

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

Cultivation of Orchards. Professor Beal showed us, on the farm of the Agricultural College at Lancaster, Michigan, an apple orchard...

On Land.

A correspondent of the Western Rural says: "About 5 o'clock one fine summer's morning I noticed that where salt had been sown the previous day, every grain of salt had attached to itself the dew, and formed on the surface a wet spot about the size of a sixpence on the ground, being generally very dry. On our light lands it consolidates them and maket them especially firm and acceptable to the wheat plant, whose straw will stand firm and erect, although four and a half feet long. It is also unfavorable to certain weeds by this consideration. It prevents the growth of the weeds. It is especially favorable to saline plants, such as marigolds, whose ashes contain fifty per cent. of salt. I never saw guano except mixed with its weight of salt. Like everything else it has, I am sorry to say, greatly risen in price. I observe that all crops seem to thrive well on land near salt water, especially where the land is drained."

Against Hard Pruning on Heavy Soil. I will give you an instance which I think goes far to prove that fruit trees in the heavy soil here do not like hard pruning. An orchard, principally apples, was planted fifteen or more years ago, the trees were kept closely pruned, and produced at the time I first saw them a great quantity of twiggy shoots, which were annually cut back, to be followed by a greater number of the same sort, but small and of no fruit. The stems were thick and covered with lichen, and did not increase in size. Three years ago the shoots were merely thinned in summer leaving the principal ones their full length, or nearly so, and since then they have been left to themselves. The result is that the trees are recovering rapidly, the stems are swelling, the bark cracking, and the lichen falling off, and instead of twiggy shoots we have shoots two feet in length full of fruit spurs. Last year many of the trees produced fruit of good quality, and I am in hopes of an annual improvement.—William Taylor.

Old Potatoes. An Eastern exchange gives the following advice: "Potatoes to be good, should never be exposed to the light, but kept in as dark a place as possible. After they begin to sprout in the spring, they should be taken up from the bins or heaps and be kept in boxes or barrels. If you have a few barrels set aside for family use instead of picking them over and sprouting every few weeks, put them in enough barrels so that you can easily turn them from one barrel to another. Have one extra barrel, and once every week, turn them all out from one barrel to another. This keeps them moving and sprouting, and the sprouts cannot grow enough to do much harm."

Why is it that so many of our farmers and nearly all of our city carters, insist on using a tight rein on working horses? When a horse left to his natural inclination, has a heavy load to pull, he can best exert his strength if his back bone is in one continuous line, and this will be have if not prevented by a tight check rein. Some claim that it prevents a horse from falling, and when a man can lift himself over a fence by lifting on his suspenders, we believe it. When a horse fails, a tight rein will most effectually prevent him from getting out of his feet again. Try it without the rein and see if we are not correct in our practice and theory.

White Hairs on Horses. A correspondent of the Massachusetts Ploughman, recommends the following remedy for white hairs on horses, which appear on spots galled by the harness or saddle: Take a piece of lard large enough to give the place a thorough greasing; rub the same with the hand until it becomes hot, repeat the operation three or four times, and the white hair will soon come out, and hairs of a natural color take their place. I have tried this on several horses, and I never knew it to fail. I think the best time to do this is in the winter, before a new coat starts.

New apples are one dollar and ten cents a quart. Ten cents for the apples and a dollar for the doctor.

Miscellaneous.

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