

Questions and Answers.

Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmers Advocate" are answered in this department free. Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest, or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity. Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessarily for publication. In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

Veterinary.

ACUTE INDIGESTION.

I have just lost a fine Clydesdale mare, twelve years old and weighing about 1,600 lbs. I put her in the stable (a sod one) at about nine o'clock last night (Monday, the 13th), and left the stock all feeding quietly at about ten o'clock, went to feed at six o'clock on Tuesday morning, and found her out of her stall and evidently in great pain. She was very much swollen about the body, and seemed to have an enormous amount of wind, as her skin was inflated as tight as a drum. Later, I found her on her feet, so I took her out of the stable and walked her around, and during this time she was parting with a lot of wind. She walked after me quickly and seemed better for it, but after a while she staggered about, and at last fell head foremost and nearly over-end. She never moved much after that, and seemed to die very quickly, her breath coming shorter and shorter with great rapidity. Upon opening her, the intestines were very enlarged. The tongue and gums were of a bluish color. The heart did not seem to have much room to work from the awful pressure from the intestines forcing everything else forward. The drench was too late to do her any good, and consisted of one teaspoonful of sweet nitre, two teaspoonfuls of essence of ginger, two tablespoonfuls of brandy, the pint bottle then filled with lukewarm water. Do you think this would have done any good? She was alone from ten o'clock until six o'clock, and this seems a very short time for her to be taken bad and die. I am forwarding you a sealed bottle containing contents of stomach, which I wish you would analyze and let me know the result. Say if you think it possible she has got poison from somewhere.

New Hope, N.-W. T.

A. G. B.

Ans.—Your mare died of acute indigestion, both gastric and intestinal. The chief cause of this frequently-occurring disease in the horse is error in feeding, but there are other causes, some of them of an obscure nature. It depends on any condition that obstructs the secretion or action of the gastric and other digestive fluids, thereby inducing fermentation of the ingesta, and consequent ebullition of gas. There is no sign of any specially poisonous substance in the contents of the sealed phial which you forwarded. The dose which you gave the mare was not sufficiently large for an adult human being, and was, therefore, entirely useless as a remedial measure for the animal. The only treatment which might possibly have saved your mare at the stage you found her would have been puncturing of the cæcum or colon with a trocar and canula specially for the purpose, thus allowing the gas to escape, to be followed by the administration of: raw linseed oil, one pint; turpentine, two ounces; fluid extract of belladonna, four drams. Injections of soap suds containing half an ounce of turpentine are beneficial.

CALKED FOOT.

In a case of calked foot, occurring last winter, the horse apparently got well, but has since, on three occasions, gone lame again, the old wound swelling on front of coronet and exuding pus. Please state cause of this and treatment for cure. At present we are poulticing it.

Harmattan, Alta.

BACHELORS.

Ans.—When the tread occurred there was, evidently, some hair or other detached tissue driven into the wound, which still remains and produces irritation, causing the occasional breaking out of the wounded part. Pare the hoof well away just below where the suppurating has appeared; examine closely for hair or other foreign substance; if found, remove it, and by the daily application of a little carbolic oil permanent healing will soon take place.

CHRONIC INDIGESTION.

Will you give me a remedy for chronic indigestion in a horse? Patient is on pasture, eats well, but is failing.

J. G. D.

Ans.—The disease is caused by improper food, irregularity of the teeth, debility of the stomach, etc. Remove the cause first. If there is no diarrhoea, give a purgative of about six ounces of aloes and two ounces of ginger, made into a ball with soap or syrup. After this has operated, give one dram each of the following, twice a day: Bicarbonate of soda, gentian, sulphate of iron and cayenne. If results are not satisfactory, give one to two drams of muriatic acid twice a day, and be careful of the feeding. Give plenty of salt and good water.

BURSAL ENLARGEMENT ON LEG OF BULL.

Pure-bred Shorthorn bull has an enlargement on both hind legs inside of hock, supposed to be caused by rough usage in shipping. A. J. M.

Ans.—Cattle occasionally develop bursal enlargements on hock, somewhat similar to bog spavin in horses, but as they do no harm they are seldom treated. It would be a mistake to open the enlargements. Apply the following mixture once every day: Biniodide of mercury and iodide of potassium, of each six drams, and mix with eight ounces of water. Clip off the hair before applying, and continue the treatment for five or six weeks. Enlargements of this kind are often difficult to remove.

AZOTURIA.

Two of our horses had azoturia four months ago. They are now well, except that each is lame in one hind leg, and the muscles around the stifles seem to have fallen away. Will they recover? How can we hasten recovery?

R. H. W.

Ans.—Atrophy (wasting away) of the muscles of one or both quarters occasionally appears as a sequel to azoturia. Recovery will be slow, and can be hastened by repeatedly blistering the atrophied muscles to stimulate the growth of the ligaments. Take 1½ drs. each of biniodide of mercury and cantharides, and mix with 2 ozs. vasoline or lanoline. Clip the hair off the parts, and rub the blister well in. Tie so that he cannot bite the parts. In 24 hours rub well again with the blister, and in 24 hours longer wash off and apply

WHEN TO CUT WHEAT.

My usual practice is to allow wheat to become quite yellow and ripe before harvesting, sometimes it shells a little, but not to any great extent. My neighbors say that I should cut earlier. Can you give me any information on this point?

Ans.—From a number of experiments conducted on this farm in 1894, it was found that Red Fife, cut when yellow and ripe, yielded 29 1-3 bushels per acre; the same field cut when in the dough stage, four days earlier, yielded 28 bushels; the late milk stage, four days earlier still, gave 22 1-6 bushels. I would, therefore, recommend you to start cutting about a week before the grain is ripe, this will give you time to get all cut before it shells, and even the first cutting will shrink very little.

S. A. BEDFORD, Supt.

Brandon Exp. Farm.

Field Notes.

Colonial Trade Ascendant.

Alarmists have affected to see in the possible reversal of its free trade policy by Great Britain the danger of sacrificing a vast foreign trade. The truth is that the colonies are by far the larger importers of British products and manufactures. According to the most recent statistics available, for a population of over 77,000,000 the Americans take something over \$90,000,000 worth of goods from Britain. Germany also, with twenty millions less people, imports over \$115,000,000 worth. The United States, Germany and Russia are the largest foreign importers, but Russia, with 140,000,000 inhabitants, is credited with only \$40,000,000 of imports.

These figures, though unquestionably large, are not so formidable, when subjected to comparison. Australasia, for instance, with only five millions of people, takes from Britain forty-five million dollars' worth more than the United States, and twenty millions more than Germany; while one million and a half of white people in South Africa import almost as much as the United States. Canada, which, with its proximity to the United States and the number of its own industries, is peculiarly placed, yet imports as much as Russia, and the trade is still growing. We see, therefore, that the self-governing colonies alone, with less than twelve millions of

people, actually import goods to the value of over \$260,000,000 in round figures, or \$10,000,000 more than the three foreign countries, with a population of 274,000,000, and the alarm is baseless.—[Toronto Globe.

The Biggest Harvester.

Last year there was in operation in the San Fernando Valley of California the largest combined harvester in the world. It consisted of a traction engine capable of hauling seventy-five tons, and which takes the place of sixty horses; a header or mowing machine which cuts a thirty-six-foot swath, and a complete threshing machine. The header and threshing machine are run by a separate thirty-horse-power engine getting its steam from the same boiler as the threshing engine. The drive wheels of this monster traction engine are eight feet in diameter, with tires forty-eight inches wide, on which are ridges an inch and a half high. It can average three and a half miles an hour in good grain. The thresher has a capacity of 100 acres a day. Eight men are employed on the thresher. The grain is threshed clean and finally carried to a bin from which it is sacked. When twelve sacks have been filled they are allowed to slide off the cart to the ground. This huge machine will work equally well on level or hilly country, having sufficient power to take a twenty per cent. grade without difficulty. It is sixty-six feet long, half as wide, and weighs more than 100 tons. Oil is used as fuel. This harvester has been successfully used for shelling peas and beans as well as grain.—[World's Work.



HIS GRACE.

Imported Suffolk Punch stallion. First at Calgary Summer Show.

OWNED BY THE GAZELLE LIVE STOCK CO., LIMITED, INNISSFAIR, ALTA. (SEE GOSSEP, PAGE 828).

a little sweet oil. Let his head down now, and apply some oil daily. Repeat the blistering monthly as long as necessary.

Miscellaneous.

BROME GRASS SOD-COTTONWOOD CUTTINGS.

1. I have a piece of Brome grass sod four years old, from which good crops were obtained. This year it is very thin and the yield disappointing. How can I improve the yield?

St. Norbert, Man.

2. Is it possible to procure cottonwood cuttings from nurseries with a prospect of their succeeding, or should I send for the seedlings?

J. H. S.

Carman, Man.

Ans.—1. Your Brome has become too thick and matted. In this condition it refuses to send up seed stalks, and the yield will be small. I would recommend you to plow it thin as possible with a breaker, then roll thoroughly. By this plan the plants are thinned out and there will be sufficient left to produce a good crop of grass. Do not neglect to roll each day's plowing as finished, otherwise the land will dry out and kill the plants.

2. If cottonwood cuttings are made early in spring before the buds start, and planted immediately, a large percentage of them will grow. But it is extremely difficult to ship them without their drying up, and for this reason it will be much better to send for the rooted seedlings, which are quite inexpensive and quite certain to grow. From these seedlings cuttings can be made every year.

S. A. BEDFORD, Supt.

Brandon Exp. Farm.