FARM·FIELD AND GARDEN

STABLE CARE OF HORSES.

Among the horses in this country there is probably more suffering from mistaken kindness and lack of skill and judgment, than from deliberate cruelty or wilful neglect. An immense mass of empiricism, prejudice and false notions in relation to horse management in health and disease has become traditional, and is handed down from one generation to another. Even when the horse is in apparent health, with no morbid symptoms whatever, it is bled, purged and blistered; harsh diuretics and "condition powders" of unknown composition are administered, with no very definite or intelligent aim, but under the vague idea that such treatment will somehow improve the condition and appearance of the horse. If we are to retain the pristine health and vigor of the horse under the artificial conditions of domestic servitude, we must furnish it as far as possible with equally pure air, wholesome food and water it has while running wild.

In the first place, the stable must be kept perfectly clean at all times. When allowed to remain in such a condition that if a man stays ten minutes his clothing becomes saturated with pungent ammoniacal odors, it is not a fit place in which to keep a horse. The animal cannot retain perfect health in an atmosphere loaded with foul gasses. The stalls and floor must be cleaned every morning and kept clean. The droppings and wet, foul litter should not be tossed through a hole behind the stall, and left piled up there a reeking dunghill, with the gases and odors of fermentation penetrating the stable. To say nothing of the waste of manure, which is often an item of some importance, such a practice is utterly incompatible with pure air in the stable. The manure and litter should be kept in a sheltered place and frequently sprinkled with some absorbent, as gypsum, swamp muck, or if nothing better is at hand, dry coal ashes or road dust. During warm weather the stalls, gutters and entire floor should be washed frequently with plenty of water. Dry land plaster sprinkled plentifully on the floor will absorb ammoniacal emanations, but when wet it becomes a sticky, objectionable mass. A solution of coppers, at the rate of one ounce to two gallons of water, sprinkled freely in the stable, is a very effective deodorizer. When the stable is cleaned up in the morning the partially soiled bedding which is to be used again should be removed to some other part of the stable to dry, and never thrown under the manger, or near the horse's head, in accordance with a quite too common custom. How would the owner or groom enjoy having such an odorous mass under his own table?

SCRUB AND PEDIGREE.

The march of pedigree stock like a mighty avalanche is sweeping over this country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, bringing a new prosperity to the farm with improved stock, enriching the soil, and marketing the farm crops at pedigree prices, driving the scrub back with the ox team to oblivion.

Professor Burnett says: "The scrub must give place on high priced land to the Angus, the Hereford, the Shorthorn, and the other beef breeds, which can be grown and finished for the market in from eighteen to twenty-four months, and be sold at the top of the market.

"If inferior cattle should make equal gains for the food consumed they still produce an inferior grade of carcass which is worth from 10 to 25 per cent. less than the well bred and the well grown steer. If the inferior steer is produced without loss, the premium on the better steer is profit. There is a very great difference in the value per pound of a well bred calf and a scrub. The well bred calf pays you a profit on every bushel of corn and every ton of alfalfa he eats. He is an embryo gold mine as he waits to be shunted down prosperity track; the other calf has a hang dog look. He would much better be hung young.

"The feeder of mature cattle often selects inferior grades of steers, of colors on account of their lower cost as feeders, and claims there is greater profit in them. This may be true with the man who feeds, but how about the man who raised the feeder? If good feeders sometimes sell for more than they are worth this is a convincing argument in favor of raising them."

SHEEP NOTES.

By continually changing no one can build up a fine flock.

Merinos will make good mutton if the sheep are properly handled and made fat.

In purchasing sheep to form a flock, buy none but first-class animals.

Keep in mind that the earliest lambs in market always bring the best prices.

The flesh of the sheep partakes of the flavor of its food more than that of any other animal.

The sheep that is sold for mutton because it is not worth keeping hardly helps the sale of mutton as a meat.

For poor lands and short pastures sheep are decidedly better adapted than cattle.

The most unfavorable conditions under which sheep can be kept is in feeding on low, marshy pastures.

Assort and grade the flock of sheep intended for market according to size, kind and quality.

One good sheep will bring in more clear profit than two poor ones; in fact, poor ones are often kept at a loss.

Purchasing a good ram and using him with carefully selected ewes is the best investment a sheep farmer can make.

The fleece and the carcass make up the sheep, and if either is inferior, the sheep is inferior, no matter how good the other may be.

It is much the better plan to keep sheep in a good condition all the time, much better than to allow them to run down a part of the time.

A lamb is, perhaps, the most difficult of all animals to recuperate after it has once started down hill.

To improve any kind of farm animals and to fix their chief characteristics it is necessary to cross only animals of similar types and characteristics.

One advantage with wool growing is it is a product which does not take fertility from the soil as grain growing.

Fattening sheep should not be allowed much range to run over, but should be kept in a small lot where they can be kept quiet.

HOW SLEEP MAY BE WOOED.

Movements of the Feet Will Quiet the Nervous Brain.

Most of the mental devices for wooing sleep have failed because they have nearly always tried to resort to "local treatment;" in other words, they have made a homeopathic attempt to stop thinking about something else—a process which might also be called "elimination by substitution." But all thinking, spontaneous or forced, draws more or less blood to the brain, prevents deep inhalations and bars the gate to the kingdom of dreams. Any device, on the other hand, which will make one take deep, long breaths spontaneously (the invariable forerunner of sleep) may be counted upon as a genuine remedy for insomnia. Even deep breathing which is forced, is better than any purely mental attempt to win sleep. But if the deep breathing can be produced involuntarily one is sure of a passport to Nodland.

After several nights of experiment to this end the present writer decided to apply the principle adopted by the masseurs, who begin their manipulations "at the point farthest from the seat of difficulty," which, in the case of insomnia, would be the feet. Lying on the right side, with the knees together, and considerably flexed, the victim of insomnia should begin to pedal both his feet slowly up and down, with the movement entirely in the ankles. The pedaling should keep time with the natural rhythm of respiration and be continued until it is followed by deep and spontaneous breathing.

Several people who have tried this remedy report that involuntarily deep breathing invariably begins before they have pedaled up and down a dozen times. In obstinate cases of insomnia, the patient may need to keep up the pedaling two or three minutes, or even more, with intermissions, if necessary. The treatment may also be varied by moving the feet alternately, instead of simultaneously, though the latter method has proved the more speedily efficacious in the cases known to the writer. The explanation of the result obtained is probably simple. The blood is pumped from the head and with the removal of brain tension a general relaxation follows, with a sequent deep respiration and its resulting sleep.

LOOK BEFORE YOU PROPOSE.

There was a dim, religious light in the front parlor when he went in, but the one he loved more than life was standing there, and he caught her in his arms and printed a loving kiss on her lips.

"Dearest," he murmured, "I have come to tell you that I love you with all my heart and soul, and to ask you if you will marry me?"

"To be sure I will, me hearty," came from the figure in his arms; "but, faith now, if I catch ye makin' eyes at Miss Rosa any more, sure I'll sue ye for breach of promise, so I will!"

He staggered back with an awful sinking at his heart, and, as she turned up the light, he recognised Bridget, the housemaid!

He turned and flew, but through the long, sleepless night he heard her voice crying loud hints after him as to the best place to buy furniture.

"This photograph doesn't look a bit like me," said Snarley to the photographer. "I know it," said the photographer. "I was afraid to make it exactly like you for fear you wouldn't take it."

Mrs. Hudson (to her husband, who has come home with a black eye and no hat): "Ah, that's what you get by riding a bicycle." Mr. Hudson: "No dear; it's what I got for not being able to ride one."

SWINDLING AS A FINE ART

BRITISH ADVENTURERS PLACED UNDER ARREST.

The Gang and Female Accomplices Known in Scotland Yard.

The French police have in custody several members of a gang of alleged swell mobsmen, who have, it is supposed, carried on their practices all over Europe—in London, Paris, Gibraltar, Ostend, Brussels, Baden-Baden, Naples, Trouville, Monte Carlo, Nice and also in Cairo. They were arrested in Trouville and Paris, but only two, named Randeli and Ross, will be detained in prison, writes a Paris correspondent. All the others, whose names are Maclaren-Innes, Deakin, Macdonald, Brown, Bloomfield, March and Waters, will be released in a few days, when the Minister of the Interior has signed the decree of expunsion, banishing them from France.

Ross is detained in custody for having at Trouville attempted to rob an English gentleman named Green of several betting tickets of the value of £20. Randall was arrested for stealing a pocketbook containing £600 from a horse dealer residing at Neuilly. Both men will come up for trial shortly.

The gang is known to the Scotland Yard authorities, and M. Hennron, the head of the French secret police, and two of his smartest officers, MM. Aschwenden and Garrette, have been watching them all the summer, following them from Trouville to Dieppe and finally to Paris.

At Dieppe, Bloomfield, March and Waters arrived at the Hotel Royal on a splendid automobile. About a week later they are accused of having decamped without paying their hotel bill. They abandoned the motor car. The detectives tracked them to Paris, where all three were staying at different hotels. They had in their possession the usual sharpers' accessories—"faked" roulet wheels, marked cards and several ingenious appliances for cheating at baccarat.

I was shown by the police a large collection of labels which had been removed from the trunks of the alleged swindlers, showing that they had stayed at the best hotels at the places they visited. They are mostly tall, good-looking men, always faultlessly clothed. They occupy the best rooms in the establishments where they stay, dine at fashionable restaurants, and generally give one the impression that they are English gentlemen of independent fortune, spending a holiday abroad. As an indication of the luxurious fashion in which their wardrobes are furnished, it may be stated that on being arrested a few days ago, one of the gang asked the police to keep a sharp eye on their trunks as they contained £200 worth of clothes.

SELECTING THE "PIGEONS."

It appears that when the gang has laid its plans to work a certain resort its members separate and take rooms in different hotels. When they have selected the "pigeons," as they term their victims, they find some excuse for engaging them in conversation, "And it is rather strange," said a French detective to me, "that although Englishmen are very reserved at home, when abroad if another Englishman addresses them in their common language, they never seem to suspect him."

The swell mobsman is an expert judge of character. He seems to know instinctively the man who has plenty of money which can be swindled out of him, and when he has once succeeded in breaking the ice by a request for a light, by a polite "Good mornin'," or by some equally unsuspicious manoeuvre, further intimacy becomes easy. The new-found acquaintance is invited to accompany his charming, well-dressed fellow-countryman to the races, where the latter meets several of his accomplices. Introductions follow. The chief of the gang mentions that he has a sure thing in hand, on which he intends to put £200 or £300. The stranger is strongly advised to do the same. If he demurs he is usually persuaded to back the certainty with just £100. Of course, the horse comes in nowhere, and the swell mobsmen divide the spoils.

The disconsolate "pigeon" is afterwards invited to dinner, and later is requested to take a hand at cards in the rooms of one of the gang. By means of exceedingly ingenious aids to swindling the process of robbing the victim is continued, and when he gets tired of losing money or has no more, another "pigeon" is caught an similarly plucked.

At Trouville members of the gang were seen speaking to some of the most prominent members of the British aristocracy, who evidently little guessed the real character of their faultlessly-attired and charmingly-mannered neighbors.

M. Hennion says that he has some other members of the gang under observation, and that if they are not arrested before the winter they will probably be heard of at Nice and Monte Carlo when the Riviera season opens.

FEMALE ACCOMPLICES.

The members of the gang are usually accompanied by several good-looking women of considerable personal attractions and with a generous supply of jewelry. These women frequently play an important part in snaring the "pigeons." One of the most successful of these female accomplices is the beautiful Mrs. D——, formerly well-known as a barmaid at a leading hotel in London. She it was who completely captivated a Yorkshire gentleman at Marseilles last winter, and on his way back to Nice in the same compartment with her she performed the narcotic trick on him while her male confederates looked after the "pigeon's" pocketbook. Mrs. D—— and her husband while at Nice paid £24 per week for hotel expenses. None of these women have been arrested.

Isn't It Worth While
ASKING FOR
"SALADA"
CEYLON NATURAL GREEN tea when it costs no more than the commonplace Japan and is infinitely superior, being absolutely pure and as delicious as the famous "Salada" black tea.
Sold only in sealed lead packets. 25c, and 40c, per lb. By all Grocers.

PRAYER WHEELS OF THIBET.

A Description of Them and the Uses to Which They Are Put.

One of the most peculiar objects connected with the cult of lama Buddhism as generally practised throughout Thibet is the prayer-wheel, writes a traveler. One sees the natives contsantly twisting these instruments while bartering together, while herding their cattle or journeying on the highway; in fact, on all occasions save what time is consumed in eating and sleeping. The prayer-wheel is nothing more than a small metal cylinder four inches in length and two or three inches in diameter. This is fitted on an axle, one end of which protrudes for half a foot or so and serves as a needle. Into the cylinders are placed strips of paper covered with magic prayers—manufactured by the lamas and sold to the credulous natives at a good profit— and it is the belief of the natives that by revolving the cylinder containing these prayers around the axle by a rotary motion of the hand a certain number of times during life the joys of the future state are assured to the fortunate devotee who has performed the operation. A yet more curious form of the prayer-wheel is the praying water-wheel, doubtless the inspiration of some aboriginal Edison. This is nothing more than a large cylinder fitted upon an axle and suspended at a spot in a swiftly-flowing stream, where the rush of the waters may turn it at a rapid pace.

PRAYER-SLIPS,

similar to those used in the hand instrument are inserted, and it stands to reason that revolving unceasingly night and day one of these large praying-wheels must accomplish the work of many smaller ones. In this manner the busy man, or one whose time for devotional exercises is limited in comparison with his neighbor, is enabled by this original invention to enjoy equal advantages in the devotional scale.

By means of these praying-wheels a unique method of revenge is carried on. If one be at enmity with a man it is only necessary that the prayer-wheel of the latter be secretly secured and twisted for a few times in a certain direction opposite to the customary one, when all the previous good effects it has secured in advancing its owner toward future bliss will be nullified. An enemy may also be injured in the following manner—at least, no one could convince the Thibetan otherwise as to the efficacy of this practice: In the first place, a small dough image is made to impersonate the one whose injury is sought. It is then necessary to procure some object belonging to the person of that individual—a hair, nail-paring, or, most potent of all, a torch. If the dough image is pricked with these it is sufficient to cause the enemy himself the most horrible pains, and if his death is sought it is only necessary that some vital organ should be pierced.

A GO-AHEAD BABY.

A man particularly a single man, always finds it difficult to know what to say when a baby is offered for inspection.

Few are inspired with the happy thought of the bachelor quoted below:

Father (showing off his baby boy to bachelor friend): "Well, what do you think of him? Fine boy, isn't he?"

Bachelor Friend: "Yes, very fine boy. But he's bald. Still, of course,"—glancing at the father's bald head—"children are not satisfied nowadays unless they can begin where their fathers left off!"

A POSSIBLE EXCEPTION.

Wife: "Isn't it a fact, dear, that handsome men are proverbially disagreeable?"

Husband: "Well, I don't know. I always try to be pleasant."

THEIR SEATS AT TABLE

SACRED RIGHTS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE.

Questions of Privilege That Are Constantly Making Trouble.

Questions of precedence have been agitating the diplomatic body at Washington and stirring diplomatic dignity at the Court of St. James. It isn't any easy matter to keep diplomatic representatives at any court in a state of smiling content, but those who have to wrestle with the problem say that they would agree to handle the Ambassadors and Ministers if those dignitaries were not blessed with wives. It is usually the wives who contend for sacred rights and stir up international ructions over the order of court presentation or the seating of a dinner table.

As a matter of fact, the wife of an Ambassador has more social importance than is generally recognized. She shares many of her husband's privileges, and has often helped to make history by standing firmly upon her rights.

All social Rome remembers the exciting evening when the wives of the English, French and Austrian Ambassadors defied all court etiquette and left Princess Pallavicini's ball while the King and Queen were still present. The three women considered themselves insulted because they had not been seated at the royal supper table and withdrew in high dudgeon.

Their respective Governments indorsed their action. There was an interchange of official letters and an imposing display of red tape, and, finally, the Italian Government offered profound apologies to the injured ladies and the Governments slighted through them.

BROUGHT TO BRINK OF WAR.

It is not so very long since another episode of the same kind occurred at the Russian court and a beautiful Ambassadress came near upsetting the equilibrium of all Europe, while at another time France was on the brink of war because of a slight accidentally offered to the wife of a French Ambassador.

The wives of Ambassadors are permitted to seat themselves during an audience with the Pope. They are kissed by the Queen, when received at the Spanish court, and are seated at her right hand.

At every European court they receive high honors, and, like their husbands, they can, if so inclined, defy importunate creditors. Neither an Ambassador nor his wife can be sued for debt; and, by this privilege, hangs many a thrilling tale, though the stories have usually been promptly hushed.

The Ambassador, even if extravagantly inclined, is ordinarily too keenly alive to the responsibility of his office and the unpleasant consequences of a fall from grace, to risk his standing with the home Government by courting scandal; but his wife is not always moulded of stuff so stern, and there are, on record, a number of lively little scandals woven round the love of an Ambassador's wife for jewels and lace and French gowns.

DIPLOMATIC ETIQUETTE.

The famous Parisian dressmakers and milliners could, if they would, show heavy losses resulting from too rash confidence in the income and integrity of an Ambassador's wife; but as a rule, such losses are swallowed with the best grace possible and scandal is avoided.

On one occasion the goods of a Spanish Ambassador's wife were seized by creditors in Italy; but the Court of Madrid, though disapproving of the lady's indiscretion, took high grounds in regard to the breach of diplomatic etiquette and the Italian Government confounded itself in official apologies.

In Washington as well as at European courts, occasional dissension has arisen over the privileges of feminine relatives of bachelor or widower Ambassadors. The sister, niece or eldest daughter of an Ambassador, holding the place of mistress of his house, has sought the privileges of Ambassadors, but the wives of the other Ambassadors have invariably raised a mighty protest and have carried their point.

Queen Victoria settled the mooted question once and for all by consulting with the other European courts and bringing about a mutual agreement that no woman save the wife of an Ambassador could enjoy the privileges of Ambassadress.