

Veterinary Prescriptions for Farm Use.

COLIC DRENCH.

Tincture of opium— $1\frac{1}{2}$ fluid oz.
Tincture of belladonna— $1\frac{1}{2}$ fluid oz.
Sweet spirits of nitre— $1\frac{1}{2}$ fluid oz.

Mix with a pint of cold water and administer as a drench, or with $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of water and administer with a 2-oz. dose syringe.

The above may be said to be a standard drench for the different forms of colic. If necessary, the dose may be repeated in from two to three hours, and if the second dose fails to give lasting relief, the owner must decide that the case is a serious one and requires professional attention. Even in serious cases the drench will tend to control pain until professional attention can be obtained. If more than two doses are given, it is wise to omit the opium and increase the quantity of belladonna and nitre, as opium tends to constipate.

DIURETICS.

Diuretics, or medicines that increase the activity of the kidneys, are many. The following may be said to be a standard:

Nitrate of potassium—3 drams.
Powdered resin—3 drams.

Mix and administer in a little cold water as a drench, or roll in tissue paper and administer as a bolus. The popular opinion that sweet spirits of nitre is an active diuretic is a mistake. It has a slight diuretic action, but its chief actions are stimulant and antispasmodic. Another too common idea is that horses should be given diuretics once or twice weekly in order to "keep their water right." Horses should not be given diuretics or other drugs unless there be some deviation from health. The periodical administration of diuretics tends to weaken the kidneys from over-stimulation.

PURGATIVES.

Purgatives, cathartics, or medicines that increase the activity of the mucous glands of the digestive tract, and hence an evacuation of liquid or semi-liquid feces, are many. Some drugs of this class act with reasonable certainty on some classes of animals, but have little action on others. In most cases a mixture of drugs gives better results than one. Aloes is the principal purgative for the horse. The following makes a reasonably reliable purgative for a horse of ordinary size, say 1,200 to 1,400 pounds:

Barbadoes aloes—7 drams.
Calomel—2 drams.
Ginger—2 drams.

Mix with sufficient treacle, glycerine or water to make plastic, roll in tissue paper and administer as a ball; or mix with a pint of cold water and give as a drench.

Epsom Salts is the principal purgative for ruminants. The following makes a reliable dose for an ordinary-sized cow:

Epsom salts— $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.
Gamboge—4 drams.
Ginger—1 ounce.

Syrup of buckthorn is said to be the principal purgative for dogs, but where active purgation is desired, we find that it is not reliable, hence it is used only for puppies and delicate, weakly dogs, the dose being from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 ounces, according to size. The following makes a reliable purgative for a dog of say 20 to 30 pounds:

Jalap—2 drams.
Calomel—5 grains.

The above doses are, as stated, for animals of ordinary size; the dose for smaller or larger animals would be according to size. When slight action is required, the dose should be about two-thirds of the purgative dose. This is called a laxative.

FEBRIFUGES.

Febrifuges, or medicines that reduce fever, are indicated in cases where the temperature is high. Nitrate of potassium is a good febrifuge, given in 2 to 4 dram doses three or four times daily. When prompt febrifuge action is desired, as in cases of acute inflammations, liquor ammonia acetatis gives good results, administered in 1-ounce doses, mixed with a little water, and repeated every two hours until its actions are established, or until the temperature is reduced. "WHIP."

LIVE STOCK.

Oats are the best concentrate to feed the young calf.

Cross-breeding is always uncertain, and never should be practiced.

Palatability is important as a measure of the actual value of a food. A food which the animal relishes increases the flow of digestive juices and thus aids digestion.

It is generally believed that, by breeding from animals at an early age, maturity can be hastened. Early maturity is desirable to a degree, but when such matings are carried too far, early maturity is produced at the expense of size and constitution, which is a questionable advantage to the breed.

The advantages from maintaining a good condition of flesh in pregnant animals include the following: (1) They have the reserve fund stored in the system which is drawn upon for the advantage of the young after they are born; (2) they are possessed of more vigor, which is turned to good account in the processes of digesting and assimilating the large amounts of food fed; 3, they are much less liable to reach that low condition of flesh which is not favorable to high production or profitable breeding.—[Thomas Shaw, in "Feeding Farm Animals."

Grading is entirely different from cross-breeding. Shaw defines a grade as the offspring of a pure-bred and an animal of common or mixed breeding. Either one, male or female, may be pure, but, in common practice, the male is usually pure and the female of mixed breeding. This is followed because it is much easier to get a pure-bred male than a herd of pure-bred females, and there is an improvement in the offspring, instead of a retrogression, as would be the case if a sire of mixed breeding were used. Grading up the stock should be encouraged on every farm where pure-breds are not kept exclusively.

Our Scottish Letter.

In every walk of life, only one subject bulks large this week. It is the loss of the mammoth Atlantic liner, Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York. Doubtless there were many Canadians among her 2,300 passengers, and the awful tale which wireless telegraphy flashed across the ocean will have cast its sinister shadow over Canadian, as well as British and American homes. Out of the awful darkness of that April night there shines the splendid story of British seamanship, with its grand ideal of women and children first, and the infamous tale of American journalism, with its teeming falsehoods and heartless mendacities. Surely something should be done by the American people to rid themselves of such a upas tree as the yellow press, which cherishes no reverence and regards not the sacred sorrows of bereaved friends and kindred. The disaster is the most appalling in the history of the British mercantile marine, and surely, in view of it, we will hereafter hear less of the last word in luxurious shipbuilding and the system of living as though there were neither a Divine Providence above us nor moral and spiritual destinies within us.

The month or more which has elapsed since I last wrote has, agriculturally, been most disappointing. The third week of April, now closing, has given us most delightful spring weather. These days have been warm and dry, but March and the first fortnight in April were, in the west of Scotland, as wintry as could well be imagined. Rain and storm were our appointed portion, and the land was so wet that spring work was greatly retarded. The fine sunshine of the past week has, of course, wrought an immense change, and vegetation has come away with rapidity. In the east, of Scotland the rainfall is much less, and there tillage operations are far advanced. The prospects generally are now fair all round, and should the last week in April and the whole of May give us seasonable weather, with alternate sun and shower, we may look for a fairly successful year. Prices for almost every kind of produce are high, and, in the main, the prospects of the farmer are fairly bright. Horses are now going on to their seasons, and the prices of horses of every grade as dear, and pedigree fillies for export are in keen demand.

Death has again been busy among farmers, and Alexander McRobbie, Aberdeen, a well-known owner of Clydesdale stallions has been the ever-swelling number. He was held in high esteem,

being a kindly, shrewd business man, whose horses were of the big, weighty type, and he always showed a few at the Glasgow and Aberdeen shows. At the dispersion sale of Mr. McRobbie's stud, 12 stallions made an average of £122 8s. 3d.

Lord Polwarth, personally one of the most respected noblemen in Scotland, has fallen upon evil days, and his whole movable property has been sold by public auction for behoof of his creditors. His twenty Clydesdales, mostly mares and fillies, made an average of £71 5s. 10d., which was regarded by everybody as extremely satisfactory. His Booth Shorthorns made a miserable trade; 82 of them, of all ages and both sexes, made an average of £17 5s. 4d. Trade was slow to a degree. Nobody seems to want these great big, coarse animals, with prominent hooks and most unsatisfactory, big, coarse bones. Between them and the favorite Scots type, long, low and level, there is no sort of affinity. The highest-priced animal in the whole day's sale was the three-year-old stallion, Knight of the Borders (15910), which made 445 gs., to A. M. Rennie, Paisley. Altogether, Clydesdales redeemed the Polwarth dispersion, and, had everything sold as they did, there would have been a substantial composition for creditors. The best part of Lord Polwarth's stock is yet to be disposed of. This is the flock of Border-Leicesters. They are to be sold in September, and experts affirm that no man in Great Britain has a flock of ewes like those at Mertoun. It is quite a possible thing that these ewes will make record prices, and everyone will be delighted should this be the case.

Cattle sales have recently been numerous. All the breeds have been represented, but Shorthorns have far outstripped all other breeds in price. At Belfast, 284 Shorthorns, mostly young bulls and heifers, made an average of £23 13s. 6d. At Penrith, in Cumberland, the center of a district in which a very high-class type of Shorthorns are bred, 117 head made an average of £29 2s. 10d. At the Dublin Spring Show, this week, there was a big two-days' sale of Shorthorns, and a young dark roan named Leix President, from Viscount de Vespi's herd, made the unprecedented figure, for an Irish-bred bull, of 400 gs. There was a very large and good show of Shorthorns at Dublin, and the supreme trophy went to Matthew Marshall, Stranraer, for a fine, lengthy, level, short-legged roan named Marlborough, and home-bred. This is an ideal Scots Shorthorn; he is sure to be further heard of. The same owner had the reserve with his Glasgow champion bull of last year.

England has recently had a run of very satisfactory sales. At the Edgcote Shorthorn Co.'s herd, near to Banbury, Oxford, a draft was sold last week, when 61 head, nearly all yearlings, of both sexes, made an average of £82 14s. 2d. The top price was 32 gs., paid for a yearling heifer. Messrs. Wallace & Gresson, the proprietors of the Edgcote herd, have been splendid buyers at the Scots autumn sales for several years past, and Scots breeders made this their first sale. They bought several of the highest-priced lots. Ayrshire yearling bulls were sold in large numbers at the Lanark Bull Sale, in March, when 237 head made the splendid average of £12 4s. 6d. The highest price was £65, as against £60 last year. This sale used to be held much later in the season, but the alteration into March will no doubt be fully justified.

Shire horse-breeders are proposing a raid on Canada. They are disappointed with the meagre demand for Shires from your side, and would like to convert you from the error of your ways. Their idea is that Canadians do not know Shires, or they would be more favorably disposed to them. It is therefore proposed to send out some carefully-selected Shires to your autumn fairs, and so captivate your hearts. My opinion is that Shires will hardly be wanted in Canada until horse-breeding for heavy street traffic becomes urgent. So far as Northwest Canada is concerned, there will be little of this horse-breeding for many a long day. The excessive roughness of hair about the legs of Shire stallions is bound to be a great hindrance to their popularity with Canadians. Clydesdale breeders have much greater cause to dread the opposition of the Percheron. He is in favor with the American farmers who have crossed the line and are settling so largely in the Northwest. The Clydesdale has, however, the big following, and so long as exporters send out the right type of Clydesdale, no breed will ever surpass the Scots draft horse in the good opinion of Canadian farmers.

Great changes have taken place in the administration of agricultural affairs in Scotland. The new Board of Agriculture came into existence on 1st April. It has been invested with great powers, and the whole control of agricultural education passes to it. The President is Sir Robert Patrick Wright, so long Principal of the West of Scotland Agricultural College. His colleagues are R. B. Greig, late agricultural lecturer in Macduff College, Aberdeen. Both of these gentlemen were members of the Agricultural Com-