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Farm and Garden

TO KEEP HORSES HEALTHY.

Here is a very sensible suggestion which comes from one long experienced in handling horses, taken from the American Team Owner. He says: The care of the skin and coat is not a matter of smoothness or ugliness of the coat; it is merely a question of cleanliness of the skin, which is essential to the health of the horse. Some people reason that as a horse turned out to pasture does not need grooming, it is not natural and the horse should not be groomed. The necessity for grooming comes with the amount of work done and the kind of food given the horse. The secretions of the glands of the skin are enormously increased by work, and also the work horse must be fed nutritious food, which also largely increases the secretions of the skin.

Nature must be assisted by artificial means to remove these increased secretions or the pores of the skin will become clogged and the health be impaired. The greater the activity of the skin the greater the attention necessary. The horse in the state of nature takes only the exercise required to obtain his food and the feeds principally on laxative diet, and as the debris of the food and excretions of the system are carried through the kidneys, grooming is not necessary. The appearance of the coat readily shows the healthy or unhealthy condition of the skin. Without grooming the dirt remains in the hair, but through the excretory glands enters the system. This important set of glands acts as drains, and when these are checked with impurities the general health necessarily suffers.

When the horse sheds its coat in spring and autumn the nourishment of the old hair is arrested and the soft, pulpy extremities shrink and dry up, the hair becomes detached and falls out; at the same time a new hair is formed and pushed up to its side. Grooming answers two principal and several subsidiary ends. First, it removes from the skin these particles of perspiration, dust, and dirt which would otherwise impede and clog the free action of the sweat and oil glands. Secondly, it removes the scurf or worn-out cells, which are no longer required on the surface of the skin, and which would, especially when cemented together by particles of sweat, add to the obstruction of the glands. In order that grooming should produce the two above-mentioned principal effects, it is necessary that the skin be cleaned with a good bristle brush, strongly applied and well laid on.

BETTER POULTRY.

It is none too early to lay the plans for breeding pens, and is an excellent time to think about getting rid of the odds and ends in the hen house. The greater number of flocks owned by farmers are composed of hens which are of all sizes, shapes, and colors. Decide what kind of a breed you like best and go to work to obtain a flock all of this kind. It will take time to do this, unless you have more money than most farmers care to spend, for this reason, I advise you to start now. By using care and judgment in selecting your breeders and properly rearing chicks you have eggs to sell which you are justified in asking from \$1 to much more per sitting instead of 40 or 50 cents per dozen and among your young stock should be some cockerels and pullets worth considerable more than you can obtain for them as dressed for table use, but don't sell your very best ones; keep these to further build up your own flock. It is high time people living on farms should wake up to the value and possible profit of poultry bred as it should be. A hen can lay just as many eggs if she is well-shaped and colored as she could if long-legged, slender bodied and any color from dappled grey to a washed-out yellow. It is a fact, I believe, that a well-shaped female will lay more than those of the other type. Continue to cull out the poorer layers and see if this is not so.—Maine Farmer.

CONCRETE ON WOOD.

Cement or concrete may be laid on a plank floor as well as on the ground if the floor has sufficient rigidity so that sufficient springing to crack the concrete does not take place. The thickness of the concrete should not be less than two and a half to three inches, the latter thickness being the safer to adopt. If such a thickness would raise the floor more than is desired, it is customary to take off the floor proper and make a false floor carried by supports nailed to the joists at a sufficient level below the top of the joists to permit of the proper thickness of cement being laid. To avoid crack-

ing over the joists, the upper edges of the joists have their corners cut away to a narrow edge along the center of the joist. Then the finished surface of the cement floor should be at least an inch and a half above the level of the sharpened edge of the joist. If it is important that the floor be water-tight, or reasonably so, the clean, sharp sand and cement to be used with the crushed rock or gravel should be at least as rich as one of cement to two of sand. There will then be no leaking if water does not stand continuously on the floor, unless cracks form in the concrete. It is practically very difficult to lay a monolithic floor of any considerable dimensions without expansion and contraction-cracks forming in it; such cracks, however, are not usually wide, but plainly visible, and, if much water occurs on the floor and absolute dryness is necessary below, a water-proofing surface should be provided before the cement is laid.—Country Gentleman.

NOTES OF THE FARM.

Dehorn the calves early, as soon as they are taken away from the cows. Teach calves to be led while they are young. Possibly they will not have to be led when grown; but if they do, teaching them now will be appreciated then. Wild hay or corn blades that have been pulled do not develop calves much, unless supplemented by growth-making feeds. Lime is a good disinfectant; and if lime water is left in the churn for a day once a week, the churn will be in good condition. Wash out the lime by the use of scalding water before churning again. If you fed the baby out of a bottle and didn't keep the bottle washed clean, you buried the baby. Keep the bucket the calf gets its milk from washed clean, so the calf doesn't have to be buried. It is not so much the money invested in the dairy as it is the intelligent work, that makes the enterprise successful. This gives an intelligent poor man or woman a good chance. Those who make a special effort to have clean milk will wipe the udders with a moist cloth—not a wet one—just before milking. This removes the dust and loose hairs and keeps them from getting into the milk-pail. Housewives should know that a quart of milk has about as much food value as three-quarters of a pound of sirloin steak, and on the farm the milk will cost only about one-third as much as the steak. Probably less.—From "Drops of Dairy Cream" in the Progressive Farmer.

TO BREAK AND TRAIN A COLT.

To break and train a colt the work should begin at an early age when a few days old. The mare should be hitched to a top buggy and the colt haltered and tied by her side, and driven a short distance. The colt may be a little stubborn the first time, then it is all over. The reason we prefer a top vehicle, the colt will become used to the top rattling behind it and will never care for it. After it is broke to the halter it should be taken on the road or to town where it will see street cars, automobiles, bicycles, etc. After a few trips the colt will think these are part of the horse's companions. When two or three years old or when necessary to break to work harness, the horse should be placed on them and they should be tied beside the team hitched beside wagon or reaper or plow, so if they rear or plunge they can do no harm. After one or two trips of the kind the colt will think he is one of the team, then it can be hitched to the load, and it is all over. By following these rules many a high lived fractious animal can be made quiet and gentle that would be hard to handle if allowed to run till they were three or four years old without any training.—W. S. S. in the Indiana Farmer.

RAISING DAIRY COWS.

The sale of cattle from the dairy farm can be made a very important source of income. Good calves can be bought from dairymen who do not raise their cows and it costs but a few dollars to raise a calf of high quality until it is old enough to fill its place in the dairy. As good cows are always in demand there is good profit in growing them.—Epitomist. Consul F. W. Mahin states that the total annual value of Nottingham's lace output is about \$25,000,000. The United States is the largest individual buyer, taking a quarter of the total. Previous to 1760 the French would not eat potatoes, it being supposed that they would cause freckles.

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