

FARM NOTES.

WHY HORSES RUB THEIR MANES AND TAILS. The question, "Why horses rub their manes and tails," has been answered as follows: "Rubbing the mane and tail usually results from an unhealthy condition of the skin, which in most cases is produced by neglect of grooming or by bad food, or by any sudden change of diet from that to good. Occasionally, however, it appears in stables where grooming and food are unquestionably good. Damaged oats or hay are very ready causes for this annoying affection. In every case, therefore, where the hair of the mane and tail all over the food should be carefully examined. Young horses coming into the stable sometimes suffer from an irritation of the skin, probably from change of diet. Horses recovering from fever frequently lose a portion of the hair from the mane and tail. In the latter case it seems to arise from an impoverished state of blood."

In regard to treatment, it is said: "If any positive cause, such as damaged food or neglected grooming, has existed, measures must be taken to remove such cause. Without this provocation local treatment will be of little avail. One method of local treatment that has procured good results consists in dressing the skin with equal parts of mercurial ointment and soft soap made into a lather with hot water and applied by means of a stiff hair brush. The new hair will grow rapidly after this application. In addition to the local treatment it will be necessary to act upon the system generally by a change of diet; green food should be given, as this by means of its laxative qualities lessens the irritability of the skin. A bran mash with five grains of arsenic added daily, in addition to the usual food, will exert a beneficial influence upon the skin."

A pig that, while eating, takes its head out of the trough and acts as if the soap had run the wrong way through his sniffer. He should be removed from the herd and cared for, as the disease is contagious. Put pure tar in the alveoli and smear both the nose and face with it. Feed sulphur and turpentine. A free use of the carbolic acid, both externally and internally, should also be made.

It is safe to assert that not half of the farmers of the country have an asparagus bed in the garden, and it is equally safe to say that no piece of ground on the farm will pay well, if properly cared for, as a good bed of delicious vegetable. It is but little trouble to care for, and it furnishes a supply of delicious green food at a time of year when such food is most desirable.

ONE of the best means of removing lice from fowls is to make them do it themselves by having a lot of dry earth where they can dust themselves when ever they feel like it, having first sprinkled the earth with diluted carbolic acid. This acid proves too much for the lice, and they leave the premises at once, or it causes them to give up the ghost.

In this country a famine is almost impossible. While drouths occur in some sections rain is usually plentiful elsewhere. The past season was noted for destruction from both drouths and freshets at the same time. Crops are very short in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, while in the eastern states the yields have been excellent. The time may yet come when science will enable the farmers to largely control the supply of water required.

SINCE the improved varieties of peaches have taken the place of those that were chance seedlings the trees have shorter lives. It has been claimed that trees growing from the pit, and not transplanted, live much longer than those that are removed when young to their permanent location. Some growers are therefore planting the pits where they wish the trees to grow, and budding the stocks on the ground where they are to remain.

GRAFTING THE WALNUT. A simple method of performing the rather difficult operation of grafting the walnut tree successfully is mentioned by a foreign horticultural journal as practiced and recommended in France. One year old seedling are grafted in the ordinary way, close down to the root, and then potted and placed in a propagating house, where the union is speedily effected.

A CHEAP SILO WALL.—A method of making walls in use in Northern Vermont, which applies to house walls as well as silo walls, appears to be very good, though, perhaps, it would be expensive in sections where lumber is high. Boards ten inches wide are simply laid one upon another with lime or thin cement between them, and at once nailed to those below. At the corner the joints are broken the same as in brick work. If the boards are all of the same width the walls are very regular and pleasing.

ASHES and hen manure, if mixed together before being applied to the soil result in a loss of ammonia from the dropping that greatly lessens the value of the mixture. But if the ashes are spread on, or harrowed in after the manure has been mixed with the soil, the ammonia will be absorbed by it and remain in it for the use of the crop. Wood ashes are a valuable application to soils deficient in potash, and hasten the decomposition in coarse manures.

If your work be of a heavy nature and large and powerful horses be required to do it, then select such stallions to serve your mares, no matter what the cost. It may be more expensive at the start, but it will be cheaper in the end. Breeding has been brought down to such a certainty that the results can be foretold very closely.

An open shed with a yard attached will not answer for pigs in the winter season. They should be well protected, having a house with a door that can be closed at night, and be provided with plenty of dry litter.

Mrs. JOHNSON.—Why, my dear Mrs. Hobson, I am surprised to see you in this somber dress. I have not heard of any affliction in your family.

Mrs. Hobson.—Oh, yes, indeed. Mr. Hobson died six weeks ago.

"Why, how shocked I am. I never knew of it at all. I would have been so glad to attend his funeral if I had known."

Two little boys were fishing from a wharf the other day, when one of them fell into the water. The other rushed up to a dock hand, exclaiming: "Save him, mister! He's got de bate!"

NOT APPROPRIATE.—"How did you get along at school today, Tom?" asked the old man at the supper table.

"Fine, our physiology says that conversation at meals should be of a pleasant character," replied Tommy. Let's talk about the minstrels.

TEACHER.—Johnny, can you tell me anything you have to be thankful for in the past year?

Johnny, without hesitation.—Yes, sir. "Well, Johnny, what is it?"

"Why, when you broke your arm you couldn't lick us for two months."

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AN ARTFUL SUITOR. — He gazed around the cheerful and comfortable looking apartment, then addressing the widow, he said:

"Your husband's been dead over a year now?"

"Yes," she answered, with a sigh, "over a year."

"I remember reading his obituary," he said, "and I thought it contained a misstatement of facts."

"A misstatement of facts?"

"Yes, it said that he had gone to a better home. In my opinion it would be impossible for him to find a more cheerful, more comfortable, and, with you in it, a more charming and desirable home than this."

The widow smiled sweetly, and he was accepted.

A YOUNG girl from the country, lately on a visit to Mr. H., a Quaker, was prevailed on to accompany him to a meeting. It happened to be a silent one, none of the brethren being moved to utter a syllable. When Mr. A. left the meeting house with his young friend, he asked her:

"How dost thou like the meeting?"

"To which she pettishly replied: "Like it? Why, I can see no sense in it; to go and sit down for whole hours together, without speaking a word, it is enough to kill the devil."

"Yes, my dear," rejoined the Quaker, "that is just what we want."

MINISTER.—Do you say your prayers, Tommy?

Tommy.—Yes, sir.

"Do you always pray for strength in the hour of temptation?"

"All but one time."

"Why didn't you pray for strength that time?"

"Because Billy Williams licked me so quick that I hadn't time to pray. I've been prayin' for strength ever since, and as soon as I get enough muscle you bet your sweet life I'll do him."

BRIDGET.—The nurse says, mum, as yez woz in the kitchen while I woz out.

Mistress, timidly.—Yes, Bridget.

Bridget.—Yis—indeed, mum, an' wha' wud ye think if I went to your boodwar when ye woz out?

Mistress, very timidly.—I should think it strange, Bridget.

Bridget, modifying a little as she shatters a piece of Sevres on the floor.—Very well, mum, but hereafter if yez wuz stick to your own part of the house O'll stick to mine.

LECTURER ON ART.—Before I sit down I shall be happy to answer any question that any one may wish to ask.

Gentleman in the audience, from St. Louis.—I have understood it all except a few technical terms. Will you please tell me what you mean by the words perspective, fresco, and mick-anjeloo?

Lecturer sits down discouraged.

SHORT SESSIONS.—Materfamilias, wearily.—Well, I've got the children quieted down at last, and we shall have some peace. They have concluded to play school—(sounds of revelry and boisterous hilarity in the nursery). Mercy on me! Flossie! Flossie! What's all that noise? You promised me only two minutes ago that you would play school.

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