Miscellaneous.

The Horse Disease.

Professor James Law of Cornell University recently delivered a lecture, before the International Academy of Science, on "The Horse Disease."

The disease is by no means a new one. Between 412 and 415 B. C. a similar disease raged in Greece, Italy, and Sicily. It has also occurred in A. D. 330, 876, 1173, 1259, 1299 (then especially severe), 6 times in the fourteenth century, 39 times in the fifteenth, twice in the sixteenth, 5 times in the seventeenth, 15 times in the eighteenth, and 17 times in the nineteenth, thus far, probably not more frequently in later times, but apparently so from the lack of full records earlier. Sometimes it has especially attacked horses, dogs, cats, and oxen, and man. It is essentially an influenza. After infection, from one to three days intervene before its appearance. Its symptoms are sudden. They differ according to the part attacked and the severity of the attacks. Sometimes the disease confines itself to the throat, sometimes to the parts of the neck further back, sometimes to the lungs, sometimes to the digestive organs, and sometimes to the tendons and muscles, when it is rheumatic in its form. A common symptom of all these forms is great weakness and prostration, indisposition to move, half closed eyes, relaxed limbs, staggering, etc.

The present manifestation is largely that of the throat, and is attended by coughing. The lecturer thought that it could not be the result of conditions of the atmosphere, for these could not continue unchanged for the length of time that the disease runs; nor to gases, or ingredients of the air, for these must become diluted and pass away; nor could temperature be its cause, for it had occurred under a great variety of thermal conditions. These and other agencies might, however, influence its course after its inception. It was true that for the past few months butchers had had unusual trouble in preserving meat, and there must have been a great growth of fungi from ill-preserved meat, but whether this was a coincidence it was impossible to determine. The lecturer, however, inclined to the belief that the disease was the result of poisonous organic matter in the atmosphere, not probably vital, but rather morbid matter.

As to its prevention, one method is complete: the shutting up of the animal in a stable, and the use of disinfectants; but this involved trouble and expense, and, as the disease is now light in form, he thought the animals should be exposed. The stables should be closed and general preventives employed, such as the burning of a little sulphur on a shovel in the stables two or three times a day. Again, rest and proper remedies where the animals are attacked are essential. The lecturer described at some length the different phases of the disease and the methods of treatment. The horse is a finely organized animal; the surface exposed to the air in his lungs is about 1,000 square feet; and since he is so often overworked and badly housed, it is not strange that diseases affect him with peculiar severity.

Use Full-Blooded Bucks.

Perhaps the most important step in securing and maintaining a good flock of sheep is the securing of males that are the perfect type of what you wish your flocks to be. As to what a male should be I would say first let them be thoroughbred. No grade buck should ever be used when there is a desire to improve or even keep up the quality of the flock, even though he may be the most desirable in appearance of the whole flock. The chances are against the transmission of his desirable qualities, and it is probable he will transmit undesirable qualities of his ancestors that are concealed in him. A thoroughbred male can be relied on to reproduce himself in his offspring, but such is not the case with a grade, however perfect he may be in form. Second, I would say let him be a good specimen of the breed (whatever that breed may be.) Among the best of flocks there will be a difference. While all may be good, some may be better and others best. I would say get the best at any price in selecting males. Be sure he has an eminent degree of all the essential points of the breed in size, make, characteristics of wool, &c. Again, let him be sound in constitution and limb. It is found that defects and disease are more easily communicated to offspring than more desirable qualities. Hence everything of this kind should be avoided with scrupulous care. The character of the female is of less importance. True, if a man has a flock of thoroughbred ewes to begin with, all the better, his work is half done, but if he has a flock of grades or scrubs he need not go to the expense of buying a full-blooded stock to build up a flock with. With the proper care in the selection of bucks, a flock can soon be built up to a high point of excellence with only common ewes to start with. With the facilities now offered for securing choice bucks, there is no excuse for the man who continues to propagate the scrub stock of the country. Let none but first-class males be used, and soon all our flocks will become first-class flocks.—*Cor. Agricultural Commonwealth.*

Hints for Housekeepers.

As a general rule it is most economical to buy the best articles. The price is, of course, always a little higher, but a good article always spends best. It is a sacrifice of money to buy poor flour, meat, sugar, molasses, cheese, butter, lard, etc., to say nothing of the injurious effect upon the health.

Butter that is made in September and October is the best for winter use.

Lard should be hard and white; and that which is taken from a hog over a year old is the best.

Rich cheese feels soft under the pressure of the finger. That which is very strong is neither good nor healthy. To keep one that is cut, tie it up in a bag that will not admit flies, and hang in a cool dry place. If mould appear on it, wipe it off with a dry cloth.

The best rice is large and has a clear, fresh look. Old rice has sometimes little black insects inside the kernel. The small, white sago called pearl sago, is the best. The large brown kind has an earthy taste. These articles and ground rice, tapioca, etc., should be kept covered.

To select nutmegs, pick them with a pin. If they are good, the oil will instantly spread around the puncture.

Keep coffee by itself, as its odor affects other articles.

Keep tea in a close chest or cannister.

Oranges and lemons keep best wrapped close in soft paper and laid in a drawer.

When a cask of molasses is bought, draw off a few quarts, else the fermentation produced by moving it will burst the cask.

Bread and cakes should be kept in a tin box or stone jar.

Salt codfish should be kept in a dry place where the odor of it will not affect the air of the house. Fish-skin, for clearing coffee, should be washed, dried, cut small, and put in a paper bag.

Soft soap should be kept in a dry place in a cellar, and should not be used till three months old.

Bar soap should be cut into pieces of convenient size, and left where it will become dry. It is as well to keep it for several weeks before using; it goes fast when it is new.

Cranberries will keep all winter in a firkin of water in a cellar.

The Mississippi is within a few inches of the low water mark of 1864, when navigation by the side-wheel and large stern-wheel boats was entirely suspended. Since that date of eight years ago, steamboats have not experienced nearly so much difficulty as during the past six weeks. This is particularly the case on the upper river.

A FLORIST of Long Island has seventy acres of flowers, twenty of which are entirely devoted to gladioli. There are also ten acres of Japan lilies, and five acres of tube roses.

The *Pantagraph* says: "Emigrants are daily passing through Roseburg, bound for the Coquille country. This portion of the country now offers better inducements for settlers than any other part of Oregon."

Dr. Bayley informs the *Democrat* that there is no foundation for the published report that the Oregon Central Military Road Company has sold its land grant.

Steam Culture in England—Sewage.

Lord Dunmore, who is Chairman of the Scottish Steam Cultivation Company, in reply to inquiries, has published a pamphlet giving his experience and observation respecting steam culture in Great Britain. The London Times publishes an abstract of this pamphlet, and the general interest attaching to the subject justifies us in re-publishing the more important points.

The direct advantages of steam culture are enumerated by his Lordship to be, *first*, that steam does the work at the proper time. With suitable weather and soil, fifty acres or more can be broken up in a day. In the *second* place, steam executes heavy tillage more quickly and more cheaply than horses can do it. A six-furrow plow, in one "bout," turns up about the same quantity of land as twelve horses, and in half the time; hence it will do the work of 24 horses. *Thirdly*, fewer horses are required on farms where plowing is done by steam. The commissioners of the Royal Agricultural Society, in 1867, visited 140 farms in England under steam culture, and found the reduction in the number of horses kept varying from 10 to 25 per cent. *Fourthly*, by steam power only can thoroughly deep cultivation be secured. The greater part of English plowing he calls "scratching," the depth not exceeding five inches, but the steam plow will go to one foot; and besides thus increasing the arable area of the land, drainage will be greatly promoted.

His Lordship counts the indirect advantages—such as throwing several small fields into one, and of cultivating the land heretofore used for hedges and fences—as very important. The damage done by vermin harboring in its hedges, will be greatly lessened. In this country, where hedges are not so common, there would be a gain in exemption from fence-repairs, and in keeping down the bushes which grow along them. Another advantage claimed by Lord Dunmore is in laying the surface flat, the steam cultivator doing away with all ridges and furrows, which are the chief obstacles to a reaping machine. Another advantage is an immense saving in food now consumed by horses employed in farm labor. On this point the writer enters into an elaborate computation to show that the food imports of Great Britain amount to £44,714,000; that there are 529,950 farms, and that the increase of crops by steam culture, and a decrease of only one horse to a farm would diminish the food imports necessary from £37,000,000 to £28,000,000. As examples, he cites his own case, the number of horses kept by him having decreased two-thirds since he adopted steam culture, and in the case of Mr. Bomford's farms at Pitshill, where 1,023 acres of heavy clay land is cultivated, 30 horses only are now used where 50 were formerly necessary.

The best machine yet brought out, he thinks, is the John Fowler & Co., of Leeds; and the best way for farmers to adopt to secure its use is by forming co-operative companies. Of Thomson's road steamer "in direct traction of implements" he speaks very highly, and thinks it can be found useful on the farm almost every day of the year.

Lord Dunmore also discusses the sewage question, claiming that that and steam culture constitute "the two momentous agricultural questions of the day." The conclusion he arrives at is that the sewage from the fifteen millions of people living in British town and cities might be made to produce 3,000,000 quarters of wheat, or 30,000,000 bushels. These figures he borrows from an estimate by Mr. Hope.

NEW LAND COMPANY.—A new land company, called the Willamette Real Estate Company, was incorporated in this city yesterday, with a capital of $1,000,000. The object is to purchase, improve and sell real estate along the Oregon and California and the Oregon Central Railroads. The officers elected are: W. L. Halsey, President; H. Thielson, James G. Hughes and W. L. Halsey, Directors.—*Bulletin.*

The Fire at Oregon City.

(From Correspondence of the Herald.)

OREGON CITY, Nov. 23.

This morning about three o'clock the citizens of this quiet little town were awakened from their slumbers by the sound of fire-bells, accompanied by that dreadful cry of "Fire! fire!" As speedily as possible, and with all haste I could command, I made my way to the street, where I beheld the Woolen Factory in one mass of flames, which lapped around and almost completely hid from view the tall and stately building, which a few hours before was the pride of our city. Up, up, into the very sky rose the angry glare, tossing its horrible

BILLOWS OF FLAME

Into the very clouds, which glowed back responsive to the blaze. The light made the city as bright as day, and the bold, high bluffs on either side of the river cast a ghastly gleam upon the scene, which was the most fearful and at the same time the most magnificent I had ever beheld. The sparks and cinders were carried high into the air, where they were caught in an upper current of wind and whirling in circles in their mad affright, were carried northward, far beyond the limits of the city. A storm of fire, as it were, descended upon the city, and at one time threatened destruction to the entire town. Large coals of fire fell in every direction, and for hours Oregon City was visited by a

BAPTISM OF FIRE.

Fortunately, however, there was a heavy frost and dampness sufficient to extinguish the brands as they fell, otherwise the entire city would have been destroyed.

The fire company was promptly on hand, but so effectually had the fire-fiend performed its work that, upon reflection, all hope of saving the factory building was given up as an undertaking that the hand of man was powerless to avert. The firemen seeing themselves powerless so far as the mill was concerned, devoted their attention to

SAVING THE CITY

From a destruction which at one time appeared inevitable. Well and nobly did the gallant fire boys do their duty, and by superhuman efforts the city was saved from destruction. To stay the ravages of the flames it was found necessary to

PULL DOWN A BUILDING

Next to the factory, and occupied by Chas. Frederick as a beer saloon. The house was the property of J. S. McDonald, who sustains a loss of $1,200. The adjoining buildings were kept saturated with water and thus saved. The Phœnix Hotel and the Cliff House, located opposite to the factory, were at one time in imminent danger, but by the efforts of the firemen, aided by citizens, were saved from ruin. Fortunately the wind was scarcely perceptible, otherwise there is no telling what would have been the result, for had there been anything like a strong wind the whole city, from the basin to its northern limits would have fallen easy prey to

THE DEVOURING MONSTER.

The loss of the company must be immense, estimated by some at $250,000. But little of anything was saved. The splendid and costly machinery with which the building was stocked, besides fifty or sixty thousand pounds of scoured and dyed wool, valued at a dollar per pound, were destroyed. The dye and wool houses were saved, but only by great exertion. I understand that the company had an insurance of $80,000 on the factory. As to the

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE,

It is believed by some to have been the work of an incendiary. There are many conflicting rumors in circulation, but not wishing to do injustice to any one I will, therefore, not repeat them. A large number have been left

WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT,

And the loss in that direction, especially as Winter is upon us, will be immense, and will be felt severely by all our people. The walls of the factory remain standing, with the exception of the gable of the north end, which fell during the progress of the fire with a terrible and violent crash,

BURYING BENEATH ITS RUINS A FIREMAN

Named Blackwell, who was rescued in an unconscious state, having received injuries from which he is not expected to recover. Throughout the day the firemen have been employed in throwing water on the smouldering ruins. The fires from which Oregon City have heretofore suffered were confined to the same locality upon which the factory was built. This is the third time that that spot has been the scene of a conflagration. VINDEX.

ANOTHER MAMMOTH CAVE IN KENTUCKY.—The discovery of a new "Mammoth Cave" in Kentucky is reported. It is close to a place called "Split Rock" in Boone County, and is causing much excitement. The local paper says that the neighborhood has been the resort for picnics for years, and yet, until July 16, it has remained entirely unknown. The cave, so far as explored, is said to be more than two miles long, and it contains single chambers no less than 100 feet in length by 40 in width and 20 in height. Limestone forms the entrance, and generally the sides of the cave, while the roof consists of a heavy shale. The walls are often incrusted with iron and manganese, interpersed with shining crystals of gypsum. Pendant from the ceiling are beautiful stalactites, the growth of ages; and these in some of the halls extend quite to the floor, thus constituting imposing ranges of columns. It is probable that most interesting accounts will soon be made public of articles found in the cave. Already arrow-heads, tomahawks, and other utensils, bearing marks of the hand of the red man, have been discovered, and there is strong probability that furthur researches will add largely to the relics thus at the outset stumbled upon.

DEEP WELL.—At the village of Spernberg, about twenty miles from Berlin, a well has been sunk to the depth of 4,194 feet. A shaft was sunk in this locality, because the known existence of gypsum there led the explorers to infer that they might possibly find a mine of rock salt. At the depth of 280 feet, they reached the salt, and continuing on they passed through the salt deposit, 3,907 feet, without having reached the, bottom of it. The boring would have been continued to ascertain what deposit lay under the salt, but the mechanical difficulties were too great. The greater part of the boring was done by steam.

ISAELLITES EMIGRATING TO AMERICA.—The Land Office has information that forty thousand Israelites from Roumania and other parts of Europe are making arrangements to settle in this country, and thus escape the persecution to which they have been and are subjected in their native land. There is a company formed with a paid up capital of one million five hundred thousaud dollars, and they want to purchase a body of land here and settle together. The Land Office has sent the necessary information abroad, showing how our lands may be obtained.

SHEEP IN OHIO.—According to the Ohio Farmer the report of the Auditor of that state gives 4,464,898 as the number of sheeep in Ohio this year, not including lambs of the present year. This shows an increase of 161,994 sheep over 1871. The Farmer says a good portion of the present year's fleece is still in the hands of the farmer, but that those who sold early report an increase in the average weight of the fleeces over that of last year.

BENTON COUNTY GIRLS.—During the last harvest a Miss Wadsworth, of the south part of the county, cut all her father's grain with a reaper. On election day, 5th inst., Miss Mary Thompson and Lizzie Adams, of Yaquina Bay, while the men were off voting, shot and captured a large deer, that a masculine Nimrod had slightly wounded, but was afraid to tackle. The girl shot the buck through the shoulder and then dispatched him with an oar, made fast to him and towed him home. Benton county girls against the world.—*Gazette.*

RUSSIA will soon beat the world in her staff of feminine doctors. The *British Medical Journal* says that 300 young Russian women have clamed admission as students in medicine and surgery at the newly opened Medical School of St Petersburg. The number of admissions being fixed however, at 70, there will be a great many disappointed.