

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Overreaching.

In reply to an inquiry in the New York Times, whether there was any cure for overreaching in horses, the editor replies as follows:

"To prevent overreaching, which is the habit of striking the heel of the fore-foot with the toe of the hind foot when either trotting or walking, shorten the toe and increase the weight of the fore-shoes; also, have no calks on them. This enables the horse to pick up the fore-feet quickly and throw them out well in front; and the absence of the heel-calks prevents the striking of the hind toe upon them. The hind shoe should be made short in the toe."

This reply is wholly contrary to our own ideas and experience. It is in fact just the reverse of the truth. The suggestions will produce overreaching not cure it. How can increasing the weight of the front shoes cause the foot to be raised more quickly; and if the shortening of the toe will have that effect, will not the shortening of the toe of the hind shoe counteract this? Most assuredly.

A sure way of removing this unpleasant falling in the movement of a horse in a majority of cases, is to shorten the toe of the front shoes and lengthen the toe of the hind shoes. By this arrangement the horse will pick up his forefeet quicker, and the hind feet slower, thus accomplishing just what is wanted. If a quarter of a second of time is thereby gained, the forefoot will be clear out of the way of the hind foot with its elongated toe.

We once owned a valuable horse once subject to overreaching. He was taken in hand by several experienced shoers, and every one adopted the erroneous method recommended by our New York contemporary. Being in the stable one day, we sat down upon a chair, after examining the shoes, to devise some way to cure the animal of this defect; and the conclusion we arrived at led to insisting upon the shoer following our instructions, the result of which was a complete success. Now and then a new shoer would be aware of this overreaching and would shoe in the old way, when the overreaching was as bad as ever, until the shoes were removed. We had another horse cured in the same way, as had at that time many other persons. Indeed, we have never known this method to fail when properly followed.

To Sweeten the Breath and Cleanse the Teeth.

Always clean the teeth at night just before retiring, for particles of food collect between the teeth during the day, and if left their all night will decay, causing the breath to become offensive and also prove very injurious to the teeth. Scrub the teeth with a hard brush using little, if any soap; sprinkle on a little powdered borax (one pinch will do) until the gums are hardened and become accustomed to it; rinse the mouth often with borax water; it will prevent it from becoming sore or tender. If artificial teeth are worn, cleanse them thoroughly with borax, and when convenient let them remain in borax water every night if possible; it will purify them and help to sweeten the breath.

The first thing to observe, in judging of a horse, so far as his back is concerned is the length of it. A long back is a weak back the world over, and in every instance. By superior excellence of structure in other respects the weakness of the back may be, in some measure made up; but the horse can never be the horse he would have been had his back been a short one. We do not care how short a horse's back is; for it is a sure evidence that he can carry or drag a heavy weight a great distance and not tire; neither if he be speedy, will two or three seasons of turf experience break him down, as is the case with so many of our speedy, long backed horses.

Lice may be effectually exterminated from poultry-houses by using suds of carbolic soft soap. The application should be made with a garden syringe. The suds penetrate every crack and crevice, and render whitewashing needless, except for appearance.

Frozen plants, says the American Agriculturist, will often recover if taken to a room where the temperature is just above freezing, and allowed to thaw very gradually. The change to a very warm room would be very injurious.

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