FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Shelter for Stock.

It is now so common for farmers to provide stabling for their cattle, especially for cows, that but few who are at all well-to-do neglect it. Still there are some who even keep cows without any decent provision for them, and will let them stand out and shiver in cold storms, and even go out to milk in the rain and snow without any protection for themselves. That cows treated in that way will rapidly shrink in their milk goes without saying. Where a man can do no better, he should put up a straw shelter of some kind at once, which will serve a good purpose until he can build something better and more permanent. My experience is that a person might as well do without cattle as not to protect them properly through the winter.—[New York World.

How to Bury a Rock.

How many plow points have you broken, first and last, upon that fast stone? How many times has it been criss-crossed by the harrow? How much injury has been done to your horses by the shocks received when they were brought to a sudden stand still? How much less has the profit of your crops been on account of this cumberer of the ground? Now is as good a time as any, perhaps, to dig it out and convert it into fence material or bury it. Having buried many large stones, I find that the danger incurred is very slight if the work is attempted in the right manner. Do not dig under it at all. Keep the excavation about six inches from the nearest side of the stone. Make it long enough, wide enough and deep enough to contain the stone with room to spare. When the hole is dug sufficiently large, then with long-handled tools carefully remove the stratum of earth as low as you can reach easily without risking any risk of being crushed. A plank laid along the farther edge of the hole may give you some advantage in digging. Next dig a narrow trench along the opposite side of the stone from the excavation. Make this trench long to the stone and partly under it. Now pour water into the trench, and keep on pouring until the earth underneath is softened into mud, when the stone can usually be slid without much trouble into the hole. A lever can be used to give it a start.—[Boston Cultivator.

Benefits of Crop Rotation.

Every observing farmer knows that cattle can be pastured on a field after horses, and will subsist for a time where the horses would have starved, and that sheep will do well after the cattle. A similar principle applies to the raising of the various farm crops. Wheat may thrive glorious on the plant food left in the soil by a corn crop; oats on that left by the wheat and corn; potatoes on what was not taken by the three preceding crops. But the requirements of plant nutrition are not the only reason, nor the strongest one, that can be urged in favor of a strict system of crop rotation. The chief objection to putting the same crop year after year in the same ground is that the insects and fungi affecting that crop attack it each succeeding year with increased force. Frequently the entire soil, and the world usually become over-larded with the fungus and the spores of disease injurious to that particular crop. Shifting the locality of such crops from one field to another nearly or quite all, at most gives partial protection in this respect; and it were far preferable to select a fresh crop subject to injury at least and diseases a location at the greatest possible distance from any field where that crop was grown the year before. If no such crop could be left out of the farm rotation for one or more years altogether, one might be able to starve out the insects and diseases affecting it for some years; and if it be asserted that such a measure could not be adopted by a whole neighborhood, or country, and fashionable big and even crops might for a time be grown again.—[American Agriculturist.

Old Hens.

Book-makers as well as other people sometimes make mistakes. They tell us hens are useful for laying eggs and breeding purposes after three years of age. I do, but is it not due to the insanitary practices of breeders? Years ago we paid by a friend a visit, who we were informed was fourteen years. The day before we encountered one whose owner informed us that though very old she lays the eggs and hatches and rears large broods of chickens annually if permitted. She was sitting on her third "setting" of this year a few days ago, when "broken up" by the mistress. Whenever not allowed to sit, she commences again in a few days to lay more eggs. And yonder there is still another hen that was aged to two. On an adjacent place a hound has been trained to borrow and carry home from any place around when he could do so without peril to himself. He had a dread of every vestige of poultry, save the said old hen, upon whose person he was attempting to execute a levy, so more properly to levy an execution, when the opportune arrival of the owner arrested the sinister purpose of canis permanently, and rescued Dame Partlet from a sad fate to live a glorious career. Being sole survivor and furnished soon with a loving companion, she has attempted with entire success to pay the debt of gratitude to the owner by contributing from this day with the many bushels of eggs and chickens consumed on his table. She still lays and rears annually her three broods of chicks, besides the eggs she is not allowed to brood. One remarkable clutch consisted of males alone—a dozen—part of which were exchanged at the rate of one for two females to help the old hen to supply the heavy demand on her energies and industry. Old hens properly treated are profitable in spite of books and wiseacres.—[New York Witness.

Educating a Colt.

Begin the education of a colt by bridle handling, first on one side and then on the other. Put him about in different directions, forward, backward, to the left and right, and get him to yield to the bit in each of these directions. This should be done both in the stable and yard, and in using the reins for this purpose the trainer should exercise a steady, firm pressure on the bit until the colt yields, when the pressure should be removed at once, in order for him to understand that he has obeyed.

When the colt's head can be handled in every conceivable direction and the muscles of his neck are supple and controlled, then handle the forward feet, then the body, and finish with the hind feet and tail. When handling the colt's feet teach him not only to allow you to pick them up and rap and ram on them with a hammer, but to hold them up until you get ready to let them go. Take the tail in your hand carefully and raise it well up over his back, repeating this till he makes no objection. Take a pole about the size of a sled stake, pole him all over his body, and jab it between his legs until he shows no fear of it. Teach him to stand, and allow a harness to be fitted on him and about him. Handle under-blankets, paper, etc., about his head and body until he is utterly indifferent to them all. Lead and back him here and there and put a pair of shafts properly, and allow him to stumble in them, throw them up and trample them down, and finally hitch the crossbar against his hind shoes, back it here, and there more forcibly, until he comes to understand for it. All these things should be done to the colt before he is harnessed or shod.

A colt should be put through a course of training so that before he is first harnessed he will be well broke to bridle, not over-bridled, not over-bridled, but well-mouthed, and well-mouthed, and well-mouthed, and