

Sowing Timothy in Autumn.

There is quite a scarcity of timothy seed this year for next year's sowing, especially in the States, consequently those who have been able to gather any will probably obtain double the price it usually sells for. But the worst of it is that many fields seeded last spring failed to take, from the want of moisture shortly after seeding time. The same may be said of clover. This could easily have been avoided where the seeding down to grass is to be done on winter wheat, by sowing the timothy seed in the fall. There is much more certainty of getting a good catch with timothy, and also orchard grass, when it is sown in the autumn, than there is in the spring seeding. Timothy is perfectly hardy, and the young plants can stand the winter as well as winter wheat. Should a spring or early summer drought occur, the plants will be well rooted, and have a sufficient hold of the soil to push forward early and rapidly, and are then much less likely to be scorched out. Clover cannot well be sown in autumn here, but if the land has been fall sown with timothy, and it is desired to have an admixture of clover in the meadow, the clover, if sown early in spring, will take better from the slight mulching it will obtain from the young timothy plants, than if it had no protection from the hot sun in May and June.

Wheat Midge in England.

To the Editor.

SIR,—The fears entertained in England of the appearance of that scourge of which we have had so fatal an experience, are, I fear, but too well founded. In the latter end of July I was asked by a farmer in Gloucestershire to examine his wheat, which had assumed a sickly colour and shrivelled form. On examination I found the midge (*Cecydomia tritici*) very generally spread over the field. It is to be hoped that, should this pest become such a scourge as it has been in America, the farmers of old England will take a lesson from our young experience, and treat the midge to a general dose of coarse wheat.

C. E. W.

Ancaster, Sept. 3rd, 1870.

INSECT DEPREDACTIONS.—If I were to estimate the average loss per annum of the farmers of this country from insects at one hundred millions of dollars, I should doubtless be far below the mark. The loss of fruit alone by the devastations of insects, within a radius of fifty miles from this city, must amount in value to millions. In my neighbourhood the peach once flourished, but flourishes no more, and cherries have been all but annihilated. Apples were till lately our most profitable and perhaps our most important product, but the worms take half our average crop, and sadly damage what they do not utterly destroy. Plums we have ceased to grow or expect; our pears are generally stung and often blighted; even the currant has at last its fruit-destroying worm. We must fight our paltry adversaries more efficiently, or allow them to drive us wholly from the field.—*Horace Greeley.*

Stock Department.

Housing Stock in Winter.

There can be no question that in such a rigorous and changeable climate as ours, shelter for stock during six months of the year, from the 1st November to the 1st May, is absolutely essential to insure their thrift and healthiness.

In arranging the yards and buildings, however, to that end, there are some important points that seem to be too generally overlooked by our farmers. One of these is the dividing and locating them so as to arrange that the different classes of stock do not intermix, to the injury of one another. If horses are bred on the farm, the colts need a good yard for exercise, with comfortable close sheds fitted with feeding racks, to run into at nights and stormy days. The young cattle need a separate yard and sheds with racks to themselves, where they will have room to move about, and not be kept in continual fear of the old cows and oxen, which should be kept separately in their stalls. Sheep should never be among other stock, but have large yards with good sheds open to the south, if open at all. In any case, buildings that are used for young stock or sheep must be constructed as to allow of good ventilation at all times when necessary.

Another point often neglected is the supplying light to animals that are kept in close confinement most of the time. We have frequently observed that horses kept in dark stables are always more subject to shying when they are driven out, than those that have well lighted stables. One can easily conceive that a horse brought out from a dark stable into the bright glare of a winter sunshine is partially blinded, and, in fact, we believe much of the blindness common among horses is caused by constant sudden exposure to light every time they are taken out of their stables. Nature has given light as one of her blessings conducive to health, all creatures having the organ of sight largely developed, and to deprive any of them of the means of exercising that faculty is sure to result disastrously in some form or other. It is noticeable how much less shying there is among horses in the summer than in winter, which is probably due to their being more out of their stables during that season, and even when in their stalls, the doors are left open during the day time.

Still another point is that of constant cleanliness, both inside and out of their shelters. We believe much of the diseases prevalent amongst stock in winter can be traced to the want of cleanliness and pure air. Every yard and shed should be kept well covered with clean straw, and every stable and byre so arranged that the stalls and floors can be readily cleaned out, and the animals kept from accumulating filth on their bodies. What else could be expected than a general

unhealthiness and want of thrift in animals, that are living in an atmosphere that is constantly impregnated with bad odours and impurities. Let the stables and byres be well dried during the day, when it is not excessively cold or blowing snow drifts, by leaving doors and windows open for several hours. In the case of animals being fed up for the butcher, it may not be objectionable to keep them in partial darkness, in order to induce them to lie down and keep in a state of rest as much as possible; but with all others there should be a good supply of light allowed during the greater portion of the day, and if the cows can be turned out of their byres by themselves, for a few hours each fine day, they will enjoy better health.

Lastly, we too often see that the amount of space allowed for winter quarters to stock is altogether too small for their comfort. Yard room, especially, is often very much cramped and confined, as if the land on a farm was of as great value as that in a city. It is better to have yards of good size, and, after clearing them of the winter's accumulation of manure in spring, plant them with cabbages, beets, mangels, or carrots, reserving only the stable yard for summer use.

The amount of stall room allowed is also often far too small, and the animals are crowded together in such a manner as to make them feel anything but comfortable. The idea of carpenters and builders, who generally put up the stalls, seems to be to make them all of one uniform size, the dimensions of which are dictated by some arbitrary rule or caprice, whatever it may be called. They do not seem to think the size of the stalls should vary, so as to accommodate different sized animals, but that, like the bed of Procrustes, the same space should fit all comers. It seems to be overlooked that the stalls or spaces set apart for each beast may just as well be either all of such a size as to accommodate comfortably the largest ox, or be graduated in size in order to economize space, and yet each give comfortable space for the animal to occupy it, according as it is large or small. The more ease and comfort the stock can obtain when tied up in their stalls, the more contented they will be, and the better they will thrive.

MR. DUNCAN'S STOCK SALE.—An extensive sale of valuable animals, chiefly Shorthorns, took place recently at Towanda, Illinois, on the farm of Mr. Duncan. The sale, says the *Prairie Farmer*, attracted one of the largest assemblages that has ever been gathered on a similar occasion in the West. Ten bulls were sold, including the celebrated sire of the herd, Minister, (a portrait of whom appeared in the *CANADA FARMER*), who was purchased by Mr. Wilson, of Kansas, for the sum of \$1,760. The other bulls fetched sums varying from \$370 to \$700. One cow sold for \$1,500; two others for over \$1,000, and the remainder at prices from \$100 to \$700. The total sum realized for twenty-seven head was \$15,500. A fine lot of hogs were also sold, and brought from \$60 to \$187 per head.