AGRICULTURAL

THE FARM HORSE IN WINTER.

Throughout a large part of the country the winter is a season of comparative rest for the farm horse. There are many exceptions, as there are to all general statements, but this is the rule. Where wood is used for fuel most of it is, or at least should be, drawn in the winter. Ice must be secured in the winter if it is obtained at all, but upon a great many farms none is used. Upon some farms manure is drawn upon the fields as it is made, and there are various other things for which a team is required. Yet, when all these matters are summed up, it is found that the work required of the horse upon an ordinary farm is very much less than is that which it is obliged to do in the summer.

While the average farm horse is not worked nearly as hard in winter as he is during the warm weather, it does not follow that the season of comparative idleness is the pleasantest time in his existence, or that the circumstances in which he is then placed are more conducive to his health than are those of other periods of the year. On the contrary, he is at this season exposed to various ills from which he does not suffer during the season of hard but regular toil. One of these ills is irregular and injudicious feeding. When hard at work in the summer the horse is given a pretty regular grain ration and a moderate quantity of hay. In winter, when he is doing but little work, the grain is greatly diminished, or is withdrawn altogether, and the quantity of hay is largely increased. Upon some farms the horses eat in the winter season a quantity of coarse fodder that is out of all proportion to their needs and which proves a serious injury to their health. They are kept so "stuffed," with hay that when needed for service they are in no suitable condition either for drawing loads or for driving on the roads. Probably more cases of heaves are caused in this way than in all other ways combined. When as is too often the case, the hay that they consume is dusty, the evil results are still greater than they are from mere overfeeding. In many cases, too, the supply of water for the farm horse, though not as liberal, is as poorly regulated as is the quantity of hay. The water is often offered when the horse wants to eat, instead of drink. As it is then refused, or only a small quantity is taken, and no more is supplied until night or the next morning, as the regular watering time may be, the horse gets very thirsty, and when another opportunity to drink is afforded he goes to the other extreme and drinks a great deal too much. Then, again, during a large part of the winter the water that the farm horse is given to drink is altogether too cold, either for his health or his comfort. If he drinks a sufficient quantity to quench his thirst, his whole system is chilled and the processes of digestion and assimilation of food are retarded. If he goes without the quantity of water that he needs, there will be more or less suffering from thirst, and this will be accompained by a disturbance of the digestive functions. During the winter months many farm horses suffer a great deal from cold. In some cases this is because the stables are not properly constructed. In others it is due to careless exposure after the animals have been brought into a state of perspiration by working or driving. Such exposure not only causes discomfort, but it often brings on colds, catarrh, pneumonia, or some other form of disease which proves more or less serious according to the condition of the animal and the circumstances of the individual case. One more evil from which many a farm horse suffers in winter is overwork for short periods Not that he is usually required to draw heavier loads in winter than he is in summer, but he suffers for the reason that his work is irregular. Some days he works, other days he does not. He is "out of practice" and is not in good physical condition for hard work, even though that work be required only for a short period. This fact is too often ignored. The horse is driven as rapidly or loaded as heavily at these occasional periods as he is when he is in full training for work. He may not do as much as he could do safely, or even easily, if he were working regularly, and yet he may be seriously injured simply because he is not in proper condition for this kind of service. Various other evils to which farm horses in cold regions are exposed during the winter might be named if it were desirable to pursue the subject further, but perhaps for a single article enough have been noted. It will be evident to the man who gives the slightest thought to the subject that each of these evils is largely preventable. Feeding, watering, protection from cold, and the quantity of work required are matters that are very largely under the control of those who care for the horses. And as discomfort or injury to animals invariably means a loss to their owners, it should not be necessary to add anything to what has been said in respect to the evils noted in the present article in order to insure the immediate adoption of the proper remedial measures.

FOODS AND EGG PRODUCTION.

When the poultryman has made his preparations and begun his operations, he is often disappointed at not receiving a fair return of eggs for the care and attention bestowed on his flock. The majority of failures arise with those who have given the fowls all they can eat, and with a liberal supply of ground bones, fresh water gravel and green food, wonder why they receive no eggs to reward their care.

The most potent cause of their failure is that the hens are being overfed. It is a great mistake to always keep feed before them. While a variety must be given, it must be given judiciously. A full meal should never be given them except at night, just before they go to roost, as a hearty meal during the day renders them satisfied and slothful; destroying any ambition they may have to seek food for themselves. If the quantity of food fed during the day is not quite enough rather than a full allowance, they will hunt for more and thus be kept busily at work overcoming idleness, feather-pulling and a disposition to lay on fat, which is fatal to egg production. It is best to scatter what grain you feed them in the day time, among straw, gravel, or any place where they will have to scratch to get it. This gives them the exercise they need. In the winter, when large snow drifts gather about the sheds and buildings, the careful poultry-keeper will try to have a warm, sheltered yard, opened to the sun's rays, where his flock can exercise without being chilled by contact with snow and inclement weather. By keeping the hens warm, busy, and not too fat, a bountiful supply ought to be the result.

To the novitiate in poultry keeping, the question of proper food is a perplexing one. Opinions differ greatly on this subject. Different people may each have a different method of feeding, and each may feed a different kind of food, yet all may be, in a measure, successful. But it is well to remember that all kinds of soft foods and mealy doughs are generally relished by poultry, and result in better egg-production than where a grain diet alone is followed. A judicious mixture of both food is best; not too much of either. While the right proportion may be somewhat difficult to obtain, it can be learned by a close watch on the flock, their actions, health, and the number of eggs gathered. By varying the amount of each kind of food as the necessity requires, it will not take long to strike a just proportion. But some grain food is always essential. Where too much soft food is given, it is apt to impair the health of the flock.

One essential to good health and egg production, is an occasional change of diet. Charcoal, burnt bones, green cabbage, potatoes, if cooked, all the better, are greedily eaten. All fowls are fond of milk, which if fed in cold weather, should be warmed. They seem to eat it fully as well if soured, thick, or clabbered. A good feed is to mix corn meal with milk, stirring well, and adding some black pepper. Cook about one hour and feed hot The quantity must be regulated by the size of the flock. Care should be observed in feeding corn meal, nor should it be fed too often, as it is very fattening, and fat is laid on at the expense of an empty egg basket.

A spoonful of sulphur stirred in with cooked foods is a good thing to preserve the health and give tone to the system. To those who object to the feeding of sulphur, I would say that sulphur is largely present in the features of poultry, and where birds are kept in confined spaces, as is sometimes necessary, it is quite reasonable that a certain amount of sulphur should be given them occasionally. Lime also, should be fed occasionally. A good way is to give it as a solution in water.

Before closing this article we want to say that it is of the utmost importance that nothing but wholesome food should be fed to fowls. Cast aside the thought, that they will eat any old refuse, no matter what its condition. They will eat it if they can get nothing else, but there will be no profit in the result.

FARM GLEANINGS.

A few oats given to young calves or colts daily will pay a big interest on the investment.

When cuttings are made during the winter they should be taken from trees or vines after a few days of warm weather, and not cut when the frost is in them.

Turnips are a natural feed for sheep, and may safely be pastured, permitting the animals to eat all they desire; in fact, root crops are always good for any of our farm animals.

On old, thin land the cultivation of the young orchard should begin several years before the old one fails and before the new one is set, by heavy manuring, deep tillage, clean crop culture, and the growing of clover.

The sucking pigs may be growing nicely, but do not cheat yourself with a false idea of the profits unless you are also observing the mother. She may be falling off as fast as her progeny is gaining. Give her the best food obtainable to keep up both flesh and flow of milk.

The frequent trips made from the barn on most farms make it desirable that the buildings be in reasonable distance from each other. On some farms a good deal of valuable time is spent in an unprofitable manner trudging over the long path between farm buildings.

Take good care that the pigs have a sufficient supply of salt, ashes and charcoal; keep it in a box under shelter where they can help themselves, and never let the supply entirely run out. There is no danger of them eating too much, for their own cravings will measure that.

If your poultry house is so cold that water freezes in it, it would be a good plan to give the poultry water three times a day. Have it slightly warmed and after the fowls have drank what they wished pour out the remainder. In this way the hens will have a full supply and also be invigorated by the warmth from the water drank.

We have frequently seen in papers, where the writers did not know what they were talking about, that frosted grass is not good for sheep. This is all bosh. We have pastures where sheep run during the entire winter, and they will graze, even pawing off the snow to get at the blue grass. Some of these writers heads are frosted over with gray, and they ought to know better.—Homestead.

A CONTENTED EMPRESS

SOMETHING ABOUT THE EX-EMPRESS OF GERMANY.

One of the Most Gifted Women in the World—An Authority on Painting and Sculpture—Not a Popular Woman in Germany.

Writers are in the habit of portraying the Empress Frederick of Germany as a woman embittered and soured by disappointment. Yet if the truth were known there are few whose existence at the present moment is of more ideal character. True, she has lost a noble and devoted husband, a bereavement, however, which must to a certain extent have been softened by the genuine sorrow manifested not alone in his own country but throughout the civilized world, when he died. But after the close of a singularly happy marriage, unclouded by even the faintest difference of opinion with her consort, she is now enjoying a delightfully contented eventide to her life. She resides during the greater part of the year in a home constructed according to her own designs and her own ideas and possesses a vast fortune, which renders her independent of all her relatives, and which she is free to spend as she wishes; and with all her sons and daughters married off, she has no domestic cares of her own, and is at liberty to order her mode of existence as she pleases, unhampered by any restrictions or obligations. Her rank is of the highest, for she is the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria and the mother of the Present German Emperor, besides which she enjoys the titles and the status of an Empress-Queen.

There are few more gifted women in the world, than Empress Frederick, the diversity, the scope, and the depth of whose knowledge are simply amazing. In conversation it is difficult to broach any subject, no matter what it is, that she has not mastered. Her acquaintance with mediaeval, renaissance, and modern schools of painting and with all forms and works of art industry is unsurpassed even by those men who have devoted their lives to these studies, and the writer of these lines has on one and the same evening heard her conversing on Venetian art with Ludvic Passini, proving herself his equal in knowledge of Venice, past and present; talking with a distinguished physician, who was astounded by the theoretical knowledge which she displayed of the throat and breathing organs, declaring that if she had but practical experience she would have been the finest throat doctor in the world; and discussing literature with a celebrated Englishman of letters, chiding him upon his admitted inability to cap a passage from Pope which she quoted. Her skill with the brush is far beyond that of a mere amateur, while her sculptures surpass anything of the kind ever attempted by a woman. The subject which naturally stimulates her most artistic effort is the portrait of her fondly loved husband. His memory is so fresh in her mind, her eyes so capable of recalling his image, and her hand so well trained to follow her impression and to reproduce what she can visualize that no sculptor could vie with her in reproducing his likeness. On one occasion she had given a commission to the celebrated German sculptur Uphus for a colossal statue of the Emperor Frederick. One day she called at his studio while he was at work on the clay model of the bust. She pointed out to him some features in which he had not caught the likeness. When verbal explanations did not adequately convey her meaning she asked permission to model herself, set to work and in half an hour with a touch here and there modified the features to such a degree that th was astounded by the striking likeness. The model has since been put into marble, and is universally considered to be the best portrait extant of Emperor Frederick.

In spite of being a grandmother the widowed Empress is still in splendid bodily health and vigor. She rides on horseback daily, and in winter spends a considerable amount of time on the ice, skating. Kindhearted, generous, and impulsive, she is nevertheless, a fierce hater and a dangerous enemy, as Prince Bismarck found to his cost. For it was mainly through her cleverness and diplomacy that he lost his post of Chancellor and was relegated to private life. The Empress is not comely, and, in fact, has never been pretty, but has always had a bright, intelligent and pleasing face. Moreover, she has inherited her mother's peculiarly melodious voice. She is imperious and intolerant of stupidity and affectation.

In spite of her philosophy, her generosity and her cleverness; in spite, too, of the blamelessness of her life, Empress Frederick is not popular. For, like so many people of genius, she is wanting in that one single quality without which all others are of no avail —namely, tact, and it is to the absence of the latter that must be ascribed the lack of affection and of good will with which she is regarded in Germany.

The Empress's habits are simplicity itself. Like all the members of the English Royal family, she is an early riser, and delights in plenty of fresh air and open windows. In the morning she usually rides until twelve o'clock, and passes the remainder of the day in studying, painting and receiving visitors. She is most energetic in all she undertakes.

DOING LONDON.

Guide, at the stone gallery, St. Paul's, —Straight over there you see the Thames. To the right are the houses of Parliament, and a little to the left is the wonderful tower bridge.

Gentleman—But where? I don't see anything.

Guide—Oh, well, that's where they are but it's a bit foggy this morning.

WHY THEY DO NOT PASS.

Kidney Disease Prevents Hundreds of Apparently Healthy Men From Passing a Medical Examination for Life Insurance.

If you have inquired into the matter you will be surprised at the number of your friends who find themselves rejected as applicants for life insurance, because of kidney trouble. They think themselves healthy until they undergo the medical test, and they fail in this one point. South American Kidney Cure will remove not alone the early symptoms, but all forms of kidney disease, by dissolving the uric acid and hardening substances that find place in the system. J.D. Locke of Sherbrooke, Que., suffered for three years from a complicated case of kidney disease, and spent over $100 for treatment. He got no relief until he used South American Kidney Cure, and he says over his own signature that four bottles cured him.

Sold by W. E. Richardson.

Millions of men in India live, marry and rear apparently healthy children upon an income which, even when the wife works, is rarely above 50 cents a week, and sometimes it falls below that.

JEALOUS RIVALS

Cannot Turn Back the Tide. The Demand for Dr. Agnew's Little Pills is a Marvel.

It's the old Story, "The Survival of the Fittest," and "Jealousy its own Destroyer."

Cheap to buy, but diamonds in quality—banish nausea, coated tongue, water brash, pain after eating, sick headache, never gripe, operate pleasantly. 40 doses in a vial. 20 cents at all druggists.

Sold by W. E. Richardson.

God's livery is a very plain one; but its wearers have good reason to be content.—Lowell.

COULD NOT LIE DOWN FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

The Sufferings of a Toronto Junction Resident from Heart Disease.

Not an exceptional case of heart disease but very distressing was that of Mr. L. W. Law, of Toronto Junction, Ont., who was obliged to be propped up in bed with pillows for eighteen months, because of smothering spells that would come over him whenever he attempted to lie down. No treatment had done any good until he tried Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart, and here one dose gave complete relief, and one bottle cured him, and to-day he enjoys the pleasures of good health as other people do. Heart disease will kill if not cured.

The Queen has contributed £500 for the relief of the famine-sufferers in India.

A CRIPPLE FROM RHEUMATISM.

Cured by a Few Doses of South American Rheumatic Cure—Miraculous But Fact.

Mrs. N. Ferris, wife of a well-known manufacturer of Highgate, Ont., says: "For many years I was sorely afflicted with rheumatic pains in my ankles and at times was almost disabled. I tried everything, as I thought, and doctored for years without much benefit. Though I had lost confidence in medicines I was induced to use South American Rheumatic Cure. To my delight, the first dose gave me more relief than I had had in years, and two bottles have completely cured me."

Sold by W. E. Richardson.

Lewis Miller, president of the International Association of Sunday school Workers, is the father-in-law of Thos. A. Edison.

TAKEN WITH SPASMS.

A Collingwood Resident Tells How South American Nervine Cured His Daughter of Distressing Nervous Disease.

The father of Jessie Merchant of Collingwood, tells this story of his eleven yaer-old daughter: "I doctored with the most skilled physicians in Collingwood without any relief coming to my daughter, spending nearly five hundred dollars in this way. A friend influenced me to try South American Nervine, though I took it with little hope of it being any good. When she began its use she was hardly able to move about, and suffered terribly from nervous spasms, but after taking a few bottles she can now run around as other children." For stomach troubles and nervousness there is nothing so good as South American Nervine.

Sold by W. E. Richardson.

The late Mrs. Hicks-Lord, of New York, so appreciated the faithfulness of her colored maid, Maria, that she bequeathed to her $400 a month for life.

CATARRH AND COLDS RELIEVED IN 10 TO 60 MINUTES.

One short puff of the breath through the Blower supplied with each bottle of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder diffuses this powder over the surface of the nasal passages. Painless and delightful to use, it relieves instantly and permanently cures Catarrh, Hay Fever, Colds, Headache, Sore Throat, Tonsilitis and Deafness. All druggists sold by W. E. Richardson.

Prince Eitel Fritz, the second son of the German emperor, is still laid up from the effects of his fall from a pony. The emperor's children are a sickly lot. They inherit little of their mother's rather too pronounced robustness.

ITCHING, BURNING SKIN DISEASES CURED FOR 35 CENTS.

Dr. Agnew's Ointment relieves in one day, and cures tetter, salt rheum, piles, scald head, eczema, barber's itch, ulcers, blotches and all eruptions of the skin. It is soothing and quiet-

Sold by W. E. Richardson.

A CLOSE FINISH.

Daughter—George says he fears he can't support me in the style I'm accustomed to.

The Father—Marry him, anyhow. I can't keep it up much longer myself.

A PROVIDENTIAL RESCUE

From a Life Burdened With Pain and Suffering.

Languor, Severe Headaches and Pains in the Region of the Kidneys Made the Life of Mrs. McCauce Miserable—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Cured After Other Medicines Failed.

From the Gravenhurst Banner.

Poor health is an affliction that is dreaded by every one, and the first sign of approaching disease is usually met with an attempt on the part of the patient to check and kill it. Frequently, however, even the most skilled physicians fail, and the sufferer endures a weary round of agony such as those who are in the full enjoyment of health can have no conception of. But when at last a medicine is found that will cure its worth cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. It is without price. Such is the opinion of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCauce, of Ashdown, Ont. Mr. McCauce tells the story of his wife's illness and cure as follows:—"For three or four years past my wife had been constantly failing in health. The first symptoms of her trouble were languor and loss of appetite, accompanied by bearing down pains and headaches, which affected her periodically. As time grew on she was attacked with pains in the region of her kidneys that became almost unbearable owing to their severity. Home remedies and different medicines were tried, but with no good results. Last winter she grew so weak and helpless that I was obliged to seek medical aid for her, and accordingly sent her out to Barrie, where she received the best medical attention, the result of which was only slightly beneficial. On her return, owing no doubt to the tediousness of the journey, she suffered from a relapse and her trouble came back in a form more aggravated than before. I noticed in a paper which I was reading one day a testimonial from one who had been cured of a similar trouble, and although knowing that other remedies had failed in my poor suffering wife's case, there was yet a ray of hope. I therefore procured a few boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and on my return home administered the first dose to my wife. It is perhaps needless to relate that before the first supply was exhausted she found great relief. My wife now commenced to enjoy a buoyancy of spirits and kept on taking the Pink Pills with increasing good results. By the time she had used six boxes her condition had so improved that her neighbors were almost unprepared to believe the evidence of their own eyes when seeing the change in her appearance. Before taking the pills it was a severe task even to dress herself, much less to do any housework, while now, although not having used any of the pills for more than a couple of months, she attends to all her household duties without the slightest inconvenience. Taking all things into consideration, I feel it a duty I owe to other sufferers to recommend these little pink messengers of health which stood between my well nigh distracted wife and the jaws of a lingering but certain death."

The experience of years has proved that there is absolutely no disease due to a vitiated condition of the blood or shattered nerves, that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will not promptly cure, and those who are suffering from such troubles would avoid much misery and save money by promptly resorting to this treatment. Get the genuine Pink Pills every time and do not be persuaded to take an imitation or some other remedy from a dealer, who for the sake of the extra profit to himself, may say is "just as good." Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure when other medicines fail.

A BUSINESS MAN'S MISTAKE.

Stranger (who has yelled himself hoarse over Jinks' telephone without getting any reply)—See here, I can't do anything with this telephone.

Jinks (with an air of innocence)—Did you wish to speak to anyone sir?

Certainly.

Oh! It has been disconnected for about a month.

Disconnected? You didn't say anything about it.

I thought everybody knew we had disconnected our telephone on account of the bores. I didn't know you wished to talk to any one, sir. I supposed you merely desired to exercise your lungs.

AN ARCHITECTURAL MISTAKE.

Phelim Murphy was a Connaught man who went to Dublin in search of work, and during his first night's stay in the city he put up at a lodging house having a bow window in front.

Phelim was up before daylight in the morning, and, groping around the room in the dark, he came on what he thought must be the door; so, opening it, one step brought him out on the window sill, and the next deposited him on his shoulder and ear on the ground, six feet below.

After recovering somewhat from the effects of his fall, he ejaculated:

Holy St. Patrick! but whoever saw a step to a dure like that?

SAND SOAP.

One of the best things for cleaning boys' hands is sand soap. It may be made at home, and so made is cheaper and better than any which can be purchased. Scrape or cut into small pieces any pure soap and melt it. As soon as the soap is melted take the dish from the fire and stir in the mixture clean, dry sea sand that has been heated. Use nearly as much sand as you have soap. As soon as the mixture is cool enough to handle roll it into balls between the palms of the hands, and put the balls into a dark, cool place to harden and dry.

FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS.

DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND

LARGEST SALE IN CANADA.