

## FARM AND FIRESIDE.

BRINE FOR BATHING THE FEET OF HORSES.—A correspondent writing to the *Practical Farmer* in relation to the use of salt and lime for bathing the feet of horses says: I have tried strong brine on founedered or hoof-bound horses, and with good results. I made a solution of salt and water, and applied it three times a day by washing the legs and pouring upon the bottom of the feet, and holding them up a few minutes to let it strike in. I saw the wonderful effects in a few days. I account for it in this way: Salt will extract moisture from the atmosphere, which keep the feet moist. Salt operates nearly like melted grease upon the foot. The hoof becomes tough, yet pliable. Like a chunk of wood saturated with salt or brine it is tough yet moist. Here let me add that the practice of rasping a cracked hoof to toughen it is all folly. Apply brine and you will effect a cure.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIVE STOCK.—The *Detroit Post* says that the improvement of nearly all kinds of live stock is making great progress in this country at present. The demand for thoroughbred short horns is greater than the supply. The important sales of this class of stock in England, the United States and Canada have been exceedingly remunerative to breeders, and the assailants of this excellent breed of cattle are "shutting up" and playing "least in sight." The importation of Norman, Pencroft and Clydesdale horses has proved very remunerative to those engaged in the improvement of this class of stock, and breeding farms in various parts of the country are being established, and will soon have marked effect in increasing the strength and action of that indispensable animal, the draught horse. The importation of whole flocks of superior long-wooled sheep is a good evidence of a desire to improve this important class of stock. No doubt the demand for combing wool and good mutton has encouraged the investments. Farmers would find it very profitable to keep the best kind of longwool and mutton sheep, and to make suitable arrangements for housing and feeding them in winter. Root crops, alternated with cereals, keep land free from weeds and in good heart, and at the same time supply nutritious food for cattle and sheep when pasture is not available. Farmers are at last waking up to the necessity of improving breeds of swine, and importers and breeders of the best kinds of Berkshire, Essex, and Suffolk swine are having a profitable trade. The Poland-China hog is also coming rapidly into favor, on account of combining weight of carcass with early maturity.

LABOR AT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.—People are apt to look upon the system of student labor in agricultural colleges in a wrong light. They think the great object of the labor is the learning of how to accomplish farm and garden work, and to acquaint them with the best methods of management. This is not true. If it were it would be far better for the students to get their education than serve an apprenticeship under the best farmer or gardener they could find. For the labor at these colleges is largely upon things simply of experimental value, without regard to the immediate return in dollars and cents. In the same way many people look upon the Holyoke system of educating girls. They think it is a grand plan because it teaches the students to know how to do all sorts of work. The truth is that the great desideratum is the instilling of such principles and habits as will give these growing minds a correct idea about labor, and teach them not to consider it beneath the position of any man or woman; teach them to respect virtuous and well-directed labor anywhere and everywhere. The labor system in these institutions is not primarily to teach men how to plow or women how to wash dishes, but to give them a broader, grander lesson—that manual labor, accomplished well by any hands, is not only in no degree degrading, but, if well done, highly honorable and worthy of every man or woman's effort. If, while this lesson is being taught by a system of education, the students thereby preserve a good degree of health and are thus enabled to pursue a thorough course of study without physical deterioration, or if thereby they are taught how to perform different kinds of labor well, there is a double or triple good result. The writer, as a believer in that policy, trusts that our agricultural colleges will ever seek to maintain a close relationship between the labor and class instruction, that through their union the labor system may retain its high position and good results.

SECRET OF MAKING GOOD BUTTER.—"Willard's Practical Butter-Book" gives the process of making the celebrated Philadelphia butter, as follows: The milk is skimmed after standing twenty-four hours, and the cream is put into deep vessels having a capacity of about twelve gallons. It is kept at a temperature of fifty-eight or fifty-nine degrees, until it acquires a slightly acid taste, when it goes to the churn. The churn is a barrel revolving on a journal in each head, and driven by horse power. The churning occupies about an hour, and, after the buttermilk is drawn off, cold water is added and a few turns given to the churn, and the water then drawn off. This is repeated until the water as it is drawn is nearly free from milkiness. The butter is worked with butter-workers, a dampened cloth meanwhile being pressed upon it to absorb the moisture and free it of buttermilk. The cloth is

frequently dipped in cold water and wrung dry during the process of "wiping the butter." It is next salted at the rate of an ounce of salt to three pounds of butter, thoroughly and evenly incorporated by means of the butter-worker. It is then removed to a table, where it is weighed out and put into pound prints. After this it goes into large tin trays and is set in the water to harden, remaining until next morning, when it is wrapped in damp cloths and placed upon shelves, one above another, in the tin-lined cedar tubs, with ice in the compartments at the ends, and then goes immediately to market. Matting is drawn over the tub, and it is surrounded again by oil-cloth so as to keep out the hot air and dust, and the butter arrives in prime condition, commanding the highest price.

### Household Helps.

PUDGING SAUCE.—One cupful of sugar, one cup of butter, one egg, the yolk and white beaten separately, flavor to suit the taste, beat all together, and add one tablespoonful of hot water just before serving.

EVE'S PUDDING.—Take six large juicy apples, core, and chop them very fine, six ounces of bread crumbs, six ounces of currants, six eggs, and three ounces of sugar. Mix well, and boil for three hours. To be eaten with sauce.

RASPBERRY TRIFLE.—Lay in a deep glass slices of sponge or any other delicate cake. Pour over cream or any clear juice from preserves; then spread on a layer of raspberry jam half an inch thick. Pour over this a pint of boiled custard made of yolks of three eggs, and frost the tops with the whites, beaten to a froth, and sweetened and browned with a salamander.

FRITTERS, PLAIN.—One pint of milk, three eggs, one spoonful melted butter, one teaspoonful of soda, flour to make a stiff batter. To be fried, dipped by the spoonful into boiling lard. By adding coarsely-chopped tart apples to the above in even quantity, a nice apple fritter is made; or by paring and slicing pine apples or bananas and dipping in the batter, and frying, a delicious fritter for an entree is made.

### Useful Information.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Country Gentleman* writes: "I am a decided advocate for milking cows up to calving; if the milk gets thick, throw it away, but milk the cow. Always give her to understand that giving milk is her business, and keep her at it late and early. If she should, by any possible means, lose her life by giving too much milk, she will have lost it in a good cause, and saved her throat from the butcher's knife."

FRESH hay and good straw are both wanting in the muscle-forming elements of nutrition, of the same character—corn containing fifty-five per cent of starch. It is better, therefore, to mix meal. If you will mix one quart with the daily ration of straw and poor hay for each animal, you will have profitable food. The oil meal contains what the straw lacks. If you had clover hay to mix with the straw, corn meal might properly be added for part of the food.

CLOTHES that are damp are dangerous enemies to health. If your clothes are damp and engender a mold which encases not only boots and shoes, but also other articles of wearing apparel, obtain half a peck of unslacked lime and put it in a shallow dish in the closet, and it will absorb the dampness. When it becomes quite dry it should be renewed. A damp house, however, is a patent agent in producing diphtheria, neuralgia, and bronchial troubles, and no time should be lost in making the cellar damp-proof with cement; and the draining from gutters and roofs should be attended to.

IN reply to a correspondent, the *American Agriculturist* says: A dead horse or other animal should be skinned, and roughly cut up into as many small pieces as possible; a plot of ground a few rods square should then be plowed deeply and the carcass thrown upon the soil in the center of the plowed ground. Some fresh, dry-slacked lime should then be scattered upon the heap, so as to cover it thinly but wholly. The loose earth should then be heaped over it, a foot in depth, and the pile covered with boards, so that the dogs cannot get to the heap and tear it up. If the least smell is perceived, more earth should be thrown upon the heap. In three months the heap may be dug over, or turned over with the plow, and well mixed. The bones that cannot be broken up should be taken from the heap, and the fine matter will be worth, at least, twenty dollars a ton, to use in the hill for corn or cotton. The larger bones may be broken up and buried among the roots of grape vines or fruit trees.

FOR scarf pins and finger rings the cast's eye has become one of the most fashionable stones used. It is a species of the sapphire, and the most desirable color is of a yellow-green tint. It has threads of white asbestos within it, and the light is reflected from these in an intense and peculiar manner. When this stone is properly cut a white band of light is seen floating in its interior that changes position as the gem is moved before the eye, which peculiarity probably suggested the name by which it is generally known.

RELIGION, the love of happiness and the principles of duty separated in us; and its mission, its masterpiece, is to unite them.

BURNEY'S FLAVORING EXTRACTS.—The superiority of these extracts consists in their perfect purity and great strength. They are warranted free from the poisonous oils and acids which enter into the composition of many of the factitious fruit flavors now in the market.

PUMPS, or Upland Rice.—C. B. Krebs, of Jackson, Mich., grower and sole proprietor, will send, post-paid, to any address, sufficient to produce one bushel for 50 cents, or three packages for \$1.00.

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