HOW TO GROOM A HORSE

Importance of Care is Obvious.

BY CLEMENTINE PADDLEFORD.

One of the sights I like to see is a perfectly conditioned horse cantering through brilliant sunshine. How he glistens! His coat is like burnished metal, but it is more beautiful than metal; for it is a rippling, living surface, moving to the flex and flow of the big muscles underneath. He is a grand picture, and he knows it. And I know that there is plenty of elbow grease in his stable.

Elaborate equipment is not needed to keep a horse in good coat. A wisp of hay or straw is almost as good as currycomb or bristle brush. A rumpled newspaper is a substitute for the chamois polishing cloth. In an emergency you can groom him with your bare hands, as it is done in India. But one thing you must use—and that is elbow grease.

In hot weather or cold, the aim of grooming is to put the horse in his stall warm, dry, clean and limber. In summer, grooming really begins about a mile beyond the stable. Let him walk that last mile, and he will come in dry, needing only a dab here and there with a damp sponge before you go to work with brush and cloth.

If he comes in hot, in hot weather, go over him swiftly with a sponge. Pay particular attention to mouth, nose, ears, the hollows under the jaw, the inside of the hind legs, and the dock, or fleshy part of the tail. If it is a scorching day, a bath with a hose is permissible. But this is so risky that it is not recommended to the person who is out of elbow grease. It should be done in the sun. Afterward the horse should be covered with a light blanket or walked in the sun until dry.

THE NEXT STEP.

When he is dry it is time for brushing and polishing. The old-fashioned currycomb, with saw teeth, is tabooed. It was a stupid, cruel tool. A bristle brush is better, and that should be used considerately on a thin-skinned, spirited animal. Get down into the roots of the mane and the hair on the fetlocks. Finish with a chamois cloth.

Dandruff, while always unsightly, does no great harm to the coat in winter. In summer it can be a positive torture. If you love your horse, you will see that he is free of it. The combination of sweat and dandruff is about as pleasant as the hives. Take a bristle brush or a currycomb with corrugated edges, and work at his coat with a circular motion. When the dandruff is loosened go at him with a wisp of straw which has been dampened. Be sure that it is damp, as the dandruff will then cling to the wisp.

When a horse comes in wet with rain, you will need first a scraper. It is a narrow, flexible strip of brass; and if you grasp it at both ends and draw the thin edge over his coat, you will be surprised at the amount of water it will scrape off. A shingle is a handy substitute.

Now put on a blanket and a hood. If you have no hood, you must rub his ears, neck and head until they are dry. Then you must bandage his legs, loosely but warmly. If he is very wet and the weather is very cold, an additional blanket should be put on in about twenty minutes. The moisture will be drawn to the top blanket, which can then be removed.

When he is dry, brush him thoroughly. Be sure you get all the dried mud off his belly and legs. Never wash the mud from a horse's legs unless you are prepared to dry them immediately.

FOR THE TIRED HORSE.

If the horse comes in very tired, his forelegs may be bathed from knee to foot, his hind legs from hock to foot, in water as hot as your hand will bear. Do one leg at a time. Dry it and bandage it. Rub his forelegs and knees, shoulders and thighs with weak liniment. A tired horse needs extra elbow grease and extra care for some time after he is stabled. He is susceptible at such times to a reaction—a chill or cold sweat. A cold ear is the danger signal. When you get that signal he must be rubbed again, or given an extra blanket, or both.

And then the foot! The Arabs, great horse lovers, have a short proverb in which is packed a volume of truth: "No hoof, no horse." The shiniest of coats is no good unless there is a sound foot under it. Grooming is not complete—in fact, it is a failure—unless it includes a careful examination of that most important member. Look for loose or worn shoes. Look for pebbles wedged between hoof and shoe. Look for pebbles or nails in the frog. Look for cracks in the hoof and scratches around the fetlocks. Look at the general condition of the hoof. It needs moisture, and should be washed frequently, inside and out. In hot weather, never lose a chance of putting your horse through a puddle or shallow stream. Much lameness is caused by pounding mile after mile on hard, dry roads.

The importance of this care is obvious. Whether he is used for hunting or plowing, the horse is a useful anima.l. You may neglect your household pet and suffer only in the esteem of your friends. But when you neglect your horse, you touch your pocketbook.

Why Plough to Kill the Corn Borer?

PROF. CAESAR, O.A.C., EXPLAINS.

Farmer after farmer has the firm conviction that plowing does not kill the corn borer, because they have seen them on the surface after the stubble has been plowed and they looked quite healthy. They also say that they have pulled up buried stubble and found them lying inside as happy as they could be anywhere. They say too that the borers will survive the winter in pools in the barnyard where they freeze stiff, and so, they conclude, "How can plowing possibly kill them?"

All the above statements are quite true but for all that plowing does kill the borer, but in a different way from what the farmer expected.

In nature the borers do not live underground except that they will go down in corn stalks or stubble as far as to the end of the main root. Therefore when corn fields are plowed and everything is buried they are out of their natural environment, but even so, they often remain where they are until the stubble, or weeds, or corn remnants in which they are hidden, begin to decay and grow slimy and utterly unlike what they were above ground. Then, if the ground is not frozen, as soon as the weather becomes warm they come to the surface. Here birds, ants, bettles and other enemies find and kill many of them. The rest, except for a very rare one, which happens to find and crawl into some small piece of corn or weed remnant, sooner or later die from exposure. Bear in mind therefore that in order to live, these larvae must have protection such as is afforded above ground by bits of cornstalks or of coarse weeds. Thus the more thoroughly you have plowed, the fewer hiding places will be left on the surface and the larger the percentage of borers which will be killed by their natural enemies or by the weather.

When plowing is done early in the fall, most of the borers come up before winter. When it is done late many remain in the ground until the soil warms up in the spring.

Another fact to remember is that, if the borers did not come to the surface, the delicate moths into which they transform would die, because the moths cannot work their way through the ground and live.

Experiments have proven that even the cleanest clean-up without plowing, leaves twice as many borers alive as a fair clean-up with good plowing.

There is not an entomologist in America who does not advocate plowing and in the United States there are more than twenty entomologists studying this insect.

Protection of Cabbage and Cauliflower.

It pays to protect cabbage and cauliflower from root maggot. Experiments at Cap Rouge, Que., Experimental Station for several years have shown that bichloride of mercury is effective, but as it is very poisonous great care must be taken in using it. Further, it should be carried in wooden or earthen vessels as it will eat through metal. An ounce should be dissolved in ten gallons of water or for small quantities an ordinary tablet per pint. Half a cup should be applied around each plant three or four days after they are set in the field and one or two more applications made at intervals of about a week.

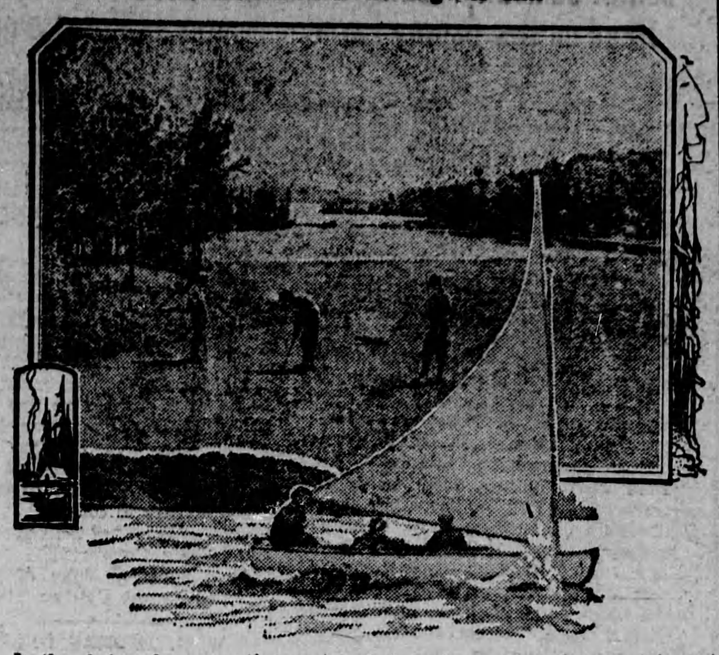
Cauliflowers in particular also need protection from the weather. As a result of seven years' tests, the superintendent at Cap Rouge in his report for 1925 says "There did not seem to be much difference in the percentage of marketable plants from any of the protected lots—with leaves broken over the head, leaves tied over the head with twine, and leaves held over the head with toothpicks, but as the first mentioned method is the easiest and cheapest it is recommended."

Fertilizers for Sandy Soils.

Farm manure is the most beneficial and the most generally used fertilizer for sandy soils. In a bulletin of the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture on Crop Rotations and Soil Management in Eastern Canada it is stated that in the absence of a supply of manure a good fertilizer for corn, roots, or potatoes on sandy soil is a mixture of 75 pounds of nitrate of soda, 250 pounds of superphosphate and 75 pounds of muriate of potash per acre broadcast on the land just before planting.

In the case of potatoes, which are extensively grown on sandy soils, up to 1,500 pounds of fertilizer per acre is often used. In conjunction with manure, for potatoes, it is frequently profitable to use 200 to 400 pounds of superphosphate. For clover meadows 200 pounds of superphosphate and 50 pounds of muriate of potash might be applied early in the spring when growth is beginning. A similar dressing is good for alfalfa when the soil is not very fertile. For timothy meadows 75 to 100 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda is beneficial when applied in early spring.

Press Convention at Bigwin Inn



In the choice of a convention centre there are many questions to be considered. The accommodations for the lodging of the delegates are of great importance, but also there are the factors of entertainment to be considered if the convention is to be successful from every angle. In choosing the place for the 1927 convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers' Association, which brings together the publishers of weekly newspapers in every section of Canada, the executive of the association considered all angles of the matter before deciding that this year's convention would be held at Bigwin Inn, in the Lake of Bays district of the Highlands of Ontario.

Here, not only will the delegates be provided with splendid hotel accommodation for themselves and their wives, but they will also find splendid facilities in the way of convention hall and committee rooms for transacting their business. From the entertainment side of the question, Bigwin Inn, located on the shore of Lake of Bays, offers to visitors every variety of land and water sports. Located in a beautiful region of lake and forest, it is an ideal holiday centre and one which is growing in popularity with each season. Every form of aquatic sport such as boating, bathing and fishing may be enjoyed, and in addition there is golf, tennis, bowling and other pursuits for those who seek these forms of diversion.

Bigwin Inn is one of the charming summer hotels of Eastern Canada and is conveniently located near Huntsville, on the Toronto-North Bay line of the National System. From Huntsville the visitor is taken by well-appointed steamboat to the Inn, and special sleeping cars operate to and from Huntsville for the convenience of visitors.

THE ONTARIO GARDEN

CONSERVING MOISTURE.

For the man who has not a convenient hose at his disposal, or for one who cannot hoe his garden two or three times a week, the mulching system has many advantages. After growth has been well started, loose straw or leaves is placed between the row and if possible between the individual plants. This is put down in a layer two or three inches deep. The mulch will not only conserve sufficient moisture to keep the plants growing but it will keep down weeds as well. Of course the plants must be thinned before the mulch is applied. Like all good things, however, it has some disadvantages. If the weather is cool the sun is prevented from penetrating the warming up the soil in which case the usual supply of nitrogen is not released. One can make up for this by applying nitrate of soda at the rate of a scant ounce to the square yard.

CONTROLLING CUT WORMS.

Cut worms will soon be getting in their evil work with newly set out flowers and vegetables. The following simple formula will save the garden from ruin: Mix bran or Paris green or white arsenic in the proportion of 25 pounds bran to one pound poison. Mix one or two quarts or cheap molasses in two gallons of water and pour the liquid over the poisoned bran. Mix thoroughly until the bait falls like sawdust through the fingers. One pint of liquid arsenic of soda may be substituted for the powdered poisons, and removes all danger to the person from poisonous dust. If the cutworms are known to be in the garden or field before planting, cultivate thoroughly to bring them to the surface and break up their resting places near the surface of the soil. A few days before planting sprinkle the ground with the poison mixture and after planting, if the pests are still numerous, put a pinch of the poison beside each plant.

KILLING CABBAGE MAGGOTS.

Each year thousand of cabbages, asters and other plants are destroyed by the cabbage maggot. This pest is a sort of plant louse which feeds on the tiny rootlets of the newly set out plant. Dipping the plants in a solution of corrosive sublimate, one ounce to 12 gallons of water, will prevent depredations. The chemical is a deadly poison and as it will eat into metal it must be mixed up in a wooden or crockery container.

HANDLING PEONIES—USEFUL ANNUALS.

Like many other flowers, peonies are often spoilt by too much attention. These plants must not be overfertilized, a little manure dug around them in the spring being sufficient. Water thoroughly during May and June when the flowers are coming along and after the blooming period, as this is when next year's buds are being formed. Often a change of location will start shy peonies into bloom. For best decorative results, cut the flowers before they are quite open and bring inside.

No annual bed is complete without a few zinnias. These are a most convenient flower. They may be planted any time from early spring until well on in June with every chance of a fine display of bloom. They may be secured in a great variety of shapes and colors, running from yellow to red and from tiny buttons to great balls of fire, rivalling the chrysanthemum. They must have lots of room, and are better transplanted once or twice before being moved to their permanent position.

Another old stand-by is the nasturtium. This annual may be grown almost anywhere, but does best in rather poor soil. It will grow very quickly and on this account is particularly in demand for screening fences and making a show in a window box. For the front of the window box or for covering fences use the trailing sorts, the dwarf type being used for rookeries, and open beds. Black plant lice will sometimes cluster under the nasturtium leaves. These will do little harm but they are unsightly. Hosing with cold water under fair pressure will usually wash these insects away.

DAHLIAS.

As a general rule Dahlias should not be planted much before the first week in May and may be continued up to the first of June. Of course in Southern Ontario one may stick the tubers in earlier, but as this is a fall flowering plant there is little to be gained by too early planting. The best soil is a sandy, well drained loam, and it must be deeply cultivated and generously fertilized. As this plant will grow to a height of five feet or more it is necessary to supply stout, tall stakes and these should be placed at the same time as the bulbs, otherwise some damage may result when driving them in beside the tubers. The tubers should be placed on their sides in holes from four inches deep in heavy clay to six inches in lighter soil. Use a little nitrate of soda to get the plants started, then mulch well, water occasionally, and if large flowers are wanted nip off three-quarters of the buds.

CONTINUOUS CROPS.

A second and third sowing of vegetables may be made with most vegetables. Lettuce, spinach, beets, onions, carrots and radishes can go in at intervals of two weeks right up to the first of July, while peas and beans can usually be planted so that one crop will follow another. This double cropping is an intensive business and means much cultivation and forcing with quickly available fertilizer such as nitrate of soda.

Crops for Sandy Soils.

Crops suitable for sandy soils, according to a Dominion Dept. of Agriculture Bulletin on Crop Rotations and Soil Management in Eastern Canada, are potatoes, turnips, field beans, rye, oats, vetches, red clover, sweet clover, and alfalfa. Where the sand) is too poor for ordinary crops the growth of native grasses might be encouraged by light dressings of manure in order to prevent drifting. Alfalfa, red clover and sweet clover are always desirable crops for sandy soils if a good stand is obtainable. If the soil is acid liming may be necessary in the case of alfalfa.

I use my finger-nail scissors for trimming Baby's hair. The point turns out so there is no danger of jabbing her neck if she wiggles.—Mrs. R. E. T.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser to-day than he was yesterday.—Alexander Pope.

SCREENS THAT LAST AS LONG AS YOUR HOUSE

BY PARKHURST WHITNEY.

There are two classes of screens—rustless and rusting.

Rust is the great destroyer. Every year it puts millions of square feet of screening out of use—one-fifth of all the total manufactured. It is false economy to buy a cheap screen which may rust out in a season, when a good screen made properly will last as long as the house itself.

There are five general kinds of screen cloth: Painted iron wire, galvanized and enameled iron, copper and bronze. Painted iron wire is no longer recommended, for it rusts too quickly. If you want something for only one season try black mosquito netting. Sometimes it will last two years and it costs much less than painted iron wire. Galvanized and enameled iron are practical for inexpensive house screens. They are good as long as you keep the iron covered with paint. You can count on them to last from three to five years.

The wisest buy is copper or bronze screen cloth. Barring accidents either will last a lifetime. The original cost is only a fourth to a third more than the cheaper grades.

After copper or bronze cloth has weathered it becomes almost invisible. If you want to leave it up winter and summer it can stand the wear. Until recently the copper screen cloth has been too limber to stretch taut; now it is made as rigid as any.

DISEASE-CARRYING INSECTS.

Screening comes in four sizes: 12, 14, 16 and 18 strands to an inch. Most screens, unfortunately, are made of 12-mesh wire cloth, a size too large to keep out the hungry mosquito really anxious to get in. Screen wire mesh cloth of 14-mesh is better but a little more expensive. A 16-mesh will keep out practically all the disease-carrying insects. If gnats are a pest in your part of the country get the 18-mesh. You'll need it!

Perhaps your screens are new and not mosquito-proof. You can increase their efficiency by giving the wire a coat of paint to make the meshes smaller. A special screen enamel is on the market now.

Screening is of no value if ill-fitting frames leaves gaping cracks at the window sides. Whether of wood or metal the frame must be decently made. The corners must be rigid, welded or interlocked without screws or bolts, which eventually loosen and fall out. It well to have the frame reinforced the corners with metal angles or braces. All screens must work easily. Frames should be light and strong, not too wide but wide enough to hold the frisky screen cloth. The frame should match the trim of the window, door or porch.

Hinges and catches of hopper or bronze will last forever and will not rust and scar the window frames with stain.

VARIOUS FRAMES.

The well-made frame of wood does all that metal can with a few general reservations. A good metal frame of bronze or copper will last forever; you can't say that of wood. The metal frame is narrowed, and that leaves more room for air. But wood is cheapest and it is conveniently repaired. However, it will need it oftener. Wooden frames seldom improve the appearance of a house, though there are a few types of architecture wood suits best. The galvanized and enameled steel is fair but it takes a lot of painting. If you live in a damp climate or near the seashore the bronze or copper is the only thing to buy. Oxygen-loving steel will prove a constant rust problem. There is a product sold for bronze that is only steel bronzed over, so beware!

With the metal frames there are many fine devices for keeping the metal cloth firmly attached. Some types have a rod going through a tubular metal frame which holds the screen taut. The cloth can be put in and taken out without tools. Others have a patent fastening under the screen cloth that catches it at every point.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

MRS. PEREGRINE'S COMPANY.

"I think," said Mrs. Peregrine to her husband, "the peewees are going to build in our portico this year."

"Very well," said Mr. Peregrine, "let them build. They will help to keep the insects out of the garden."

So young Mr. Pee-wee and his pretty mate, Phoebe, having thoroughly inspected the premises, concluded that the Peregrine's portico was just the place for their nest.

"For,' said Mr. Pee-wee, "I have watched for some time, and have not seen a boy about the place."

"Nor a cat," said Mrs. Pee-Wee. "Cats are nearly as bad as boys."

And so the young couple—or pair, as we should call them—built their first nest and went to housekeeping.

It was not long till Mrs. Phoebe went to sitting on five of the most beautiful little white eggs she had ever seen in her life, and Mr. Pee-wee brought her meals to her from the garden, which was near at hand. Sometimes he brought her a spider or cut-worm for dessert, after which he would perch on a bough of the big plum-tree near the window, and sing "Phoebe" for half an hour at a time.

But one day when Mr. Pee-wee came from the garden, he found Phoebe in a state of great excitement.

"I can't think what can be the matter with the Peregrines," she said. "There is such a commotion in the house, and Mr. Peregrine has just driven off in the light wagon with his Sunday clothes on. Do, please, take a good peep into the kitchen, and see if you can tell what it means."

Mr. Pee-wee had been very busy all the morning picking insects off a row of black-eyed peas, but he very good-naturedly perched on a tree near the kitchen window, which was open, and peeped in to see what could be the matter.

And he made quite a discovery: for Mrs. Peregrine, in a blue-ruffled dress with a sprigged calico apron tied around her plump waist, was just taking a pan of cookies out of the oven.

But that was not all.

Three rhubarb pies, and half a dozen egg-custards, yellow as gold, stood on the long dining-table to cool; while a savory odor of roast chicken pervaded the neat kitchen, and stole out through the open window to where Mr. Pee-wee sat.

"Company!" said Phoebe, as soon as her mate announced his discovery. "It's company, you may be sure; and oh, suppose it's children!"

Mrs. Phoebe had jumped to the right conclusion.

It was company, sure enough, as they discovered when Mr. Peregrine drove up to the house—a lady and—oh, horrors!—a boy.

A great, healthy, uneasy boy, who jumped out of the wagon at one bound, and went to whistling.

Mr. and Mrs. Pee-wee sat huddled together in fear and trembling, expecting every moment their retreat would be discovered.

But the boy—Jack, his name was—had caught a sight of the cookies, and other eatables with which Mrs. Peregrine had loaded the table, hurried into the house to get his dinner, and the birds breathed more freely for a little while.

The young birds were now hatched, and in spite of their fears the parent-birds went busily to work to provide food for them.

They took great care, however, to go out very early in the morning before Jack was awake, lest he should discover them.

But one morning, after breakfast, Mr. and Mrs. Peregrine and their lady visitor, Jack's mother, went out to the garden to inspect the young squash and cucumber vines, and to see how the sweet potatoes were growing.

To the consternation of the Pee-wees, Jack soon made his appearance, with a piece of ginger-cake in his hand, and sat down on the steps of the portico to eat it.

Some way or other, Mrs. Phoebe never understood just how it was, but one of the young birds began flopping around and fell out of the nest.

Jack, quietly eating his ginger-bread, felt something drop on his head, and putting up his hand to see what it was, found it was a young bird.

Mrs. Phoebe nearly fainted with terror at beholding her nestling in the hands of a terrible boy, and Mr. Pee-wee flew in and out, chirping and crying in the most agonizing manner.

Jack looked up at the birds for a moment or two; then, seizing a step-ladder which stood near, he placed it under the nest and began to mount.

Mrs. Phoebe felt that her last hour had come, but she fluttered about, determined to protect her little brood as long as possible.

Jack having climbed to the top of the ladder, peered with two big, round eyes into the nest, then laid the little fluttering bird gently beside the others and descended.

After placing the ladder where he had found it, he sad down and calmly finished eating his ginger-cake.

As to Mr. Pee-wee, when his terror was over, he flew into the plum tree and sang "Phoebe" nearly twice as long as common.

"What a very good boy Jack is!" thought Mrs. Phoebe smoothing her ruffled plumage. "I thought every boy in the world was wicked before, and would rob a bird's nest whenever he could."

Are All Folks Crooked?

I have sold cabbage, potatoes, onions and eggs on credit to farmers for 20 miles around. Some forgot their cheque books, some forgot their money, some didn't intend to buy until they saw my signboard. All of it has been paid. When folks say the world is going bad and all folks are crooked and everyone is trying to beat me—I laugh to myself. I know better.—E. R.

Whole Meats From Walnuts.

When English walnuts are to be cracked in such a way that the halves will come out without breaking, the best method is to crack them on the side opposite the "seam" and remove the meats from the side thus opened.