

Stock.

HOE E TALK.

Training Young Horses.

With young horses, says John Russell, I don't think there is a better plan for breaking them,—although I think that that is rather a bad word,—than to put them at work upon the plow. I don't believe that there is any way in which the horse's temper can be better developed than by putting on the plow when he is about three years old and teaching him how to be patient of the obstacles that have to be met in that work. That is the way that I train my colts, and they know how to step into the furrow or out of it when they are told, and they recognize "Haw" and "Gee."

Nervous Horses.

Finely bred horses are very often nervous. They are quick to notice, quick to take alarm, quick to do what seems to them, in moments of sudden terror, necessary to escape from possible harm from something they do not understand. That is what makes them shy, bolt, and run away. We cannot tell what awful suggestions strange things offer to their minds. For ought we can tell, a sheet of white paper in the road may seem to the nervous horse a yawning chasm, the open front of a baby carriage the jaws of a dragon ready to devour him, and a man on a bicycle something terrifying sort of a flying devil without wings. But we find that the moment he becomes familiar with those things or any others that fright him, and knows what they are, he grows indifferent to them. Therefore, when your horse shies at anything, make him acquainted with it; let him smell it, touch it with his sensitive upper lip, and look closely at it. Remember, too, that you must familiarize both sides of him with the dreaded object. If he only examines it with the near nostril and eye, he will be very likely to scare at it when it appears on his off side. So then rattle your paper, beat your bass drum, flutter your umbrella, run your baby carriages and your bicycle, fire your pistol, and clatter your tinware on both sides of him and all around him until he comes to regard the noise simply as a nuisance and the material objects as only trivial things liable to get hurt if they are in his way. He may not learn all that in one lesson, but continue the lessons and you will cure all his nervousness.

Care of Harness.

Harnesses need washing, quite as much as they do oiling, for the dust that is continually settling upon them absorbs the oil that is in them, and thus dries the leather so it will crack, letting the water in every time it is out in a rain. Harness should be frequently taken apart and thoroughly washed, and when nearly dry thoroughly rubbed with a cloth that has been dipped in neat's-foot oil that has been mixed with a very small quantity of lamp-black. No more oil should be put on than will readily dry in, so that when rubbed with a dry cloth the harness will be perfectly clean to handle. Carriage harnesses are not neglected so much as work harnesses; but even these very rarely receive the attention that they ought to, for a harness that is properly cared for will last more than twice as long as a harness that is neglected. There are some kinds of harness soaps that are excellent to wash a harness with, which if properly used, will not only keep a harness looking well, but will keep the leather in very good condition without oiling more than once or twice a year. Good harnesses should never be kept where all of the dust of the barn will settle on them, but they should be kept in tight closets where they will be free from dust.—Massachusetts Plowman.

Use of Blinders.

The custom of putting blinds on horses indiscriminately, is a great error. Carriage horses look well in show head-

gear, and handsome blinds are a great improvement to the style and general appearance of real, well set-up carriage horses. But for buggy, cart, stage, wagon, truck, and general travel, they are wholly unnecessary, and as regards safety, they are a detriment rather than an advantage. What do surface-car horses want with blinds? Horses, like ourselves, want to see where they are going, and the horse that shies, proves that he wants to keep out of danger, by the very fact of his shyness. We must consider that a horse leading an artificial life, like ourselves, walking in the dark in a strange place, doesn't see what is around him if he has blinds on, and is therefore naturally timid and careful. If a horse is too careful, and takes too wide a circuit in shying, it is with the best intention from his instincts. But because he does it a little too much, and more than his driver sees necessary, he should not be abused, but spoken to softly and kindly, and thus encouraged, for he means no wrong. The stupid lunkhead will go so close to a hole that one wheel will fall into it, while the horse of intelligence, will keep well away from it, but not having studied geometry, he does not know the exact length of the axles, and the distance necessary to keep from the danger. Man himself doesn't keep away from danger at all times, though he has the advantage of sense and reason supplied him.

Unthreshed Oats for Horses.

Unthreshed oats, says the Agriculturist, are a better feed for horses than the grain alone, or the grain and straw both fed, but separately. The albuminoid ratio of the grain of oats is 1.61; of the straw or oats, 1.299. The food for horses at ordinary work should have an albuminoid ratio of 1.70. Hence, the grain of oats should be mixed with food having a lower albuminoid ratio. We might get a ration—having the proper ration—by using corn with oats. But it is well-known that for grain to be well digested it must be eaten with some sort of stover to form the necessary bulk in the stomach. For stover we might use timothy, which has an albuminoid ratio of 1.81, and would give the necessary bulk. But it is much better to have the grain and stover eaten together. We may cut the hay, mix it and the grain together, and moisten the mixture; but we accomplish the same thing more economically by unthreshed oats, for then the grain, all the chaff and a good part of the straw are masticated together. By thus feeding oats we not only improve the albuminoid ratio of the ration and provide the necessary forage masticated with the grain, but we save the expenses of threshing. Oats to be fed in this way should be cut before they are quite ripe, cured thoroughly, and then moved away. They are just the feed for winter, when the horses require carbohydrates; and because of their manner of feeding are so well digested, and are so well suited to the wants of the horse that he will do a great deal better upon them than he would upon almost any other feed.

You can easily stop a horse or cow from jumping fences when out at pasture, in this way: Put a strap, with a ring on it, around the near foreleg, above the knee, and a sure-iron or belt, with a ring around the body. Then, by a short strap or piece of rope, attach the two rings so as to make a harmless yet perfectly effective hobble. Halter pulling in the stall may be effectually and easily broken. Put a slip-noosed rope around the body, lead the end of it between the animal's forelegs, up through the halter, and make it fast to the manger. Then go up in the loft and throw down a lot of clattering tin-pans into the manger. When the horse jumps back the rope will catch him and bring him forward. It will not be long before you cannot make him jump back. To cure a horse of stamping in the stall, hang a bit of wood, only a moderately heavy peg four or five inches long, by a string say seven inches long, from a strap above his knee on each fore leg so that it will whack lightly against his shin and call his attention to it every stamp, and he will stop stamping rather than be annoyed by it. A piece of stout elastic fastened about the hind leg will stop him kicking in the stall. Some stablemen cure stall-kickers by hanging loosely a piece of barbed fence wire, or even a rope across the stall behind them.

To Keep Hogs Well.

All sickness in hogs comes from a diseased or disordered stomach. A hog never gets sick if its bowels are in good condition. This should always be kept in view in feeding, and a heating or constipating diet like corn should be judiciously mixed or varied with food of a different character. Pumpkins are excellent for this purpose. Their effect on the bowels and general health of hogs is highly beneficial.

Poultry.

POULTRY NOTES.

A setting hen with scaly legs will generally give the disease to her chicks. For lice apply kerosene to the roosts. Be sure to get it upon all the perches. It is a sovereign remedy. It soon drives the vermin from the fowls. But it must be frequently repeated.

For the best egg production in heavy fowls oats are a good summer food. They give bulk, while the nutriment they contain is of the kind which goes to make eggs rather than fat.

Throwing meal dough, mashed potatoes or any other moist food on the ground where the feet of the fowls can trample it is not economy. Enough is saved in a little while to pay for a trough and trouble to make it.

The dust bath is to the fowl what the washbowl is to the individual. With the dust bath the hen cleanses her body. She uses it also for exercise. When a hen is incubating she comes off as regularly to dust herself as she does to feed, instinct teaching her that it is the best of methods for ridding herself of lice.

Rats are more destructive to chickens than any other animal, as they burrow under the edges of coops, dig through into underpinnings unless they are solidly built, and almost crawl through keyholes in their search for their downy prey. Some modern chicken-coops are not only made rodent proof but they have a trap attached which gobbles all spike-tailed marauders that come sniffing around after plunder.

Once in a while a granger finds a double egg in a hen's nest, and with eyes bulking out nearly as big as the egg, he rushes off to the nearest newspaper office to get an item. The laying of such an egg does not imply any particular merit on the part of the hen and the compression of two day's work into one may do her serious harm without increasing her owner's profit. Many a hen has been ruined by the bursting in the oviduct, double eggs being more liable to cause such a disaster than single ones. When you have a hen that naturally lays large eggs and plenty of them, encourage her all you can—even with a puff in the local newspaper, but do not urge her on to possible suicide by turning out double eggs.

Foul water, damp weather, and poor and insufficient food causes "gapes," says the Indiana Farmer. Put the chicks in dry quarters and give them good food in variety, and pure water, frequently changed. Put a small piece of camphor and a few drops of turpentine in the water, or mix with the food.

A young turkey is the most delicate of all young domestic animals, and its future existence depends upon the attention it gets during the first few weeks of its life. It will not eat anything until it is twenty-four hours old; then for the first few days feed them with hard boiled eggs rubbed up in bread crumbs (bread of corn meal and water), with a little black pepper sprinkled over it; feed at least three times a day, using a little pepper, and keep a shallow dish of water by.

Eggs by Weight.

It is annoying to the breeder of blooded and fine fowls to find, when he offers for sale eggs nearly twice as large as his neighbors, that they bring no more per dozen than the smaller ones. Also, the consumer is often vexed to find that he must pay the same price today for a dozen eggs weighing a pound that he yesterday paid for a dozen weighing a pound and a half. Besides, an egg from a well-fed fowl is heavier and richer than one from a common fowl that is only half fed, so that weight compared to size is an indication of richness. Thus, eggs of which eight will weigh a pound, are better and richer than those of apparently the same size, of which ten are required for a pound. Of course, with eggs at four and five cents a dozen (and hundreds of dozens have been sold in past years at these figures), it is not much matter as to the size; but when the price ranges from twenty-five to fifty cents per dozen, it is a matter worth looking after. It is high time that this old style of selling and buying eggs were discontinued. It is a relic of the past, and reminds us of the time when dressed hogs sold for a dollar each, without regard to size, and were dull sale. Insist upon it, then, you who raise poultry and eggs for market, that the price for eggs shall be so much per pound, and then it will be some inducement to farmers to raise a better class of fowls, and all will get what is their just due.—American Rural Home.

A Great Conflagration

That sweeps away a whole city, starts from a flame so small that a glass of water would extinguish it. In like manner, the most painful and fatal maladies of the throat and lungs ordinarily develop from small beginnings, not difficult of cure if promptly treated with the proper remedy. But their progress is insidious and delay may be fatal. Colds and coughs lead to Laryngitis, Asthma, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Consumption. The only medicine certain to cure every bronchial and pulmonary affection not absolutely incurable is

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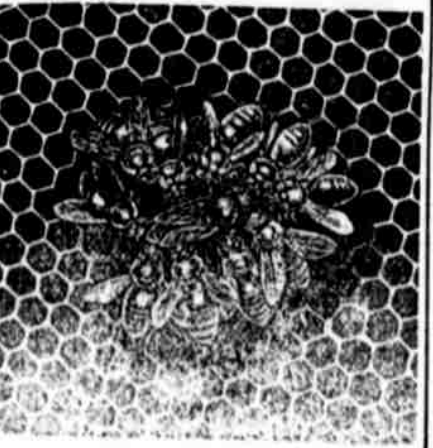
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