

FARM AND GARDEN.

Norman Horses. I visited several lots that were in stables at Havre for export, and found them to be in many instances the descendants of the original Percheron, which is a horse of great size and endurance...

Many of them are at work in the drays and truck wagons in the French and other cities in Europe, where one of them of good average size and in good condition, will haul with apparent ease twenty-five bales of American cotton...

The pure-blooded "Percheron horse" is a cross between the thoroughbred Arabian and the original "Norman draft horse"; the first is possessed of great fleetness and delicacy of form...

I can say, with positive certainty, having had some experience as a stock-raiser, that these horses, now being largely imported into our western states, if properly bred and the crosses properly made, will do more in the next ten years to give the United States a high order of general purpose horses...

Our importers and dealers are now charging too much for them, but, at all new enterprises of this kind, the prices obtained at first are much larger than when the people have become familiar with the article they deal in.

A good Percheron stallion can be delivered in New York for from one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars, and pay a reasonable profit to the importer, while two are now selling in Illinois from two to three thousand.

I feel confident that there is no part of our stock-raising in America that has been so neglected during the past twenty years as the horse of all work. I think, however, it would be better for our importers to import some Percheron mares as well as stallions...

Without the constant presence of water the production of vegetable substances is an impossibility. The presence or absence of this substance determines almost entirely whether our labors in the field of agriculture shall be crowned with success or prove a failure.

Water exists in three states or conditions, in all of which it has a very important influence on the production of farm crops. These are the solid or frozen state, the liquid state and the gaseous or state of vapor or steam.

One of the simplest and cheapest contrivances for ventilation in winter of which we know is to introduce fresh air through a tin or wooden pipe under the floor, coming up the stove, and extending up beside it and the chimney to the height of six feet.

Shade trees near the house are exceedingly desirable, but they should not be too close to the house nor too thickly planted. Sunlight and fresh air should not be excluded even to secure shade. Thick hanging vines on the walls are also to be avoided.

A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph writes: "During the hot summer months I would feed very little solid feed, such as corn in the ear or uncracked, but I would keep hogs upon green feed constantly, either grass, oats or rye, and feed them at regular intervals, once or twice a day, upon mashed feed, either shorts, chopped oats or rye, buckwheat, etc., fed in troughs.

This writer is on the eve of finding out that the hog requires bulky food as well as the cow or horse. Because pork is usually made by feeding grain, many farmers have almost ceased to regard the hog as a grass-eating animal. When farmers shall study the nature of the pig and feed it accordingly there will be little trouble with cholera, scurvy or other diseases.

When a saturated soil freezes the ice is not formed in all the interstices of the soil where it is held water in a fluid state, but it is drawn together so that the ice is formed in thin plates or scales, thus separating the soil into numberless small divisions or particles, each of which is bound and held to its neighbor particle by a thin film or plate of ice.

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Health and Comfort in House Building.

Among our readers in country and village are many who propose building residences this season. The best advice which can be given in many cases where this is proposed is that a competent architect be employed and that his directions be followed.

On many farms the location of the residence is determined by the water supply. Water is a good thing, but it is coming to be understood that in the wrong place it is a very bad thing. Dry earth is healthful; it absorbs unpleasant odors and bad gases.

Wet earth gives out these things. Many diseases have their cause in malarial vapors arising from stagnant water. Hence the first suggestion we make is that, if the spot selected is not by nature so fixed as to do this, it should be so graded that water will not remain near the house, especially not under it.

Cellars should be well drained and well ventilated, especially if they are to be used for storing vegetables. It is beyond doubt that sickness is frequently caused by the dampness and bad odors arising from cellars. This is so true that there is much force in the suggestion that the cellar should be made outside of the house, at least not under the parts usually occupied.

Ordinarily the house that is warmest in winter is coolest and most comfortable in summer. Where little money can be spent some things which would add to comfort cannot be afforded, but often a saving in the first cost is poor economy, as the increased expenditure in the course of years may far exceed the cost of the thing omitted.

Many intelligent people seem to believe that the purity of the air is determined by its temperature; that cold air is necessarily pure. Almost everybody admits that "fresh air" is desirable in hot weather or in a room which is very hot and air is tolerated, perhaps unnoted, if it is only cool.

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