



SOME DOUBLE CROPS

By M. COVERDELL.



Breaking Done With Stirring of Stubble Plow.

While two crops a season on a piece of ground will bring double profit, there is, of course, a corresponding double amount of vitality sapped from the soil, and the frequent application of a good fertilizer is imperative, lest the ground soon become thin and unproductive.

In the garden one may utilize for second and even third crops the beds in which early peas, beans, radishes and lettuce were grown.

The same is true of the early sweet corn. It is advisable not to plant the same article twice in the same spot in succession, but rotate the products the same as in field rotation of crops.

A well prepared seed bed at each planting is almost essential, and a sprinkling of fine rich manure will prove very beneficial to the growing plants and in maintaining soil fertility.

Sow oats as early as possible in the spring, mow them for hay just a few days in advance of the time they would be reaped for the grain; remove them from the field as soon as they are sufficiently cured, and stack well for future feeding purposes.

Then put as many teams in the field as can be spared. Stir the ground quickly and thoroughly, immediately sowing it to millet.

Usually the millet may be mown and stacked early in September and the field hurriedly cultivated and sown to rye, which will make excellent fall pasturage at a time when it is most needed.

The wheat or rye fields may be utilized in the same manner, and be-

ing somewhat earlier, are better adapted to growing double crops than the oats stubble.

The potato patch may be made to double its profits by sowing it to millet, cane or kafir corn after it has been laid by. Sowing the ground to some other product also yields the beneficial influence of keeping down the weed pests which always bob up after you stop plowing, the potato vines and which, where unmolested, furnish millions of seeds for propagating a rank and troublesome growth of weeds the next season, besides helping to drain the soil of its fertility.

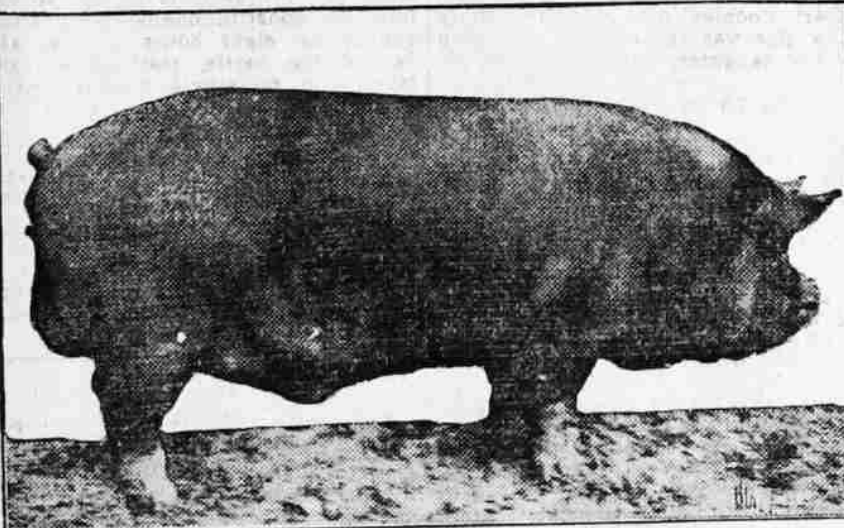
Or if one will dig the potatoes from the early patch they will bring a high price at that season, and the ground may be sown to rape for hog pasture.

Late tomatoes, cabbages and turnips also may be raised among the potato vines as successfully as though they occupied a plot by themselves.

CONVENIENT WAY TO SCALD TOMATOES

It is a common practise to put tomatoes in a vessel of scalding water and leave them until the skins may be removed, then fish them out with a fork. A better practise is to put the fruit in a wire basket, which may be contrived of poultry netting, if nothing else is at hand; suspend the basket in scalding water till the skin will slip on the tomatoes, then remove and immerse in cold water, then the skin may be removed without burning the hands or mashing the fruit.

Common Sense in the Hog Lot



Prize Berkshire Hog.

We do not believe in dosing hogs with medicine except in serious cases. Give plenty of range, clean pens, clean feed, clean water and the hog will as a rule take care of itself.

Beware of the sway-back pig, no matter if all the other points are good.

Any man who persistently breeds his gilts too young will find the quality of his breed steadily deteriorating.

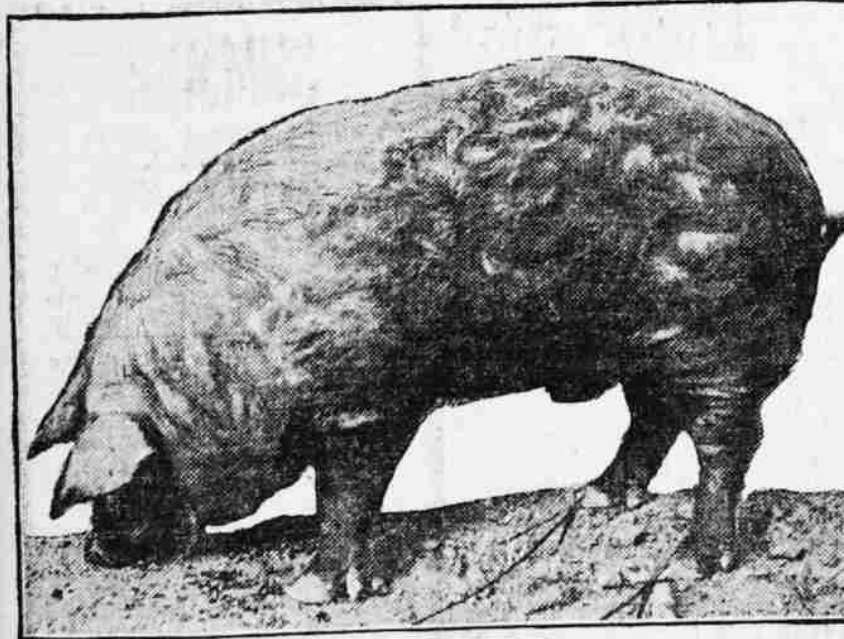
A sow that suckles a big litter of

hungry pigs needs a great deal of nourishing feed, but some farmers never seem to learn that fact.

Select your brood pigs from the largest litters, as they are generally better breeders and better feeders.

Mange is mainly caused by filth in the sleeping quarters.

When the green corn comes along a little later, do not stuff young pigs all they will eat or thumps will be the result.



A Fine Specimen.

TIME TO SELECT SEED POTATOES.

By M. A. COVERDELL.

Don't wait until potato-digging time to select your seed potatoes—don't wait even until the vines are dead. If you do you are as liable to pick out large potatoes from a small, undeveloped hill as you are from a thrifty one. Right now, while the vines are in full bloom and show which are vigorous and productive, is the time for marking the hills you will dig later for seed. Small sticks driven beside the choice hills serve this purpose very well.

This insures seed that will propagate sturdy plants next season. And remember, both large and small potatoes from a strong hill may be planted; but any size, either small or large from a puny hill—never!

Use the same care and judgment in the selection of your seed potatoes that you do in selecting other seeds and you will find it a little time very profitably spent.

FLOATING FEATHERS

It is odd the strange markings we get when crossing most of the varieties of fowls known. Crossing the male of one breed with the hens of another has, in every instance I have known, produce a differently marked chick from that of the chicks produced by crossing the hens of the first breed with the males of the second. For instance, crossing a Barred rock male with a hen of a certain game breed, you get all barred chicks, but cross the rooster of this game breed to Barred Rock hens, and you get all black. Sometimes in crossing one of our other common breeds with that of another will produce penciled fowls if the rooster of first breed is mated with second, and spotted rooster of second breed is mated with hens of the first. Not only this, but the shape of the first may be bulky, while that of the second is long and gangly.

Ducks, too, show strange markings when crossed, sometimes the cross looking exactly as some of our oddly marked ducks that, as far as we know, do not enter at all into the past breeding of either cross. Once, in mating a black top-knot rooster with a white hen, breed of each then unknown to me, I produced a white fowl showing but one black spot, the top-knot eliminated. I used these chicks male and female, and interbred them. Result, always a white chick with a black spot somewhere on its coat—never twice in same place.

Some people like to line breed, but scarcely know how to begin. Line breeding proper is simply starting with, say, a finely marked hen of the standard breed required, and a male of same requirement, neither in any way related, both picked from vigorous flocks. In second year, the pullets of this mating are bred back to their sire, and the best marked and nearest to the standard cockerel, back to the mother. This should be kept up until the fourth year, each year breeding back the last-year stock selected as your breeders to this first pair—should they live so long, and usually they will if cared for aright. After the fourth year you have now two distinct lines from which you can select your breeders at will, keeping of course the breeders well marked so that you may mate as far out as it is possible to in the relationship. This is for small yards. Should the farmer start line breeding, with plenty of room at his command for separate pens and yards, he can start in with from five to ten hens and males as a beginning. From the breeding stock hatched in this graded flock he should make a specialty of breeding stock of both sexes for sale.

Proteins, which is a product of soy beans, is now taking the place of meat in many western poultry yards. Soy beans are rich in protein. People often ask what are the meat foods used in the poultry business? How must I feed them, and how often? Well, there are meat scraps, which may be flesh or liver-broiled and cut in small bits. Some of it is horse meat, some the bits of meat left about any beef shop—pork, beef, mutton. Some of it again is the refuse of chickens about the poultry killing houses. Next is meat meal, dried blood, dried fish, fresh cut bone, skim and butter-milk. Meat scraps contain highest per cent of protein. Some poultry keepers feed the animal foods, unless it may be milk, but three times a week, giving each fowl two table-spoonfuls at a meal. Others give this amount, or half, every day in the mash. Milk can safely be fed every day. Some poultry keepers, going in heavily for winter eggs, keep meat scrap in hoppers always before the hens.—I. M. S.

Some farmers still sneer at science in agriculture. They ought to be made to continue plowing with a crooked stick, cutting their grain with a sickle and threshing with cattle, as people did before science took a hand in farm work.

We have seen fine corn growing between the rows of early potatoes after they had been laid by.

THE COLONY HOG HOUSE.

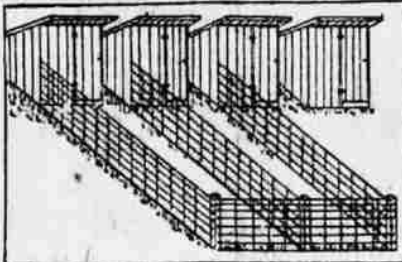
By J. W. GRIFFIN.

One of the best ways to use scrap lumber is to build hog houses out of it. If there is no lumber lying around in the way it will pay to buy new, even at the present high prices, and build the hog houses.

If it pays to take care of the little pigs when the butcher's stuff is bringing four and five cents a pound, it is doubly profitable when they are eight or ten cents.

We have ten Duroc Jersey brood sows and ten colony houses, built and fenced off, as shown in the drawing. These houses were built out of lumber that came out of an old frame building once used as a saw mill.

We bought the old mill, the frame of which was 33 feet wide, 100 feet long



Colony Hog House.

and two stories high; all the framing timbers were as good as when put in the building. The scrap lumber we worked into the hog houses and the frame and the best lumber we used in building an up-to-date feed barn.

NEIGHBORLY SUGGESTIONS

We are apt to have many pleasant days now and some of them may be devoted to mending fences. The fencing is often an index to the character of the farm.

Don't think you can cheat nature by planting small, poor seed potatoes. You can't do it. If you want good, big, smooth tubers you must plant seed of that kind.

If the farmer would cultivate the garden better, and thus save some of the money he spends at the store, articles he could easily grow, his field products would come nearer being clear profit than under his present system.

If a neighbor has had sickness or bad luck in any way and his work is behind, we can get a good deal of heart-warmth by giving him a hand now and then.

It is a great mistake to send unripe beef cattle to market. They will not ripen on the road, like California fruit.

The most successful feeders of beef cattle are the ones who have made the most correct interpretation of the laws of nature.

A piece of copper wire is much better than a string for keeping the garden rows straight, as there is no stretching.

The man who feels that he is bigger than his job is generally mistaken. If he were he would quickly get a job that would fit him.

Crop rotation belongs to any system which seeks to better the soil.

A man's work lives after him. The man who ends his career on a farm that he has improved in productivity and appearance leaves a suitable monument.

Thorn hedges are not good fences for sheep to run against. They will lie up close to them in the middle of the day, and when they go away they will leave a lot of wool behind them.

The flies are here now thick. They dig the life out of the cows too if you do not spray them off. A rig for doing that will not cost much. It is far more expensive not to have one than it is to invest a little that way.

The morning is the best time to spray the cows. Do it just after milking when you are ready to turn the cattle out.

Work right along while you do work. But don't make too long days. Get around before sundown. You want some time to rest and take it easy before the work of another day.

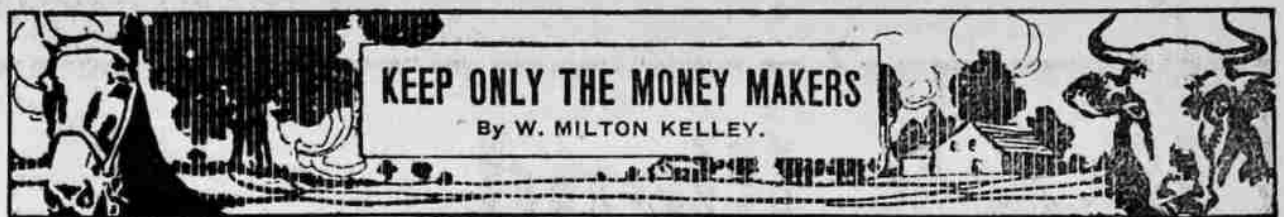
Why should not eggs—and for that matter all other farm products—be sold by the pound? The farmer would always get a square deal in that way. Too much guesswork and lumping of things sold from the farm.

There is no feed that is more digestible than gluten feed, but if too much is fed it makes soft butter. From two to four pounds a day may be fed without fear of this.

If stable manure is spread with a manure spreader on the meadow, it will show very good results, for a very thin coat, and what the hay crop does not use will be in the soil for the succeeding corn crop.

A good rotation for mixed farming is wheat, clover, meadow one year; cow pasture for one year, corn, oats. This makes a six-year rotation. Where there are permanent pastures on the farm, one year can be cut out by not pasturing the clover the second year.

A farmer's boy who is born rich may succeed, but he has a hard job ahead of him.



KEEP ONLY THE MONEY MAKERS

By W. MILTON KELLEY.

The man who has made two blades of grass grow where but one grew before has been looked upon as a public benefactor. But the man who has succeeded in producing one blade at less cost worked out a more complex problem.

Increased production does not always bring increased profit. Increased profits from the dairy business must in a measure come from more economical production.

To reduce the cost of production we must have cows that by their breeding and individually are adapted to our needs. For the butter and cream producing dairy the Jersey and Guernsey cows have a certain advantage because of the character of their milk, which contains a higher percentage of butter fat.

The Holstein and Ayrshire cows are compelled to elaborate more solids to produce the same amount of fat. This is a breed characteristic.

On the other hand the Holstein and Ayrshire cows can produce milk solids more economically and are better fitted for the production of cheese and market milk.

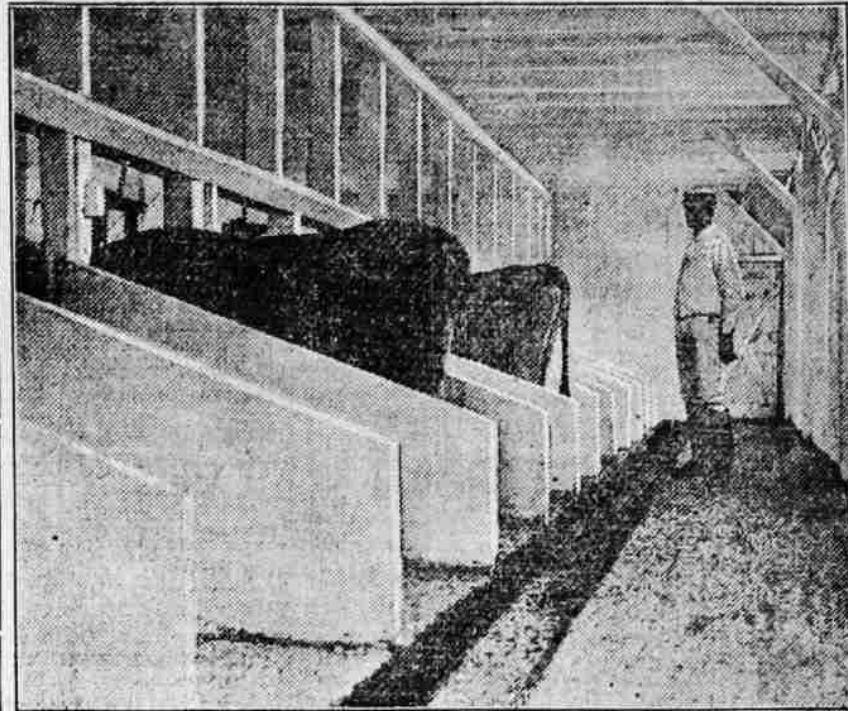
Within the dairy breeds we find greater difference between individual cows than between the breeds. We are keeping too many cows. We do not know how much they produce nor how much they eat. Some pay a profit and some are eating up the profits made by the others. It takes the profits from the good cows to balance the loss from the poor cows.

The first step toward reaching the cost of production is weighing and testing the milk from each cow in the herd often enough to keep a good line on what she is producing.

Weighing the milk for one day each week and testing it once each month will give practically the same results as weighing and testing each milking.

By taking these weekly and monthly records and making a yearly average it is easy to determine how much milk and butter each cow has produced for the year.

This is but one-half the question. Some cows are fairly large producers. Others may produce less milk or butter, yet be more economical producers. A light feeder may digest her food



A Model Cow Barn for the Money Makers.

perfectly and be an economical producer. We should keep a record of each cow's feed one day each week and its market value in connection with the weighing and testing of the milk.

This will show what a pound of milk or butter costs from each cow in the herd.

Sell the cows that produce butter for 25 cents per pound and keep all that produce a pound for 15 cents. The scales, the Babcock test and pencil and paper will assist in weeding out the unprofitable cows from the herd.

STORING MANURE FOR THE GARDEN.

A common practise is to manure the garden every year, late in the fall, or before planting in the spring, no further attention being given. This practise, however, is not the best.

The manure for the garden should be kept in a large box with a lid or so screened that flies cannot enter it.

Manure heaps are the natural breeding places of these pests and if they are allowed to remain near the house, uncovered, will prove a great nuisance.

A good plan is to use a very close wire screen nailed to a frame with hinges for the top. The manure should be spaded often on the top so that the water from the clouds or the sprinkling pot may penetrate to all portions of it.

If kept in a box a spout should be placed in one corner, at the bottom, so that the water may drain into a sunken barrel.

This will supply liquid manure which can be used at all seasons when vegetables and flowers are growing.

The manure in the box should be worked over once or twice a month, working the bottom to the top so that the entire heap may rot.

Manure may be kept in this manner if the boxes are placed at the farthest point in the garden from the house, and if surrounded with vines their presence will never be noticed from the dwelling.

WHERE EASTER LILIES GROW

By A. D. DART.

Lying somewhat south of the gulf stream, and six hundred miles or so off the Atlantic coast from Charleston, S. C., is a group of several hundred islands known as the Bermudas.

Storms seem to have been responsible for our early knowledge of these beautiful islands, which unlike most sections of the habitable globe, have never known a war.

Mark Twain once wrote of the place, "It is heaven, but hell to get there."

For many years England used the islands for a convict colony, but as the misuse of such a beautiful spot became apparent, the idea was abandoned, and as many of the convicts who chose to remain were granted pardons, and portions of land allotted to each one, with which to make a fresh start. Many of the descendants still own and cultivate extensive lily and onion farms.

Today one can ride for miles along the country roads between fields of pure white flowers, growing in such profusion (especially during April when the blossoms are at their best) that the ground is not visible—just masses of white and green.

There are over two hundred farms, some of which are 30 to 40 acres, devoted exclusively to lily growing.

Both tourists and natives grow very tired of the heavy perfume of the flowers, which is often noticeable a mile away.

The fragrance of a bunch of lilies, delicately scented a room or church, is very different from the overpowering perfume exhaled from a large lily farm. There can be too much of a good thing, for the odor of the onion, still raised there to some extent, often brings a welcome change.

The natives are quite resigned to the heavy perfume, knowing that, acre for acre, growing the lily is three or four times as profitable as raising onions, potatoes or fruit.

It is believed that lily bulbs were first brought to this country from Japan, by a man named Harris, to which country they had been brought from their ancient native home, China. The Bermuda lily is known as *lilium harrisei*.

The original lily is probably the oldest of all known flowers, and also is the only flowering plant that has no poor kin.

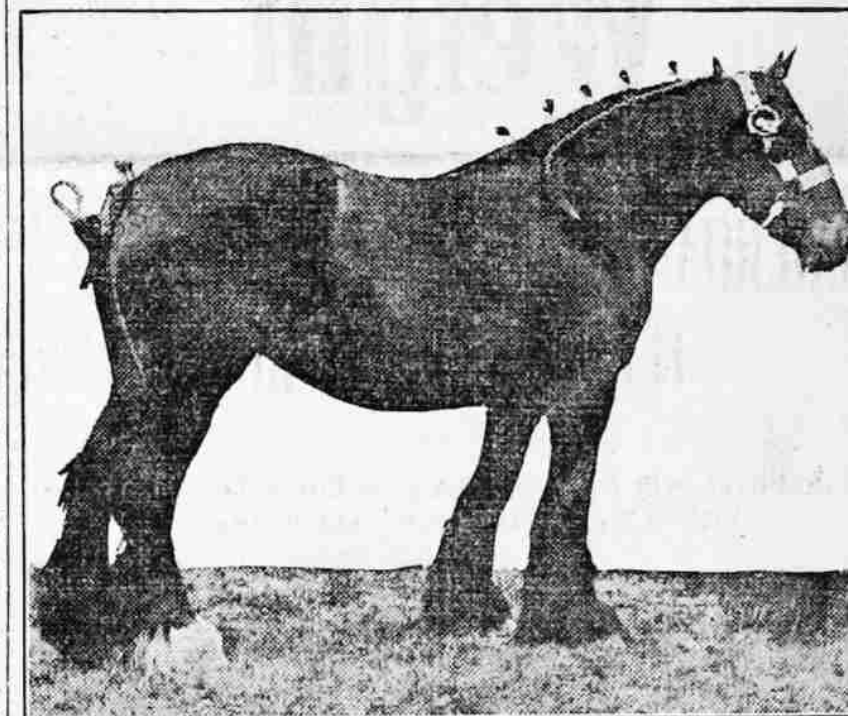
TO KEEP CIDER SWEET

One good way to keep cider sweet is to follow the same general plan used in canning vegetables; bring it to a boil, skim off the top and then bottle it tightly and keep it in a cool place.

Where one has facilities for bottling and wiring the cork, cider can be kept sweet in this way for a considerable length of time. On the farm, of course, this is not practical, but if the cider is boiled, bottled and then tightly corked and kept in a cool place it will remain sweet for quite a while. Some folks use ordinary Mason fruit jars and report success.



JUST HORSES AND MULES



Champion Female Shire.

Sore shoulders and balky teams are the consequence of hard work during the spring months unless your harness fits properly.

The horse, young or old, that starts out to farm work in the spring fat from its winter's rest, will, in one week of hard plowing, work off some of this flesh, and the collar that was tight becomes loose, works up and down the shoulders and thus galls are formed.

Watch the collar and unless it is fitting tight either use an excess pad or a smaller collar. The latter is always preferable.

In training a colt do not try to teach it more than one thing at a time. If you teach that one thing thoroughly he will never forget it.

It is not a good plan to change a horse's feed too often. Oats one day, corn the next and something else the next will soon knock out his digestion. A humane man will always provide nets for his horses during fly time. Many horses are so sensitive to pain that flies will permanently destroy their dispositions.

Get rid of the old and infirm stock. With hay and corn high, it will not pay to feed stock which is not able to pay for its feed.

If you can afford to do so, shoot your old horse when he gets too old to afford to do this, try to sell him to some one who will give him good care for the little service he is able to render.

If he is put up at auction he may fall into the hands of some ignorant or unprincipled person who will try to drive him to do the work of a younger and higher priced animal.

A mare that took her owner thirty

miles over a rough country road in two hours and ten minutes, to the bedside of his dying mother, never recovered from the grilling, and was put up at public auction and sold for the pitiful price of \$7.00. After such faithful service she should have been tenderly cared for the rest of her life.

We should get over the notion that we are dependent upon breeders of the old world for improved live stock.

The value of a horse depends largely upon his feet. No one point is more essential than sound, well-shaped hoofs.

Any farming community can be properly sized up by the quality of its horses.

WATCH THE HORSE'S TEETH

If your horse shows difficulty in eating or loses flesh without apparent cause, it is time to examine the teeth. Very often elongated teeth prevent a horse from properly masticating its food, thereby rendering it impossible to obtain much benefit from it.

Unerated teeth also are a source of great trouble and prevent a horse from eating well. Sometimes broken teeth cut the sides of a horse's mouth and form painful sores, which, of course, interfere with mastication.

It is a good plan to examine the teeth of all horses two or three times a year and in the case of broken or elongated teeth, treat them with a file. If the teeth of a valuable animal are badly affected it should be treated by a veterinary surgeon.

We are often surprised to find that trouble rights itself in a short time if we only stop thinking about it.