

THE HERALD.



AGRICULTURAL.

Wind-Sucking, Stump-Sucking and Crib-Biting.

A veterinary contributor of the Chicago Tribune thus answers a correspondent inquiring about what he should do to the horse with the above vices:

Wind-sucking, stump-sucking and crib-biting are essentially the same vice. The only difference consists in the greater proficiency of the wind suckers; for the same are able to swallow air, and to belch it out again, without support for their teeth; while crib-biters can not do it unless they have something—manger, pole of a wagon, neck-yoke, etc.—of which they can take hold with their teeth. Both vices once fully developed are incurable; and horses that have acquired them can be prevented only temporarily from exercising the same.

The most common, and may be the most efficient method of suppressing the exercise of these bad habits, consists in bucking a strap rather tight around the horse's neck, sawing between the horse's teeth or driving a wedge between his nippers, or old horse-jockey tricks, which cause the animal sufficient toothache not only to induce him to neglect his crib-biting exercises, but also to make him refuse his food. Both vices, wind-sucking and crib-biting, are usually the consequence of much idleness, and are acquired almost exclusively by such horses as are naturally very active and possess a nervous temperament. A young horse that commences to make his first exercise may be broken of that bad habit, and be caused to forget it altogether, if he is worked sufficiently every day, and does not occupy the same stable with an old sucker or crib-biter, with whom he can exercise his bad habit.

Wind-sucking and crib-biting, like a great many vices, are somewhat contagious; for it has been repeatedly observed that an old wind-sucker or crib-biter is apt to touch or impart his bad habit to younger horses who stand in the same stable. Still, these habits are not so bad as people generally suppose them to be; they diminish materially the real value of the horse only when the latter makes his crib-biting exercises on the edge or a manger while he is eating his grain, for in that case considerable grain will fall to the ground and be wasted. It is also claimed that wind-suckers are more apt to be affected with wind colic than any other horses. This, however, is a hypothesis without any foundation; but even if it should be true, then the same cause—that is the wind-sucking, which is supposed to induce the wind colic—will make the latter less dangerous; for an accomplished wind-sucker can eruct gas with the same facility with which he swallows air.

Leaders Wanted. There is nothing which the grange movement now needs as much as it does leaders. Thus far there has been a superabundance of talkers, that have served every purpose that such people can serve. Action—prompt action—must now take the place of speculating. And it is important that the Patron should understand accurately the quality of man fitted for directing. We believe the Grangers are ready for action on a great many matters that concern them. Now is the time for the great captains to appear; and, sirs, when you come to examine, you will find that these are exceedingly rare. There is nothing being done. Big meetings are held, and great expectations are raised, but the movement toward the settlement of vital questions are very slow. There is too much time spent in mere palaver and debate—smoke, the greater part of it, with hardly a bit of fire below. Not long ago we heard a manufacturer, who has always given the same terms to the grangers that he has to the middlemen, say that he cannot get the "leading spirits" of the organization to act with even a moderate degree of promptness, on any proposition that is laid before them. We know some of the "leaders" of the grange movement in this State, who, in their way of operating, reminds us not a little of the typical politician. They are down on the electioneering in a word, but, indeed, they practice it all the time themselves. They like to be present at every large grange meeting, in order that they may—those who want to use them for some purpose humor them by saying—"give the advantage of their prestige and personal presence to the cause." All fudge, three-fourths

of the time, is this talk. We know men who plot and plan, in order that they may receive an invitation, and then consider themselves donors, and claim credit accordingly. We repeat—there are a great many weighty questions which must not be trifled with much longer; and we hope and believe when the National Grange meets, which it will shortly, in this city (Louisville), it will set another example worthy of its importance, and worthy the imitation of not a few of the State granges.—Farmers' Home Journal.

Young Man, Stick to it.

There is a deal of regret expressed in speeches, letters to agricultural papers, and in editorials by kind-hearted, well-intentioned editors, that the boys are leaving the farms. No doubt many young men have realized the fact that farm life is no harder than city life. Many have been witnessing enough to return to the farm after testing the realities in a city. But the boys who leave the farm for the city or village follow the example of older men. The number of well-to-do farmers who have realized beautiful homes, reached middle age and have sold their farms, bought village or city lots and settled on them with the view of "taking things easier," is not a small one. These men do so with the same or similar motives with which young men leave the farms, and they are so often disappointed in the results.

We know farmers, both young and old, who have abandoned profitable and beautiful farm homesteads, removed to the village, invested their capital in trade, got pretty thoroughly "cleaned out" in a business in which they had no practical experience, and have bought back their homesteads at an advanced price, running in debt to get possession of them, and working hard and contentedly to pay again for what they once possessed. Some of these men have said to us within the last two months, "a farmer is a fool who sells his farm thinking to have an easier and happier time in a village or city. The effect of such reaction in the case of these examples upon those who stick to the farm is exceedingly wholesome. It renders them content. They have not wasted substance in "pulling up stakes" and removing from "the old landmarks." They have been steadily accumulating as farmers and gathering about their homesteads all the modern appliances for the conservation of comfort and content. The farmer who "sticks to it" is sure to win what city-made money rarely purchases—industry, happiness, and a sense of security which is the result of well-doing.—Rural New Yorker.

Balky Horses.

I once heard of an unfortunate gentleman who had become insane, but was restored to sound health simply by causing the mind to make a sudden revulsion; which was done by skillfully becoming jealous of his wife, who was a most excellent lady and aware of the process. On this hint we might learn to manage a balky horse. He is insane on the subject of going, that is self evident. If we can make him think on another subject, he will naturally forget about going and go before he thinks about it. The following devices have been successfully tried to accomplish the desired end: 1st. Tying a string around the horse's ear close to his head. 2d. Hitching the horse to a swingle-tree by means of a cord instead of the tugs; the cord fastened to the horse's tail. 3d. Filling the mouth full of some disagreeable substance. 4th. Tying a stout twine around the leg just below the knee and then removing it when he has traveled some distance. Never whip a balky horse, for the more he is whipped the crazier he will become. Let everything be done gently, for boisterous words only confuse him and make him worse. Treat him in the mild manner that you would a crazy man, and you will succeed.

Corn Culture.

According to the weight of the whole plant the small Canada and New England corn gives more pounds of grain than our large Southern corn. It also gives more bushels per acre. It will pay to import our seed from the North once in five or six years for all stock feeding purposes. For bread, we prefer the Southern corn. For making first-class corn pay, the Northern varieties, with their smaller stalks have the advantage. One can have drills closer in small than in large corn. This plant makes excellent forage, and more per acre than any other if properly cultivated. One needs very rich land and thick seeding to secure a large crop of hay which is best sold in bales.

Farming on General Principles.

The London Agricultural Gazette, in one of its leading articles, has the following apt remark on this subject: A young farmer cannot learn too early the important lesson that the profit or loss on particular acts of husbandry cannot be determined for him on general principles. He will, indeed do well to remember the advice of a famous physician who, on entering a sick chamber, immediately ordered a blister put on the patient's head. A young doctor, an admirer of the master's skill, asked him what he had seen at a single glance to justify the blister. The reply was that a long lecture would be required to expound his reasons fully, since they were derived from close observations of symptoms during a large experience. He added, in reference to his rapid insight, "The patient's eye had something to do with it, but it was not that alone, so don't go and blister the patient every time you observe such an eye. This is an illustration of the errors which a man who farmed on general principles, with insufficient knowledge of details, would be certain to commit. And we would recommend a course of practical observations in the field by every agricultural student, in order that he may avoid such mistakes.

A great deal in every business depends on striking at the right time. A vast amount of the bungling, unnecessary farming, that we see, springs from the disregard of the simple truth just stated. The careless or ignorant farmer puts off his plowing until it is time for the seed to be put in the ground, and then he starts in a terrible hurry. He don't know which way to run first, and his conduct soon puts everybody about him in the same condition as himself. Downing, the great pomologist, thought this a great motto—*strike the iron while the iron's hot*, taken in a general sense, a better. There are a great many little jobs that ought to be done on every farm right now, but which are apt to be put off until it is too late. Now is a good time to think of the arrangements which will be required to insure the various domestic animals comfort, and a proper support, during the winter. What about such commodities as Irish potatoes? Immense quantities of this excellent tuber are destroyed every year through the unpardonable and sinful carelessness of which farmers are guilty. Anybody who is ignorant of how to take care of his potatoes can find out by writing to any good agricultural paper, or from his neighbor. Let nothing be wasted in any way. A great many of our readers are in the South, where every day we are learning more and more of the great importance of economy: A farmer who loves his business, and who is therefore fitted for it, is not apt to overlook any of his duties. It is the individual who is farming from force of circumstances, rather than from choice, that stands most in need of these words of counsel.—Farmers' Home Journal.

A Positive Disadvantage.

"Marse John, gimme four bits, please s'ir; you ain't treated dis nigger since de war," said Si to the son of his old owner yesterday. "What do you want with it, Si?" queried the young man. "Want to go to de circus, Marse John. You knows how a nigger is." "But Si, fifty cents won't take you in now. The civil rights bill made you as good as a white man at the shows, and you'll have to pay a dollar as I do." "Is dat de truf, Marse John?" "Just as true as preaching." Si scratched his head for a full minute, then looked up with mournful eyes, and said: "Dar it is agin! I tole dem niggers dey was spilin de horn when dey wanted dem civil rights, and hyar's de truf of it pint black! I allus was a mighty up-spoken nigger, ez you knows, Marse John, and 'twixt us I say dam de civil rights, s'peshlly when de circus is around." Si got his four bits but he's mad yet.

Annies Grubb is the daughter of a Chester county farmer, and when she is at the churn she is the Grubb that makes the butter fly.

Hugh Gillings, a Pittsburgh druggist, loved Miss Luffy, but she did not reciprocate. So Hugh got drunk, took a dose of morphine, and fired two pistol balls into his aching stomach. He died. The largest room in the world under a single roof, unbroken by pillars or other obstructions, is at St. Petersburg in Russia; and is 650 feet long and 150 feet wide. It is used for military displays in rough weather, and for a ball-room at night. The evangelist, Henry Varley, is meeting with great success in England.

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