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Questions and Answers.
Veterinary.

Indigestion.

Nine-year-old Clydesdale mare fed hay in the morning and straw at night, in addition to two quarts of oats and a couple of turnips daily, began in February to take sick spells. She paws, lies down, gets up and looks around towards her flank, etc. My veterinarian calls it indigestion, and gives her a hypodermic injection in her neck, and the last time he gave some medicine to give her twice daily.

1. What does she suffer from?
2. What is the cause, and what is wrong with the food?
3. Suggest proper feed.
4. What can I give to stop the attacks?
5. The veterinarian says she will be all right when the grass comes. Do you think so?

W. T. B.
Ans.—1. She suffers from indigestion. Your veterinarian's diagnosis and his treatment are correct.

2. She apparently is predisposed to indigestion. It may be due to eating too much dry food, especially straw, and may be due to imperfect mastication.

3. Give less straw, see that the hay is of first-class quality, feed rolled oats with a small cupful of linseed meal, and feed the grain at least twice daily, continue the turnips, and give her a mash of dampened bran with a little linseed meal in the evening at least twice weekly.

4. Have her teeth dressed, feed as above, and give her two drams each of gentian, ginger, and nux vomica, three times daily. If, notwithstanding these precautions, she suffers from an attack, send promptly for your veterinarian, as he understands the trouble perfectly, and if an attack is not promptly treated may prove fatal.

5. It is very probable.

Fatality in Cow.

Cow would have been due to calve on March 19. On the thirteenth of the month I noticed there was a stoppage in her bowels. I gave her flaxseed. On the fourteenth I called in a veterinarian, who gave her 1 1/2 lbs. Epsom salts. On the fifteenth I called another veterinarian who said there was paralysis of the bowels and gave her ginger, molasses and powders. Next day she lay down and would not rise. Next day, March 17, she showed labor pains. I then again called the second veterinarian, who delivered her of a living calf, and did all that was possible, but she died in five hours. He said that birth was premature, and was caused by the purgative given her by the first veterinarian.

1. Was premature birth caused by the salts?
2. Is paralysis of the bowels generally fatal?
3. Can legal action be taken against the first veterinarian?

R. G. McL.
Ans.—1. The purgative given would not cause premature birth. You state that the full term of gestation would have expired on March 19. The calf was born on March 17, and was alive, notwithstanding the fact that the services of an obstetrician were necessary to deliver.

Under these circumstances, does it not appear like assuming too much to state that "birth was premature"? The case appears like one in which veterinarian No. 2 either does not understand such cases or is anxious to find fault with No. 1. The least that can be said, of this is that No. 2 has either a total ignorance or a total disregard for professional etiquette. The history of the case indicates that No. 1 understood the case better than No. 2, and that if you had left the case in the hands of No. 1 you might not have lost your cow.

2. Not generally. The results, of course, depend upon whether the case will yield to treatment.

3. Of course, you might take action, but would have no chance of getting a verdict for damages. Veterinarian No. 1 would stand a much better chance of getting a verdict against No. 2 for attempts to injure his professional reputation.

V.

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(Signed) W. A. Mitchell.

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