

HORSES AND CATTLE.

SETONING CALVES AGAINST ANTHRAX.

Mr. Paaron, V.S., says in the *National Live Stock Journal*:—As an outlet for effete matters we have frequently recommended the application of a seton; and, placed in the dewlap, it almost to a certainty answers the purposes of a preventive, probably by virtue of the continued irritation which, though insufficient to interfere with the comfort of the animal, is yet adequate to promote the formation in the blood of the fibrine, which is found to be so deficient in this fatal disease. The seton should not be inserted between the fore legs, but should begin at a place where a supposed line drawn from in front of each fore leg touches the dewlap. As the skin is very thick, and the underlying tissue interposed with much fat, the seton needle cannot very easily be inserted without first making an incision through the skin, crosswise with the dewlap, and half an inch in length. With a sharp bistoury make an incision in the centre or lowest part of the dewlap, at the place mentioned above; and from four to six inches forward of this incision make a similar one, cutting entirely through the skin. The insertion of the seton is made through the first or lower cut; the seton needle, about six to eight inches long, armed with the seton, being pushed forward until it emerges through the second cut. That no accidental injury may happen to either man or animal during the insertion of the seton, the seton needle should not have a sharp point. The material of the seton should be a strip of soft leather, about half an inch wide, or very coarse, broad tape, laid double, or three pieces of broad tape plaited together. The seton should be about ten to twelve inches long, to allow of a small stick of wood being securely tied to each end to prevent the seton from slipping out. The ends of the seton should not be tied together, as accidents are thus liable to happen.

For convenience sake, animals under a year old may be laid on the ground and held by assistants during the operation. The seton may remain inserted during a month, or longer. Whether the material of the seton be leather or tape, it should be soaked in spirits of turpentine before insertion. No other subsequent application is necessary. During the first week or two after inserting the seton the discharge is more copious than later; and, if practicable, cleanliness of the parts will be proper. During the summer months it may be necessary, in order to prevent flies from blowing the wounds and causing maggots, to apply a coat of tar. Various nostrums and applications are at times being recommended by cow leeches and "hoss" doctors; and while some of these, to a certain extent, answer the purpose, others fail, or prove injurious to the animals, in some instances causing serious and lasting blemishes. The application of a simple seton, as above described, while it answers all purposes desired, never inconveniences the animal, and will cause no other injury or blemish; besides, it is more in accordance with scientific principles.

During the process of dentition, the gums are often subject to an affection designated lampas, which may be said to consist of a tumid and inflamed appearance of the palate, and is no doubt in most cases the direct result of the irritation set up in the teething process. Lampas is, however, an affection not by any means confined to the young horse; it is often seen in the aged animal, although not in so great a degree, or showing so much inflammation; it may then be the result of a kind of chronic irritation, or of indigestion. Very often, however, lampas in the horse's mouth depends for its existence on the fertile imagination of the owner or the groom. Many of the

latter, directly a horse is off its feed, at once rush to the conclusion that he has the lampas; they open his mouth, imagine the bars of the palate are swollen, and take the horse at once to the blacksmith or the horse doctor to have them burnt down. This operation is just a varied form of vivisection, unnecessary in character, devoid of benefit, and cruel in the extreme. Any man, whether veterinary surgeon or horse owner, who allows such a vile practice to be carried out, ought to have the hot iron applied to the posterior part of his person. If the palate is really swollen, relief can be obtained by scarifying with a small lancet; and, if necessary, cooling medicines may be administered. This is the best, the easiest, the most humane and sensible treatment.

THE FARMER AS A HORSE BREEDER.

Before railroads had spread their arms so generally over the country, horse breeding and marketing was a very different thing from now. Cities required but few compared to what they now use, because of a scant city population: and less traffic hauling to and from freight and passenger depots. Horses then were a source of traffic and sale about home, and as freight and passengers were mainly moved across the country by horse teams, and as this work was considered well enough when performed by anything that could haul a load through the mud, there was less attention paid to breeding horses that were competent to fill the positions in which they are placed in these days. Leaving street car service out of the question, there is not much demand in market for the class of horses that passed current in the days referred to.

The farmer can hardly afford to breed mere plugs simply because he can do his farm work with these. The demand for good horses is so urgent, and the facilities for shipping from any part of the country so excellent, that there are always willing buyers for the kinds that bring good prices in the leading markets. But, as a rule, there are no men out looking for mere plugs; at any rate, not for shipment. The enterprise of importers and breeders now leaves no excuse for continuing the use of neighbourhood stallions, and we hope the better sense of farmers has taught the utter folly of breeding to such as are put to service at five dollars the season. These rarely have either size or merit to recommend them. The introduction of Clydes and Normans has resulted in the production of colts of fine size, even from the most ordinary mares.

Many farmers have been tempted to keep such young stock entire, and though having inherited pretty fair looks and good size from a well-bred sire, the probabilities of being able to impart a reasonable portion of the merit drawn from one parent are slim indeed. Nothing short of a nicking of good blood, similar in kind, on the part of both parents can be relied upon for breeding purposes. If sire and dam be very dissimilar, then there need be no expectation of uniformity in the progeny. One would think this so self-evident as an inflexible principle that every farmer in the country should always have the fact in mind and require unquestionable evidence, before breeding to a stallion, that he possesses individual merit of the highest type, and that he has a good and clear title to this, having drawn it from a fountain implanted deep down in the parentage on both sides, and extending far back into remote lineage.

One of the greatest mistakes made in breeding is to patronize a stallion that is fed high and exercised but little. The fashion of travelling a horse from one stand to another several miles apart, affords fair exercise, on a walk. The exercise, however, should be more active than

this. The walk should be alternated with a sharp trot, even though it takes off a few pounds of flesh, and gives the groom some sharp rubbing to do. Horses, however, that are not moved from place to place, are soft and inert in the highest degree, and in no sense fit to be used as sires. The farmer is not wise who takes custom to a horse so kept. He should refuse his patronage unless made satisfied that abundant exercise is given at least twice daily. If any doubt exists on this point, a sharp trot for eighty rods and back will settle this question, and any owner who will refuse to show his horse under quick motion is not deserving of your custom.—"*Occasional*," in *Prairie Farmer*.

A HINT FOR BREEDERS.

If the bulls cannot be sold for as much as \$100 each, castrate them. It may look like a great shame to do so in some instances; but it will be better for the herd and its owner to do so rather than let his best calves leave the farm at an inferior price, making it almost impossible to get more than that for any he may have to sell in the future. Besides, I contend that the farmer or breeder will, in the end, make more money to castrate his calves and sell them at good prices when fed for market than to keep them with extra care and feed, and then sell them at only a nominal price for bulls; and he cannot sell bulls for even a fair price unless they are in good fix. If they are turned to steers, they can be put together in a pasture or feed lot, and when fed and sent to market, are as good an advertisement as any breeder would want, and find a ready sale at a fair price at any age.—*Nat. Live Stock Journal*.

THE TOUCH IN SHORTHORNS.

The skin affords in what is technically and emphatically called the touch a criterion second to none in judging of the feeding properties of an ox. The touch may be good or bad, fine or harsh, or, as it is often termed, hard or mellow. A thick, firm skin, which is generally covered with a thick-set, hard, short hair, always touches and indicates a bad feeder. A thin, meagre, papery skin, covered with thin, silken hair, being the opposite of the one just described, does not, however, afford a good touch. Such skin is indicative of a weakness of constitution, though of good feeding properties. A perfect touch will be found with thick loose skin, floating as if it were on a layer of soft fat, yielding to the least pressure, and springing back to the finger like a piece of soft thick chamois leather (or a piece of the best silk velvet), and covered with thick, glossy soft hair. It is not unlike a fine soft moss, and hence such a skin is not unfrequently styled "mossy." A knowledge of touch can only be acquired by long practice, but after having acquired it, it is of itself a sufficient means of judging of the feeding qualities of an ox, because when present the properties of symmetrical form, fine bone, quiet disposition, and purity of blood are the general accompaniments.

INDIGESTION AND SCRATCHES IN HORSES.

For indigestion give the following:—Blood root, mandrake, gentian, liquorice, ginger, lobelia, each 1 oz.; nitre, 3 oz.; sulphate of iron, 4 oz.; sulphur, 6 oz.; sassafras, 8 oz. Mix and powder. Dose, 1 oz. a day in a pint of flaxseed jelly. For scratches give the above powder and the same amount; then take the water that potatoes are boiled in and wash the limb clean once a day. Then apply this ointment:—Sulphuric acid, 2 drachms; belladonna, 1 oz.; laudanum 1 oz.; aloes, 1 oz.; sulphur, 2 oz.; lard 6 oz. Stir well and apply.