



AGRICULTURAL.

Bots.

The so-called bots is the larval state of the common gnat, which attacks the horse while grazing late in the summer, its object being not to derive sustenance, but to deposit its eggs on the coat, and this is accomplished by a glutinous material causing the ova to adhere to the hairs. The parts of the animal selected are chiefly those of the shoulder, neck, and inner-parts of the fore legs, especially about the knees, for in these situations the horse will have no difficulty in reaching the ova with his tongue. When, from any cause, the animal licks those parts of the coat where the eggs have been placed, the moisture of the tongue, aided by warmth, hatches the ova. As larvae, they are next transferred to the mouth, and ultimately to the stomach of the horse, along with food and drink. It has been calculated that out of the many hundreds of eggs deposited on a single horse, scarcely one out of fifty of their eggs containing larvae arrive within the stomach. Notwithstanding this waste, we are, all of us, familiar with the circumstance that the horse's stomach may contain hundreds of these larvae, in the condition of bots. Whether few or many, they are retained in this singular abode chiefly by means of two cephalic hooks, which are inserted into the cuticular membrane. As soon as the bots have attained their perfect growth, as such they voluntarily loosen their hold and allow themselves to be carried along the alimentary canal, until, at length, they make their escape with the feces. When once transferred to the soil, they bury themselves beneath the surface, in order to undergo the change whereby they are transformed from the bot state into the pupa condition, and, after a period of six or seven weeks, they finally emerge from their pupal envelope or cocoon, in the active life phase of the perfect dipterous insect known as the gnat. It thus appears that these creatures, in the form of bots, ordinarily pass about eight months of their lifetime in the digestive organs of the horse. Unlike other parasites, they seem to do little or no harm, on account of the insensible nature of the part of the stomach to which they are attached, and moreover, their presence is seldom discovered until the season of their migration, when interference is unavailing. No treatment avails in effecting the removal of the bots from a horse's stomach before the natural period for their exit.—Willis' Spirit.

When to Plant.

Perhaps I had better begin by telling my readers when not to plant—viz: when there is little or no root-action, as in midwinter; secondly, when evaporation is excessive, as at midsummer, unless means can be found to check evaporation till such time as the wounded roots are healed sufficiently to absorb an ample supply of moisture. If I were obliged to choose between these two extremes I should certainly for most plants prefer operating at midsummer; for then, if the work is carefully and quickly done on a day when the atmosphere is not deficient in moisture, root-action recommences in a few hours, I think I might say minutes, and our suspense is very short indeed, for then if a blank should occur we can for certain fill it up in October. Those who have not been obliged by circumstances to try midsummer planting would be astonished to see the amount of torture a healthy plant will bear at that time. When making new walks, &c., in ornamental grounds I have had good-sized trees out of the ground two or three weeks during June or July with merely a bit of grass wrapped around their roots, and they suffered very little from it; of course they had good balls and they were well planted. If there are young, immature growths they should be cut back when this can be done without disfigurement. Another plan is to check evaporation by syringing whitening water, or even dirty water, over the foliage. Whitening is best as it reflects the sun's rays. I have no faith whatever in syringing outdoor plants with clear water in hot weather, unless it is for the purpose of knocking off insects, and these can be kept off easier, better, and with less injury to the trees in other ways. My own way is to syringe all subject to insect attacks with soft-soap water, about two ounces to the gallon, once or twice during the season. Let those who wish to be fashionable use the patent compounds; I am content to be old-fashioned and use soft-soap, which is unpalatable to every insect with which a

gardener is tormented, including mealy-bug. I have had several battles with this detested enemy, but so far, thanks to soft-soap and my own clear eyesight (I would not trust any other pair of eyes besides my own), I have been able to kill the animal without materially injuring the vegetable life. Soft-soap will also kill mildew on peach trees much more speedily than sulphur will. The mildew on roses is harder to kill, but even it will succumb to a tolerably strong dose. It should be applied in the evening after the sun is off the plants.

But my text is "When to plant," and I have not yet said anything about it. Well, the time to plant is as soon as the leaf-growth is fairly matured in autumn, and before the roots have ceased to grow, while the ground is warm and sweet and in a fit state to be properly worked.

Last September I planted over half a mile of ornamental box-edging; it took less than a third of the time it would take to do it in winter or early spring, because the weather was good, the day not too short and the soil worked beautifully. My man said: "Narra good to plant you now, measter, the root all have it out," but, however, with a little forcible persuasion, it was planted; and the surface of the ground close to the box was kept loosened instead of remaining firm as it was made up; consequently the frost, of which we had rather more than a sufficiency, did it no injury, and when examined in the spring it had roots two inches long, and the top commenced growth as early as that which had not been shifted. Many people are afraid to move fruit trees before the leaves have fallen; this is quite a mistake. It is best for the growths to be matured, but immature growths can always be cut off, and if the leaves are so numerous as to cause excessive evaporation, and consequent shriveling of the bark, it is a good plan to thin with the scissors, but not too much, for the more leaves a plant will bear without shriveling the quicker will root-action commence.

It does not injure a tree a tenth part as much to move it before its leaves are fallen as it does to move it in the spring when its buds are beginning imperceptibly to swell, and its circulation, owing to the absence of vigorous root-action, is sluggish. I moved many fruit trees last October, including pears of a good size on the pear stock, and they can hardly be distinguished now. Such is never the case with spring-planted trees in the first season, and very often they do not recover at all.

Another reason for amateurs planting early is that the nurserymen cannot plant till amateurs have finished, and consequently the later we defer our planting the less likely are we in future to obtain healthy young trees from the vendors.—Cor. N. Y. World.

How to buy a Horse.

"Be sure the horse you purchase has symmetry, viz: is well proportioned throughout. Never purchase a horse because he has a splendid development of one part of his organization, if he be lacking in any other. Above all, keep well in mind what you are buying for, and buy the horse best adapted to the work you will require of him; and when such an animal is yours be content. Never jockey. An occasional exchange may be allowed; but this daily 'wapping' of horses advertises a man's incompetency for anything higher. Another caution is this: Never purchase a horse until you have seen him move, and under the same conditions to which he will be exposed in the service you will expect of him. If for a draft, see him draw, back, and turn round in both directions; if for the road, see how he handles himself, not merely on level ground, but going up sharp declivities, and above all, in descending them. In this way you will ascertain the faults or excellencies of both his temper and structure. In these exercises drive him yourself. The reins in a skillful hand, aided by the whip or mouth, can be made to conceal grave defects. Let him move with a loose rein, so that he may take his natural gait, and not his artificial; for, by so doing, you will detect any mistakes of judgment you may have made when looking him over in a state of inactivity. Many a time unsoundness will appear in motion, which no inspection of the eye and finger, however close, can ascertain. When you have walked him and jogged him, if he is to serve any other than mere draft purposes, put him to his speed, and keep him at it for a sufficient distance to test his breathing capacity; then pull him up; jump from the wagon, and look at his flanks; inspect his nostrils, and put your ear close to the side of his chest, in order to ascertain if the action of the heart is normal. If this exercise has caused him to perspire freely, all the better for you can then see, when you take him back to the stable, whether he 'dries off' quickly, as all horses do in perfect health.

The Horse Disease—Its Treatment.

This disease, at the present time prevailing in many localities, is nothing more nor less than acute bronchitis. The seat of the disease in its incipient stage is the bronchia, or windpipe. This organ before it enters the lungs divides into two tubes, one of which enters the right portion of the lungs and the other the left portion. These two cartilaginous tubes are termed bronchia. On entering the lungs the bronchia divides into an endless number of smaller tubes, which still divide until they become invisible. The terminations of the bronchial vessels form the air-cells of the lungs. The inside of the bronchial tubes are filled with little, minute glands which secrete a mucous. The bronchia are the seat of the disease diagnosed bronchitis, or an active inflammation of the bronchia. It is the seat of the cough with which the horses are afflicted. The bronchia, being composed of cartilage, like the rest of the windpipe, do not collapse, but remain constantly open; consequently bronchitis is an inflammation of the mucous membrane lining the bronchia, or air passages leading to the lungs, and invariably extending to the latter organs, through the trachea, from the larynx and nasal passages which are primarily affected as in ordinary cold. The membrane, in the early stage of the disease, becomes filled with blood, and, as a general consequence, the diameter of the tubes is diminished, and attended by some difficulty and increased rapidity in breathing. When this affection is not arrested in its incipient stage, a frothy mucus is poured forth from the mucous membrane, which still further interferes with the respiration of the patient, and necessitates a constant cough to get rid of it. These symptoms are always present, but will vary in intensity and rapidly as the disease progresses, from which bronchitis is termed acute and chronic. It begins with premonitory appearances of a severe cold, and in some cases accompanied by a staring coat, and in others an entire loss of appetite. The disease is produced by the very sudden climatic disturbances of the atmosphere, and the animal's exposure to them, and the sudden transitions from one degree to that of the other constitute the cause of this diseased action in the animals. The treatment is simple, and the following prescription will be found efficacious: Give each animal affected a drench composed of the following: Raw linseed oil, 14 ounces; powdered nitre, 2 drachms; calomel, 3 drachms, and tartar emetic, 1 drachm; mix well, and give; repeat the drench on the fifth day, and stop. If the throat is sore and causes distress to the patient in raising his head to give the drench, steam his head in the following manner and by means of a nose bag: Take 4 quarts of bran and 6 ounces of bruised linseed meal, pour boiling water upon these, and, after thoroughly mixing, put the mash in the aose bag and hang it on the patient's head; steam twice a day. Place on top of each mash, not stirring into it, a powder composed of powdered gentian and Jamaica ginger, of each one large tablespoonful; powdered nitre, 2 drachms, and tartar emetic, 3 drachms. This will be all the treatment necessary to totally remove the difficulty.

Founders.

Founder is an inflammation of the parts between the crust, or wall, and the coffin bone, including the laminae, whence the name by which it is now distinguished (lamantia). The common cause for founder is drinking cold water when exhausted or much fatigued by long continued exertion; but excessive exertion alone will, and often does, produce acute founder, and is at all times the predisposing cause of this disease. The treatment should be by first removing the shoes. Next give a mild dose of physic. The feet should be kept constantly wet by tying a piece of felt or flannel around each haster, and allowing it to fall over the hoof, where it is to be constantly wetted with a mixture composed of water, two parts; alcohol, one part. Or let the feet be kept moist by poultices, two parts bran, with one part oil meal. Long rest in a roomy, loose box, the floor covered with tan or sawdust, is necessary to perfect recovery.—Spirit of the times.

Protecting Young Trees from Rabbits.

Of all the plans for the protection of young orchards from rabbits, I find nothing that so well agrees with my own experience and judgment as the following: Mix soft-soap and the flour of sulphur to the consistency of a thick paste, and apply once or twice during the winter with a brush. The other, which is by all means the best, is to take a piece of common building paper, about eighteen inches in height and ten or twelve wide, and bend it loosely around the tree, and tack it with a single tack near the center, and the work is done in the most effective manner. Common building felt will also do. Before putting the paper around the tree, it should be examined for borers. The paper will probably retain its position for two or three years. It will also afford good protection to trees that have been cut out during the fall.—Cor. Rural World.

Household Hints.

Valuable Recipes. GRANDMOTHER'S GINGERBREAD.—Cup and a half of molasses, cup rich sour cream, teaspoon saleratus, tablespoon ginger; mix. WASHING FLANNELS.—Scald flannel before you make it up, as it shrinks in the first washing. Much of the shrinking arises from there being too much soap and the water being too cold. Never use soda for flannels. TO CLEAN MARBLE.—Take two ounces of common soda, one of pumice stone, and one of finely-powdered chalk; sift them through a fine sieve and mix them with water; then rub the mixture well all over the marble and the stains will be removed; now wash the marble over with soap and water, and it will be as clean as it was previous to being stained. Sometimes the marble is stained yellow with iron rust; this can be removed with lemon juice. BOILED CHESTNUTS.—Peel off the shells of the chestnuts with a sharp knife, cover them with water and boil until the skin can be peeled off readily. Peel this off, return them to the water in which they were previously cooked (unless it be very dark), cover close and stew gently until they are very tender, drying the water nearly or quite out. They are much whiter and sweeter if the hard "shucks" are taken off before boiling and they are nicer to handle. Serve warm for breakfast. If, however, this requires too much time, boil them in the shucks until tender, then rinse them thoroughly with boiling water and dry them with a soft cloth. In this case each plate should be provided with a sharp knife.

Sheep on the Farm. Sheep are undervalued by the mass of land holders as a means of keeping up the fertility of the soil, and putting money into the pockets of farmers. The moment one begins to talk of sheep husbandry, the listener or reader begins to look for wool quotations—as if wool was all that yields profit from sheep. One might as well look for wheat quotations alone when there is talk about the profit of farming. Sheep on a farm yield both wool and mutton. They multiply with great rapidity. They are the best of farm scavengers, "cleaning a field" and no other class of animals will. They give back to the farm more in proportion to what they take from it than any other animal, and distribute it better with a view to the future fertility of the soil. Prove this? There is no need of proof to those who have kept sheep, and know their habits and the profit they yield. To prove it to those who have not the experience, it is necessary they should try the experiment or accept the testimony of experienced shepherds. But the livestock of a farm should not, necessarily, be sheep exclusively. Cattle, horses, swine, have their respective places in the farm economy. How many of each to keep is a question that locality, character of markets, adaptation of soil, predisposition, taste and skill of the husbandman must decide.—But one thing ought not to be forgotten, that the more stock a man keeps on his farm, the more grass and grain it ought to, and, if properly managed, it will grow. The data of increase will correspond with the business tact, technical and practical skill of the husbandman.

What has the Grange Done?

From a speech published in one of our exchanges, we make the following extract: "It has caused business to be conducted on a more economical basis, and consequently has cheapened all goods bought for cash. It has brought producer and consumer nearer together. It has inaugurated in public sentiment a revolution in favor of a cash system. It will take years to complete it, but that revolution has commenced and millions have already been saved to the people. It has inspired the whole agricultural world with a spirit of economy. It has already begun to elevate farming as a profession, and has drawn farmers nearer to each other, socially and for business purposes. It has given impetus to intelligent farming everywhere. It has sown seeds that will ripen into a rich harvest of prosperity for the farmers, and consequently for all classes. It has inaugurated a reformation that will not cease until virtue and honesty once bear away where ignorance and corruption hold high carnival. It has put three millions of farmers to thinking. Are not these achievements enough for so short a time?"

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