

The Horse.

Road Horses.

BY PROF. G. A. GOING.

The method of keeping road horses during winter differs little from that adopted in summer, with the exception that warmer clothing is necessary, and that horses which are called upon to perform fast work in cold weather are now generally clipped.

The great essentials to horses' health and comfort during winter are cleanliness, pure air, plenty of light, sweet hay and oats, dry clean bedding and a stall free from draughts. There are many diseases which may be averted, particularly during this season of the year, by the adoption of good sanitary measures, and having a due regard to the animal's food. The sudden changes which are sometimes unavoidable affect the animal comparatively little if the system be healthy and prepared to resist disease. Among the most annoying are scratches, stocking, etc., and the dangerous cough, pneumonia, etc. Dampness always propagates scratches; therefore when the animal comes in he should not have his feet washed and allowed to dry by evaporation, as this is a generous invitation to this kind of disease. Uniformity of clothing and temperature will, in a great measure, prevent pneumonia, cough and similar diseases. With reference to regimen, we are too much inclined to give the same kind of food continually. It is with many, hay and oats and oats and hay, without further variation. Apply this rule to ourselves, and you will find how quickly we will object to it.

Vegetables may occasionally be very advantageously fed, say carrots and similar roots. These are slightly diuretic and laxative in effect at first, and have a tendency to cool the system. After using for a short time, they produce adipose tissue too rapidly. This is not desirable in road horses, as it is muscular, not adipose, tissue we require.

About two pounds of carrots are equal to one pound of oats, but affect the animal as above, and are, consequently, required only occasionally, say twice a week. Sweet apples, when easily procured, are an excellent article of diet for a change. Horses driven fast and suddenly stopped and turned into a shed, whether open or closed, should be well blanketed.

Horses for England.

The steamer *Helvetia*, which sailed for Liverpool recently, took out twenty-four American horses, mostly designed for carriage use, but some for farm work. Eighteen of these were from the stables of Mr. Isaac H. Dahlman, who has for several months past been engaged in the purchase and transportation of horses to England, and the remaining six were purchased by an English gentleman.

Only within a few months has the trade between this country and England in the matter of horses reached any dimensions worth mentioning, the first regular shipment from this port having been made last spring. The stables which went from here previously were mostly stock taken over for the purpose of racing. But the recent Franco-Prussian war made an active demand for horses, and the Turko-Russian war now raging may have affected the supply, so there has sprung up a commerce in American horses that is increasing, and which may become a very important feature in our foreign commerce.

The horses are not bought in this city. They are purchased in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, and western New York, at rates varying from \$125 to \$200, and in cases of extra valuable stock even more. The cost of transporting a horse to Liverpool is from \$60 to \$75. They sell in England at

from \$300 to \$400 each, affording a fair margin of profit.

The horses are fed four quarts a day of oats, besides soft food and hay. The narrow box-stalls are bedded with sawdust, as being more comfortable to the feet than straw, and a man is constantly, night and day, in attendance on them. When the horses became very tired slings are so arranged that their weight is taken off their feet. The Journey seems to agree with them. Instead of losing their generally gain in weight, and when the restraint of the sea voyage is removed, and they once more touch terra firma, they are so frisky they can hardly be held in.—*Rural World*.

Farmers who look after the health and comfort of their stock, and not trust to hands, seldom suffer pecuniary loss by disease or death of stock.

apart, about ten seeds to the foot, and the growth at first is slow. The stems are short jointed, and from each joint, which are only six or seven inches apart, there is produced a leaf two inches broad and three to four feet long, bearing some resemblance to the common Indian corn in color and substance. This plant, when a few inches above ground, begins to tiller, and new shoots grow rapidly from the root, numbering half a dozen or more. Though the growth, at first, is slow, when it has established its root in the ground, the main stem and the tillers shoot up rapidly, sometimes to the height of eight to ten feet. If cut when three or four feet high it may be cut several times in one season. When green it is very succulent and devoured greedily by every description of stock. When saved for hay it is greatly relished by cattle and horses, and the stalks are very succulent, even when dry. Its tillering so abundantly prevents the growth of large, coarse stems, like the Indian corn, and saves much of the seed that would otherwise be required. One, or, at the most, two quarts of seed will seed an acre.

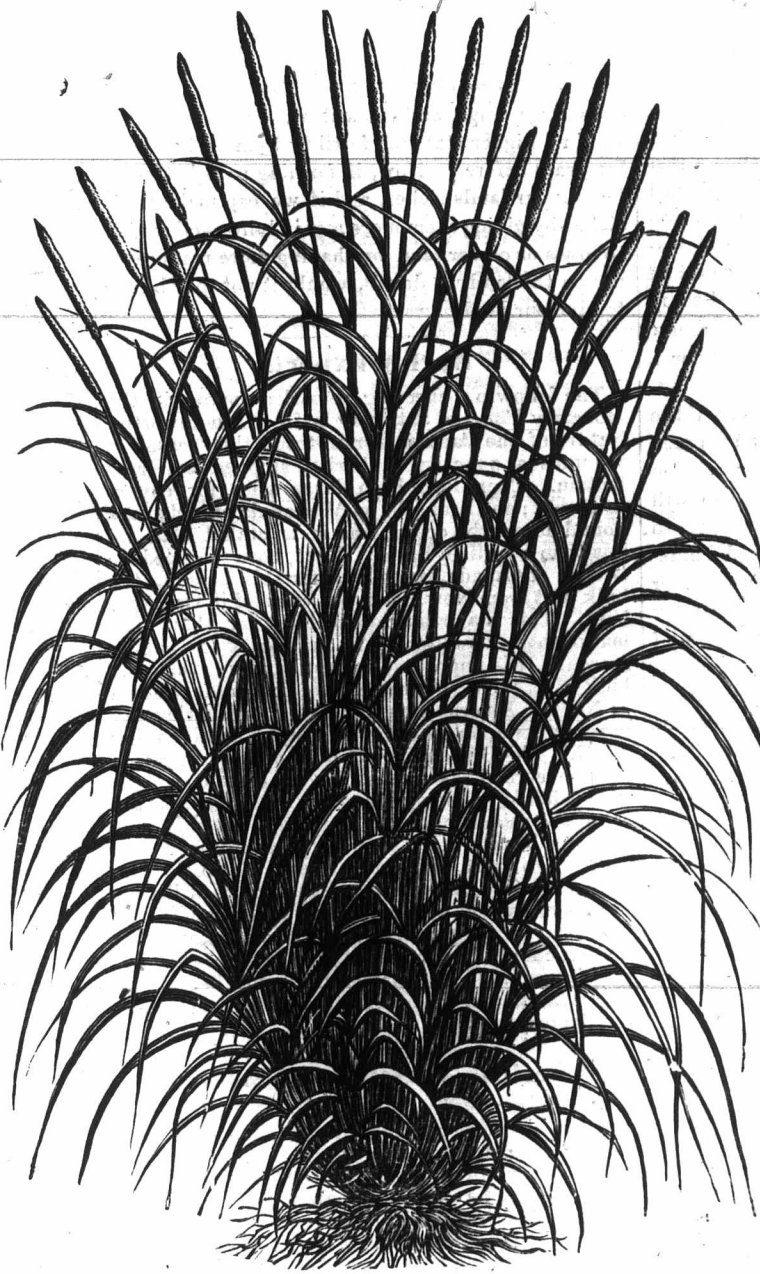
The Coming Flower.

There can be little doubt that the new race of tuberous begonias is destined to play an important part in the decorative gardening of the future. The begonia is, so to speak, the coming flower. There are two particular lines which we may expect to see the tuberous begonias extending themselves — namely, as greenhouse summer decorative plants, and as bedding out or rock plants. In each of these they have already distinguished themselves. As indoor decorative plants they come at a season when they are especially useful — namely, at the time when greenhouse flowering plants are becoming scanty, and when for the most part recourse must be had to the tender annuals. For this decorative use their free branching habit, and the abundance of flowers they produce while still of moderate size, eminently adapt them. Their usually rich and now varied colors particularly recommend them for this use. Then as to bedding out and furnishing rockwork, the success which has already been realized is most encouraging. Experience teaches; and so as we find available material for bedding out amongst the earlier hybrids, we shall be led to look out for others amongst the more advanced types, when we shall get larger flowers and greater choice of color. Their capability of bearing up against heavy rains is a quality one could scarcely have expected of them, and the knowledge of it is, therefore, all the more welcome.—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

Calves and yearlings, and cows and oxen as well, when infested with lice, should be freed at once by rubbing the skin with a mixture of sweet oil and kerosene in equal parts. During the winter young animals should be kept growing by means of nutritious food, good shelter, and cleanliness.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* says that California would be better off without her gold mines, and argues the point as follows:—"There are 3,000 people in San Francisco alone who live, directly or indirectly, from the purchase and sale of stocks, averaging in their expenses \$3,000 a year. Here are, then, \$9,000,000 which the possessors do not earn, but which is earned by their victims. Mining is no unproductive industry, but the value of its products are more than eaten up by the gambling speculators which it stimulates."

The *San Francisco Pacific Rural Press* has been presented with fruit preserved for months in a sound condition by being buried in sand. Among the specimens thus preserved was an orange that was interred in dry sand for seven months, and was found to be perfectly sweet and fresh when eaten. These experiments do not accord with similar ones in other sections. But California is an exceptional State.



Egyptian or Pearl Millet.

This rare plant, of which we give an engraving above, gives fair promise of being a great profit to agriculturists. Though only now brought prominently forward, it had been little known to botanists and agricultural writers. Twenty years since it was noticed in an agricultural journal as a tall, leafy, luxuriant, rapid-growing grass, that was highly valued in Florida. It is now very highly spoken of, and, if it be proved to be as productive and nutritious as is expected, it will prove to be a very valuable addition to our grasses for soiling and hay. It is said that as much as nine tons and a half of hay have been saved from one acre of Egyptian millet. It will not mature in the Eastern States, and to this, in the past, may be attributed the neglect into which it was permitted to fall after its first introduction. The seed, however, is easily procured from the South. It is sown in drills twenty to twenty-four inches