

VETERINARIANA.

HINTS FOR HORSE-OWNERS.

It is generally admitted that all animals have some method peculiar to each class, of expressing their feelings and desires, and their language of signs and inarticulate sounds forms an interesting study. In the case of the domestic animals, however, and especially those that are impressed into the hard service of man, it might almost be said that it is a matter of duty that we should learn to understand their language. To many, such faithful beasts as the horse and ox are mere drudges, devoid of a sense of feeling fatigue or pain, and to be controlled only by whips and hard sounding words. These ideas are generally the result of ignorance of the habits and requirements of our animals,—even as regards most commonplace matters. Take for instance the simple case of watering a horse. Many persons who are fully aware of the importance of pure water for their use, yet often suppose that any water is good enough for their animals, oblivious of the fact that foul water causes many ailments in our horses. Intractable skin diseases, ulcers and sores, indigestion and loss of condition are often traceable to this source. Even more serious disorders owe their origin to an unwholesome water supply, such as fevers and parasitic diseases. In Western India and Burmah there occurs in the horse a form of fever which runs a long course. Sometimes as long as three months—and invariably terminates fatally. All known remedies have hitherto been tried unsuccessfully. The disease is commonly known in the East as *as surra* (literally, rotten), and is caused by a parasite in the blood, that often enters the system through the medium of foul drinking water. The rule that every owner should enforce is, that the horse should be supplied with as pure water as is drunk by his master. It may here be mentioned that the quantity of water required by a horse is variously estimated: from 6 to 8 gallons a day will not be too much. An animal should be watered at least four times a day. Considering the large amount of water excreted by the skin or kidney of a horse, there should be no stinting in the water-supply. Water, it should be remembered, ought to be given before, and not after a meal. The stomach of the horse is comparatively small, and the intestines large. The water taken by the horse is believed to pass at once into the intestines, and hence it would be objectionable to water the animal after its meal, as undigested particles of food are likely to be carried into the intestines, and cause indigestion, colic or other disorders of the bowels.

The horse finds the greatest difficulty in drinking out of a shallow vessel: in fact it would hardly be able to drink unless there be a depth of at least 4 or 5 inches of water. This should be remembered by those who have to travel across country, and often expect their animals to quench their thirst at shallow pools and streams. It is a useful fact to remember that a horse generally takes its fill of water in 2½ minutes.

The points I have referred to in connection with so simple a matter as watering a horse, may be thought trivial, but I can assure my readers that neglecting to give due attention to this is often of serious import. It is as well, therefore, that we should remember them, and it is with that object that I have written these notes, though there are perhaps some who may find nothing new in what I have said.—W. D. S.

TREES IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE.

For the Southern Province the Provincial Engineer forwards a report, from which the following has been extracted. It is to be regretted that his efforts at ingavaman growing has been such a failure, but he is quite in error in his opinion that *Pithecolobium saman* will not grow near the sea. Some of the finest trees in Ceylon are to be found near a quite close to the sea; e.g., at Mulattivu, Negombo, atticaloa, and many other places. It is surprising that more success has not attended shade tree culture in

the Hambantota District, where Mr. Macgregor is in charge for he has been generally successful at various stations in floriculture, and it was presumed that the cultivation of shade trees would have succeeded with him, if with anybody.—*Mr. Ormsby's Report for 1893.*

EUCALYPTUS MICROCORYS: TALLOW WOOD.

This tree is variously known as "Tallow-wood" (owing to its greasy nature when freshly cut.) "Turpentine tree," and "Peppermint"—the foliage being remarkably rich in volatile oil. Another local name applied to it is "red shingy-bark" owing to its red fibrous bark. The term *microcorys* is made up of two Greek words signifying "a little helmet" in allusion to the comparatively small cup of the flower.

An Udupussellawa planter writing to the *Tropical Agriculturist* hears testimony to the fact that "of all Australian trees introduced into Ceylon, the tree which has grown beyond all compare is *E. Microcorys*. A specimen 8 years old" he says, "was 5 ft. 4 inches in girth, and tall in proportion."

The leaves of *E. Microcorys* yield an essential oil, which it is thought may be useful in varnish-making.

The gum is in many respects similar to the "Kino" of *Pterocarpus Marsupium*.

The timber, says Mr. Maiden, the Consulting Botanist to the N. S. Wales Government, is one of the most valuable the Colony produces: it is strong and durable under and above ground.

He mentions that it would be impossible to enumerate the various uses to which the timber can be put—among others being for naves, felloes, spokes, cop, flooring of buildings, decking bridge work in general, pickets, turned pillars, for moulding and architaves, in fact for all building purposes requiring durability.

An ink has been made by steeping chips of tallow-wood in water for a day or two (presumably in contact with iron.)

Against this timber it may be said that it is liable to attack by white ants, and that it does not hold nails well. On the other hand the charcoal from tallow-wood is thought by some to be one of the best for the smiths, and no timber suffers less by exposure after being cut down.

The tree is generally admitted to give satisfaction as a well formed shade tree, so that its increased propagation in Ceylon is most desirable.

COMPANIES' MEETINGS.

AGRICULTURAL COMPANY OF MAURITIUS, LIMITED.—LORD STANMORE PRESIDING.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders was held on July 24, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., presiding.

The MANAGER and SECRETARY (Mr. Alfred G. Dick) read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then said: Gentlemen, on the occasions on which I have presided previously at similar meetings to this, it has been my ill-fortune almost always to have had something more or less unpleasant to say; either a bad season, a hurricane, or a statement of affairs that was unpleasant, and on account of which we were unable to recommend any dividend to be divided amongst you. I am happy to say that this time I come before you under more favourable auspices, and I hope that I shall not again be regarded as a bird of ill-omen, for this year I have announcements to make to you of a satisfactory character. In the first place, instead of having to tell you of a loss on the year's transactions, I have to announce to you—

A CLEAR PROFIT OF £12,285 18s.

Last year, reverting from the general finances to those in connection with the management of the es-