

Miscellaneous.

HONOUR TO THE TOILING HAND.

BY J. BARR.

All honour to the toiling hand,
Or in the field or mine;
Or by the hissing steam machine,
Or on the heaving brine.
Whatever loom, or barque, or plough,
Hath wrought to bless our land;
Or wrought around, above, below,
We owe the toiling hand.
Then honour—honour to the toiling hand.

In battles with the elements,
It breaks the stubborn sward;
It rings the forge,—the shuttle throws,—
And shapes the social board.
It conquers climate,—it stems the wave,—
And bends from every strand
The sweetest, best of all we have,
Gifts of the toiling hand.
Then honour—honour to the toiling hand.

THE BACK OF THE HORSE.—If a horse's back is unusually long or short, which are the peculiar advantages of either case?—A BREEDER. The following appears on this subject, in the volume entitled "The Horse:"—"The comparative advantages of a long or short carcass depends entirely on the use for which a horse is intended. For general purposes the horse with a short carcass is properly preferred. He will possess health and strength; for horses of this make are proverbially hardy. He will have sufficient ease not to fatigue the rider, and speed for every ordinary purpose. Length of back will always be desirable when there is more than usual substance generally, and particularly when the loins are wide, and the muscles of the loins large and swelling. The two requisites, strength and speed, will then probably be united. The back should be depressed a little immediately behind the withers; and then continue in an almost straight line to the loins. This is the form most consistent with beauty and strength. Some horses have a very considerable hollow behind the withers. They are said to be *saddle-backed*. It seems as if a depression were purposely made for the saddle. Such horses are evidently easy goers, for this curve inwards must necessarily increase the play of the joints of the back; but in the same proportion they must be weak and liable to sprain. To the general appearance of the horse, this defect is not in any degree injurious; for the hollow of the back is uniformly accompanied with a beautifully curved crest. A few horses have the curve outward. They are said to be *roach-backed*, from the supposed resemblance to the arched back of the roach. This is a serious defect; altogether incompatible with beauty, and materially diminishing the usefulness of the animal. It is almost impossible to prevent the saddle from being thrown on the shoulders, or the back from being galled; the elasticity of the spine is destroyed; the rump is badly set on; the hinder legs is too much under the animal; he is constantly overreaching himself, and his head is carried awkwardly low.

CHANGE OF FOOD NECESSARY FOR ANIMALS.—"Why is not an acre of clover considered equal in fattening value to an acre of mixed meadow grass?—EAST KENT."—We presume that our correspondent means weight for weight. According to Dr. K. Thompson, the difference exists in the fact of the grass offering more varied food than the clover. He says, in his recent book on the fattening of animals:—"Not only, however, is *variety* of food requisite for an animal in an artificial state, it is found also to be beneficial to one in a condition more akin to that of nature. For it is upon this principle that we are able to account for the superior influence of old natural pastures, which consist of a variety of grasses and other plants, over those pastures which are formed of only one grass, in the production of fat cattle and good milk cows. To any one who considers with attention the experiments which have been detailed, there cannot remain a doubt in the mind that cattle, and especially milk cows, in a state of con-

finement, would be benefited by a very frequent and entire change in their food. It might not be too much to say that a daily modification in the dietary of such animals would be a sound scientific prescription. In considering the case of the white cow we find, that a change from barley to barley and molasses increased the milk in three days from 21lbs. 6oz. to 23lbs. 7oz.; on changing from malt to barley it increased from 19lbs. 10oz. to 20lbs. 11oz. on the first day; from barley to barley and linseed, it increased from 21lbs. 2oz. to 23lbs. 12oz. on the sixth day; from barley and linseed to beans, it increased on the first day from 21lbs. 13oz. to 23lbs. 14oz.

THE VALUE OF WORMS.—"I am much annoyed by worm casts on a lawn that I have the care of; and am recommended to destroy them by a solution of corrosive sublimate. We are told that every living creature as its use. I shall feel obliged therefore if you can point out to me the use of the earth worm. A GARDENER." Mr. Josiah Parkes, the agricultural engineer, thus describes the value of worms, as assistants in draining:—"Earth worms love moist but not wet soils; they will bore down to, but not into water; they multiply rapidly in land after drainage, and prefer a deeply dried soil. On examining with Mr. Thomas Hammond, of Peshurst, Kent, part of a field which he had deeply drained, after long previous shallow drainage, we found that the worms had greatly increased in number, and that their bores extended quite to the level of the pipes. Many worm bores are large enough to receive the little finger, and it is probable that one worm has several bores for his family and refuge holes from rain. I have very recently found worms twisted up into knots, and berthed in a nidus formed by the side of the vertical bore, and in communication with it by a lateral hole about an inch long, forming in appearance a comfortable retreat. My valued and much lamented friend, Mr. Henry Handley, informed me of a piece of land near the sea, in Lincolnshire, over which the sea had broken, and killed all the worms—the field remained sterile until the worms again inhabited it. He also showed me a piece of pasture land near to his house in which worms were in such number that he thought their casts interfered too much with its produce, which induced him to have it rolled at night in order to destroy the worms. The result was that the fertility of the field greatly declined, nor was it restored until they had recruited their numbers, which was aided by collecting and transporting multitudes of worms from the fields. The great depth into which worms will bore, and from which they push up fine fertile soil, and cast it on the surface, has been admirably traced by Mr. C. Darwin, of Down, Kent, who has shown that, in a few years, they have actually elevated the surface of fields by a layer of fine mould several inches thick, thus adding to the pabulum of grasses."

CURING HAMS.—Much has been written on preserving Hams. The following excellent mode of protecting them from flies, I do not remember of ever seeing noticed: and perhaps may not be generally known to the readers of your valuable paper.

It is simply this:—*Let the last application of smoke be made with sulphur.* Although the amount applied be not sufficient to effect their flavor; yet such is its efficacy, that no other system of defence against the mischievous attacks of flies will be required, until midsummer at least, (experimentally speaking,) and even those newly cut, will remain undisturbed. The same treatment is beneficial in the case of cheese.

W. HANFORD, JR.

—*Genesee Farmer.*

A Dutchman once wanted to wed a widow, and his manner of making known his intention was as follows:—"If you are content to get a better for a worse, to be happy for a miserable, and if you smokes and drinks ale, I shall take you for no better, and much worse." Upon which the lady said "Yaw."