# AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

## A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

**A Plea for Low Stables for Stock—Moles as Grub Killers—Big Men Who "Hoed Their Own Row"—Horse on Domestic Cattle Serve No Useful Purpose—Household, Kitchen, Etc.**

### Stock Barns.

IT is hoped that the era of big barns has passed. For twenty years we have been building immense structures of wood, stuffing them with hay and grain with the stock below it all. An overturned lantern, a smoker's match has changed many such a pile into a mass of seething flame so quickly that it seemed to be the result of explosion. The time is coming—may it hasten—when stock will be kept in barns where there is no hay, where there is nothing to burn like a tinderbox. If the stock barn in which there is no inflammable material catches on fire, the result cannot be so disastrous as before, for there is only the shell to burn. If this shell be of iron, as it may be at a moderate cost, there is absolute safety from fire.

For the protection and feeding of stock, unpretentious, low buildings, merely stables (two rows of stalls with a feeding space between), are just as good as larger structures. The only inconvenience is the bringing of the fodder from the stack outside, or from the hay barn. In winter these stalls are comfortable, for every farmer knows that every cow is as good as a stove and helps to heat the space. If the horses and all the stock (pigs in the cellar below) are under this low roof, between tight walls, all are as comfortable as they would be if tons of hay were piled above them, and they are safe from fire. And there can be no objection to the stacking of hay in the open air. Hay stacks on any farm, fine as it may be, give it always a picturesque and thrifty appearance. Probably less hay is lost in the stack than in the barn, for in the latter it often heats if not salted, and sometimes when it is salted.

If on a cold day hay be brought from a stack and placed in the mangers, the cows will turn at once from the barn hay to it. The hay is fresher, brighter from the stack, and is clean and dustless. Low stables for stock alone, practically fireproof, cost comparatively little, and the farmer has the assurance that his stock is safe, or comparatively safe. These buildings may be snug in winter and cool in summer. The best stable of this kind was built with double walls with six inches of sand between.—George Appleton in Farm and Fireside.

### Moles as Grub Killers.

A Kansas correspondent tells in the Farmers' Review, that every investigation goes to show the mole lives on insects and starves on cereals and vegetables. He calls attention to the fact that when lawns are apparently rendered unsightly by moles, if one will cut a section of the sod, he will find the cause in quantities of white grubs, the presence of the mole being to feed on this larva.

It was Mr. Landis who first came to the assistance of the mole. On his ground at Vineland, N. J., he paid 25 cents for all the moles sent to him. He was ridiculed, but all knew that his enterprise was a great success. To attack a popular idea is unpopular, and it takes a long time to make reform; the mole-trap will be sold. Cultivate the moles, and as soon as the larvæ are eradicated the moles will leave the lawn for other pastures. Depend upon it, that whenever evidences of the mole are found, there you will find the white grub, concludes the Kansas correspondent.

### Farm Life and Brains.

Nearly three-fourths of the men who have been chosen by the people for the great offices of the nation who are men who were early familiar with wooded hills and cultivated fields—for example, Lincoln, Grant, Garfield, Hamlin, Greeley, Tilden, Cleveland, Harrison, Hayes, Blaine, and many others almost equally conspicuous in current events or living memory. Among journalaists, Henry Watterson spent his early life in rural Kentucky, and Murat Halstead was born and lived on a farm in Ohio. W. Vanderbilt was born in a small New Jersey town and early engaged in the business of ship chandlery; Russel Sage was born in a New York village; Jay Gould spent his early years on his father's farm in New York State. Ingersoll first saw light in a country town in New York; Talmage in a New Jersey village; and David Swing, though born in Cincinnati, passed his boyhood on an Ohio farm. Whittier and Howells spent their youth in villages, the former dividing his time between farm employment and his studies. Follow the list out yourself and see how long it will become.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Horns Must Go.

Horns on domestic cattle no longer serve any useful purpose, and to one who views beauty only in usefulness they are not even beautiful. Western farmers are now using what is known as the Fugate machine for dehorning mature animals. It is done so quickly and neatly that there is no longer any objection from cruelty in the process of getting rid of the horns. The loss from maintaining useless horns is not confined to the injury they do to stock, though that is often serious. There is always great danger to and often loss of life of attendants from vicious animals, and especially from bulls. Stoke Pogis III. was probably the most valuable progenitor of Jersey blood, but becoming vicious he was fattened and sold for beef, before his value was fully known. Had he been dehorned this valuable strain of Jersey blood would not be nearly so scarce and dear as it is, and the improvement to American Jersey stock from a few more years of service from Stoke Pogis III. can scarcely be estimated. The dehorning process has now been practiced long enough to show that loss of horns does not injuriously affect animals either for fattening or dairy purposes, nor does it lessen the valuable characteristics transmitted to their progeny by dehorned bulls. It is likely indeed that as horns are bred off cattle may be bred free from the vicious propensities that the constant use of horns must stamp upon character, and thus transmit to future descendants.—American Cultivator.

### Raising Colts.

Keep good mares to do the farm work with. Breed to a draft horse, and have them foal about the 1st of May, as this is a slack time in the work and grass has a good start. Work the mare carefully up to foaling time, and let her rest ten days after before going to work again. Feed mare and colt a little once a day, and the colt will soon learn to eat. When working the mare have the colt in the stable. It will soon learn to stay, is less bother, and it is better for the colt than to follow the mare. Give it access to water twice a day. Give each colt and mare a roomy box stall and feed the colt by itself. Wean at five months old, give them good pasture and oats. Winter in a loose stall and let them have plenty of exercise in the day. Keep up the oats until they are a year old, then turn to pasture.—National Stockman.

### Helpful Points for Horsemen.

IT is better to take $200 for a colt when he is 2 years old than to keep him three years for $100 or $150 more.

WHILE the breeding of horses is greatly on the increase, and of trotters especially, there is a great lack of A No. 1 horses of all kinds.

HORSES that can trot in 2:40 or 2:30 are very plenty, but a great number of them are not good road horses. They may be undersized, undesirable in color, pullers or slow travelers or vicious and waiting for an opportunity to run away and smash things generally.

PROBABLY the fastest mare that ever raised a colt is Mary Marshall, 2:12¾, and the colt is in training at Independence, Ia. She is in foal again to Allerton, 2:09¼, and if there is anything in the theory that a colt from developed parents should go fast, this colt ought to go faster than any horse ever has.

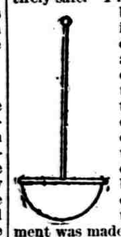
## ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

### Shipping Grapes.

When shipped from distant points the best packages for grapes are cases containing eighteen three-pound boxes and covered baskets holding ten or twelve pounds. All packages should be filled so full that the cover will draw down tightly on the contents, holding them firmly in place, but not so as to bruise the fruit. Near-by shippers also largely use the covered baskets, and they are generally considered to be the most desirable package. Many shippers to not far distant points use flat, wooden boxes, with hinged cover, measuring about twenty-one inches long, twelve inches wide and five inches deep, and holding twenty-five to thirty pounds. These boxes have to be returned to the seller, and many buyers object to them for that reason.—Orchard and Garden.

### Killing Potato Bugs.

Like many others, I am dissatisfied with Paris green, regarding it not entirely safe. I now prefer to pick the bugs; at the same time it is quite necessary to destroy the eggs, which are always deposited on the under side of the leaves. To do this thoroughly it was necessary to stoop over at every hill and turn all the leaves up, in search of eggs. This is a back-aching task. To obviate a great portion of it, an implement was made which works charmingly. The handle and crosspiece are of wood and the half circle is heavy wire. The leaves are raised with this and eggs easily detected. Stooping has not to be done unless eggs are found.—Galen Wilson, in Practical Farmer.



## THE POULTRY-YARD.

### Notes.

CLEANLINESS means success in the poultry business nine times out of ten.

"FEED a little at a time, and feed often," is a safe and successful rule with chicks.

FRESH water, renewed daily, is essential to the health of chicks. Foul water, sick fowl.

HOW ABOUT the young chicks' bowels? Constipation, as well as diarrhea, causes many an early death.

ALTHOUGH Canada is extremely cold in winter the poultry production of the provinces is quite large.

STALE bread moistened with sweet milk is highly recommended as good feed for young chicks the first few days.

NEW YORK and Brooklyn consume about 60,000 chickens daily, and as a result chicken ranches are among the most profitable of Long Island industries.

## THE HOUSEHOLD.

### Home Remedies.

IT is said that a strong solution of epsom salts in water will cure burns if applied immediately.

BEEF suet boiled in fresh milk is very good for a cough. Take small quantities at a time, but often.

TO REMOVE warts, wet them thoroughly with oil of cinnamon three times a day until they disappear.

ALCOHOL is a good remedy for burns if applied immediately. Keep the burn moist with it for two hours.

TO CURE cold sores keep them dry from saliva and touch them once very carefully with carbolic acid, then apply alum occasionally.

TURPENTINE will take the soreness out of corns and bunions, and will sometimes cure soft corns. Be careful, however, about using too much of it, for it will weaken the joints.—The Housekeeper.

## THE KITCHEN.

### Culinary.

It should be remembered that quick boiling hardens meat and too much water renders it tasteless. To boil a leg of mutton an approved plan is to put it into water that is boiling fast and let it boil about five minutes, the object being to harden the outside and prevent the escape of juices; then add enough cold water to reduce the temperature and when on the point of boiling again skim it carefully, then draw it to one side of the stove and let it simmer until done.

A nice dessert dish of chocolate is made by creaming together two ounces of butter with two ounces of sugar, the yolks of three eggs and three ounces of grated chocolate, adding last the well-beaten whites of the eggs. Bake in a buttered mold.

TEA ICED.—Make the tea as usual, add equal parts of cream and new milk (half a pint each to a quart of tea), sweeten to taste and freeze.

COFFEE ICED.—Add one pint of cream and half a pint of new milk to a quart of very strong coffee, and sweeten to taste. Freeze till fairly thick.

## THE PRIMEVAL HORSE.

**Prehistoric Man and the Horse in North America.**

The genealogy of the horse has been most admirably worked out in various publications, and the fact has long been established that the genus originated on the North American continent. The question, however, as to whether prehistoric man in North America had the horse as a contemporary has been a disputed point. This question may now be considered set at rest by the discovery of a skull of an extinct species of horse in strata with human implements. The discovery was announced by Prof. E. D. Cope at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held in Washington in the month of August. A skull of a horse was exhibited to the members by Prof. Cope, who pointed out the characters of the teeth and who stated it would be impossible for any one to separate the fossil teeth from those of the quagga and zebra if the three were all thrown together. In minor characters, such as those of the size of the bones, the differences are perceptible. So there is no doubt the skull represents an animal different from any now living. That it was a horse, however, any one could see. The most curious thing about the skull was its condition. The frontal bone had been crushed in exactly as we see in the case of animals slaughtered for food. The friable bones protecting the eye sockets were intact, as were also the long nasal bones. Found in the same bed with the skull was a stone hammer that bore evident marks of having been fashioned by the hand of man. What inference was to be drawn from this? In the first place it has been suspected and considered probable that early man on this continent had been contemporaneous with a horse, though not the present living species, but no direct proof had hitherto been found. When Europeans landed on the new continent, the horse was an unknown animal to the natives. So it had evidently long been extinct. All the horses now found in either North or South America came from stock originally brought over by Europeans. But here we had evidence in the association of a human implement and a horse's skull that man and horse had lived together; and the peculiar fracture of the skull of the latter leads to the belief that the animal had met its death at the hands of man. This fact opens several questions. What became of the race of horses that once lived on the continent? Were they exterminated by savage man as civilized man has exterminated the bison? Did they once serve as beasts of burden or were they used only as food? Were they wild or domesticated? It seems probable that they were not used for any other purpose than as food, and that they existed only in a wild state, for it is scarcely reasonable to suppose that having once been used by man and so domesticated, their use would ever have been forgotten or the breed allowed to die out. Neither is it probable that they were exterminated solely by the agency of contemporaneous man, for we know that in spite of the use of the bison by the Indians of North America, their numbers did not decrease to any great extent. It was only when civilized (?) man began his destructive work that the bison began to disappear. What, then, was the cause of the disappearance of the horse? The age of the beds in which the remains are found is prior to the Ice Age that once prevailed in North America, and in this period of cold it is possible we have a factor to account for the extinction of the horse. The intense cold coming on forced the animals to migrate from their homes in the northwest of the United States, and retreating southward, they probably found many competitors for existence. The scanty vegetation of New Mexico, Arizona, and Northern Mexico probably did not suffice for the support of the great herds of animals coming from the north. New conditions of existence may have weakened the vitality of the species; starvation may have decimated their numbers; competion with other races must have cut off a large supply of food, and the hand of man may have hastened the struggle to its inevitable end. All we know, however, is that the race became extinct. That man lived previous to and of course during the Ice Age is now well established. That he lived at the same time with a species of horse is made known by the discovery of Prof. Cope. His influence in the extermination of many of the large mammals at one time inhabiting North America is as yet undetermined.—[Prof. Joseph F. James in Scientific American.

### Indian English.

"Baboo English," as it is contemptously called, affords occasional food for mirth among us; but English papers appear to be not altogether barren of like entertainment for the Baboo mind. An Indian journal points out that the rejoicing of an English clerical organ over what it calls "the welcome news from India that three Bengal regiments have been converted," together with its observation that "Providence has indeed blessed our work," comprises a double mistake. First, the regiments referred to are not at Bengal, but Madras regiments; and, secondly, "conversion" is in this case simply a technical term, implying that the regiments referred to have been abolished. Another "home journal" has, it appears, described the late Senapati as a person "whose civilization is still so rudimentary that he feeds on insects." This mysterious charge having been investigated by our Indian contemporary, it turns out that its sole foundation was the fact that the Senapati was accustomed to chew betels—that is, betel nuts. It was an accidental misspelling in the telegraphic message that gave rise to what the English journal very correctly described as "An extraordinary story from Manipur."—London Daily News.

### Chronic Rain.

Young men who ape English manners and customs are reviled daily by newspaper wits. One of them is even represented as carrying and umbrella on a fair day, "because it's raining in London, doncher know!" An equally logical reason is ascribed to the artist, Fuseli.

One of his peculiarities was that of carrying a large gingham umbrella of a conspicuous color, generally red, whether the weather were fine or not. One day a friend met him bearing his usual burden, and called to him:

"Halloa, Fuseli! What do you want that old umbrella for, this fine day?"

"What do I want it for?" answered he; "Oh, I'm going to see Constable."

"What has that got to do with it?"

"Why, whenever I go to see him, he's always painting rain!"



## ILL-BRED CHILDREN.

**A Woman's Experience Among Them at a Seaside Resort.**

A childless woman, staying for a short time at a fashionable seaside resort, tells of her experience with the little folks there. "The morning after my arrival," she says, "I was walking out on the beach, strongly attracted, as I always am, by the groups of playing children. The first I met were two little sisters, wonderfully pretty and attractive in appearance, dressed in gay sailor suits of some soft woolen material, with jaunty caps crowning their curls. They were building in the sand, and I stopped to watch them, commenting, after a moment, on their play. One did not look up. The other did, however, and scowled at me.

"'Here's somebody talking to me,' she called, shrilly, to her nurse, 'make her go away.'

"Surprised and disappointed at such unlovely manners in such lovely children, I strolled on at once. My next venture was even worse. I tried a little boy, a beautiful brown-eyed darling with long curls and the face of a cherub. I asked him what he was building in the sand, when he made an ugly grimace that quite disfigured his fair countenance and answered not a word. After that I left the children undisturbed, and I wondered if these were not some of the ill-bred American children who cast discredit on the whole race of them to stranger eyes."

Undoubtedly these were, and it is just such examples which create a false impression in regard to the children of this country. For ten such instances 100 quite the reverse could be cited, but the other sort of children are not as a rule encountered at much frequented resorts, nor are they left wholly in the charge of servants.

### "A Yard of Roses."

One of the popular paintings at the New York Academy of Design was a yard-long panel of roses. A crowd was always before it. One art critic exclaimed: "Such a bit of nature should belong to all the people; it is too beautiful for one man to hide away."

The *Youth's Companion*, of Boston, seized the idea and spent $20,000 to reproduce the painting. The result has been a triumph of artistic delicacy and color.

The *Companion* makes this copy of the painting an autumn gift to each of its 500,000 subscribers. Any who may subscribe now for the first time and requests it will receive "The Yard of Roses" without extra charge while the edition lasts.

Besides the gift of this beautiful picture, all new subscribers will receive the *Companion* free from the time the subscription is received till Jan. 1, including the Thanksgiving and Christmas double numbers, and for a full year from that date.

Every family should take this brightest and best of illustrated literary papers in addition to its local paper. The price of The *Companion* is $1.75 a year.

### A Unique Hospital.

There is an unpretentious shopkeeper in New York whose business is mending umbrellas and canes, and he has a sign outside which has brought many a smile from those who pass by the place. The sign reads "Umbrella Hospital." The words suggest to you at once that you have some "sick" umbrellas at home which might be made quite respectable by a little "doctoring." So you take them to the "hospital," you save the price of a new umbrella, and the shopkeeper grows prosperous.

### The Only One Ever Printed—Can You Find the Word?

There is a 3-inch display advertisement in this paper this week, which has no two words alike except one word. The same is true of each new one appearing each week from The Dr. Harter Medicine Co. This house places a "Crescent" on everything they make and publish. Look for it, send them the name of the word, and they will return you BOOK, BEAUTIFUL LITHOGRAPHS, or SAMPLES FREE.

### The Frog Industry in Missouri.

Frog hunting in the swamp districts of Southeast Missouri is getting to be a lucrative and important industry. The frogs come mostly from New Madrid County.