PRACTICAL FARMING.

HANDLING AND WEANING FOALS.

In answer to a correspondent's inquiry as to the best time to wean a foal I will say that I have no regular age or time as there are so many different circumstances, but generally speaking the best time is at from four to five months old. Later than five months I think is a damage to the mare and of no benefit to the colt, says a writer in Breeder's Gazette, provided the colt has been taught to eat grain at an early age, which should be at about four weeks old. They will then begin to take a few oats or light wheat middlings and from that time on should have a small ration at least once a day and the quantity increased as the colts will eat. If the mare is doing farm work, as a great number of the brood mares do (and I see no harm to either mare or foal if a reasonable amount of judgment is used), then the foal should always be left in a box-stall or some good place in the barn away from the flies with some grain to eat and and some good hay and some clean water so that it can get a drink when thirsty. At noon or night when the mare comes in—or oftener if the foal is under four weeks—it is a good plan to milk a little from the bag before the colt is allowed to nurse. They should always have the freedom of a good pasture at night and at all times when the dam is not at work, as the foals must have a place to take exercise, which they will do in running and playing much better than when obliged to follow the mare all day over soft ground or on the hard road as they do many times. I find that when mares are running in good pasture there is no objection to a small grain ration at least once a day, but rather it is of much benefit to both foal and dam; then the foal learns to eat with the mare and watches for it as much as the older horses. This grain ration is especially beneficial when the grass contains a great amount of water. If they do not have grain they should have some hay, or even corn-fodder or straw is better than all grass. For all the nourishment that we can get the foal to take in the shape of grain it draws on the dam for that much less. The foal will grow faster and many times when six months old if fed as I mention will be as large as others at one year if dam and foal are left to shift for themselves, many times in poor pasture composed mostly of brush, wire grass, mosquitoes and flies. When the foals have been fed grain there is but very little trouble to ween them, as they will take to their grain ration even more readily than when with the mare and after two or there days will have forgotten their mothers. There will be no shrinkage but a steady growth.

I find the best way to separate the mare and colt so completely that they cannot see or hear each other. Watch the mare for a few days and if her udder gets too full and is liable to cake or become inflamed milk it but once, or in heavy milkers twice a day. I speak of these little things in the care of foals and their dams as the treatment all through the colt's life up to the time of weaning has its influence at that time. And if it has been handled and made acquainted with its master it will not fret or shy whenever they are brought together and will be more like the colts that are raised in La Perche, district of France, where the children and colts on the farm play in the same front yard. If farmers and breeders will pay more attention to the feeding and care of the colts for the first two years, and especially from birth, there would be less complaint about the poor prices of horses, as there would be less poor ones put on the market. Good stock in good shape always brings a fair price. The farmer that starves his stock of all kinds, and especially horses always has scrubs to sell. I often think of a bunch of yearling colts that a farmer was taking great pleasure in showing—and I think they were the finest lot I ever saw. When asked how he raised such colts he replied that they were sired by a good pure-bred Percheron stallion out of common grade mares, but that they never knew what it was to be hungry or lack for a place to exercise. It is hard to grow good horses without good breeding; still harder to grow good ones—even if well bred—without good feeding; but combine the two—good breeding and good feeding—and there is no country in the world that can excel us; and I am not certain but what we can and do stand ahead of all others, as some of our drafters that have been exported are taking the highest honors at the greatest shows of the world. As to our American trotters, there is nothing to compare with them.

TURNING SHEEP IN CORN FIELDS.

To turn sheep into the corn fields seems to be considered agricultural sacrilege by some farmers. Turn sheep in a corn field? Yes turn them in, if you have the sheep and the corn field. Sheep will clean out foxtail or other weeds that come up and will not only do the field good by removing them, but will be doing a great deal of good by fertilizing the ground. In turning sheep into corn fields, says a writer, some judgment must be used in determining the time to do so and how long to leave them there. When the corn is wet after a rain it is not best to have them in for awhile. They will get wet through and tramp the ground a little too much for the good of the corn. If old ewes get to riding down the corn, as they will do sometimes, if they have been in many years, it is best to keep them out. To avoid this it may be well to only turn in the lambs. Lambs have not learned this pernicious habit and will do little or no damage to the corn. Old sheep men would much rather have sheep in the corn for the good of the corn than to not have them in. If there are pumpkins in the field and it is the intention for the sheep to have them, they should not be turned in until the pumpkins are well along or nearly ripe. Sheep will eat pumpkin vines and the loss of too many of the vines before they are well along will do the pumkins injury. It is well to turn the lambs in a few weeks after the corn has been laid by, while the pasture is dry and full of old grass or about the time they are weaned. This will afford them a good bite and some amusement to while away the weary hours caused by being taken away from their dams.

There is not only good feed for them in the fields, but there is little damage done to the growing corn. A few of the lower blades will be taken off and occasionally some silk, but these have served their purpose and no damage will be sustained to have the lambs in after about the first of September. The corn field furnishes a good place for the sheep to get away from the flies that annoy them so. If the field is pretty clean it will be well to feed them some and they will do less damage to the corn. The many years' experience we have had in practicing this method have convinced us that the benefit is far greater than the loss sustained in the occasional eating of an ear or two of corn by a sheep that has acquired the habit. When turning in corn is practised it is not best to let them remain in the field over night as they will lie in one place each night and break down the corn more or less, and it is here that they acquire the habit of eating corn. One year we sowed a lot of rape, the last time we plowed, in between the rows of corn. The sheep had plenty of feed on the rape, but of recent years a little cabbage louse has given us so much trouble that we do not try to grow it. When we feel sure that there is no danger from the louse or other enemies (as it has several) we shall try the plan again. We like it, and we also like to have pumpkins in the corn for the lambs to eat. Pumpkin seeds are good worm destroyers. If plenty of sheep are kept and are put in the corn at the right time, corn can be grown longer after corn than in any other way we know of, except when it is hogged down, which means all that the name implies. The crop is hogged and wasted.

SCALY LEGS ON POULTRY.

Chickens are seldom affected by this disease, but it is often very troublesome with old hens and roosters. Although it is one of the worst pests when once established in a flock, it is one which yields rapidly to treatment and is easily cured. A writer says the disease is a form of scabies or mange due to a mite which burrows under the skin, beginning between the toes by a gradual elevation of the scales, owing to the formation of a white powdery substance beneath them. The disease extends up the leg, the scales are detached and the joints become affected. The best prevention is to at once treat the first signs of the trouble appearing and to at once separate afflicted fowls from the rest of the flock. One scaly legged bird roosting with a flock free from the disease will soon spread the disease among them. It can be effectually cured by first washing the legs and toes with castile soap and warm water. If a soft brush is used it will be all the better. After the leg and toes are dry from the washing annoint with an ointment made with equal parts of melted lard and kerosene. Repeat the treatment daily until the legs are perfectly clean. Some poultry writers recommend putting the feet and legs in kerosene oil. We consider that not only a grievous mistake, but certainly a painful operation. By combining the kerosene with lard it is more cooling and healing. While treating the scales do not try to pull any off. By so doing you will start them to bleed and cause soreness. Brush lightly with the soap and water and gradually the scales will soften, and the ointment will loosen them up so that they will drop off. Neglected cases of scaly legs will so weaken the fowl that death will eventually follow.

THE HEALTHY PALATE.

It Does Not Crave Condiments, but the Food Must Possess Flavor.

While a perfectly sound and healthy palate does not crave for condiments, even prefers to do without them, yet the majority of digestions require to be humored and kept in order, and their peculiarities must be studied. Dr. Brunton says: "Savory food causes the digestive juices to be freely secreted, well cooked and palatable food is therefore more digestible than unpalatable. If food lacks savor, a desire naturally arises to supply it by condiments, not always well selected or wholesome." As commerce brought them within reach of the people, condiments in simple or complicated forms came greatly into favor and foreign spices were added to the wild herbal growths of the fields and hedges. In our early history the "spicery" was a special department of the court, and had its proper officers. In the fourteenth century spices were both costly and rare, most of them coming from the Levant. Chaucer mentions many by name—camella, macys, clowe, (cloves), grains of paradise, nutmegs, caraway and spikenard. The ancients, especially the Greeks and Romans in the luxurious period of their history, used condiments very freely. An old English historian, referring to the earlier Roman court, says: "The best magistrates of Rome allowed but the ninth day for the city and publick business; the rest for the country and the sallet garden." From this it would seem as though the education of taste was accounted of some consequence in those days.

HOUSEHOLD.

SOME HOUSEHOLD HELPS.

There are any number of dish washers advertised, every one of which is pronounced the very best, but there is still another of which but little has been said, and that is a whisk broom. A certain housekeeper keeps two hanging over her sink, one for plates and pottery and the other for metal dishes They are easily kept clean by merely dipping in water and an occasional dipping in hot water to which a little washing soda has been added keeps them sweet.

The woman who has a winter window garden is often puzzled to know what causes her plants to droop, when she gives them all the care possible. Frequently it is due to the little white worms that infest the earth about the plant. Take a little powdered santonin, about a quarter of a teaspoonful. Dissolve in hot water and when cold pour over the earth in the pots. This will kill the worms.

An infallible destroyer of all vermin is alum. It will destroy red and black ants, cockroaches, spiders and all crawling pests which infest our houses.

Two pounds of alum dissolved in four quarts of boiling water, and placed on the stove until all the alum seems to be dissolved is the recipe. While hot apply with a large brush to every joint and crevice infested, be it bedroom, pantry or closet. Add plenty of alum to the lime when making whitewash and it will keep vermin at a distance; also wash the paint with alum water and you will have no further trouble.

Kerosene is death to mosquitoes. It is well known that the pests breed in stagnant water, rain water barrels and any receptacle that has water left in it undisturbed for a week or two. Pour kerosene in the water, wherever it may be found, and let it form a thin film over the surface. Eggs, larvae, pupae and full grown mosquitoes will all be killed.

Some housekeepers always make their baking powder at home and find it cheaper and much more satisfactory than that put up in cans for sale. To make it procure six ounces of cream of tartar; bicarbonate soda two and three-quarter ounces; flour four and one-half ounces. Mix this thoroughly by sifting over and over again. This is an excellent baking powder.

A bottle of good glue should be found in every house, for the thousand and one things for which it is necessary. And when it is needed it is generally in a hurry. To make an excellent glue dissolve eight ounces of the best glue in half a pint of water by putting these ingredients together in a wide-mouthed bottle. Then set the bottle in a vessel of hot water on the stove until the glue is dissolved. Then stir in slowly one ounce nitric acid. Keep this well corked and will always be ready for use.

Speaking of glue, it may be of value to someone to learn of a good cement which is easily made. Take two parts by weight of common pitch and one of gutta percha, melted together in an iron vessel. This makes a cement that holds together with wonderful tenacity, wood, stone, ivory, leather, porcelain, silk, woolen or cotton. Another way of making cement is as follows: Take four parts of pitch, four parts of powdered brick dust or chalk, and one part of beeswax. Melt and mix together. This will harden so it is necessary to melt it before using.

To keep leather soft and pliable it needs an occasional oiling. Castor oil has been recommended as excellent for that purpose, whether it is for shoes or harness. Leather which becomes wet often is apt to crack, and this is especially true of shoes which must be worn out in all kinds of weather. To make a pair of shoes durable apply to the soles four or five successive coats of good varnish, allowing each application to dry before putting on another. Make a mixture of four parts of lard to one of varnish and apply to the uppers, allowing the leather to absorb as much as it will. Hang the shoes in a warm place while this is drying as it may take several days before they are ready for use. To keep the shoes water proof and make them last a long time beeswax and sweet oil has been recommended. Dissolve the beeswax and add a little sweet oil to thin it. Before the shoes are worn warm them over the fire and pour on the mixture, adding more as the leather absorbs it. The soles will take in a quantity of it.

SOME GOOD CAKES.

Angel Cake.—The whites of nine large or ten small fresh eggs, one and one-fourth cups of granulated sugar, measured after sifting, one cup of flour, measured after sifting four or five times, one-half teaspoonful of cream tartar, a pinch of salt added to the eggs before beating. Beat the whites of the eggs about half enough, then add the cream tartar and beat until very stiff. Stir in the suga rthen the flour very lightly and flavor to taste. Put the cake in an angel cake pan and set in a moderate oven at once; bake 35 minutes.

Chocolate Cake.—One half cup of butter creamed with one cup of sugar, two eggs, one-half cup of sweet milk, two cups of flour, and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Grate one-fourth cake of chocolate, add one-half cup of milk, the yolk of one egg, one cup of sugar and one teaspoonful of vanilla; boil and add to the first mixture. After the cake is baked cover with a boiled icing.

Cocoanut Cake.—One cup of sugar, scant half cup of butter, creamed together. Mix the yolks of three eggs with sugar and butter, putting a little in at a time. Beat the whites of two eggs, add one cup of cocoanut soaked in milk and put into this a large quarter teaspoonful of soda. Add last one cup of flour in which is stirred one-half teaspoonful of cream tartar, and sift three times. Mix all together.

Chocolate Cake.—One cup of sugar, one-half cup of butter, one-half cup of milk, one square of chocolate, one and one-half cup of flour, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda and two eggs. Cream the butter and add the sugar gradually, melt the chocolate and add it to the sugar and butter. Add the milk and mix the baking powder with the flour and add a little at a time. When thoroughly beaten add the eggs and place in the oven as soon as possible. Bake 30 minutes.

Fruit Cake.—One-half pound each of butter, brown sugar and flour, three eggs, one-half pound of citron, one pound of currants, raisins, one teaspoonful of cinnamon, one-half teaspoonful each of mace and cloves one-half a nutmeg, one-fourth cup of molasses, one teaspoonful of soda, one-fourth cup of milk, one-fourth wine glass of wine.

Cocoanut Snow Cake.—Three-fourths cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one-half cup of milk, two and a half cups of flour, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of cream tartar, whites of eight eggs, one teaspoonful of almond extract. Frost with the white of one egg beaten to a stiff froth and add ten tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and at the last one-half teaspoonful of lemon extract. Put it on the hot cake and set in the oven to dry.

POLISH AND STAINS.

A simple laundry polish for shirt bosoms, collars and cuffs, consists of one ounce of white wax and two ounces of spermaceti, melted and mixed together. Use a lump of the mixture of the size of a hazelnut in the boiled starch used for a dozen shirts. Polish the linen with a polishing-iron, to bring out the gloss of the starch.

A simple, excellent polish for furniture consists of a pint of the best linseed oil, raw, a pint of alcohol and half a pint of turpentine. Mix well, and add an ounce and a quarter of spirits of ether. Use a small quantity of the polish at a time, and apply it with a cotton cloth. Polish the wood thoroughly afterward.

Mildew is one of the most indelible of stains, but we believe the following preparation will finally remove it, if patience is exercised: Dissolve thoroughly a tablespoonful of oxalic acid in one pint of rain water and add a tablespoonful of lemon juice. Moisten the stains in the solution and rub them vigorously and then rinse them thoroughly in clear water.

GIANTS, INDEED.

The Old Circus Man's Recollection of the Biggest Two Men He Ever Knew.

"Giants?" said the old circus man, "Oh, yes, we've had some big men in the show at one time and another. One of the biggest we ever had used to comb his hair with a section of a picket fence. That was a part of the street show when we made the parade in a town. Usually we had an arrangement in advance with the owner of the fence, and had a panel loosened so that the giant wouldn't wreck too much of the fence in picking up the part he wanted to use. When the show came along to this spot the giant would step up to the fence, take off his hat and pick up the piece of fence—it always looked as if he had tremendous strength, too—and raise it up and comb his hair with it. And then he would put the big comb down again and put on his hat and move on. This always tickled the people immensely. And he certainly was a big man, sure; but we had a bigger man once. I wouldn't dare tell you how big this other man was, because you wouldn't believe it."

MILITARY MATTERS.

Germany has a nickel steel gun which throws a shell five miles every four seconds. Cordite, which has been considered by the British as the ideal explosive, does not seem to give as good results practically as during the recent artillery practice at Okehampton. Seven out of eighteen guns were disabled after the second round. The "meteor-flag of England" will float no more above her hosts on land as long as range and rapid firing guns mean certain death to every color bearer, and the example will doubtless be followed by other nations, but how much of the poetry and heroism of battle will be swept away, every soldier knows who has ever rallied on the colors, or followed the flag in some desperate charge or battled against overwhelming odds to save from capture the bit of silk which meant patriotism, honor and everything nearest and dearest to the soldier's heart.

JAPANESE INDUSTRY.

The Japanese think that the best missionary they can send to Formosa is the locomotive, and they propose to civilize its 500,000 fierce inhabitants by building railroads, which will furnish transportation for the sugar, tobacco, rice, corn, tea, camphor, cinnamon, pepper and topical fruits which flourish luxuriously in nearly the same latitude as the Sandwich Islands. The Japanese Government iron foundry now in course of construction at Yedamitsu in the Oga District will turn out 60,000 tons of steel yearly.

FEWER BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

During the decade ending with 1876 the average number of persons killed in Great Britain was 63, and, during the past 10 years 18, showing the benefits of strict governmental supervision.

BETTER THAN GOLD.

IS THE RARE TREASURE OF PERFECT HEALTH.

A Nova Scotia Lady Says "I Consider Dr. Williams Pink Pills a Priceless Boon to Suffering Humanity."

From the Amherst, N.S., Sentinel.

The rugged and the strong do not appreciate to its full extent the blessing of perfect health. It is only those who have passed through a trying illness who feel that health is a treasure to be prized more than silver or gold. Among those who have experienced the truth of this is Miss Sabra Rector, of West River, Hebert, N.S. This lady has passed through a trying and wearisome illness, from which happily relief was found through the medium of a medicine that has brought health and strength to thousands of others, and whose medicinal virtues will work equally good results in all cases where it is given a fair trial. Miss Rector says:—"I feel it is my duty to recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as they have done wonders for me. About two years ago I became very ill with a complication of diseases. I was suffering with indigestion, biliousness and the resulting nervous disorders, such as sick headache, loss of appetite, and flashes of heat and cold. I began doctoring, and although I had the best of care I seemed to grow worse every day. I slept but little and when lying down would grow so hot and suffer from a sensation of smothering that I would find it necessary to arise. Then the other extreme would come and I would shiver with cold. Time wore on and there was no improvement in my condition. I was not able to do any work about the house and even the exertion of moving about would tire me out. If I attempted to walk any distance or hurried in the least I would gasp for breath and could scarcely speak. I had a very poor appetite, and what food I ate did not seem to agree with me or furnish needed nourishment, and I also suffered with a severe pain in my side and back. During this time I tried many remedies, but they gave me no relief whatever. I had become so weak, and my system was so run down that life was a burden to me. At this stage my attention was directed to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and I determined to give them a trial. After using four boxes I felt so much better that hope and encouragement came to me once more. I continued the use of the Pink Pills and found myself steadily gaining health and strength. By the time I had used four boxes more I had fully regained health and strength and I am not only able to do my full share of household work, but also attend to my Sabbath school class and other church duties. I look upon Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as a priceless boon to suffering humanity."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a specific for the troubles which make the lives of so many women a burden, and speedily restore the rich glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. Sold by all dealers, or sent by mail postpaid, at 50c., a box, or six boxes for $2.50 by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., Beware of imitations and substitutes alleged to be "just as good."

BICYCLE DICTIONARY.

Century—The distance made in one day by an imaginative rider when riding alone. See Liar and Cyclometer.

Cranks—1, Supposedly steel rods which refuse to move when desired, and vice versa. 2. All persons who refuse to ride wheels.

Cyclometer—A small instrument operated by turning machine upside down and revolving front wheel rapidly by hand. See Fake.

Dismount—To sever connection with wheel; may be done in several ways.

Expert—One who is able to scare a pedestrian to death by coming within one-eleventh of an inch of him without hitting him, instead of running into him and killing him at once.

Fake—An unreliable or untrue statement. See Century and Cyclometer.

Handlebars—Pieces of steel or wood used by beginners for testing grip and b yexperts for shewing skill by letting them alone.

Heretic—Any one who rides a different make of wheel from one's own.

Liar—See Century and Cranks and Heretic.

Pedals—Two steel devices attached to cranks in form of a puzzle, the object being to keep feet on both at once.

Saddle—Something probably invented by druggists to boom the sale of arnica.

Scorcher—A humpbacked, bulging eyed creature, who says "Steady-y!" and would wear his sweater to church if he ever went there.

Suicide—The apparent object of all learners.

Tandem—A device to enable a man to tell if his best girl's back hair is her own or not; a sort of pleasure conveyance for ladies.

Tire—A rubber thing which is the best in the market and bursts nineteen miles from the nearest repair shop.

WELL SUPPLIED.

Cobble—Does Bilter belong to any yacht club?

Stone—No. What's the use of his belonging to a yacht club? He has a yacht of his own.

FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS.

DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND

LARGEST SALE IN CANADA