The Farmer's Department.

THE REASON WHY BEES WORK IN THE DARK.—A life time might be spent in investigating the mysteries hidden in a beehive, and still half of the secrets would be undiscovered. The formation of the cell has been a celebrated problem for the mathematician, whilst the changes which the honey undergoes offer at least an equal interest to the chemist. Every one knows what honey fresh from the comb is like. It is a clear yellow syrup, without a trace of solid sugar in it. Upon straining, however, it gradually assumes a crystalline appearance,—it candies, as the saying is,—and ultimately becomes a solid lump of sugar. It has not been suspected that this change is due to photographic action; that the same agent which alters the molecular arrangement of the iodine of silver on the excited collodion plate, and determines the formation of camphor and iodine crystals in a bottle, causes the syrup honey to assume a crystalline form. This, however, is the case.

M. Scheibler has enclosed honey in stopped flasks, some of which he has kept in perfect darkness, whilst others have been exposed to the light. The invariable result has been that the sunned portion rapidly crystallizes, whilst that kept in the dark has remained perfectly liquid. We now see why bees are so careful to work in perfect darkness, and why they are so careful to obscure the glass windows which are sometimes placed in their hives. The existence of their young depends on the liquidity of saccharine food presented to them, and if light were allowed access to this, the syrup would gradually acquire a more or less solid consistency. It would seal up the cells, and, in all probability, prove fatal to the inmates of the hive.—*Journal of Science.*

IMPORTED WORK HORSES.—We notice, says an exchange, the importation to this country of a number of Normandy draught horses. They are taken to the west to be crossed with the domestic breed. They are about sixteen hands high, with short legs, round barrels, intelligent heads and broad chests. The importation is notable, and promises good results. We want more horses. The war thinned them out terribly. We do not want trotting stock, as our own is the best in the world. There is no great demand for race horses; but in restoring our supply of draught animals we want something better than we have had. We have been sadly deficient here, and no right effort has been made to cure the deficiency. If now when a great attempt is making, under favorable circumstances, to increase the number of working animals, we aim to increase the quality also, a great and permanent good will be reached. We have had no specific variety of work horses. All that were good for nothing else were used here. There is no reason why our draught horses should not equal those of Normandy—the best in the world—and those of England, little inferior, and having a strain of the Norman and Flemish in their constitution. The importation is a step in the right direction, and if followed up will give us the excellence for the plow and dray that we now have for the saddle and sulkey. At all events, some good will accrue from even so light an infusion as this.

WARTS ON COWS' TEATS.—This nuisance may be abated when the cow is dry more easily than when she is giving milk. Small warts may, however, often be removed by some simple application, which will give little or no pain. Moistening them after milking with strong saleratus water, applying a paste of wood ashes to the warts only, or touching them with almost any caustic in a way not to make them sore, will usually, but gradually, cause the warts to disappear. Very large warts should first be tied off, that is, have a wire or silk thread bound around them close to the teat, so as to prevent a circulation of blood; but this makes the teat sore and milking difficult. "N. C. B." writes that raw linseed oil applied once a week will cure warts on cows.—*Amer. Agriculturist.*

PATENT HARNESS BLACKING.—Mr. Dobson furnishes the recipe for this well known water-proof blacking. It will keep the leather soft, and, if properly applied, gives a good polish. It is excellent for buggy tops, harness, &c. Old harness, if hard, may be washed in warm water, and when nearly dry, grease it with neatsfoot oil. The ingredients are three ounces of turpentine, two ounces of white wax, to be dissolved together over a slow fire; then add one ounce of ivory black and one drachm of indigo, to be well pulverized and mixed together. When the wax and the turpentine are dissolved, add the ivory black and the indigo, and stir till cold.—Apply it to the harness very thin, and brush well afterward, and it will give a most beautiful polish.—*Exchange.*

AN EXPERIMENT WORTH TRYING.—Four turkeys were cooped up and fed with meal, boiled potatoes and oats; four others of the same brood were treated in a similar manner in another pen, but with a pint daily of finely pulverized charcoal added to the food, and an abundant supply of lumps of the coal. All eight were killed the same day, and those fed with the charcoal were found to weigh about a pound and a half each more than the others, and to be of a much better quality.

SOUR MILK FOR HENS.—The very best food for young chickens and turkey poults, is sour milk curd, or clabber, boiled until tolerably hard, and the whey separated entirely. Mix with corn meal or a little hominy.

GAPES IN CHICKENS.—Turpentine and goose-oil, mixed, rubbed on the wings and breast of the hen just before the chickens go to roost, is good for gapes.

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