VETERINARY.

Veterinary Questions.

ANSWERED BY W. A. DUNBAR, V.S., PRESIDENT OF THE MANITOBA VETERINARY ASSOCIATION, WINNIPEG.

I have a colt which has started to knuckle over on one front foot. When I first noticed it I thought it was going over on the knees. It has been well fed all winter. It seems as if it was a little tender on the front feet.

SUBSCRIBER, Shoal Lake.

Probably the colt has been standing on a plank floor all winter, and it is just possible that it has been *too well* fed, and has not had sufficient exercise. If the feet are feverish (which you can find out from the abnormal heat and hardness of the hoofs), apply linseed meal or bran poultices for four or five days, changing the poultice twice a day. If there is a weakness about the fetlock joint or apparent shortening of the back tendon, apply the following liniment once a day, by rubbing it well in with the hand:—tincture of cantharides and tincture of camphor, of each one and a-half ounces; turpentine and liquid ammonia, of each one ounce; olive oil three ounces. As soon as the skin becomes quite sore, stop applying the liniment; but as soon as the scab, which will form, becomes dry and easily rubbed off, repeat the application of the liniment if necessary.

1. I have a registered Shire Stallion rising three years old. When tied up anywhere or when spoken to in the stable, will lift his right foot outward and slightly backward and then set it down again; at the same time he stiffens his tail and raises it for a second, as if in pain. He repeats these movements every few minutes; he occasionally rests left leg right on the toe. Can see nothing wrong when walking or trotting, except he breaks a little heavy on this foot. He is nervous, will rush in and out of stable door, and will shake all over when led near ice hole or strange place to drink; passes a few small worms occasionally. Is slightly drawn up in the belly, skin is tight and is in fair condition only. Eats well, is fed 3 quarts oats three times a day, ½ a pail potatoes, and hay and straw. Have only had him two months.

2. Also, what are the conditions necessary for the successful castrating of a full-grown horse?

"KATEPWA."

1. The motions which you describe are indicative of irritation or pain, but from the symptoms you have mentioned I am not able to determine the seat of the trouble; there is, however, considerable constitutional disturbance, and I would advise the following general treatment:—Raw linseed oil, one pint; turpentine, one ounce; fluid extract of belladona, two drachms; mix, and give on an empty stomach. Feed exclusively on bran mash until the above dose has operated, and then give morning and night for a week: bicarbonate of potass., two drachms; gentian pulv., one drachm; nux vomica, half a drachm. The above may be given in the morning in usual food, but should be given at night in a bran mash, made by boiling a teacupful of flaxseed in sufficient water to scald four quarts of bran; give moderate and regular outdoor exercise.

2. A full-grown horse when castrated should be in fair condition as regards flesh, and in the best of health; if the animal is in a plethoric state, it will be necessary to feed exclusively on a laxative and cooling diet for at least ten days before this operation, and a dose of purgative medicine is sometimes advisable. Regular work or exercise should also constitute part of the necessary preparation. The animal should not be given much food or water for twelve hours before he is castrated. One very important condition is the proper performance of the operation.

We have a five-year-old mare; there is a lump growing on her shoulder, started last fall, but of late it seems to be enlarging considerably; at present it is larger than a goose egg; the outer end of it is close to windpipe, the inner end seems to be attached to or imbedded in the flesh between shoulder and windpipe; does not seem to be painful, as she does not flinch when handling it. What would you recommend to effect a cure?

JAS. H. DUNLOP, Langvale.

The lump is probably a tumor of a fibrous nature, and, if so, the best treatment will be to have it cut out by a qualified person. If there is no veterinary surgeon within your reach you may try the following:—Biniodide of mercury and cantharides pulv., of each one drachm; vaseline or lard, one ounce; mix well. After removing the hair from the part, rub the above ointment well in with fingers; at the end of forty-eight hours wash off and apply lard or vaseline to the blistered surface. Repeat three or four times, allowing two weeks to elapse between each application.

An aged mare that has had no foal for three or four years is troubled with a discharge of "whites," a thick, white liquid, which is continually discharging. She ran in pasture last fall with an entire colt, and after service made bag, and after this went back; the discharge of white matter became worse and she has become weaker, although her appetite is good; her feed consists of whole oats, hay and boiled feed. Please give me a cure for this case.

ENQUIRER, Killarney, Man.

Your mare's ailment is *leucorrhœa*—"whites," and consists of a chronic inflammation of the mucous coat of the vagina, and probably that of the womb. The animal being aged, the disease is likely to be of an obstinate nature, if not incurable. The treatment to be pursued is both local and constitutional. The womb or vagina, (passage from external opening to womb) or both, if affected, should be thoroughly washed out morning and evening with tepid soft water, which should be injected with a suitable syringe or pump until it is discharged quite clear. The following solution should then be injected:—Sulphate of zinc, three drachms; carbolic acid, two drachms; tincture of opium, four drachms; water, one pint. Give internally:—Iodide of iron, one drachm, morning and night for ten days, and then reduce to one drachm once a day, which may be continued, if necessary, for two or three weeks. The medicine may be given in mash, or dissolved in one pint of water and administered as a drench. The local treatment should be continued twice a day until the white discharge becomes less copious and less frequent, and then once a day until it ceases.

I brought a four-year-old mare twenty miles about four weeks ago; the road being high, she kept sliding off. Ever since, when she moves she trembles at shoulders and thighs. Do you think the bad roads were the cause, and what would be best to do? Kindly advise through ADVOCATE.

GEORGE WEST, Blake, Man.

The over-exertion of muscular power consequent upon the journey was, no doubt, the cause of the subsequent trembling. Feed your mare exclusively on bran mash for sixteen hours, and then give purgative: barbadoes aloes, six drachms; calomel, one drachm; ginger pulv., two drachms; syrup on soap, sufficient to form a ball. Keep on mash diet until the purgative has ceased to operate, and then give morning and evening in usual food, for one week: sulphate of iron, one drachm; nitrate of potass., one drachm; nux vomica, one drachm. If the mare is pregnant, do not give purgative, but may give other medicine as directed.

SIR,—I have lots of lambs coming this spring, with large lumps in their throats; and they die nearly as soon as born. Please give cause and remedy. WM. RINGROSE, Pleasant Forks, Assa.

This pre-natal disease has been ascribed to various causes, such as the feeding of swamp grass or hay to the dams during pregnancy, a lack of salt, and drinking of water too strongly impregnated with alkali. A scrofulous condition of the ram has also been adduced as a cause of this disease. Nothing can be done in the way of a cure, but avoidance of the causes mentioned may prevent it.

ANSWERED BY DR. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S., TORONTO, ONT.

LYMPHANGITIS OR WEED.

We have a mare five years old, can you advise us as to treatment? She has a swollen leg twice its normal size. We have also a valuable brood mare, with contracted front feet, the outside is very brittle and breaks off arouud the bottom. What treatment would you advise? JOS. N. REID, Brisbane P. O., Ont.

We fear it is entirely beyond our power to advise a cure for the state that your mare is in from chronic lymphangitis, as the leg is no doubt in that form known as elephantitis. Try the following treatment and report progress:—Take resin powdered, four ounces; nitrate of potash, two ounces; colchicine powder, two ounces; gentian powder, two ounces; ginger powder, two ounces; aniseed powder, four ounces. Mix and give a tablespoonful twice a day. For the discharge, apply charcoal and boracic acid mixed, equal parts, dust on and bandage until swelling subsides. For the mare's contracted feet, poultice with bran and flaxseed meal, pare off loose portions of horn, apply a smart blister to coronets, say one part of biniodide of mercury to eight parts of lard.

DISEASES OF SHEEP.

Will you kindly inform me through the ADVOCATE the cause of a disease that has started amongst the sheep here. They first cough, and then in a short time refuse food, and die in about three days. I opened one or two and found the lungs mortified, and its gall very large.

T. H. THOMPSON, Gore Bay, Manatoulin.

From the description we are inclined to think the disease must be due to parasites or worms gaining access to the bronchial tubes and intestines by the nostrils, as we find that most of these parasites are due to water infection. In your next communication please notice on post mortem whether there is not some dirty brown liquid in the fourth or true stomach, as this would confirm the diagnosis and account for the derangement of the digestive system. The treatment should consist of: Oil of turpentine, one ounce; milk, warmed one pint. Give a full-grown sheep two tablespoonfuls, and the following powders to the whole of the flock: Common salt, two drachms; sulphate of iron, one scruple; areca nut, one drachm; resin powder, one drachm (dose for one sheep.) Mix and give with a little oatmeal in their food. A top dressing of salt to the land is to be recommended as a preventative.

UMBILICAL HERNIA OR NAVEL RUPTURE.

Can you inform me through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE the best way to remove a navel rupture, and a remedy for frogs of horses' feet affected with thrush?

A SUBSCRIBER, Malton.

Regarding the umbilical hernia, it will greatly depend on the size as to the method of removal. If the size of a pigeon's egg, a ligature will be all that is necessary; if larger, a pair of clams. It may be due to any severe muscular exertion, as when the foal or calf runs or jumps very actively, or being kept isolated from its parent, rushes about and cries energetically. After returning the bowel pass a ligature tightly around the part, and then pass one or two pins through the sack to retain the ligature in position, which should be tightened every other day, and in about eight to ten days the parts will slough off; then bandage the parts until sealed; dress with carbolic oil, one part to ten.

THRUSH IN HORSES FEET.

A good domestic remedy is air-slacked lime dusted on every day, or use the liniment of sulphate of copper, made by taking one part of sulphate of copper and four parts treacle; boil until the mass assumes a brown color. Apply every day.

APIARY.

Some Data for Those Who Keep Bees.

BY G. W. FERGUSON, LAMBETH.

The aim of the apiarist at this season will be to build up his colonies as rapidly as possible, so as to have an abundance of busy workers in readiness to take advantage of the honey harvest when it arrives; in order to accomplish this, two things are necessary—warmth and plenty of stores. If bees have been wintered out of doors, do not be in a hurry unpacking them; there may still be frosty nights that will chill the brood and discourage the bees, especially if colonies are weak. Even when bees are wintered in the cellar they are better to be in double-walled hives, otherwise they are liable to suffer when taken out in the spring; but if they are in single-walled hives, then contract the brood chamber, removing some of the frames, leaving only as many as the bees can cover. With weak colonies, two brood frames, with two containing honey, one on each side of them, will be sufficient, then outside of these place two closely-fitting division boards, one on each side, with chaff cushion on top, and they will be snug. But if you contract, be sure you don't forget to add combs as they grow stronger, or loss will result. Examine all colonies; the strongest may be on the point of starvation. If short of stores they must be fed; if you have surplus combs containing honey and pollen, this is undoubtedly the best; if not, then a syrup made from granulated sugar may be used. For winter stores, this is made in the proportion of one pint of water to two pounds of sugar, but in spring, when bees are flying, it may be made much thinner. The trouble with feeding liquid food is, that it stimulates the bees to flying, and this is the cause of spring dwindling. It is natural for bees to gather their food from the flowers, and when they find the stores coming into the hive in this form, they think there must be flowers somewhere, and off they go in search of them, flying long distances, wearing themselves out, and perishing from cold and fatigue. It is true it stimulates the queen to laying, but if there are no bees to hatch the eggs or nurse the brood, her laying will not amount to much.

Mr. A. I. Root says, in his A. B. C. of Bee Culture, that he has frequently lost colonies in the spring, after he has commenced feeding, and attributes it to the escape of heat when opening the hives in order to feed them, but perhaps it might be mainly attributed to its causing them to fly in cold and windy weather, when they ought to have been in the hive. Therefore, when it is necessary to feed liquid food in the spring, it should be done only on warm days, and then in considerable quantities, so that if three or four days, or a week of cold weather should follow, it will not be necessary to disturb them until it is over. With weak colonies the aim should be to keep the bees within the hive as much as possible. Supplying them with combs containing honey and pollen gives them sufficient encouragement to go on with brood raising, and having all they require close at hand they are retained within the hive, where their presence is so much needed to keep up the heat, in order to hatch the eggs and nurse the brood. For this reason, I like a good large brood chamber, not less than ten frames of the capacity of the Langstroth, so that I can have plenty of surplus combs well sealed. I do not extract from the brood chamber, but take all the surplus from the top.

Those who practice clipping the queen's wing will find this the best time to do it, as she can be found more easily now than when the hive is full of bees. Of course it is not claimed for this method that it prevents swarming, as some of its opponents assume, but it will prevent first swarms from absconding (and no apiarist need have second swarms) and wonderfully facilitate the hiving process.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)