

INFLUENZA.

SIR,—I have a valuable three-and-a-half-year-old colt which has had a cough for about six weeks. It is not a very hard cough, but is hard to get rid of. I have been applying tar to his bits, which appears to help him for a short time, and then he begins again worse than ever. He appears well in every other way except a slight running at the nose. What can be the cause, and what will help him? He is of good breed and has been well cared for.

Subscriber, Bayfield, N.B.

[Your animal, no doubt, is affected with a species of influenza or distemper, which is a common affection among young horses at this season of the year. Treatment—keep the animal in a warm and well ventilated stable, feed on warm and easily digested food, such as scalded bran, boiled oats or barley. A little flax seed meal daily would be beneficial. Give a powder every night made as follows: Digitalis, $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm; camphor, $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm; nitrate potash, $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm in warm feed. Have the throat rubbed with some stimulating liniment every day.]

OSTEA SARCOMA.

SIR,—I have several young cattle from time to time that take a lump under their jaw bone, which gets quite hard and grows to the bone. It increases in size, then breaks and heals up, then breaks again. Three of my cattle are affected so at present. If you will be kind enough to give me any information about them through the columns of your paper, you will oblige.

Subscriber, Mohr's Corners, Ont.

[Your animals are troubled with a disease called Osteo Sarcoma, which is a common disease among cattle in this country. It consists of a tumor, partly fleshy and partly bony, occurring on the jaws and ribs, but all bones are liable to it. We are inclined to consider this a constitutional disease of bone, but it is often brought on by external injury, or in the jaws by a diseased tooth being fractured or decayed; food getting into the cavity causes irritation, and the bony texture becomes diseased, hence the tumor. It frequently enlarges until all the bones of the face become diseased; as a consequence, he cannot masticate his food and becomes weak and emaciated, and in time death ends his sufferings. We would not recommend treatment, but would advise them to be fed off as soon as possible for the butcher, as the health in the first stages of the disease is seldom impaired.]

RINGWORM.

SIR,—Can you tell me what is the matter with my cattle? The hair comes off in round spots and the skin has a rough appearance. Is it ringworm? What is good for them? They appear to be in good health and eat heartily.

C. T., Orillia, Ont.

[Ringworm is a parasitic growth of organic cells in the surface of the skin. It is a disorder that all domestic animals are subject to. Like other diseases of the skin it is generated by uncleanness, and is communicable from the lower animals to man, and vice-versa. Symptoms—The hair falls off in spots, leaving small and apparently ulcerated patches, which appear white and scaly, and have a peculiar tendency to spread. The coat of the animal becomes dry and dirty looking. Treatment—The general health of the animal should be attended to; keeping the skin clean; the affected parts may be touched by a mild caustic once or twice a week, and dressed afterwards with sulphur ointment. Some recommend dressing with tincture of iodine; others with a solution of corrosive sublimate; others with a solution of sulphate of zinc.]

BOG SPAVIN.

SIR,—I have a valuable young mare that is bogged on both hind legs. Some folks say that it is bog spavin, and some say it is blood spavin. Please let me know if either of them or thorough-pin can be cured.

R. M., Auburn, Ont.

[Bog spavin in young animals often disappears itself without treatment, but in older ones it will be necessary to assist nature in carrying off the superfluous fluid collected within the capsular ligament. Keep the animal quiet, use cooling astringent lotions to the hock. A very good lotion is made as follows: Saltpetre 2 ounces, sal ammoniac 2 ounces, common salt 4 ounces, spring water 1 pint. This should be applied three or four times a day; pressure to the part is beneficial. When this has been done for a time, if the bog spavin is not all gone, it will be necessary to blister it.]

TREES WITH WET FEET.

SIR,—We have a plot of land which was planted with apple trees five years ago, and the land is low and wet, and no means of draining without going to the expense of digging a well for the drainage to run into. We were thinking of hauling earth on to the land to raise it. The soil is heavy, but rich. What kind of soil would be best to put on it? Would it hurt the trees to put the soil around them, as we want to raise it about two feet in some places, in others about a foot, but would not be able to put it all on in one year. Would it be better to take the trees up and replant them at the desired level, and when? The trees have not yet come into bearing, but have made a large growth of wood.

P. L. D., Charlottetown, P.E.I.

[The hauling in of surplus earth would most emphatically not answer; it is absolutely necessary that the surface soil and subsoil be dry, so as to be successful in fruit growing. Trees with wet feet may show a good growth of wood for a year or two, but will inevitably be attacked with black rot, insects and moss, causing them to wilt and die. The ground must be drained, either naturally or artificially, before any success can be gained. The addition of earth might be beneficial to level the surface, but must not be gathered up around the trees. It would also improve the soil, if it were necessary to do so. Fruit trees in wet ground have always been complete failures, and the yield entirely worthless.]

SIR,—I have a young mare that has a ringbone coming on. Please answer, so that I can do something for it in time.

J. T., Holt P. O.

[You will find your question answered in the January No., page 20.]

General Items.

The mildness of the season in England has bewildered the birds. A sparrow was found at Hampton the middle of December sitting on four eggs in her nest.

The champion animal at the Birmingham Fat Stock Show was a Hereford steer thirty-two months old, weighing 1,950 lbs., and winning prizes valued at nearly \$1,000.

Gather no seed from a forest tree that is not clean and straight and a rapid grower. Scrub trees beget their like. The law of heredity holds good in trees as well as in the lower animals and men.

An American authority in Illinois charges that "hundreds of refuse and worthless grade horses have been brought from Canada to the States during the year, and palmed off as pure blood Clydesdales."

A correspondent of the Michigan Farmer says that the packages of "ozone powder," made up of sulphur, charcoal and a pleasant dash of cinnamon, are "not worth five cents apiece."

It is said that many of the patrons of the Western creameries are crossing their common cows with Jersey blood, with a view to increasing their value as milk and butter producers.

If you would be a strong writer, be brief; if you would catch the public ear, be brief. Writers may feel flattered on seeing their names signed to long articles, but be assured that they have few readers.

A branch of farm labor specially adapted to a warm winter is that of getting rid of loose stones. All stones that are not frozen in unsightly stone piles or wall should be removed while teams and men are not busy.

Close rows of hardy evergreens to the north and west of your homes will shelter you from the piercing winds of winter. Two hundred trees three feet high, costing \$15 and half a day's work for two men in planting, in ten years will give a shelter fifteen feet high.

The "hog butter" factories in Cleveland, O. have more orders than they can fill. The manufacturers are honest in selling the article for just what it is, but some of the dealers who buy of them let it slide for genuine dairy product.

The Government of Australia pays sixpence per dozen for sparrows' heads, and two shillings per hundred for their eggs. The birds were introduced only a few years ago, and have multiplied so rapidly that they damage the fruit and grain crops seriously.

The British Dairy Farmers' Association plan establishing a traveling dairy, like the ones in Ireland. Of the £150 or £200 thought necessary for a first outlay to such a scheme £100 was subscribed at the late meeting.

Meat shipments from Australia to London by cold air process have resulted satisfactorily. The fresh mutton, a large quantity of which was sold at Smithfield, was in excellent condition, and brought seven pence a pound. Beef, also, was almost perfectly preserved.

Owing to the high price of feed for stock, there are heavy shipments of "salt hay" being made from the New Jersey marshes. Formerly it was considered scarcely worth taxing, but the growing demand for hay has given it a value which it never before possessed.

For more than twenty years past, a farm has been run in Germany, by the use of purchased fertilizers solely. Forage crops are grown and fed to animals, and the manure sold to market gardeners at a paying price. The chief business of the farm has been the manufacture of manure to sell.

He planted half a dozen small potatoes in the bottom of each hole dug for the trees. These grew up, and shaded and loosened the ground, and the consequence was that not a single tree thus treated was injured by the hot dry summer, while all those not treated in this manner died.—[Northwestern Farmer.]

An English mechanic has invented a horseshoe composed of three thicknesses of cowhide compressed into a steel mold and subjected to a chemical preparation. It will last longer than the common shoe, weighs only one fourth as much, does not split the hoofs, requires no calks, and is very elastic.

The question of driving horses barefoot is being seriously agitated in England, and the papers call upon some public-spirited horse-owner to try comparative experiments of the ordinary plan of driving nails into the living substance of the horse's hoof, of the Charlier method of using clumps, and lastly, of the hoof in natural condition. That iron shoes have been so long used does not necessarily prove them to be indispensable, more than in the case of blinders, without which the last generation scarcely ventured to drive at all.

Farming for Boys.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "TEN ACRES ENOUGH."

CHAPTER II.

ALL FARMING IS A JOB—GIVING BOYS A CHANCE—WORKING ONE'S WAY UP.

Tony King was particularly struck with the improvement in the coffee-mill, for his knuckles had received a full share of the general skinning; and when the job was done, turning to the old man, he said, "O, Uncle Benny, won't you teach me to do such things before you do all the odd jobs about the farm?"

"Never fear that all the odd jobs about any farm, and especially such a one as this, are going to be done in a hurry," he replied, laying his hand gently on Tony's head. "If the owner of a farm, I don't care how small it may be, would only take time to go over his premises, to examine his fences, his gates, his barn yard, his stables, his pig-pen, his fields, his ditches, his wagons, his harness, his tools, indeed, whatever he owns, he would find more odd jobs to be done than he has any idea of. Why, my boy, all farming is made up of odd jobs. When Mr. Spangler gets through with planting potatoes, don't he say, 'well that job's done.' Didn't I hear you say yesterday, when you had hauled out the last load of manure from the barnyard—it was pretty wet and muddy at the bottom, you remember—'There's a dirty job done!' And so it is, Tony, with everything about a farm—it is all jobbing; and so long as one continues to farm, so long will there be jobs to do. The great point is to finish each one up exactly at the time when it ought to be done."

"But that was not what I meant, Uncle Benny," said Tony. "I meant such jobs as you do with your tools."

"Well," replied the old man, "it is pretty much the same thing there. A farmer going out to hunt up such jobs as you speak of will find directly that, if he has no tool-chest on hand, his first earnestness will be to get one. Do you see the split in