

Veterinary.

Parturient Apoplexy in Cows—Treatment.

Cases of parturient apoplexy require the greatest of care in connection with their treatment. In the early stage, before there is complete loss of power, depletion of the system by bloodletting is strongly recommended by some practitioners; and this operation, to be of advantage, must be performed in the early stage. When coma and paralysis have supervened, bleeding is not attended with any benefit.

In a majority of cases, however, it is desirable to administer a good dose of purgative medicine, as:—Epsom salts, one pound, dissolved in two or three quarts of water. An enema of soap and water, to which may be added an ounce or two of spirits of turpentine, should be given every two or three hours; and in many cases it is of the greatest advantage to use the catheter in order to relieve the distended bladder.

When the symptoms are decidedly comatose, much relief may be afforded by the application of cold to the head, and, in all cases, the body should be kept warmly covered. Moderate doses of stimulants are sometimes found useful. We strongly recommend the Bromide of Potassium in two or three drachm doses three or four times a day. During the past few months we have had a number of very alarming cases that recovered under the use of the Bromide of Potassium.

The limbs and udders should be well handrubbed, and the general comfort of the patient must not be neglected. Great relief is afforded the poor sufferer by turning her over from one side to the other and by supporting the head in an elevated position. This can be easily done by means of bundles of straw, or ordinary grain bags filled with chaff or straw.

In this disease, it is necessary to administer medicines with the greatest care, for, when the comatose symptoms are developed, or coming on, the patient can only swallow with considerable difficulty, and the drench, if too quickly or forcibly given, may partly pass into the larynx and trachea and produce suffocation.

When a comatose condition is fairly established, it is almost an impossibility to give medicines without the aid of a stomach pump, and therefore it is much better and safer to persevere with the external application and the free use of medicated clysters.

This serious and often fatal affection might be easily prevented. It is generally the result of a full or plethoric state of the system, acting upon the nervous system, and at the same time the various excretory organs remain inactive and the whole vascular system soon becomes abnormally engorged. This preternatural condition of the system can be counteracted by very simple and safe means.

For eight or ten days before calving the animal should only be allowed a limited quantity of food, and after parturition the food should be limited for some time. It can be gradually increased after four or five days, and when the excretion of milk is taking place in a regular manner. No doubt for a short period the cow would not yield such a quantity of milk as if she were largely fed, but the temporary loss would be amply counterbalanced by escaping the dangers of parturient apoplexy.

The Horse Epizootic Again.

The genuine old epizootic has appeared again in many places in the Dominion and the United States. The disease appears to be of a milder type than that which prevailed three years ago. We are informed, however, that, in Buffalo, the disease is assuming a more serious character many of the horses that were attacked and, as was supposed, had recovered, being found to be suffering from pleuro-pneumonia.

The symptoms of the epizootic, which is a kind of influenza, are pretty well known to all horse-owners. The pulse is quick and weak, the breathing accelerated and accompanied by a cough, the extremities cold, the throat swollen and sore and the lining membrane of the eyes and nose of a yellow tinge. Usually, there is a discharge from both nostrils, and sometimes the matter is coughed up in lumps.

The treatment consists in keeping up the strength of

the patient while the disease runs its course, giving no quack nostrums nor depleting remedies that will merely waste the strength which it is desirable to economize. In mild cases the horses may be worked a little without injuring them, but in the more severe cases, rest and warmth are necessary. Sponge out the nostrils several times a day with tepid water, and afterwards wash with a weak solution of carbolic acid. The diet should be of a mildly stimulating class, such as is nutritious and easily digested. Linseed tea, oatmeal gruel and boiled grain are about the best, apples and bread will also be relished. If the animal from soreness of the throat refuse to eat, it must be drenched with linseed tea or oatmeal gruel. This treatment will carry through all ordinary cases.

Enlargement of the Glands.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—What is the matter with my cows, and what is the remedy? Two cows have already died with it, and now a fine female calf is sick. The symptoms are as follows:—Difficulty of breathing, sweating, soreness about the throat, lump on or near the root of the tongue, froth running from nose, a slight cough. To all appearance the calf is healthy and fat and eats well. The two that died were cut open, and on the throat, near the tongue, was found a small lump which, when it was cut open, was found to contain a yellowish matter.

Shelbina, Mo.

JOSEPH OLFORD.

The disease is an enlargement of the glands. We recommend the trying of an ointment composed of one part of biniodide of mercury to eight parts of lard. Apply every third day. You can also give one drachm of iodide of potassium morning and night for eight days. If the enlargement shows signs of suppurating, have it carefully opened.

Treatment for Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

The following interesting paragraph appeared in the *London Times* as to the treatment of foot-and-mouth disease, which is now so widespread in England:

The disease is worse on the borders of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, and in the extreme north of the county, adjacent to Staffordshire. 'H. G.,' Isle of Wight, sends us a recipe for the cure of foot-and-mouth disease among cattle, which he received from Mr. Thomas Scott, of Knapp Hill Farm, Woking. 'H. G.' states that recently all his cows were affected. The treatment prescribed in the recipe was immediately strictly applied. In little more than one week they all entirely recovered, and are now, so far as he can see, feeding well, and in their former good health. The recipe referred to is as follows:

"When the disease first shows itself, dissolve one pound weight of blue stone (or sulphate of copper) in a gallon of soft water, and with a sponge tied firmly to a stick, well wash out the animals' mouths with this liquor; then mix some powdered alum and oatmeal in equal quantities, and put three large tablespoonfuls of this mixture into their mouths, as near the root of the tongue as possible; this will produce the discharge of an immense quantity of saliva. Also, wash the animals' feet with the blue-stone water, especially between the claws, and allow the cattle to stand on dry straw. If this treatment be attended to when the disease first shows itself, three applications a day will cure the worst cases in three or four days. During the continuance of the complaint, all food must be given chopped, as the cattle cannot lay hold of anything with the tongue; and they should have plenty of water to drink. Do not send for a professional cattle doctor—he is more harm than good. The disease is very infectious, and in all probability he visits so many cases that he will be likely to carry the infection in his clothes and spread it wherever he goes. This prescription can easily be given by an intelligent cowman; and even this man should not go among other cattle in the clothes he wears when he attends to the diseased beasts.

The theory of this treatment is, that blue-stone (or sulphate of copper) being a caustic, it eats out the disease and hardens the membrane between the claws when applied to the feet, and when applied to the mouth and tongue it has a similar effect; but to prevent any of the matter of the ulcers being swallowed or sealed up in the wounds and thus passing into the blood, the mixture of alum and oatmeal is used, and while this has a healing effect, it compels a constant motion of the tongue until all the mucous matter in the mouth is discharged in the shape of saliva. The blue-stone and alum can be obtained at any chemist's. Advice—Keep your cattle in your own fields as much as possible. Prevent them from taking the breath of strange cattle in any way, either over a hedge or on the road. Keep them off the road as much as possible; in short, do not let your cattle mix with or go where other cattle go, if you can help it.

Wind-Sucking, Stump-Sucking and Crib-Biting.

A veterinary contributor to the *Chicago Tribune* thus answers a correspondent enquiring about what he should do to the horse with the above vices:—

Wind-sucking, stump-sucking, and crib-biting are essentially the same vices. The only difference consists in the greater proficiency of the wind-suckers, for the same are able to swallow air, and to belch it out again without needing any support for their teeth; while crib-biters cannot do it unless they have something—manger, pole of a wagon, neck-yoke, etc.—of which they can take hold with their teeth. Both vices, once fully developed, are incurable; and horses that have acquired them can be prevented only temporarily from exercising the same.

The most common, and, may be, the most efficient, method, of suppressing the exercise of these bad habits consists in buckling a strap rather tight around the horses' neck. Sawing between the horses' teeth, or driving a wedge between his nippers, are old horse-jockey tricks, which cause the animal sufficient toothache not only to induce him to neglect his crib-biting exercises, but also to make him refuse his feed. Both vices—wind-sucking and crib-biting are usually the consequence of too much idleness, and are acquired, almost exclusively, only by such horses as are naturally very active and possess a nervous temperament. A young horse, that commences to make his first exercises, may be broken of that bad habit, and be caused to forget it altogether, if he is worked sufficiently every day, and does not occupy one and the same stable with an old wind-sucker, or crib-biter, whom he can see exercising his bad habit.

Wind sucking and crib-biting, like a great many human vices, are somewhat contagious; for it has been repeatedly observed that an old wind-sucker or crib-biter is apt to teach or to impart his bad habit to other younger horses who stand in the same stable. Still, these vices are not quite so bad as people generally suppose them to be; they diminish materially the real value of a horse only when the latter makes his crib-biting exercises on the edge of a manger while he is eating his grain, for in that case considerable grain will fall to the ground and be wasted. It is also claimed that wind-suckers are more apt to be affected with wind colic than other horses. This, however, is probably a hypothesis without any foundation; but, even if it should be true, then the same cause—that is, the wind-sucking—which is supposed to induce the wind-colic will make the latter also the less dangerous; for an accomplished wind-sucker can enuct gases with the same facility with which he swallows air.

Preventing Milk Fever.

A correspondent of the *North British Agriculturist* writes:—In your columns an inquiry has recently been made as to the best means of preventing milk fever in cows. I have been in the habit of giving the following dose:—Glauber salts 12 oz., cream of tartar 4 oz., nitro 2 oz., and ginger, in powder, 2 drachms. Since I adopted this plan, I have never lost a cow by milk fever. The dose should be given three weeks before calving and three days after. Before giving it, the animal should fast for four hours before and two hours after, and have plenty of tepid water standing before her. Shake the mixture well before giving amongst two bottles of boiling water, and let it cool to blood heat. The moderate use of salt along with turnips is very beneficial to cows, particularly before calving—the disease is brought on by gross humours within the system before calving.

The veterinary editor remarks thereupon:—Our correspondent may consider himself remarkably fortunate that with such a simple saline remedy as that used he has hitherto kept clear of milk fever. Amongst well thriving, liberally fed, superior milking cows in the prime of life such a remedy unfortunately would not be of much avail. One dose of physic, such as that prescribed, given three weeks before calving, is insufficient to arrest the excited condition of the brain and nervous centres in which the disease consists. Spare diet, dry food, and frequent removal of any milk that can be got away are as essential as the physic. Epsom salt and common salt, or a mixture of the two, proves quite as serviceable as the best common glauber salts. The repetition of the physic three days after calving may perhaps sometimes be requisite for other evils, but can have little effect in combating the approach of milk fever, which often shows itself on the second day after calving. Indeed, if the cow is safely over the third day, there is seldom much fear of her going down with milk fever. Salt given with the food, as the writer remarks, is beneficial for cows, but it is very doubtful whether such benefit depends upon its effects on the fancied "gross humours" presumed to exist "in the system before calving." The gross humours or other mischief occurring in milk fever evidently occur after, not before, calving.

EATING WOOD.—When a cow is found eating wood, bones, &c., it is an intimation that she is suffering from indigestion, and needs some condiment. Salt, bone-ash finely pounded, and wood charcoal, in equal quantities, should be mixed together and a handful a day given to each cow. A few corn ears may be given occasionally with benefit.