry writers, we should infer that the red juniper (red cedar), which we understand, occurs in the Maritime Provinces, makes a durable, but not very strong, fence-post material; probably not quite as lasting as the white cedar; also found along the Atlantic coast region. The experience of readers would be of service in arriving at a conclusion.

2. The building, 18 x 36, is too narrow for two rows of pens with a passage between. Shallow pens are cramped and difficult to keep clean. We would suggest laying the pen off with a blind passage, four feet wide, along north or west side, as the case may be, placing the boiler at the far end of the passage, if it runs east and west. If it extends north and south, endeavor to have the entrance at the south end and boiler at the north. This arrangement will allow five pens each 7 feet wide. Four of them will be fourteen feet deep. The other may have to be a couple of feet shorter to accommodate the boiler. We would not recommend any fixtures in the pens, except a raised-plank sleeping place (if the floor be of cement) in one corner, and an outside door in the other wall corner of each apartment. The floor of each pen should slope towards the outside door.

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