

fractures, by diseased bone, or fibrous cartilage; also by morbid conditions of the skin, tumors, plugging of the arteries, accidents, pricks in shoeing, treads, wounds, ulcers, rheumatism, and reflex nervous action, as in diseased liver.

A SPRAIN

or strain is violence inflicted upon any soft structure, with extension, or often rupture of its fibres. When a muscle is strained the injury is succeeded by pain, swelling, and heat, with loss of function. An inflamed muscle can no longer contract; hence, in some strains the symptoms resemble those of paralysis. The swelling of an inflamed muscle is often succeeded by atrophy, or shrinking of the muscle, caused by a lack of nourishment, as in sweeney; and sometimes we have fatty degeneration of its fibres. In the latter case, when microscopically examined, the sarcous elements are replaced by glistening oil particles, so that the functional power is completely destroyed. These conditions are often due to an inflammatory exudate pressing on the tissue and interfering with nutrition, and for this reason the sooner the exudate is removed the better.

TREATMENT.—Apply cold fomentations for a few hours, which must be succeeded by warm and accompanied by slight irritation, which can be accomplished by applying a liniment composed of methylated spirits, 2 oz.; tincture of arnica, 2 oz.; water, one pint; applied after fomenting with warm water. It may be required to succeed this with stronger irritants, such as tincture of cantharides, or cantharidine ointment. Give a purgative in the first stages, and a cooling diet, followed by good nursing.

Sheaves from Our Cleaner.

Good soil, good crops; good crops, good stock. The hardest work the farmer has to do is to think.

Never heed what you make; it is what you save that counts.

The farmer who performs his work the easiest often accomplishes the most.

It is better to labor than to wait until your neighbor offers to help you.

It requires no science to know how to exhaust your soil, it is in the recuperation where the science comes in.

If you boast so much about your farmyard manure, saying that it is better than all "artificial" kinds, why then don't you save it?

During the past 40 years Sir J. B. Lawes, amongst many other experiments, has been testing the wheat yield on an unmanured plot, and found that the decrease averaged one quarter of a bushel per acre per year. This decrease can only be accounted for by reason of a loss of fertility occasioned by the crops of wheat. Now in many settlements of this province the land has been continuously cropped for about 40 years, and whether or not the yield of wheat has not dropped off 10 bushels per acre during that time, or one-fourth of a bushel per annum, even by a liberal application of manure, let every farmer be his own judge. Let the manure balance the spoliation of our climate, caused by the destruction of our forests, and let us consider that our decrease is going on as rapidly as Sir J. B. Lawes' unmanured plot. Does this not prove that it is time for us to begin to consider how we shall restore the fertility of our soil, or at least prevent its further tendency to exhaustion?

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post-Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. If an answer is specially requested by mail, a stamp must be enclosed. Unless of general interest, no questions will be answered through the ADVOCATE, as our space is very limited. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Matter for publication should be marked "Printers' MS." on the cover, the ends being open, in which case the postage will only be 1c. per 4 ounces. 5. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed. 6. No questions will be answered except those pertaining purely to agriculture or agricultural matters.

Voluntary correspondence containing useful and seasonable information solicited, and if suitable, will be liberally paid for. No notice taken of anonymous correspondence. We do not return rejected communications.

Correspondents wanting reliable information relating to diseases of stock must not only give the symptoms as fully as possible, but also how the animal has been fed and otherwise treated or managed. In case of suspicion of hereditary diseases, it is necessary also to state whether or not the ancestors of the affected animal have had the disease or any predisposition to it.

In asking questions relating to manures, it is necessary to describe the nature of the soil on which the intended manures are to be applied; also the nature of the crop.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

SIR,—I have a mare about 10 years old that, as soon as the cold weather comes on, and during the winter months, continually bites and licks herself, mostly on the shoulders, and back to the tail there seems to be a slight eruption on the skin. She is kept in a basement stable, moderately warm, and is fed the usual allowance of grain, but withal does not thrive; don't think her complaint is contagious as we have other horses in the same stable and they do not seem to be affected. Can anything be done for her? She has been troubled three winters with it.

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

[The mare's blood is impure. If she is not in foal give her a purgative drench; say Barbadoes aloes 7 drachms; carbonate of soda, 1 drachm; ginger, 1 drachm, all mixed in a pint of warm water. Then give every night in warm bran mash 1 drachm nitrate of potash for about a week. Afterwards give about a tablespoonful of sulphur in feed every night. If she is in foal give the other medicines without the drench, as it might cause her to abort. Groom well and keep her warm.]

SIR,—I have a valuable mare that cast her foal three and a half months after service, from some cause unknown to me. She seemed well and hearty both before and after. She was suckling a colt at the time. Would she be likely to do the same again if I let her get with foal, or would it be better to let her run a year? Would it be safe to work her on the farm after this when in foal?

ELLEN.

[The usual causes of abortion are strains, colic, ergot in the food, frights and purgative medicines. If you think it has arisen from any of these causes, you will be quite safe in getting her with foal this year; but if she has any natural predisposition to aborting, it would be advisable to let her run a year, especially if she is a young mare. In case of your not being able to ascertain the cause, you had better run the risk and let her breed right along. Under all circumstances mares should be regularly worked or exercised when in foal, if they are in health, but they should not be strained or overworked.]

SIR,—Enclosed find the annual dollar. Times are hard, but I am convinced that without your paper they would be still harder, for farmers at least. Our little valley seems waking up to the importance of fruit culture. Apple orchards are rapidly extending, while small fruits, including currants, are coming to the front in the productions of the country. In reference to the Nonpareil Apple referred to last year, I think also mountain land or granite soil very well adapted to its production.

J. S.

SIR,—I intend using some artificial manure on my potatoes next spring. Please let me know through the ADVOCATE what kind would be the most suitable. Soil is light sandy loam. Would it pay to use plaster, or does it tend to impoverish the land?

J. A. K.

[Plaster, or sulphate of lime, tends to impoverish soils, except those deficient in lime, plaster being composed of

lime and sulphur. Sulphur is rarely deficient in soils. We think bone dust or superphosphate would be best suited to your soil, but if it is deficient in vegetable matter, the bone should be supplemented with fine farmyard manure, or nitrate of soda. Much depends upon the season in the use of concentrated fertilizers.]

SIR, The January number of the ADVOCATE not yet having reached me, I have only had a hasty glance at Mr. Marshfield's reply to my criticism of his article re "The Taxing of Scrubs." But I have observed that he makes a desperate effort to evade the question at issue, and has in several instances traduced my plainest statements. But this, I presume is the result of carelessness in reading rather than of wilful intention on his part. However, since he refuses to believe the record of those owning pedigreed stock, and to produce records that he cannot doubt, as well as to bring the matter more practically before your readers, I will ask that gentleman whether he is willing, or any other advocate of the use of "scrub" bulls as sires, to meet with those "scrubs," or their offspring, the pedigreed animal and their produce, in a public competition, either as beef, milk or butter producers, or all of these combined in the same animal. Now here is a fair opportunity for deciding on the merits of these improved "scrubs" as compared with those of the pedigreed breeds, and it must be borne in mind that the greater merit in any or all these respects, all other things being equal, and making due allowance for first cost and cost of production, together with the present value of each, will tend to show from which the greatest profit comes, and hence which it is the most desirable to propagate. At what time have we seen "scrubs" at our market shows or at our dairy tests equaling the pedigreed breeds or their grades? Nay, when are we likely to see such so pitted against the pure breeds? It is freely conceded in this section that the writer has the undisputed honor of having produced the greatest weight and obtained the highest price and most money at a given age, say six months old, for a grade cattle beast. Yet these have always been strong in the Short-horn blood, but in no case had they been fed with a view of being turned off at so early a date, hence might have been easily made to carry one or two hundred extra pounds each. We have frequently seen two-year-old and sometimes three-year-old "scrubs," and indeed occasionally a pair of them, purchased for much less money than we have realized out of a six months grade. Now is it not most reasonable that, after much reading, an extensive observation, and considerable experience, we should feel quite fully convinced that pedigreed bulls are preferable to "scrubs," in point of profit, for crossing upon our common or "scrub," and grade cows? When Mr. Marshfield has succeeded in producing the offspring of a "scrub" bull that will milk equal to or better than our present herd of Avonshire, and prove as reliable in reproducing their good qualities; or "scrubs" that will mature and ripen as early, giving as great weights as the best of our Short-horn bull upon common or grade cows; or that will milk, meat and butter equal to the grades, then we shall be able to perceive some sense in his cry against pedigree bulls as in favor of "scrubs" for sires. Or when he can produce "scrub" calves that will command six cents per pound live weight, and at six months old will bring \$35, and which could be made to carry one or two hundred pounds extra at the same age, we will admit that he has an argument that will bear heavily on the question at issue. We believe that the arts of breeding and feeding are yet in their infancy, at least in these parts, and therefore, Mr. Editor, the more thoroughly this question of pedigree sires as against "scrubs" is ventilated the better for the farming fraternity. Moreover, how can any of your readers repose confidence in Mr. Marshfield's statements after he has asserted that I wish to tax "scrubs" that my \$20,000 bull may go free, when I stated nothing of the kind? But I do say that any bull that is not worthy of a license for public service is not fit for use. Besides, I did state plainly that while I keep each year from one to three pedigreed bulls, I would willingly contribute towards making up the shrinkage in the municipal revenue occasioned by discontinuing the licensing of the sale of intoxicating beverages, by taking out a license for each of my bulls. Again, Mr. Marshfield persists in advocating the indirect payment of a premium upon laziness, indolence and ignorance in the land by the low assessment of unimproved and partially improved land with unworthy buildings thereon, and at the same time advocates the high assessment of the lands of men possessed of snap, intelligence, enterprise, thrift and industry. And why, I ask, is the sense in such twaddle? One man possessed of these grand characteristics and who understands how to mean pluck, vests largely in drainage, comfortable and respectable buildings, and forthwith up go his taxes; while his shiftless, indolent neighbor lives in a house unworthy of our beloved country, leaves a few old oxen to rot upon his fields, and because he thus lacks taste and enterprise his taxes are but nominal, as his land remains unimproved. Again a man invests hundreds in draining a wet lot, and is under the necessity of growing stock because his land is not adapted to grain growing; when the assessor comes around he is assessed not only for his land but also for its produce; while his neighbor across the way, with a naturally dry farm, grows grain and has a few hundred bushels in his granary, is assessed for his land only, not a bushel being mentioned. In the one case the land that had to be artificially made is assessed together with its produce, while in the other naturally good, only the land itself is rated. Where, sir, is the justice in this? Yet this accords exactly with Mr. Marshfield's principle of assessment. Is it not high time, Mr. Editor, that we, as farmers, put aside our party politics and take thought as to whom we send to legislate for us?

Yours truly,

Y., Middlesex.

[This is an important subject, and we should be pleased to see it well ventilated. We are grateful to our corres-