

NASAL OR THROAT OBSTRUCTION—BONE SPAVINS.

SUBSCRIBER, Haldimand Co., Ont.:—"I have a heifer calf three months old, strong and thrifty, and apparently healthy, except that she makes a noise when breathing, snuffing a good deal and breathing heavy. There is no discharge nor cough. I have noticed this about a month. Is this a symptom of tuberculosis? Cows are all in good, healthy condition. Would you advise treatment; if so, what? 2. I have a mare three years old; over a year ago there appeared jacks (bone spavins) on each of her hind legs. I got blister from veterinary last fall and applied. It reduced them somewhat, but they are still quite noticeable. It is scarcely possible to detect any lameness. Some say to blister again. Would you advise doing so, and if so, what with?"

[While it is impossible to pronounce with confidence upon the cause of the calf's obstructed breathing, we feel safe in giving the youngster a clean bill so far as tuberculosis is concerned. The trouble may be due to a polypus in the nostril or to a growth on the windpipe. If the former, and it can be seen in the nostril in the form of a tumor having a narrow neck, it should be seized with forceps or loop of wire and twisted off. It would be well to have the calf examined by a qualified veterinary surgeon.

2. Jacks, or bone spavins, are bony growths which cannot be removed by blistering or in any other way, but they may be reduced to the extent of lessening the swelling that may be caused by inflammation. If the mare is not lame, blistering would be of no advantage; but should she show tenderness, an application of the same blister as was used before should act beneficially. A good counter-irritant blister is made as follows: Biniodide of mercury, 1½ drams; vaseline or lard, 1 ounce.]

INDIGESTION IN BOAR.

D. B., Hastings Co., Ont.:—"Please state, through the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, what is the matter and cure for Berkshire boar? Six weeks ago he became useless, and did not eat anything for a week or ten days, and what came from his bowels was thick and as black as tar, with a very offensive smell. He was running in the yard most of the winter."

[It is very important to be careful in estimating to what extent disease appears amongst swine. Although in this case we do not anticipate that you have the contagious disease known as hog cholera, still we look with a great amount of suspicion to the fact that your animal refused food for ten days and then voided excrement of a very black, tarry color, with a very offensive smell. This case is evidently due to some bowel trouble, and should you have any other of your herd taken sick you must report instantly to the authorities at Ottawa. This is only by way of a caution. You do not say what food your animal was taking or any symptoms other than those given, so that we are of opinion that it is due to some dietetic cause or bad feeding on offal, etc. Give a brisk purge—say two or three ounces of castor oil in feed, or one dram of powdered jalap mixed with a feed of swill. As we feel interested in your case, will you report progress for the benefit of the readers of the ADVOCATE? After the purgative, give the following powders: Sulphur, 1 oz.; black antimony, ½ oz.; nitrate of potash, ½ oz.; charcoal, 2 ozs. A tablespoonful in the animal's food every day.

DR. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.]

PROBABLY TUBERCULOSIS.

S. E. H., Northumberland Co., Ont.:—"I have a Jersey cow which failed suddenly in her milk. About a month later a lump appeared between her jaws. Her coat is rough, mangy-looking, and she is in very poor condition, although she has been well fed and tended as usual. Is this lump jaw? What should be done with the cow, and should the stable be disinfected? I am also anxious to know if the cow's milk is unfit for use."

[From your description I am inclined to the opinion that your cow is suffering from tuberculosis. The lumps in the sub-maxillary space, the rough condition of coat and poor condition are indications of ill health. I would recommend that you apply to the Agricultural Department at Ottawa and ask for a test of your cow, when I have no doubt that your application will meet with consideration. Will you please report results for the benefit of our readers?

WM. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.]

KNEE-SPRUNG.

W. J. K., York Co., Ont.:—"I have a Standard-bred mare rising three year old, a little weak in the knees. Would you kindly advise me what I had better do for her, and oblige?"

[Do not give her long or fast work until her legs become stronger. Shoe with a reasonably light shoe, raised about ¾ of an inch in the heels, and if she has a thin foot, or thin at the heels, see that no undue pressure rests about the back part of her feet, as sometimes apparent weakness of the fore legs is due to tender heels, and the horse simply relieves the pressure by throwing the weight on the toe. After driving, apply the following liniment to the tendons, and bandage lightly with derby bandages for two hours after work: Nitrate of potash, acetate of lead, ol. turpentine, liquor ammonia, of each ½ ounce; spts. camphor, 4 ounces; soft water, 1½ quarts. Shake well, and rub in with the hand from the knee down.]

OPACITY OF THE CORNEA.

OSCAR SHIRLEY, Maine, U. S.:—"I have a four-year-old colt. One of his eyes was injured two years ago, and there is a light scum over the pupil. The sight can be seen through the scum. Can it be removed, or can you give me a remedy?"

[Opacity of the cornea of the eye is caused by an injury, and often remains as a permanent blemish, being due to the presence of the reparative material or deposition of lymph within the layers of the cornea. It is first of a bluish tinge, and is then called a nebula; as it becomes older it turns to a pearly-whitish color. With age it becomes firmer in its structure, but never entirely disappearing. From this it will appear that hope of a permanent cure or removal is not possible. Try the following, which, in some few cases when not of a long standing, has been successful in our hands: Take a piece of nitrate of silver, touch the spot light and delicately, firmly securing the horse during the operation. After two applications apply the following lotion: Goulard's extract, 1 ounce; tint. opium, 20 drops; distilled water, 4 ounces. Bathe the eye, with warm water, and apply the lotion every day.

DR. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.]

PECULIAR CASE.

SUBSCRIBER, Neepawa:—"I have a mare seven years old that had influenza last summer. While sick she seemed to have difficulty in getting her food back to the molar teeth. When eating hay a few straws will hang from her mouth. On two occasions she went off her feed more than usual. She can masticate her feed perfectly when she manages to get it back into her mouth. Two months ago she took a bad turn, the trouble seemed to be in her head. She would walk around the loose box, and come against the corners with her head. She would even climb up into the manger. This continued for two days, since which she has been much better, but still has some difficulty in getting food into her mouth."

[There are features of the case which, without a personal examination, are difficult to understand. It is possible that the seat of the trouble is in the brain, but as there are two veterinary surgeons in your town I would advise you to call in the services of one of them, or if deemed necessary, both of them.

W. A. DUNBAR, V. S.]

CAPPED HOCK.

J. H. B., York Co., Ont.:—"I have a driver, rising four years old, with a swelling on the hock. It came on about six months ago, and I think is the result of kicking the stall while kicking at another horse in the stable. I treated by bathing with hot water and a light blister, but without effect. What treatment would you advise?"

[If we understand your enquiry, your horse has a capped hock, of which there are two kinds—serous and synovial. If the former, it should be opened; if the latter, an absorbent blister is indicated; and as we do not know which form it is we are at a loss to know exactly what treatment to prescribe, and would advise you to have a competent veterinarian at least diagnose the true condition.]

GOITRE.

SUBSCRIBER, Huron Co., Ont.:—"Please inform me what is best to do with my sheep? It has two large, hard lumps on its neck just below the head, one on each side, as large as a hen's egg. They are quite loose, but seem to press on the windpipe when he is eating. I would like to get a cure."

[The sheep is affected with goitre or enlarged thyroid glands. Clip wool off parts very closely and rub in a little of the following once daily over seat of the enlargements: Iodide of potassium, ½ oz.; iodine crystals, ½ oz.; alcohol, 4 ozs.; strong ammonia, 3 drams; water, 4 ounces. All well mixed and exposed to bright light until the liquid becomes clear, when it is ready for use.]

GASTRIC IRRITATION.

O. S. S., Man.:—"Last fall my collie dog took sick; he would vomit up everything that he eat—sometimes in a minute and sometimes in ten minutes. He died about six weeks ago, and now my fox terrier is sick and acting the same as the collie did, coughing and trying to vomit up everything she eats."

[Your dogs evidently suffered from gastric irritation. Did they have access to the putrid carcass of any animal, especially one that had died from an infectious or contagious disease? The symptoms are also indicative of worms, and I would advise you to give, on an empty stomach, from 1 to 6 grains of santonin, made into a ball with butter or dough, and in four hours afterwards give from 2 to 4 tablespoonfuls of castor oil, according to size of dog. Repeat in four days. Following this, give for one week, twice a day, extract of quassia, from 2 to 8 grains, and extract of taraxacum, from 5 to 10 grains, made into a ball.]

Miscellaneous.

SHREDDING CORN.

W. D. M., York Co., Ont.:—"Can you give, through the ADVOCATE, any information about shredding corn? No doubt some subscriber has had experience with it."

[Shredding corn is commonly practiced in the U. S., but we do not know of any one who has tried it in Canada. If any of our readers have had experience with it we shall be pleased to publish their testimony.]

CHAFFING AND THRESHING STRAW AT ONE OPERATION.

WALTER S. SCHELL, Oxford Co., Ont.:—"In a recent issue you mentioned that in a certain section it was quite a common practice to put the grain through a cutting box before going through the separator, one engine driving both machines at the same time. Could you give a full description of the way it is done, the comparative cost between that method and the ordinary way of threshing a season's crop of grain, the difference in time taken (if there is any), and any other information bearing on the subject? I think such information would be valuable and interesting to your subscribers."

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Yours of the 27th ult. to hand, asking for information as to the method in vogue here of cutting and threshing grains in one operation. This system was introduced here about four years ago. It is a system quite popular here, especially among cattle feeders. As the sheaves are fed the machine whole the straw and chaff are mixed and well cut, and in fine condition for mixing with ensilage, etc. Although this double operation takes fully one-half more time to clean out a barn than to only thresh it out, yet much time is saved when the straw is to be cut anyway. Fewer hands are needed than for threshing alone; in fact, only one man is needed more than for cutting alone, and that is for carrying away the grain.

The cutting box (ensilage cutter), which must be of good capacity, is set on the floor directly in front of thresher, and not too far off, so as to get all the machinery into an ordinary barn. When the system was first introduced the box was driven from the cylinder, but it now receives its power directly from the engine by another belt—an extra pulley being fastened on engine shaft. It requires more power for the two operations, but a 14-horse power engine can drive it. If the box is driven at a high speed it may clip the grain somewhat, especially if the knives are sharp, but no serious objections have been made by grain buyers as yet. It is well to sharpen the knives every hour. To save time one should have two sets of knives, to be sharpened and changed as often as is necessary. If the thresher has good screening and fanning capacity the grain will be quite free of cut feed, but it requires extra attention, as the screens are apt to get loaded with cut feed, and grains will go over, but we have had no trouble so far. The straw decks could be taken out, and the fanning-mill part increased in capacity. The threshers here charge at the rate of \$12 per day. JOHN B. SHIPLEY.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

RIB GRASS IN CLOVER.

A. D., Perth Co., Ont.:—"Will you please inform me through FARMER'S ADVOCATE the nature of rib grass? It is rather difficult to purchase red clover seed free from it. Some seedsmen say it is not injurious if field is pastured or mowed, and not kept for seed, and others say it is a very dangerous seed, and that seed that contains rib grass on any account should not be sown. What form does it take when growing?"

[The rib grass referred to is the English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). It resembles the common plantain that grows about dooryards, but has larger, narrower leaves, which are ribbed and slightly hairy on the surface. Both leaves and seed stems come up directly from the root like a dandelion. The stems grow about a foot high. As it is a perennial, it does not give much trouble in cultivated fields, but is quite objectionable in pastures or hay fields, as it tends to spread when not destroyed by cultivation. In England it is not considered very objectionable if among sheep pastures, as the sheep graze it freely. We would be inclined to pay considerably more for clean clover seed than for that with even a slight sprinkling of rib grass seed. The seeds are yellowish-brown, a little smaller than red clover seed, and in shape somewhat resembling wheat or rye.]

TREATMENT FOR PEA BUGS.

W. J. B., Perth Co., Ont.:—"In regard to treatment to destroy bugs in peas, would an open bin of peas in a granary, containing from 125 to 150 bushels, be likewise affected by placing a dish of carbon bisulphide on the top of it, and how many pounds of said application would be necessary to treat the above quantity successfully?"

[About five pounds of carbon bisulphide would destroy the bugs in 150 bushels of peas, provided they were placed in a tight box not much larger than would hold the peas, as the liquid evaporates, permeating the entire space with the gas into which it can enter. If the gas can escape, or has too much space, it will be too weak to kill all the bugs. The gas is very explosive, so keep all fire away from it.]

SALT ON BLACK LAND FOR WHEAT.

PRINCE EDWARD:—"I have some quite low, black land I intended sowing to wheat. Some of my neighbors thought there would be a tendency to the crop 'lying down,' and suggested sowing salt when I sowed the wheat. Would it be likely to increase the yield or strengthen the straw?"

[We incline to the opinion that the neighbors are right in advising an application of salt to the black land for wheat, as salt has the effect of reducing rank growth of straw, and therefore increases the chances of a good yield of grain. See an article in April 1st issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, page 171, "An Experiment with Salt."]