Stock.

Hints for Young Horsemen.

In the following hints almost any man can see himself at some time in life. No man is so old that he may not benefit by a reminder. No boy is so young, if old enough to read them, that he may not comprehend them and in many ways benefit by them in after life. The hints are by a correspondent of the Cultivator and are as follows:

Never pass behind a horse in the stable or put your hand upon him at the stall, without first speaking to him. You may save life and limb by bearing this in mind. Be kind in word and manner to all horses. Do not tempt them with sugar or tobacco. Some men forget that the horse's mouth is tender, and that to place a lump of sugar or a piece of tobacco upon his mouth, or wrapping a button or newspaper about one or both ears. In studying to know what it means, he soon forgets his notion of stopping and at the prompt, decided, but not angry, voice of his master, he moves along. In case of any accident, do not shout or appear frightened; your excitement will at once be communicated to the horse. Instead, you should pacify and reassure him with firm tones.

Form a habit of examining all over your horse and harness before starting from the door. It may save life. In the winter be sure and have the lots covered with dirt or leathers. On the road you may go pretty fast on level ground, if you are a good driver, but never hurry up hill, never do so with a load; short pulls and rests by "tugging the wheels" will prolong the service of your horse.

Never feed a horse on musty hay; it may do for cows and oxen, but often brings fatal lung diseases upon horses. Hay that is dusty from ordinary road dust blown over it in dry time should be well shaken and sprinkled before fed to horses.

Do not feed a horse when his blood is heated; give him a moderate drink of water, and let him cool off gradually, and then do not over-feed. Many a horse has been killed by not observing this injunction. Feed well when your horse is working hard, but give more grain than hay. If he is having a vacation of several days or weeks, cut his feed down from a quarter to one-half. Rake up plenty of oak leaves for bedding if you have not straw; give your horse a good bed, but do not have sticks, pebbles or frozen manure among it; lying down on such, the horse rises, and "paws" away his bedding, and thus learns a bad trick.

Curing a Balky Horse.

There are various ways of overcoming a balky habit in a horse. The following method, said to have been successful, may not be often practicable, but it is suggestive, and we recommend it to the thoughtful readers of the Prairie Farmer. All who have handled horses know that they are susceptible to a feeling of lonesomeness. One Leominster farmer took advantage of this thus: He drove him, attached to a rack wagon, to the grove for a small load of wood. The animal would not pull a pound. He did not beat him with a club, but tied him to a tree and let him stand. He went to the lot at noon and tried to draw him but he would not straighten a tug. "I made up my mind," said the farmer, "when that horse went to the barn he should take that load of wood. The night was not cold. I went to the barn, got a blanket and covered the horse warm, and he stood still till morning. Then he refused to draw. At noon I went down and he was probably hungry and lonesome. He drew the load of wood first time I asked him. I returned and got another load before I fed him. I then rewarded him with a good dinner which he eagerly devoured. I have drawn several loads since. Once he refused to draw, but as soon as he saw me start for the house he started after me with the load. A horse becomes lonesome and discontented when left alone, as much so as a person, and I claim this method, if rightly used, is far less cruel and is better both for horse and man than to beat the animal with a club."

Early Matured Beef.

All intelligent feeders know, from actual experiments, that the younger an animal is, the less food it takes to produce a pound growth in live weight; and they know that the amount of food increases regularly with the age of the animal. When the animal is full fed, it requires less food to put on a pound live weight the first six months than for the second six months, and less the second than the third, and so on; and the reason is, that the food support constantly increases with age. Our fat-stock shows in this city have now proved, most conclusively, under cost of production, that the animal eighteen months old costs less than half as much per pound as the one thirty-six months old. Early matured beef is becoming more and more popular every year. Three and four-year-old cattle will seldom be seen in market ten years from now, unless from the unfenced range. The lessons of the Fat-Stock-Show will be heeded, and very soon the old-style feeders will be compelled to change their system of alternate feeding and starving, or they will be obliged to quit the business of feeding. Feeding is now becoming an art requiring expert knowledge of foods and their combination, and this knowledge cannot be disregarded without certain loss.—Live Stock Journal, Chicago.

Castration.

The effect of castration, in moderating the action as a modifier of the character is so well known and admitted, that no further consideration is needful, but what depends it exists upon conditions which are not equally well understood.

Many persons advocate the operation for colts of five to nine months old, some longer and others sooner, some one year, while others prefer the age of two years. It is not wise, however, to fix the period by a prescribed rule, for the results of castration may be modified by the age of the animal upon which it is performed. For my purpose, that of a farm horse operated upon early in life conduces to increased growth of body and of those parts of the frame which are of native more extensively developed in the mare than in the entire horse. The inference to be drawn from a knowledge of this result is that the time selected for the operation should be subordinate to the physical features of the colt. If possessing a flat or grand forehead, and comparatively mean hindquarters, castration cannot be performed too early; if, on the other hand, there is ample development of the rear associated with an imperfect forehead, the colt will profit by a postponement of the operation until he is two years old.—Rural Home on Draught Horses.

The poor old horse deserves the sympathy of every one. No other animal on the farm is so badly treated. Perhaps it is because other animals are valued for their flesh and in order to make the flesh palatable a little human treatment and good feeding is necessary, and that, too, before they get too old. The horse generally, though not always, escapes killing, and that is about the only evil he does escape. As long as he can go he must draw his side of the plow or wagon by the side of whatever young and vigorous horse he may be placed, just as when he was young and able to do it. If in his age he gets stiff in the joints and rheumatism bothers him, poor old fellow, he cannot tell of his sufferings; and if he lags a little he is often belabored and made to "move on." If there is an ill-fitting collar or old harness, the old horse's skin is tough and he must wear them. It would never do to put them on the young horse, for he must be kept in nice trim for more fashionable occasions. Finally he is bartered off to some hard horse-master who never gets beyond the ownership of an old plug, and who, by instinct and training, is no better than, if as good as the horse himself. Often killing would be a relief to the old horse, but even in this he has no choice. Now, this is not the only nor the worst phase of the subject. But we actually make him an old horse before he really should have more than attained his prime. If a horse is properly raised, worked, fed and sheltered, he should be without a blemish and able to work without fatigue at 20 years old, and when no longer able to work his sufferings need be very little. We put in our plea for the horse first, and finally for the old horse, the servant of the family, that gets only what he can eat and drink at best and that is often denied reasonable shelter to keep him comfortable.

Never run after a horse in the pasture. He does not like to be caught, feed him a little grain in a pail, but never deceive him with an empty dish. You can soon teach the wildest horse to come to you; when he does come let him eat a little while before you lead him off. When you "turn a horse out to pasture," do not give him a slap with the bridle, he will remember it to your regret if you do. Make a pet and a friend of your horse; it will improve him, and make a better person of yourself. If you can't afford to feed high, give good air to your horse. Nature has provided enough of this for both of you, and transports it free; do not rob him of his share, for it "will not enrich you, but make him poor indeed." Therefore keep open a window, where heaven may send a fresh supply to him.

Recovered His Ring

Carter Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, and Democratic nominee for Governor of Illinois, was in this country last fall, and while waiting opposite Ainsworth for the transfer boat, he took a swim in the river, having on his diamond ring. He felt something against his finger, but supposed it was a fish, and not until he got out from his swim did he discover that his diamond ring was gone. He offered a reward of $50 for its recovery and some men searched for it at the time, but it could not be found. He left the reward standing and told an engineer just where he thought it had slipped off, and left never expecting to see it again, but to his surprise a few days after his return it was forwarded to him by express. The engineer had tied a boat to a rock and allowed it to float gently down stream while he looked over into the water, and finally saw it glistening between the rocks. He dived for it and succeeded in recovering it.

The Apiary.

BEE NOTES.

There was held an international convention of Bee Keepers at South Kensington, London, England, August 7, of this year.

It is stated that W. P. Gonn, of the Austin, Texas, sale-man is going into the bee business on a big scale. He talks of running not a thousand but ten of Mating Boxes.

Here is the opinion of the Apiary Department of the Texas Farmer and Ranch on bee keepers conventions in connection with fairs: "Bee keepers need association—and Texas bee keepers need one to begin with. We ought to have a good district association here and hold the annual meetings at the fair so that bee keepers could hold their convention and the fair also. Bee keepers in Travis county—how many of you are in favor of this? Send in names and addresses to this office."

Mr Dunsmore and Dr Golden of Salem, have been tracing the flight of bees, and recently discovered that they fly eight miles and back besides unloading in thirteen minutes, allowing him five minutes to unload would leave his flying time just eight minutes or two miles per minute. Mr Dunsmore says he has made the test several times and two miles per minute is about their average time. He says the bees very frequently gather honey twelve and fifteen miles from home, and he knows of one case where they visited a buckwheat field twenty-two miles from home.

A Farmer's Bee Hive.

We clip the following from the Cincinnati Grange Bulletin, which comes from a Tennessee correspondent of that paper. The hive recommended is not such a one as we would recommend as we think its place in history rightly belongs to the first quarter of the present century, if indeed that is not too late a period for it. Nevertheless, it is preferable to a hollow log, the old "bee gum" of the fathers, as it is cheaper and better. Besides, there are some good people who do not take kindly to "new-fangled fixins," (patented or unpatented), who may desire to make a step forward without compromising their consciences or their consistency, and who, perchance may lay hold on this, and learn a lesson in beekeeping as well. The correspondent says:

A hive has been long in use here which for convenience and real worth has few superiors. It is used either with or without movable frames. It is simply a box fourteen inches square, except the bottom, which is cut so as to be an inclined plane, with three inches fall from back to front. The bottom piece is cut so as to extend out six inches in front of the hive. This forms the front leg or rest and also a lighting board, while it is supported at each rear corner by a leg nailed so as to extend down to a level with the front rest. The entrance is left open clear across the front, which can be closed as much as is desired by two pieces of triangular board. When used for frames, eight are used, the spaces being twelve inches inside. The frame is three inches longer in the front than back, the front of the hive being sixteen inches and the back thirteen. Give ample room for the bees to store their comb for supplies and also for brood.

If the hive is used without frames the colony is not disturbed the first season, all of which time will be required for getting them well established.

The second season a cap is placed on about six inches deep and the size of the hive otherwise, which the bees will fill by the 15th of June. The openings in the top of the hive are made with an inch bit, four holes being sufficient. It has been found that bees will resist their enemies better in this incline bottom than any other. The writer has hives twelve years old in which the bees have bred from year to year, making plenty of good surplus honey, and the present season they appear as vigorous as the newer ones.

Another advantage is, it is self-cleaning. The bees in leaving the hive will carry out the droppings by simple friction, as it will roll down hill, and thus the hive is always clean.

Next it is compact, and in shape easily taken up and removed from place to place.

I have found it as convenient for extracting as the Langstroth, and all things considered think it the best hive for the multitude. Try it and fear no patent suits.

Bee Thoughts.

There seems scarcely a limit to the increase of bees where feed is plenty. They go with civilization and like Greeley, they seem to favor going West. Whether this is a rule with them in all parts of the country we cannot say. A man who does field work told us recently that during the summer four swarms had passed over his head, two of them so low that he stooped to avoid contact with them. All of these were going West, or a little south of West. Probably it was because tall timber lay in that direction.

There is a bee tree within ten miles of St. Louis, on the farm of a widow lady who protects the tree from the woodman's axe and the bees from all interference. When the bees get ready to swarm they go where they like with her approval, and no one saws them nay. For twenty years, we are told, they have thus enjoyed their bee rights.

While bees seem inclined to move West they love an early peep at the rising sun and always select a tree as the place of their abode which has an eastern entrance. They are early risers. We make a practice of going to the apiary as the first step of the morning's work. In midsummer, when honey abounds, we generally find some bees coming out and frequently some coming home when it is yet before the sun rises. A man may know a great deal about bees but he will still have a great deal to learn about them. With all their system they are a mystery. They gather honey all day and in busy season build comb at night. When do the fellows rest? That they worry from labor is certain. We have seen them drop exhausted in front of the hive, and not until a moment's breathing spell was taken could they rise again to enter the hive with their heavy loads. Why should they work so hard for food for others to enjoy? Few if any of these hatched out in spring and early summer live to see the smoke of winter.

Do Bees Puncture Grapes.

This old question was discussed as follows at the May meeting of the Orchard Farmer's Club:

Dr Lesser did not believe that bees generally, will cut the skin of grapes, but under certain conditions he knows they will. He has spent much time watching with glass in hand and finds that his grapes are preyed upon by his neighbors' bees. He considers the village bee as big a nuisance as the village cow. Around Oxford and in the village there are hundreds of hives of bees. This being the home of Mr Langstroth, he has imbuded his friends with a love of beekeeping, so that there are amateur beekeepers by the score. The result is, there are more bees than there is pasture for in the fall of the year, where we have few fall-blooming plants. In the North, where golden rod and such other fall bloomers afford pasture, and where grapes do not ripen so freely, the bees do not resort to the grapes food for and stores. The conditions about Oxford, are peculiarly urgent for the busy bee to improve every chance for making a living. The keepers of village cows do not provide pastures, so the hungry brutes become expert in opening gates and hunting forage. The bees in the village are unprovided for by their owners, and the enterprising little fellows trespass on the grapes and pears of the neighbors. Mrs Homer said General Cary keeps bees and also makes grapes a specialty, and he says bees do not cut grape skins, but it is done by a bird.

Dr Lesser replies: yes, it is the old story, "My dog don't kill sheep," but he has seen the bees cut the skin of grapes and it is absurd to say they cannot do it when they cut paper, cloth, and even a board with their mandibles. If beekeepers would keep pastures of buckwheat, golden rod and the like, the bees would not harm grapes. Necessity leads all animals and insects to do their utmost to sustain life. The bee will rob and cut grapes rather than starve.

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