

### Stock.

#### Educating Horses.

Horses can be educated to the extent of their understanding as well as children, and can be easily damaged or ruined by bad management. We believe that the great difference found in horses as to vicious habits or reliability comes much more from the different management of men, than from variance of natural dispositions in the animal. Horses with high mettle are more easily educated than those of less or dull spirits, and are more susceptible to ill training, and consequently may be made good or bad according to the education they receive.

Horses with dull spirits are not by any means proof against bad management, for in them may often be found the most provoking obstinacy, vicious habits of different characters that render them almost entirely worthless. Could the coming generations of horses of this country be kept from their days of childhood to the age of five years in the hands of good, careful managers, there would be seen a vast difference in the general character of the noble animal.

If a colt is never allowed to get an advantage it will never know that it possesses a power that man cannot control, and if made familiar with strange objects, it will not be skittish and nervous. If a horse is made accustomed from his early days, to have objects hit him on the heels, back and hips, he will pay no attention to the going out of a harness or of a wagon running against him at an unexpected moment.

We once saw an aged lady drive a light-colored horse, attached to a carriage, down a steep hill and with no hold-back straps upon the harness, and she assured us that there was no danger for her son accustomed his horses to all kinds of usages and sights that commonly drive the animal into a frenzy of fear and excitement.

A gun can be fired from the back of a horse, an umbrella held over his head, a buffalo robe thrown upon his neck, a railroad engine pass close by, his heels bumped with sticks, and the animal take it all as of a natural condition of things, if only taught by careful management. There is a great need of improvement in the management of this useful animal; less beating wanted and more of education.—Farmer and Tribune.

#### Feeding Calves.

Mr. E. Burnett, of Massachusetts, an experienced dairyman, said at the Vermont dairymen's meeting, the difference between feeding calves three times a day might seem a small matter; yet in his experience, it frequently made the difference between a live calf and a dead one. Calves allowed to run at large with their dams take their food at short intervals, and therefore little at a time; or, even if they take it from the cow twice a day, they are much longer in getting their fill, and get it at the right temperature and in a more natural way. When they are fed from the pail, they take it very fast, and very little saliva is mixed with it to prepare it for digestion. The intervals between feeds are frequently fourteen hours, and if the calf gets a large quantity of milk not at the right temperature, and swallowing it in a few moments, no wonder it has indigestion or some other trouble. The only wonder is that so many live through when treated in this way.

A better plan, which Mr. Burnett suggested, and which has been tried by others with good results, is to feed the calf three times per day, giving only the same milk that would be fed in the other way, and never to over-feed. Excessive feeding after a long fast has a very injurious effect on all animals, and especially young ones, and if it does not kill them outright, will weaken their digestion and do them permanent injury. Let those who have had trouble with their calves try this way of feeding three times, and take pains to have the milk at the right temperature, and never over-feed. Probably many calves that die suddenly, and, as is supposed, of unknown causes, are the victims of injudicious over-feeding. The stomach becomes so distended that it cannot act, the food sours, and poisonous gas is formed, and the animal dies in a few hours.

#### Raise the Good Calves.

When spring calves are to be raised, it is better to raise those which come in March than later, though they may be successfully raised at any season of the year. In dairies where cows habitually come in in the spring, heifer calves dropped in March are much more likely to be ready to enter the dairy at a timely date in the spring, when they are two-year olds, than are calves dropped later in the season. Early calves, too, get a good start before the following winter sets in, which is always the most trying time in the period of calf-hood. It is well, therefore, where milking stock is needed to replenish the depletion of the herd by age and accident, to raise a few more heifer calves than are actually needed, that, after weeding out those that do not prove first-class, there may be enough worth keeping to fill up the vacant places. In our own experience it has always paid to look well to the antecedents of the calves to be raised for milkers. We have sometimes had as

good cows from the first calves of heifers from good milking stock as from any other, but as a rule, our best success has been with those from cows just after reaching their prime. At this period in a cow's life she is the most vigorous, and this is an essential point in the transmission of the qualities of a parent. If we wish to reproduce the individual peculiarities of a good animal, we shall be most certain to succeed by promoting in it a strong constitution and great vital force and personal vigor. Such animals, whether male or female, transmit their own personal peculiarities with the greatest certainty. Animals which are weak and feeble in constitution, whether exhausted by overwork or reduced by lack of appropriate food or care, or which are weak from inherited defects, generally fail in transmitting their good qualities.—Stock Journal.

#### How to Keep the Boys on the Farm.

I find no better way to keep the boys at home than to encourage them in their work. In the first place, never lie to them. If you want them to work faithfully encourage them by paying them a small sum occasionally. Give them a piece of land to work and raise what they see fit. Give them plenty of time to attend it and keep it clean; let them have a team to work when necessary. Have them raise something nice to take to the fair; go with them and see that they get it entered right. Unless you are sick, don't sit around and send the boy to the field, day in and day out, to work alone. Go ahead; there is nothing more encouraging than for a parent to start in the morning and say, boys, come, we must do so and so today. Be kind to them, and they will work with pleasure. If they fail to do as you wish, take hold of the plow or cultivator, whichever it may be, and show them; they will soon see how they can do better work with more ease. Give each boy his share of chores to do. Divide them off according to their size and age and see that each one does what is allotted to him, so as not to have any dispute which shall do this to-night and other in the morning. When a child disobeys and needs punishing take it to one side and talk candidly to it and tell why you have to punish it; above all things never strike a child when you are angry. If you promise a child anything fulfill your promise to the letter; they will soon have confidence in you; if they lose your confidence it is a hard task to gain it again. Take them as it were partners, use the little word we, it will cost you nothing and they will soon think the farm would go to ruin if they were to leave it. Give them a pig or calf to raise, when it is old enough to sell, let him sell it and receive the money. Go to the store with him and assist him in selecting a suit of clothes; if he hasn't enough money to buy such as he wants, give him some. he will double pay you when you are in a hurry to get a piece of work done, and then he feels proud to tell his companions what he has bought with his money. Encourage him to select the best of associates, tell him the disadvantage in selecting bad company, how they will lead him to ruin. Keep a supply of good moral papers to read, if he gets to reading good papers while young he is more liable to like them when older. Play games with the children when you have leisure, nothing will please them better than to win a game with their parents; it may not be amusing to you but it helps them make home the pleasantest place they can find. When home is pleasant they are loath to leave it. The most children think what father and mother do is right, so be careful what examples you set before them.

#### Wheat in Belgium.

To begin with, the seed is carefully picked by hand, only the best grains are selected, and all seeds of weeds are, of course, thrown aside. Next a seed-bed is prepared; this is done in the fall; a few square rods of ground being selected, it is spaded up deeply, heavily manured, raked finely on the surface and sown thickly, broadcast, with the carefully picked seed. This forms the seed-bed for the purpose of being set out, like cabbage or tobacco plants, next spring. The field to be set is deeply plowed in the fall and left rough for the action of the frosts during the winter. In the spring the ground is harrowed, manured, then plowed and again harrowed, until it is level and smooth. It is then marked out in rows ten inches apart and is ready for planting. The wheat plants are dug up from the seed-bed the clumps separated and the best plants selected. These are set about four inches apart in the rows, firmly set, and the ground about them left smooth and compact. In this way very heavy crops are produced. The fields seldom exceed three or four acres in extent; the plants tiller out in many stalks, and the straw is short and stout, and never lodges.

Lord Campbell, it is well known, was fond of a joke, and sometimes had the tables turned upon himself. A few days before his death he met a barrister who had grown very stout of late, and remarked, "Why, Mr. —, you are getting as fat as a porpoise." "Fit company, my lord, for the great seal," was the ready repartee.

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### The Apiary.

#### Swarming Propensity of Bees—Singular Freaks—Changing Queens—Bees with Tremblers.

There is a great difference in bees with reference to swarming. Although there are no strains known to be non-swarming, yet some are more given to it than others. Several breeds of fowls are said to be non-sitters, and it is no stranger that insects of the same class should differ in minor points. Many apiaries are infested with a swarming mania, and the bees keep pouring out of the hives continually, much to the disgust of their owners. The only way to cure this propensity is to introduce queens bred from mothers whose progeny are not so inclined.

I have had little experience with black bees, but am inclined to think they swarm much more than Italians. There have been many runaway black swarms in this city of late, and the policemen and firemen are getting quite expert in catching them. Last week a swarm clustered on the "branch" of a farmer's wagon in one of the busiest streets. Horses were attached to the vehicle, and the cluster was so large it touched the ground. One was taken from the Soldiers' Monument and several from the public square.

A neighbor came in the other day and said he wished I would take a swarm from his premises, for he was afraid of them. I laughed when I saw them for all of them could have been put in a pint measure. They looked like a black tassel hanging from a hub. I placed them in a small hive, such as queens are shipped in, with two frames about four inches square. It was a regular colony and the next morning I introduced an Italian queen, in place of the black one. I do not want bees that will swarm five or six times and leave the old hive with less than a corporal's guard. When they leave a hive so desolate as this the accommodating moths move in and take possession, gathering up the fragments, that nothing be lost. It is well to introduce a little new blood into the apiary occasionally, but not such as this runaway stock that swarms to excess.

A queen that "sticks to her knitting" and does not drop any stitches, is a good investment. She fills the cells regularly with eggs, skipping none, and her progeny are good honey gatherers, working early and late. It is often the case that one colony collects more honey than another of apparently the same size. An old man in Germany was accused of witchcraft, because his bees gathered more honey than his neighbors' in the village where they lived. The number of colonies that each one should keep was regulated by law. At the close of the honey harvest, this old man's bees had double the honey of his neighbors, and he called them together, and showed them that the sun shone upon his hives one hour earlier, and his bees had gathered the morning's supply, before theirs were astir.

I have a colony of bees that are strangely affected, have the "tremblers." They tremble and spread out their wings, and some are black and shining, and the others drive them out of the hive. This colony was quite strong in the spring but have neither swarmed nor gathered much honey. I will give them a young vigorous queen, and see if that does not cure them of the "shakes." Prairie Farmer.

#### The Loss of Queens.

The queen is the mother of the colony. Her only duty seems to be to produce eggs, of which she will often lay twenty thousand in a day. The title "king" is erroneously applied to her, when the drone is meant. Her age varies, but she lives about three years. Although the destiny of a colony depends upon her presence, yet one will thrive some time after her departure; pollen and honey will be gathered as before; but there will be a dwindling away and absence of stimulus. If a queen is lost at the beginning of winter, the colony will probably last until the next July. Losses may occur at any time, and if they happen during the honey season the bees will replace them themselves, unless they occur when all after-swarming is given up.

When honey is abundant and the hive full of bees there will be a number of royal cells started. These are usually built near the edges of the comb, and project at an angle of about 45 degrees. They are half an inch in diameter and an inch or more in length. The queens mature in about sixteen to twenty days. Within nine days of maturity the royal cells are capped over and the old queen leads out the first swarm. From eight to nine days, there are exceptions to this rule, sometimes as late as fifteen days—a young queen will come out. If you will go to your hive about this time (morning is best) you will hear her "piping." Owing to her cramped position she makes a louder noise than her sisters, who are kept in their cells by the boss.

The piping of the queen is of much importance to the beekeeper. If you hear one of a morning, and the season is good, you may invariably expect a swarm that day or the next. But should

all after swarming be abandoned, the hatched queen will destroy all the others, and in three days will meet the drone. Should she be lost on this occasion, there can be no other one raised, since they must be produced from the egg or larva no older than three or four days. As the old queen left the hive nearly two weeks previous, there would be no eggs or larvae of the proper age.

The apiarian should be prompt and examine his bees frequently. If there is a dwindling away ascertain the cause. If eggs or larva are found no further proof will be necessary; if not, a queen should be introduced at once, or a frame of brood given from another hive. Perhaps in examining your hives you have found plenty of drones and drone brood, but no signs of young workers. There is a certain phenomenon connected with this instance. The workers are females, and seem to have no power of producing eggs. Nevertheless, on the loss of their mother, some of them have their structure changed, and will lay eggs. These eggs will only produce drones, no matter in what kind of cells they are laid.

Several of these "worker-layers" may be in a hive at a time. You can tell their presence by the manner in which they lay their eggs. The eggs of a queen are attached at one end to the bottom of the cells, and only one egg is found in a cell at a time. Not so with the worker. I have found as high as seven eggs in a single cell, attached in various ways. It would be useless now to give them a queen or queen cell, the bees would not have it, and the "layers" would destroy either. The remedy is to carry the hive some distance from the stand, remove the frames, one at a time, and brush away all bees. Have a box at the stand to catch them. When they are treated thus, the worker-layers, not being out of the hive for so long, are lost. You may now introduce a queen by taking a wing-clip without top, press the edges of it into the comb over some honey, so the queen may have food. The bees will cut under the cage and liberate her. Queens may be introduced by dropping honey on them and putting them in the hives. The bees will forget the strangers and go to licking the honey.—Even E. Edwards in Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

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