The Farmer's Column.

Care of Cows.

The report of the department of Agricultture for the year 1871, in speaking of this subject, says:

"Mr. G. Wilkenson, of Baltimore, Md., states that two dairyman of Baltimore county, occupying adjoining farms, were in the habit of purchasing their cows and feeding material together.—Their stables were arranged on the same plan; they kept same amount of stock, and fed in the same manner, their management being in all respects equal. Afterwards one of these dairymen commence steaming the meal and bran, reducing the amount 25 per cent. Each dairyman kept account of the results of his herd for the winter, from which it, appeared that with a reduction of 25 per cent. in the quantity of food, steaming showed a gain of 13 per cent. in milk, and 15 per cent, in weight over the herd fed with uncooked material. Mr. Wilkinson adds that in that section it is the usual custom to water cows only twice a day, bringing them to a trough of cold well water in the yard. So much cold water is then taken that a temporary chill is caused, from which it is estimated that during severe cold weather there is a loss of milk amounting to 20 per cent.

Care of Horses at Night.

Few men who handle horses give proper attention to the feet and legs.—Especially in this the case on farms.—Much time is spent of a morning in rubbing, brushing and smoothing the hair on the sides and hips, but at no time are the feet examined and properly cared for. Now, be it known that the feet of a horse require more care than the body. They need ten times as much, for in one respect they are the entire horse. All the grooming that can be done won't avail anything if the horse is forced to stand where his feet will be filthy. In this case the feet will become disordered, and then the legs will get badly out of fix; and with bad feet and bad legs, there is not much else of the horse fit for anything. Stable prisons are generally severe on the feet and legs of horses; and unless these buildings can afford a dry room, where a horse can walk around lie down, or roll over, they are not half so healthy and comfortable to the horses as the pasture, and should be avoided by all good hostlers in the country.

Early Vegetables.

As soon as the frost is out of the ground the period of which will vary of course, with the latitude, the seeds of the hardy vegetables may be sown, such as beets, cabbage, lettuce, onions, parsnips, but until the ground has become warmed, it will not do to venture the tender sorts, as the seeds are sure to rot. A planting of Peas may be made in some sheltered corner of the garden. A good top-dressing of manure gives considerable protection, and a board laid over the row at night still further preserves them against frost. During the day it may be turned on one edge on the north side of the rows, where it serves as a shield against cold winds.—Peas, as a rule, are not planted as early as they might be. A good plan for early potatoes is to keep a few in a warm place, where they will sprout, when they can be planted in a warm part of the garden. Cabbage seed, neglected to be sown in the fall, may be sown in a cold frame with protection at night; or even in a sheltered situation in the open ground, with a covering of leaves, trash, or rough manure. Parsnips and Salsify, left in the ground, should now be dug as soon as the weather will permit.

Rat-Proof Cribs.

Having recently seen, in our exchanges, several plans for excluding this troublesome vermin from cribs, we give a plan that our experience proves to be effectual. Make your sills square, say 10 inches; saw into and block out from these so that the joist will be even, or face with the top; the floor then rests on these sills so that there is no place for the rat to stand, to cut his way through the floor. And as a further preventive have your post, upon which the house is to rest, three feet long; sink them into the ground 6 inches, this will leave the crib 30 inches above ground, at the top of post tack around a strip of tin, 6 or 8 inches wide, the tin being hard and smooth, the mischievious little rascals can not climb over it, and are completely baulked.

The posts may be round or square, and old tin may be used, but new is preferable.

If our farming friends will try this plan and keep the door well closed, our word for it they will not be annoyed by these pests.

APPLYING ASHES TO FRUIT TREES.—Make use of ashes around the trees as often as once a year; it is of immense benefit to them. Do not apply them in contact with the body of the tree unless they have been leached, as they become moistened and form a lye too strong for the growing wood. Use about one quart of ashes to a tree, scattering it around them as far as the roots are supposed to extend underneath. Large trees in bearing ten or twelve years, should receive an application of from six to eight quarts of unleached ashes to each tree, scattered in the same manner. Never permit the ashes to lie upon the ground in any place more than one inch in depth.

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NEW FEATURES FOR 1873.

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Wm. Hart,	F. O. C. Darley,	R. E. Piguet,
Wm. Bread,	Victor Noblig,	Frank Beard,
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