

FARMERS DEPARTMENT.

SHELTERING FARM LANDS.

The practice of removing every tree from the ground, in clearing new land, shows that the importance of affording shelter to farms exposed to high winds and biting blasts, is not sufficiently appreciated. When interspersed with stripes or masses of plantation, not only are such lands rendered more congenial to the growth of grass and grain, and the health of pasturing animals, but the local climate is improved. The fact that the climate may be thus improved, has, in many instances, been sufficiently established. It is, indeed, astonishing how much better cattle thrive in fields, even but moderately sheltered, than they do in an open, exposed country. In the breeding of cattle, a sheltered farm, or a sheltered corner in a farm, is a thing much prized, as, by affording them protection from the keen winds of spring and autumn, they uniformly feed with more freedom, and much better than if they were exposed.

The operation of skreen plantations, observes Marshall, is not merely that of giving shelter to the animals lodging beneath them; but, likewise, in breaking the uniform current of the wind—shattering the cutting blasts, and throwing them into eddies; thus meliorating the air to some distance from them. Living trees communicate a degree of actual warmth to the air which envelops them. Where there is life, there is warmth, not only in animal, but vegetable nature. The severest frost rarely affects the sap of trees. Hence it appears, that trees and shrubs, properly disposed in a bleak situation, tend to improve the lands so situated, in a threefold way, for the purposes of agriculture; namely, by giving shelter to stock; by breaking the currents of winds; and by communicating a degree of warmth, or softness, to the air in calmer weather.

Norought it to bealtogether kept out of view, that the retaining, and judiciously arranging a portion of growing timber on a farm, confers a richness, and picturesque beauty on the landscape. We have seen some lands, on which nothing was sought for but profit and shelter, where the greatest beauty was produced by adopting this system. Where, however, trees for shade may be requisite for agricultural purposes, they should be sufficiently open to admit a free circulation of air. For this purpose, trees with lofty stems, and large heads, proved to single stems are preferable. To shelter live stock, the skreen should be open at the bottom. Otherwise it is injurious rather than beneficial. The blast not only requires additional current, but snow is liable to be blown through, and to be lodged in drifts on the leeward side, to the annoyance and danger of sheep that have repaired thither for shelter.

Feeding Cattle.—In young growing animals the powers of digestion are so great, that they

require food which is less rich, than such as are of mature age. They also require more exercise. If rich food is supplied in liberal quantities, and exercise withheld, diseases are generated, the first of which may be excessive fatness; growth is impeded by very rich food, for experience shows, that the coarsest fed animals have the largest bones. Common sense will suggest the propriety of preferring a medium course between very rich and very poor nutriment.—Loudon.

Regularity of feeding cattle is of prime importance. Three times a day, precisely at a certain hour, cattle, according to Mr. Lawrence, should be furnished with their food. Mr. Deane observed, that neat cattle and horses should not have so much laid before them at once as will quite serve to fill them. The hay they have breathed on much they will not eat up clean, unless they are very hungry. It is best, therefore, to fodder them twice at night, and twice in the morning. Let neat cattle as well as horses have both light and fresh air let in upon their fodder when the weather is not too cold and stormy to allow the windows to be open. What one sort of cattle leave should be thrown to another sort. Those that chew the cud will eat the leavings of those that do not, and vice versa.

Stables.—Young horses generally are accustomed to live and breathe in a pure and open air till they come of age, and are fit for labor; it is then found convenient to house them; this produces a considerable change in their bodies, and makes them liable to be greatly affected by the temperature of the air which surrounds them, and in which they breathe.

That stables are generally kept too close and hot, requires no demonstration, as every one who goes into them, even when the weather is pretty cool, must have discovered this from their own feelings; and in the summer season the heat within them is increased to a very great degree. What renders it still worse, it frequently happens that from the situation and structure of many stables, no opening can be made to allow a sufficient quantity of fresh air, so as to enable horses confined in them to breathe with any tolerable degree of freedom. The door is the entrance for air, and that can only happen occasionally when it is open. It is true the intercourse that must unavoidably take place through the day in going out and in renders such stables tolerably fresh aired; yet in the morning when the door has been shut for some hours through the night, and especially in the summer, the heat is intolerable, and the air so foul that a man can hardly breathe in it whilst at the same time the sharpness of the salts, arising from the horse's urine, &c, attacks his nose and eyes, and occasions a copious discharge of tears.

Effect of Climate.—In the same species of animals, pulsation is about one-third slower under the arctic circle than at the tropic.

Farmers who'd thrive, and money earn;
Their labors turn t'advantage best,
Must read, and read, and mark and learn,
And inward—inwardly digest.

From the Essex (Miss.) Gazette.

PUNCTUALITY.

Little can be accomplished without system. No man can act systematically, without being punctual. Much precious time is lost in consequence of not cherishing *this virtue*. Suppose a man of considerable enterprise lays out his work for a certain day. The evening before he says, I will rise at 6 o'clock, attend my domestic affairs breakfast at 7, meet my neighbour on the wharf at 8, be at my store to exchange commodities with several customers at 9, dine at 1, attend the library meeting at 3, meet with the stockholders of the bank at 4, take tea at 5, and be at the school meeting at 7 in the evening. All this, and much more, can be easily accomplished by a gentleman of business in one day, if he and others concerned, be punctual; but let him sleep till 7 o'clock in the morning, or let his neighbour, be one hour too late at the wharf, and his arrangements are thrown into disorder and confusion.

The shoemaker, the wheelwright, the blacksmith, the cabinet maker, the hatter, the tailor, the goldsmith, the printer, or any other mechanic, agrees to a job of work before a specified time; at the given hour the customer arrives; but by his boots, his wheels, his axe, his tangle, his hat, his coat, his watch, or his advertisements, is not in readiness! Why? because the workman has not been punctual, and instead of one journey, the employer must perform two or three, to accomplish the same object.

If the minister does not strictly observe the hour, appointed for public worship, lectures, funerals, and other religious meetings, his people as a matter of course, will become dilatory; and he need not be surprised, if occasionally disturbed after the exercises have commenced.

If the preceptor, or schoolmaster be tardy in this particular, his pupils will be sure to imitate his example; and the business of the school will drag through the day. If he attempt to reprove his scholars for being dilatory, and calling upon them to be punctual in future; they will think, if they dare not say, "physician heal thyself."

These hints clearly show the importance of punctuality. There is, however, another view of this subject, by which the same sentiment is still more forcibly urged. I agree with Mr. A. to meet him at his counting room, tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock to receive a large sum, I have promised to pay Mr. B. before 9, at which time he is to perform a journey. I am punctual, but Mr. A. delays until after the stage arrives, and Mr. B. must take his seat, in it, or lose his passage. In consequence of Mr. A.'s conduct I have broken my promise; and Mr. B. has gone to purchase goods