

The Farm.

Improved System in Farm Practice.

There is good sense in the following words of Colonel Horace Copron, head of Agricultural Department at Washington. He says:

"Hitherto this country has been characterized by random farming for immediate results, with no reference to future advantages and no persistent following of any prescribed course.

It has been a speculative business, with a constant endeavor to overreach the soil, even at the risk of bankruptcy. Cotton, wool, hops, and other products have been periodically or locally the innocent causes of unnatural excitement, and it may be long ere cool reason shall hold sway among our husbandmen; but there are evidences of more stable views, and more systematic practices are beginning to prevail.

In the central settlements of the West, farm animals, the basis of systematic farming, are held in higher esteem than formerly, and a preparation at least is made for some simple rotation of crops.

More stability exists, under adversity, as in case of wool-growers, many of whom, far-seeing and wise, are confident of future profit in the midst of present discouragement.

There is a disposition in the South to produce their own bread and meat, and hold their cotton as a surplus, bearing a better price when the quantity does not suffice to glut the market.

These and many other signs of thoughtfulness and growing wisdom are apparent."

Sheep Skin Mats.

The following is for two skins and if the directions are faithfully followed, will make something nice:

Make strong soapsuds, using hot water, and let it stand till cold, then wash the skins with it, carefully squeezing out all the dirt from among the wool; then wash them in cold water till all the soap is out.

Next dissolve half a pound each of salt and alum in a little hot water, and put into a tub of cold water sufficient to cover the skins, and let them soak twelve hours; then hang over a pole to drain.

When well drained, stretch several times while drying. Before they get entirely dry, sprinkle on the flesh side once each of finely pulverized alum and saltpetre, rubbing it in well; then lay the flesh sides together and hang in the shade for two or three days, turning them over every day till perfectly dry.

Finish by scraping the flesh side with a blunt knife to remove any remaining scraps of flesh, and then rub the flesh side with pumice or rotten stone and tallow.

Very beautiful mittens can be made of lamb skins tanned as above.—P. S. Bantons, Pa.—Chaut. Farmer.

The Treatment of Sick Animals.

The crying evil of the agriculturists of this country is, that we have no good system of veterinary instruction. Except in large cities, and, indeed, in most of those, it is impossible to find a well educated veterinary surgeon. Through out the whole length and breadth of the land, our poor dumb brutes, condemned to suffer from diseases generally brought about by our carelessness or neglect, are obliged to bear the still greater suffering of the barbarous treatment of ignorant and unfeeling men.

Almost nothing of the organization of the profession, and the knowledge of the habits of the animals, as a natural consequence, violent purgings, frightful blood letting, blisters and firings, are applied without thought and without reason, entailing untold agony to the animal, and generally much loss to its owner. Of course, when an animal is sick, any farmer who is ignorant of what should be done ought to secure the best advice within his reach. But he

should always retain so much control over the treatment as to avoid a resort to barbarous remedies, unless the unskilled practitioner can convince him that there is good reason for it; for a general rule, an animal left to the unguided curative processes of nature would come better out of its troubles than if subjected to the operation of brutal means for the restoration of its health. With animals, as with men there is far too much medicine giving, blistering, and bleeding; and probably more are killed or permanently injured by these practices than are cured by them. Of course, in some desperate cases, they are necessary, but they should always be resorted to with caution, and with much hesitation. In all minor diseases, which result almost invariably from bad air, bad food, and neglect, the wisest treatment is the removal of the cause and the restoration of those simple, natural conditions upon which the return, no less than the maintenance, of health is based. The purging ball may often be with advantage supplanted by a laxative diet, bleed- ing almost invariably by such a diet and by pure air. Warm clothing and thorough grooming will usually do the work of the blister, and do it much better. In all cases of strains, bruises, and wounds, water is an almost sovereign remedy; and in nine-tenths of the cases, in which it is thought necessary to send for the local cow doctor or horse doctor the simple treatment above indicated will be found not only cheaper, but far better in its application and in its effect.

American Agriculturist.

Two gentlemen, noted for their fondness for exaggeration, were stating how they fared at their different hotels. One observed that at his hotel he had tea so strong it was necessary to confine it in an iron vessel. "At mine," said the other, "it is made so weak it has not strength to run out of the teapot."

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