

HOUSE AND FARM.

Salt for Pear Trees.

"Last spring I put a small shovelful of the refuse material from the salt works—which is composed, I believe, of salt, lime and ash around a four year old pear tree. It has a very thrifty growth and the leaves are all free from blight or spot, and have a very glossy, healthy look; while others of the same lot, manured, with barnyard manure, have grown but little, and the foliage is spotted and dull. Now, if no ill effect may be attributed to the barnyard manure, it would seem that the difference in these trees was owing to the salt."

The above, from R. Johnson, Jr., in the *Fruit Recorder* is worthy of attention. We saw the tree spoken of above and noticed its more thrifty and healthy appearance. If there are any mineral manures that will increase the growth of pear trees, without at the same time spreading the pear blight, horticulturists should know it.—*Exchange*.

Care of Horses.

All horses must not be fed in the same proportions, without regard to their ages, their constitution and their work; the impropriety of such a practice is self evident. Yet it is constantly done, and is the basis of disease of every kind.

Never use bad hay on account of its cheapness, because there is no proper nourishment in it.

Damaged corn is exceedingly injurious because it brings on inflammation of the bowels and skin diseases.

Chaff is better for old horses than hay, because they can chew and digest it better.

Mix chaff with corn or beans, and do not give the latter alone, because it makes the horse chew his food more and digest it better.

Hay or grass alone will not support a horse under hard work, because there is not sufficient nutritive body in either.

When a horse is worked hard its food should be mostly oats—if it not worked hard its food should be chiefly hay—because oats supply more nourishment and flesh making material than any other kind of food; hay not so much.

For a saddle or coach horse, half a peck of sound oats and eighteen pounds of good hay are sufficient. If hay is not good, add a quart or a peck more oats. A horse which works harder may have rather more of each; one that works little should have less.

Rack feeding is wasteful. The better plan is to feed with chopped hay, from a manger, because the food is not then thrown about, and is more easily chewed and digested.

Sprinkle the hay with water that has salt dissolved in it, because it is pleasing to the animal's taste, and more easily digested. A teaspoonful of salt in a bucket of water is sufficient.—*London Horse book*.

Wool Growing a Success.

We are asked why wool growers do not fail, as other business men sometimes do. We answer, simply because the growth of the wool and the increase is as the times in which they live. It matters not how dark the night is, the wool continues to grow, and it matters not how the wind blows or how it may storm, maturation is never longer than 150 days. The lambs will average one-half female; and often twins, and they breed the next year, making a double compound—a perpetual growth, and no loss. Everything that does not go into market goes back to enrich the pasture; and though the landlord may be sick it does not stop the growth of the lambs. Not so with other business. The mechanic or the man who works for a salary has nothing to grow while he sleeps; when his labor ceases his income stops, and his expenses are perpetual. It is true there are perpetual expenses attending the sheep or goat business; but under the most unfavorable circumstances, where they can live on the commons without feeding, the meat of the wethers will pay all the expenses, without drawing on the wool or increase of the ewes. Hence it is like a perpetual stream flowing into a basin; it is only a question of time about filling it to overflowing. The drawback seems to be that men

do not relish living away from thickly populated settlements and towns, depriving themselves of society for the sake of money. This objection can be obviated. In all new countries there are villages constantly springing up, near which good sheep ranges can be had, where the owner can visit his flocks daily, and also give his family the benefit of schools and society.—*Facts and Figures*.

Useful and Suggestive.

TO RELIEVE INGROWING NAILS.—This is a painful annoyance, and is treated with advantage in various ways. The most successful is to pare down the center of the nail from root to end. Let it be worked down quite thin, so as to relieve the pressure at the sides, which causes the soreness. Keep the end of the nail well pared down in the center, giving it the concave form, just the reverse of the natural edge.

A strong alum water is sure death to bugs of any description. Take two pounds of pulverized alum, and dissolve in three quarts of boiling water, allowing it to remain over the fire until thoroughly dissolved. Apply while hot with a brush, or what is better, use a syringe to force the liquid in the cracks of the walls and bedstead. Scatter all the powdered alum freely in all those places, and you will soon be rid of these insect nuisances which fill one with disgust.

TOOLS AND MACHINES.—Hunt up every implement that will be wanted for use on the farm, and see if it is in good order. If not so, it is a better time to have it repaired now than when the men and teams are waiting for it. If you have a bench and tools—and how can you get along without them?—you may be able to do the job yourself, and thus save time in carrying it away and bringing it back, and save the money required to pay the mechanic. Besides this, as there always are broken tools, the mechanic may have so many on hand to repair that there may be a week of anxious suspense in waiting for them.

IRONING SHIRT FRONTS.—In a first-class laundry starch is made in the usual manner; to a pail of starch a whole sperm candle is used. When the linen is dry, it is dipped in the cold starch and ironed in the ordinary way; then it is dampened with a cloth, and the polishing iron pressed over it. This is an ordinary smoothing-iron, ground off so that the edges are all rounding. To this last manipulation the linen is indebted for the peculiar laundry gloss which all admire so much, but which many housekeepers have vainly striven to leave upon the wristbands and bosoms of their husband's shirts.

DRY FOOD FOR HORSES.—The *Spirit of the Times* says: "We never have believed, and never shall believe, that chopped hay and corn meal, saturated with water, is proper for a working horse as a general diet. We firmly believe that the food of a working horse who cannot be pastured should be good, sound oats and sweet hay for at least five times a week. Look at the South, where the common run of working horses are fed on corn. What is found there? Why, the big head, a terrible and almost incurable complaint. We also think that wet corn meal is the very worst way of feeding corn to a horse that ever was practiced. And the chopped, wet hay is not half so good as fine, bright timothy from the mow. We like to hear the horse grinding up his good timothy hay like a grist-mill after he has finished his oats. A nice mash once in a while is good, and a very different thing from almost constant soft diet."

SOFT GINGERBREAD.—One-half pint of molasses; one-half pint of sugar; one-half pint of milk; two pints flour; two eggs; two table-spoonfuls of ginger; a little cloves or cinnamon; a level teaspoonful of soda.

FRITTERS.—One cup sour milk, one teaspoon soda, one egg, salt to taste, mix like biscuit, let the dough stand 20 minutes, then roll very thin, cut out like crullers, and fry in hot lard. They must be eaten warm with syrup.

CORR CAKE.—Three teacups of sugar; 1½ teacup of butter; 1 teacup cream; 5 teacups flour; 4 eggs; a teaspoonful of soda; 1 nutmeg.

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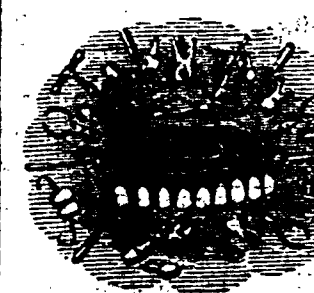
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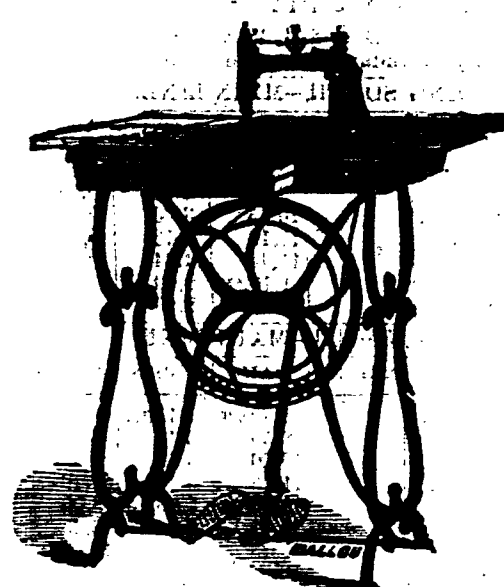
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LETTER FROM BISHOP SIMPSON.

PHILADELPHIA, April 17, 1868.
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M. SIMPSON.

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