

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

In order to make this department as useful as possible, please enclose stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquiries must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Veterinary.

Caked Udder.

W. M. S., Ontario Co., Ont.:—"I have a cow which was allowed to go till calving without being milked, and now she has a hard and distended udder, a hard lump at base of each test, and a large lump, apparently of same nature as udder, at side of milk vein about six inches in front of udder. No sign of pain anywhere when parts are pressed. Milk comes all right. Should the udder have been allowed to get into this condition? How ought it to be prevented, if not, and what is the cure? Does it affect calf in any way to milk cow before calving?"

[Unless this is a very exceptional case, it will probably yield to simple treatment, such as fomenting with warm water, followed by warm vinegar, and rubbing with lard. Give a teaspoonful of nitrate of potash or saltpeter daily in feed. If an extreme case and the hard lump at base of test remains, rub daily with compound tincture of iodine mixed with three times its bulk of water, or with iodine ointment. Milking the cow before calving does not affect the calf materially, and in an extreme case such as the above we would advise milking, though as a rule, and except in a case where the udder becomes abnormally distended and painful, we do not recommend it.]

Worms in Dog's Throat.

SUBSCRIBER, Palmyra, Ont.:—"I have a valuable collie dog one year old. He acts as if trying to get something out of his throat, and is always coughing. I have lost three the same way. They quit eating after awhile, then pine away, and after a time, about a month, die. Can you tell me what is the matter, and tell me what to do for him?"

[Parasitic diseases of the dog are numerous, and this particular form is known as *Strongylus Filaria Bronchialis*; in appearance very like small pieces of white thread. They are more abundant in the small bronchi of the lungs at its bifurcation, and it is only when one becomes detached from the mass that it gives rise to the symptoms of coughing. Treatment is difficult and tiresome: consists of subcutaneous injection of the tincture of iodine, iron, and spirits of turpentine every second day, but only one well skilled in canine diseases should undertake what is at all times a difficult case. Inhalation of chlorine is successful with sheep when it is known as "sniffles," and hoose in cattle, and from observation in our packing houses find it very prevalent among hogs. I would advise that you consult a veterinary surgeon in your immediate district.

Dr. Wm. Mole, M. R. C. V. S., Toronto.]

Diarrhea in Pigs.

SUBSCRIBER, Huron Co., Ont.:—"I have had several pigs about three months old affected with diarrhea. Two have died, and one more is pretty near dead. Have them running on field of alfalfa, feeding also once a day, at night, a mess of whole peas. I have taken two away from the rest and put them in a pen, but they don't seem to get better; everything seems to physic them. Information how to cure will be thankfully received?"

[It may be that alfalfa has had the effect of producing this trouble, though we have not heard of its doing so in any other case. We would recommend a change of pasture and feed—a short timothy or blue grass pasture and dry bran for a few days—water being supplied in a separate trough. If the diarrhea continues we would give to each pig a dose of castor oil, say about four tablespoonfuls, to allay the inflammation in the bowels and cool them; then give dry feed, bran and shorts, for a few days, when, if improved, the feed may be varied and increased gradually.]

Miscellaneous.

Couch Grass (*Triticum repens*).

A. G. J., Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"Inclosed please find a head and root of grass that is in part of one field on my place. Could you give me name of it and a sure method of getting rid of it, for it seems almost impossible to kill it?"

[The head and root of grass sent us by "A. G. J." is clearly couch grass, sometimes called quack grass or twitch grass. Its correct designation is *Triticum repens*, and is indeed a bad weed to get rid of. It is a creeping perennial, the root-stalks of which are so numerous as to soon fill the soil. The root-stalks are really underground stems; they produce buds at their numerous scaly nodes, and these buds develop into new plants in exactly the same manner as branches are produced above ground. The stems grow to a height of from one to three feet, according to the soil and season, and each terminates in a slender head three to five inches long, having small, oat-like seeds distributed from one-third to half an inch apart on alternate sides of the stem. The plants make a good growth early in the season, usually maturing seed in July or August. It is easily distributed by seeds and by portions of the roots adhering to harrow and other tools and being taken to other portions of the farm. The eradication of couch grass is not a simple matter. One plan is to plow the infested field shallowly im-

mediately after harvest, then harrow thoroughly with spring-tooth or other harrow, so as to shake the roots of the grass free of soil. Then draw the roots together in windrows, and after they are dry, burn them. Repeat the operation a second or even a third time through the autumn, plowing the ground more deeply each succeeding time, so as to bring up fresh root-stalks. This, however, is useless in damp weather. Late in the fall rib the land by turning two furrows into one, which exposes the most possible roots to the frost, which kills them and frees them from the soil. In spring repeat the operation of the early fall until time to plant a hoed crop. This should be frequently and thoroughly cultivated throughout the season. If the hoed crop is desired in some other field of the farm, the remaining couch grass can be fairly well smothered out by sowing buckwheat, one and one-quarter bushels per acre, about the middle of June, and harvested when ripe or plowed down when in bloom. The following spring sow rank-growing oats more thickly than usual, which will succeed in smothering the last vestige of couch under ordinary circumstances.]

Rules for Stone Masonry.

STONEDIKE, Ont. Co., Ont.:—"What proportion of lime, fresh and air slaked, and sand should be used to make mortar for a foundation wall? Can you tell me how much mortar would be required, say per 10 or 20 cubic feet?"

[The proportions ordinarily vary from 3 to 6 of sand to one of freshly slaked lime. In ordinary practice the proportions in mortar are roughly made by the mixer and depend on the working quality of the mixture, according to fineness or coarseness of the sand used. One cubic yard or 27 cubic feet of rough wall requires approximately 33 cubic feet of rough stone and 9 cubic feet of mortar.]

VETERINARY.

Goitre in Sheep.

An unhealthy condition in the sheep flocks of Canada is of rare occurrence, which is due, no doubt, to our generally healthful climate, moderate size of flocks maintained, and the sanitary conditions in which they are kept. During the last few months, however, our attention has been drawn to the prevalence of goitre in flocks in certain districts, showing itself more particularly in lambs, at or soon after birth, causing death in numerous instances. This disease is characterized by a non-inflammatory swelling of the thyroid gland below the throat, and in lambs often causing a great swelling reaching from beneath jaw to brisket. At first the swelling is soft and doughy to the touch, but gradually may become hard, and when cut into may be found to contain gritty particles, especially in cases of long standing. So great does the swelling become in some instances that breathing is interfered with, causing the lambs to fail and often succumb.

A case submitted to us for advice, and published in April 1st issue, page 155, illustrates a phase of the trouble of a very serious nature, viz., the affection of many of the lambs of a crop, attended by serious fatality. In the opinion of the writer on this disease in the bulletin of the National Wool Growers' Association, such cases as the above, where the majority of the lambs of a flock are affected, is that the disease is of a hereditary nature, and the inherent predisposition in the lamb is aggravated into the disease itself by the character of the soil upon which the flock is maintained, or, more correctly speaking, by the food produced from such soil, and the drinking water peculiar to it. As we pointed out in replying to the inquiry above referred to, the disease is common to soils and water abnormally rich in the salts of lime.

In looking for a remedy for this trouble, the above facts must be borne in mind, and that where a predisposition to this or any other disease exists, all debilitating influences increase the tendency to and severity of the disease. Avoidance of the recognized causes of the trouble is the first important effort of the shepherd who would eliminate it from his flock or prevent its annual recurrence. In a limestone section, one thing that can be done is to furnish no drinking water other than rain water, but this will not avail much where succulent food is used liberally, such as turnips or mangels, as in such cases little, if any, water would be taken. When the inherent tendency is present by reason of the ewes for generations having been reared on a limy formation, the chief means of prevention is frequent introduction of fresh blood from rams produced upon different geological formations, and known to inherit no such predisposition. It would also be necessary to fatten off, instead of breeding, all young ewes showing any trace of the disease, and as soon as possible get rid of any ewe giving birth to a "goitred" lamb. Were it practicable to use fodder grown on some other formation, it would be a wise means of getting rid of the trouble, but such a method is out of the question, even for consideration.

The approved treatment for goitre, as given by qualified authorities, is iodide of potash internally, and tincture or ointment of iodine externally, or the tincture injected hypodermically into the body of the goitre. With young lambs, however, success even with this treatment has been slight. Another treatment, and one which has been found to give good results, is local bleeding. The writer

above referred to recommends making an incision into the swelling with a sharp lance, so as to scarify it deeply without making the cut in the skin wider than the narrow blade of a knife. In other words, insert the knife and move the blade within the body in several directions, so as to cause profuse bleeding. Care must be taken not to sever the jugular vein, but the incision should be lateral, and in two or more places if the swelling is large. After the bleeding has lasted some little time, inject with syringe into each wound as much tincture of iodine as possible, then paint the entire swelling with the tincture. With otherwise healthy sheep, when not too old, the bleeding and iodine treatment has been found to restore goitred subjects to healthy condition.

SHOWS AND SHOWING.

Exhibitions for 1898.

Trans-Mississippi, Omaha.....	June 1 to Nov. 1.
Stanstead, Rock Island, Que.....	Aug. 24 and 25.
Toledo Tri-State.....	Aug. 22 to 27.
Toronto Industrial.....	Aug. 29 to Sept. 10.
New York, Syracuse.....	Aug. 29 to Sept. 2.
Ohio, Columbus.....	Aug. 29 to Sept. 2.
Bedford, Ont.....	Aug. 31 and Sept. 1.
Minnesota, Hamline.....	Sept. 5 to 10.
Eastern, Sherbrooke.....	Sept. 5 to 10.
Metcalfe.....	Sept. 6 and 7.
Morrisburg.....	Sept. 6 to 8.
London Western.....	Sept. 8 to 17.
Indiana, Indianapolis.....	Sept. 12 to 17.
Quebec.....	Sept. 12 to 21.
Prescott, Vankleek Hill.....	Sept. 13 to 15.
Richmond.....	Sept. 13 to 15.
New Brunswick, St. John.....	Sept. 13 to 23.
Bay of Quinte, Belleville.....	Sept. 14 and 15.
Northern, Walkerton.....	Sept. 14 and 15.
Renfrew.....	Sept. 15 and 16.
Bowmanville.....	Sept. 15 and 16.
Ottawa Central.....	Sept. 16 to 24.
Brantford.....	Sept. 17 to 22.
Wisconsin, Milwaukee.....	Sept. 19 to 23.
Napanee.....	Sept. 20 to 21.
Northern, Collingwood.....	Sept. 20 to 23.
Peninsular, Chatham.....	Sept. 20 to 22.
Prescott, Prescott.....	Sept. 20 to 22.
St. Thomas.....	Sept. 20 to 22.
Stratford.....	Sept. 21.
North Bay, Ont.....	Sept. 21 and 22.
Lanark, South Perth.....	Sept. 21 to 23.
Stratford.....	Sept. 22 and 23.
Lindsay.....	Sept. 22 to 24.
Halifax.....	Sept. 22 to 23.
West Williams and Park hill, Park hill.....	Sept. 22 and 27.
Illinois, Springfield.....	Sept. 26 to Oct. 1.
Shedden.....	Sept. 27.
Cayuga.....	Sept. 27 and 28.
Lanark, Almonte.....	Sept. 27 to 29.
Centre Bruce, Paisley.....	Sept. 27 to 28.
Northwestern, Goderich.....	Sept. 27 to 29.
Peel, Brampton.....	Sept. 28 and 29.
Prince Edward, Picton.....	Sept. 28 and 29.
Barrie.....	Sept. 28 to 30.
Dalhousie, Ontario.....	Sept. 29 and 30.
Oxford, Kempville.....	Sept. 29 and 30.
Elgin West, Wallacetown.....	Sept. 29 and 30.
Galt.....	Sept. 29 and 30.
Ontario and Durham, Whitby.....	Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.
Peterboro, West Peterboro.....	Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.
St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo.....	Oct. 3 to 8.
Woodstock.....	Oct. 3 to 5.
Norfolk, Tilsonburg.....	Oct. 4 and 5.
Tara.....	Oct. 4 and 5.
Markham.....	Oct. 5 to 7.
New Westmin's'er, B. C.....	Oct. 5 to 13.
Caledonia.....	Oct. 6 and 7.
Norwood.....	Oct. 11 and 12.
Norfolk, Simcoe.....	Oct. 11 to 13.
Woodbridge.....	Oct. 18 and 19.
Ontario Fat Stock Show, Brantford.....	Nov. 30 to Dec. 2.

[NOTE.—If Secretaries of Fair Boards will send us dates of their shows we will include them in the lists of succeeding issues of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.—EDITOR.]

"What Can I Learn at the Fair?"

The continued dry weather and consequent rapid ripening of the crops has resulted in an early harvest-home, which goes far towards opening the way for farmers generally to attend the fairs which commence with the last days of August. We predict a larger attendance than usual of farmers at the fairs this year. The spirit of recreation is in the air, and so too is the spirit of enquiry, and the desire to learn more of the best methods and means in stock raising, in agriculture, horticulture, and dairying. All these and many other departments will be unusually well represented at the fairs this fall. To get the greatest benefit from these events there should be on the part of the visitor some definite purpose or plan and inspection should be made systematically. To rush from point to point and from place to place, taking only a hurried glance at each department of the show, is anything but satisfactory, and results in a tired body and a confused mind. It is well to decide first which departments one is most interested in or is most desirous of gaining information about. The next step is to secure a programme of the proceedings mapped out for each day, and the hours when they can be seen to best advantage, then to study the plan of the grounds and buildings with a view to economy of time, and you are in a fair way to get the best of the show. To view the stock to best advantage it is well to see them in the ring when the judges are making their examinations and where comparisons are most readily made, and where by the aid of the catalogue, if one is prepared, information as to ownership and breeding may be obtained. The departments of grain,