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Handling Vicious Horses.

A balky horse can be cured, when under the saddle, by a very simple method. Turn him around in his tracks a few times and then suddenly straighten his head and he will willingly, and even gladly, go forward. This was the method of the celebrated John S. Rarey and has never been known to fail.

The "jibbler" differs from the balkier inasmuch as his so-called vice is caused by congestion of the brain. The horse thus affected is liable to bolt or run away after one of the attacks and is a dangerous animal.

Rearing, although commonly termed a vice, is often caused by too severe a curb. Sometimes the rearing horse loses his balance and falls backward. It is needless to say that the rider is lucky if he or she escapes without serious, if not fatal, injury. When the horse rears, loosen the reins and speak to him in a soothing tone; but if he persists, give him a sharp blow between the ears with the butt of the whip. This will bring him down an all fours with amazing quickness.

Kicking is certainly a vice. Sometimes, however, it is caused by fear, in which case much can be accomplished by gentle management. Exactly the opposite treatment of the rearing animal should be applied to the kicker. Hold his head up with might and main, for the horse cannot throw out both legs at once when his head is elevated. Kicking straps are what the name implies. A strap fastened to the shafts over the horse's crup prevents kicking, but this is only serviceable when driven in single harness. Shying is a dangerous fault. It cannot properly be termed a vice; it is generally the result of defective vision. Gentle treatment, soothing words and patient persistence in accustoming the animal to the dreaded object will often effect a cure. To lash a horse because he shies or is frightened only aggravates the evil. He will associate the punishment with the frightful object and will fear it more and more each time he encounters it.—Country Life in America.

Winter Care of Poultry.
Next to a draft, a damp house or roosting place is the most prolific cause of colds in fowls. Look after the dryness and ventilation of your roosting quarters also.

A plain cold can be told by the fowls having a watery discharge at the nostrils and eyes and the birds throwing their heads and sneezing. A plain cold is easily told from the roup by absence of a cheesy substance in the throat and nostrils of the birds. This cheesy mass always accompanies roup. The head will frequently swell with a cold, but the swelling is more marked in roup. A common remedy for colds is to apply kerosene to the heads of the worst afflicted birds. A slight film of kerosene oil on the drinking water will often cure mild colds in a few days.

Bronchitis is the cold extended to the bronchial tubes and the fowls make a rattling noise when breathing. This disease continues for weeks in some cases. Treat like a severe cold with kerosene oil, pouring the oil well down the nostrils and throat.—Rural World.

Flax for Stock Feed.
The prevailing price of concentrated foodstuffs is arousing the interest of farmers in the question of growing more flesh-forming foods. Many stockmen who have used oil meal extensively in the past are considering the proposition of growing their own flax, so that it can be fed without first having the oil extracted. This is a practice that I cannot recommend too highly. I have found from practical experience that an acre or two of flax will produce one of the most profitable crops that can be grown. On ordinary soil there will be a yield of about twenty bushels per acre. This may be used in feeding calves, young stock and any other class of animals which may for any reason be out of condition. Flax is not only a food, but is one of the very best tonics that are available.—W. J. Kennedy in Iowa Homestead.

Short Rotation of Crops.
Every farmer realizes the value of a short rotation of crops in maintaining the fertility of the soil. Yet it is not at all uncommon to seed to timothy and clover and mow the field for three or four consecutive years till every vestige of clover has disappeared and nearly all the value of the clover plant as a renovator of the soil is lost, says a writer in Ohio Farmer. I believe sowing timothy with the clover is all right. I always practice it. Then I am quite sure of a catch, and I get more and better hay. There are also other advantages which space forbids I should enumerate here. I believe, though, that the meadow should be mowed but once and never more than twice before plowing.

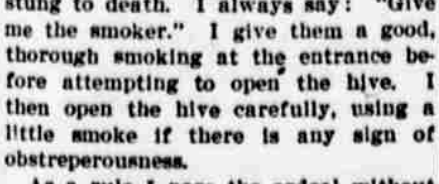
Smoke in Handling Bees.

How differently men use or misuse smoke when handling bees. Some men even ask me if I ever "smoke in the entrance." As a rule, such men will jar the hives in taking off the cover, they pry or pull off the super with a snap, says an exchange. About this time the bees, angry bees, begin pouring out at the entrance and from the top of the hive and then the beekeeper begins using the smoker; but the bees are mad now, and no amount of smoke will pacify them.

The most important place to use smoke is at the entrance, and it should be used there as the first step in opening the hive. Subdue the bees first, then all the jarring will only make their subjection the more complete. So many times has some man cautioned me about attempting to handle some colony, saying that those bees were perfect tigers and that I would be stung to death. I always say: "Give me the smoker." I give them a good, thorough smoking at the entrance before attempting to open the hive. I then open the hive carefully, using a little smoke if there is any sign of obstreperousness.

As a rule I pass the ordeal without a sting, while the owner looks on with amazement. The whole secret lies in subduing the bees before opening the hives. Smoke the bees first, and then you can usually handle them in peace and comfort.

Self-Opening Door.
The arrangement for opening this door consists of a half-inch rope attached to a staple driven into the up-



THE SELF-OPENING DOOR.

per edge of the door and passing parallel with the track beyond the boundary of the door when open. The rope passes over a small pulley and a weight is attached at the end. It is better if the weight and pulleys are fixed inside the building. By attaching the rope to the opposite side of the door a self-closing arrangement will be obtained.

Flax with Skim Milk for Calves.
For calf feeding purposes instead of grinding flax have it boiled, one part of flax to six parts of water, making a jelly. The boiling process lasts from one to four hours. If the flax has been soaked for eight or ten hours in water, one hour's boiling would put it in fairly good condition. If, on the other hand, the flax has not been previously soaked, it will take from three to four hours to cook it thoroughly. In feeding our calves on skim milk we use about two-thirds of a teacupful twice a day for a calf 3 weeks old in conjunction with the skim milk. The amount is increased from time to time as the calf grows older. After the calf is 5 or 6 months old we do not feed the cooked flaxseed, but feed it in the ground form in conjunction with the grain ration. In this way we are able to raise practically as good calves on skim milk as we formerly reared on whole milk.

Butter in the South.
A skilled Northern dairyman who went to Georgia some years ago once wrote that he found that he could make as good butter there as he made in Vermont, could make it at a lower cost and could get a better price for it. When once the live-stock industry is well established in the South in connection with cotton growing, we will soon hear less of its taking four or five acres to make a bale of cotton, for the men who rotate their crops and feed stock and make manure will soon put a bale as the minimum per acre. More pea hay, more corn and more cattle will do more for the cotton farmer than anything else, when they cease to look on everything but cotton merely as "supplies" to enable them to plant more cotton, for they will find that the "supplies" will soon be as profitable a part of their farming as the cotton.

Varieties of Potatoes.
In choosing varieties of potatoes for spring planting, it is advisable to select those that have been more recently produced from seed; provided, of course, that their quality and productiveness have been tested and are generally known. The variety that is newly produced from seed is generally more vigorous than it is likely to be after a few years' contest with potato beetles and the blight and rots, all of which help to decrease potato vigor and productiveness. But it is not advisable to plant potatoes, however good, which are very unlike standard sorts, and whose qualities are not generally known. There is so much difference in potatoes that the mere fact that a potato is a potato is not enough with most consumers to secure a market for it until after they have given it a trial.

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