

THE HORSE.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Influenza.

Influenza is an infectious, epizootic febrile disease, usually attended by great prostration of strength, with early inflammation of the nasal, laryngeal, and sometimes bronchial mucous membranes, and usually complicated with irritability of the digestive tract. Occasionally the disease implicates the substance of the lungs, pleura, liver, the articulations, muscles and tendons. In fact, it is liable to very many complications.

Causes.—It is doubtless due to a specific virus, but it is often impossible to determine how an animal has been exposed to the contagion. In many cases it apparently appears spontaneously. It does not depend upon any known condition of the atmosphere, soil, seasons or temperature. It may appear at any season, but is more common in the fall, winter and spring. Sudden changes of weather appear to assist the development of the virus, and exposure to dampness and cold predisposes the animal to the disease, but these causes alone will not produce it. In order that an animal may contract the disease it is necessary that he be exposed to the specific virus that produces it. It is generally conceded that the virus is volatile, that it exists in the air and probably multiplies there. This accounts for its appearance in a stable, in which neither the horses nor their attendants have been exposed to the contagion.

Symptoms.—An uncomplicated case is simply a catarrhal condition. It is usually ushered in by rigors, (a shivering fit) which often passes unobserved. There is a dry, staring coat; the legs and ears are usually cold; a redness and dryness of the mucous membrane of the nostrils; a well-marked elevation of the temperature to 103 or 104, and sometimes as high as 106 degrees Fahrenheit. There is sneezing, a cough, at first dry and hacking but usually soon becoming moist; a nasal discharge at first watery but soon becoming purulent. The eyes become infected and dull and tears usually flow over the face. There is decreased appetite and more or less inability to swallow. Pressure upon the throat usually causes acute coughing. The cough becomes deep, sonorous, painful and with spasms convulsing the whole body. The pulse is weak and frequent after the first day or two. The mouth is hot and clammy, and the thirst usually well marked. The soreness of the throat is indicated by a gulping noise when drinking, and often a return of some of the water through the nostrils, also by a quidding of the food. In the early stages the faeces are usually dry and hard and sometimes covered with mucus, the urine high colored and scanty. Owing to the weakness of the circulation, dropsical swellings often appear on the abdomen, breast and legs, the articulations become involved and the animal is disinclined to move by reason of the pain that movements of the joints cause.

Treatment.—This disease cannot be cured quickly. It is somewhat inclined to run a definite course. The treatment should consequently be directed to relieve any distressing symptoms, to allay irritability, and support strength. The patient should be placed in a roomy, well-ventilated box stall, excluded from drafts. Pure air is essential even at the expense of heat. The body should be clothed according to the temperature. He should be fed on soft, easily digested food, as rolled oats, bran, linseed meal, grass, if in season, raw roots and hay, and supplied with an abundance of good cold water. It is good practice to keep water where he can reach it at will, as even though he may not be thirsty he appears to get some relief by taking some cold water into his mouth. Inhalations of medicated steam given by holding his head over a pot of boiling water to which a little carbolic acid or tincture of benzoin has been added, continued for one-half hour or longer two or three times daily, affords relief, encourages nasal discharge and relieves the cough. Hot poultices, or poultices of antiphlogistine to the throat and keeping the throat wrapped with flannel bandages, or the application of a liniment made of equal parts liquor ammonia, oil of turpentine and raw linseed oil, and wrapping with flannel bandages gives good results. The throat should be kept warm. If the legs be swollen and sore, they should be well hand-rubbed two or three times daily and kept well wrapped with woolen bandages. Constitutional treatment should be directed towards allaying the fever and sustaining strength. Two to three drams of nitrate of potassium and twelve to fifteen grains of quinine three times daily; this should be given by placing it well back on the tongue out of a spoon, as the patient may not eat it if given on food, and on account of the soreness of the throat it is dangerous to attempt to drench. If prostration be great, stimulants as two to three ounces of sweet spirits of nitre or three to four ounces of whiskey diluted with an equal quantity of water should be given with a dose syringe every four or five hours.

If constipation occurs relief should be given by administering a few ounces of raw linseed oil and injections of warm, soapy water per rectum; drastic purgatives such as aloes must be avoided. If the appetite remain poor after three or four days, milk or gruel should be substituted for water, and tonics, as equal parts of powdered gentian, ginger, nux vomica and bicarbonate of soda may be given in dessertspoonful doses three or four times daily. This also should be given out of a spoon in order to avoid danger of suffocation. When complications that are not understood arise, the services of a veterinarian should be procured.

W.H.P.

LIVE STOCK.

Keep the young things growing; they will never make as cheap gains again.

Clean the grain, stubble and root fields, not by hand, but with cattle, hogs and chickens.

Hogs reached the \$20 mark at Chicago and Buffalo not long ago, but since then they have suddenly dropped.

It is time now to separate the ram lambs from the main flock. In many cases it should have been done earlier.

Have you given the cabin method of housing hogs serious consideration? It might solve a perplexing problem in connection with the swine.

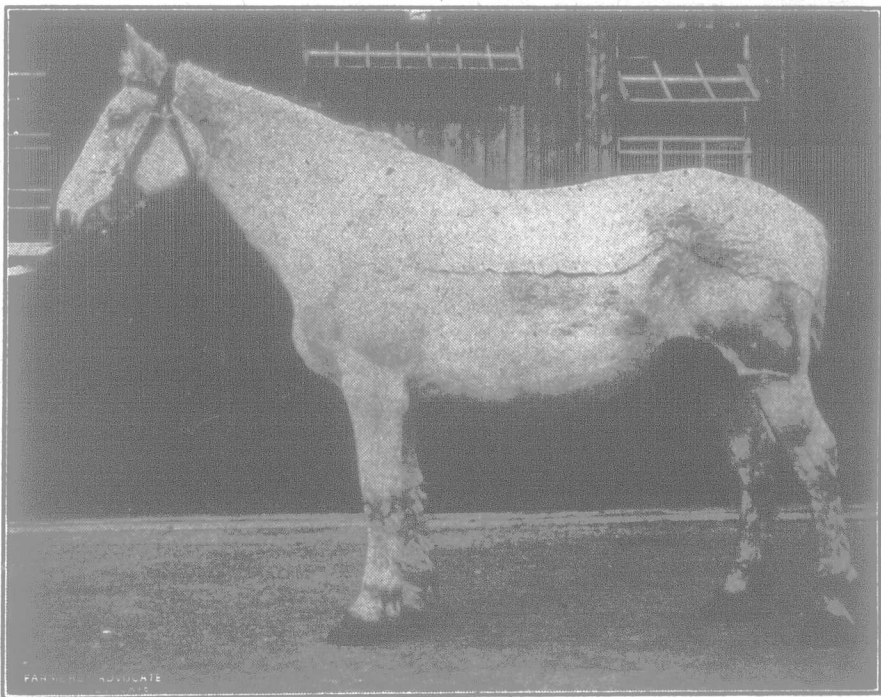
Make preparations early for housing the fall-farrowed pigs wisely and comfortably this coming winter. Crippling can be prevented with proper feed and treatment.

Don't sell the best cow, ewe or sow from the herd or flock. Improvement will come through them and not through the ordinary ones that the other fellow does not want.

Train your entries for the fall fairs and insist on the animals being shown on the halter. Judging cattle loose in the pasture field or large paddock is a primitive method and altogether uneducative.

The United States Food Administrator, Hoover, states that prices of beef and pork will not be fixed in that country. An effort is being made, however, to stabilize prices so there will be fewer wide fluctuations.

Those who have hogs to sell should remember that lower prices are usually ushered in during late October and the month of November. The reasons are obvious—the majority of farmers are ready and anxious to sell then.



An Irish Draft Mare.

An effort is being made to increase draft horse breeding in Ireland by using heavy stallions on this native type of light draft mare.

Plan the work and feeding so the herd will not be obliged to remain in the fields too late in the fall. Gains made in summer and early fall should not be lost. It takes too much good grain and roughage to get them back.

Young sows should not be bred until around eight months of age. The gestation period is less of a drain than the lactation period so the sow should reach a fair degree of maturity before being called upon to perform the duties of rearing a litter.

Under good management hogs should be reared to 200 pounds in weight on about four pounds of grain for each pound of gain in live weight. Producers can estimate from these figures future profits or losses taking into consideration the price of feeding-stuffs.

New Zealand, according to official figures, had 24,753,324 sheep on the 30th of April, 1917. This represents a decrease of 34,826 over last year's count. During the last five years the returns have annually shown over twenty-four million. A similar sheep population was reported in 1910.

More hogs at less cost could be reared if proper consideration were given to the question of housing. The cabin or portable house could be used more extensively in the parts of Ontario where swine are raised in greatest numbers. Expensive piggeries are unnecessary. Light, ventilation and freedom from drafts are the chief requisites.

The Value of Sheep on the Land.

It is many years ago since we heard an old flax-grower remark that, even on a mixed tillage farm, he thought a few sheep were always worth keeping for the fine flax they left after them. It is well known that sheep, especially if hand-fed, enrich land greatly, and it is conceivable that sheep droppings would leave behind a large manurial residue especially rich in potash, which would be of direct benefit to flax. The even distribution of sheep droppings makes this form of manuring land easier done than in the case of cattle, which are inclined to rest and shelter in spots. A writer dealing with this very subject recently points out that "the recognized value of sheep dung on pastures has been due quite as much to its character as to its composition. Falling evenly all over the field, it requires no further distribution. The dung of cattle falls in solid heaps, temporarily destroying the grass underneath and over-manuring the spot, so as to grow coarse, rank patches." Here is contrasted the effect of both kinds of stock in manuring the fields on which they graze. The feet of the sheep have been referred to as golden for the enriching effect they have on the soil, and there is no doubt they are worth keeping, even on small tillage farms, for this reason. As a rule, sheep are not easily kept on the smaller-sized farms, where the fences must be perfect to keep them from getting on to other holdings. Even this, however, should not be a bar to keeping stock which leave traces behind them in strengthening the soil for growing nearly every kind of farm crop. Whether lambs sell ill or sell well, we believe all farmers who grow flax should keep a few ewes. The profits may not be great directly, but they may be indirectly. It will be many a year before supplies of potash such as were available before the war can be obtained by growers of flax. All know that potash is an essential manure for the crop, and its application in whatever form never fails to mark itself. An alternative to the source of some years ago must now be looked for, and while kelp which, in limited quantity, may be obtained round the coast-line may be utilized, the benefit of keeping some sheep, even if for no other cause than for increasing the supply of potash in the soil, should be more widely recognized than it is.—Farmers Gazette.

Why Progress is Slow.

We are not making any startling progress in the live stock industry. In respect to numbers statistics record an increase at one time and a decrease at another, whereas, in a young country like this, we should be adding to our live-stock population at a steady and healthy rate each year. On the other hand, one must admit, that a gradual improvement is taking place in regard to quality. The pure-bred sire is becoming more popular and the cattle, horses, sheep and swine, the country over, are benefiting thereby. However, this change for the better is lamentably slow. One reason is that stock farmers in general do not fully appreciate the pure-bred sire, while another undoubtedly is to be found in the conclusions arrived

at by Raymond Pearl, of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. Investigation has been carried on throughout that State, particularly in regard to the ages of sires used by a number of progressive Maine farmers and breeders. The following table taken from a Maine Bulletin shows that a large percentage of the calves are from young sires, the older ones being disposed of before their progeny reach the age when their quality or productiveness can be ascertained. There is no evidence to prove that calves from young sires are inferior to those from older parentage. The regret is that more bulls of proven worth are not retained as breeders. The table is followed by Prof. Pearl's comments.

Showing the Age in Years of Bulls Used as Breeders.

Age in years	Absolute frequency	Percentage
1	213	22.03
2	252	26.06
3	209	21.61
4	149	15.41
5	52	5.78
6	53	5.48
7	24	2.48
8	8	.83
9	3	.31
10	—	—
11	—	—
12	4	.41
Total	967	100

"From these tables we note the average age of the