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HORSES.

Overfeeding with Hay.

In a recent issue of the "Advocate," an article appeared on preparing horses for spring work. It said in substance, in changing from straw to hay, to feed lightly at first, and in about two weeks to give all the hay the horse will eat. It is surely a dangerous theory to advance. Many horses die every year from injudicious feeding of hay. Many will overload their stomachs with hay, and heaves, thick legs and blood disorders are sure to result. Careful feeders of horses don't give as much feed on Sundays when not working as other days. Many horses are in bad condition for heavy work after a day's idleness. Some farmers have a standing rule, that no hay be left in the horses' mangers one and a half hours after feeding—this applies to animals with good teeth.

Huron Co., Ont.

R. B. McL.

Training a Fast Colt.

Mr. D. J. McClary, the Canadian who has been so successful as a trainer and driver in the United States, gives in the following his idea of how a colt should be trained. Mr. McClary, having trained and driven the following horses to their records, Star Pointer 1.59½, Guynett 2.04½, Joe Pointer 2.05½, and many others, a word from him on the subject is of value to others. He says: "In regard to training and educating colts, the first and main object is to keep the youngster always feeling well. Do not get him tired, as that takes away his strength. Strength gives rapidness. When a colt gets tired so as to lose this, then is the time he is apt to hit himself and cause bad gait, or will cause him to break. Do not drive far from day to day; keep him fresh, with a very short jog and a little brush when he feels like it, and be sure and say 'whoa,' and take him back carefully before he has used all of his strength, so he will never know how fast or how far he can go. The colt not knowing his limit, his courage will stay good longer. The best place to train a colt is on a straight road towards the barn. Do this before he is tired. A person training a colt must have some judgment as to the disposition of the colt, as they must not all be

worked alike. Quite often it is necessary to turn one out for a day or two after hard work, and every colt should be turned out or let up a day or two in a course of twenty days' training."

Diseases of the Digestive Organs in Horses.

(Continued.)

DIARRHOEA.—This term is applied to all cases of simple purging in which the faeces are loose, liquid, and frequently discharged without co-existent inflammation. Diarrhoea may occur as a spontaneous effort to discharge from the intestines some irritating matter which is obnoxious to them, or to the system generally. It is also induced by various causes, such as indigestible food, sudden changes of diet (particularly from a dry to a moist one), frosted roots, food of poor quality, medicinal substances, parasites, diseases of the liver, copious drafts of cold water when the animal is heated, etc. A fertile cause of diarrhoea is the consumption of impure or stagnant water. This is particularly noticed in dry seasons on farms that have hollows that are not drained and contain a pond of water. As the season advances the water becomes less by evaporation and other causes, and as it decreases in quantity, there being no fresh supply, it becomes impure. Horses that have access to such water in hot weather frequently suffer from diarrhoea. Foreign matters, as sand, nails, etc., in the stomach or intestines also cause the disease. Some horses are so constituted that diarrhoea is easily excited; for instance, feeding a carrot or turnip is sometimes followed by purging. Other horses (called washy) purge more or less while driving, notwithstanding all possible care on the part of the attendant.

SYMPTOMS.—The symptoms cannot readily be mistaken. There is more or less severe purging, the faecal matters are fluid or semi-fluid, usually of a dirty brown color and without offensive odor; sometimes clay colored and fetid. There is usually an absence of symptoms of acute pain; there is, at least in the first stages, an absence of inflammatory action in the bowels. In many cases the patient eats fairly well; in others the appetite fails, but thirst is usually excessive or in proportion to the severity of the attack. Where spontaneous cure does not take place in a few hours, the symptoms increase, the patient becomes dull, mucous membranes injected, the pulse becomes frequent and weak, appetite fails, but he will drink large quantities of water if allowed to. He usually stands in one place, not caring to move, and soon becomes weak from the want of nourishment and the excessive drain upon the system.

TREATMENT.—If possible ascertain the cause and remove it. If it occur repeatedly in a horse after eating or drinking certain foods or fluids, under certain circumstances, we must, of course, endeavor to avoid such conditions. As in all cases prevention is preferable to cure, washy horses should, if possible, be allowed an hour or more after eating before being driven. If the purging arises from the presence of some foreign or offending matter in the stomach or intestines, its expulsion should be aided (unless the animal be very weak) by the administration of a gentle laxative, as 1 to 1½ pts. raw linseed oil. This, of course, increases the diarrhoea temporarily, and tends to increase depletion, but it also tends to cause the removal of the cause of the trouble, which must be done before thorough recovery can take place. If the animal should be in a weak condition, it would be dangerous to give a purgative, even though the cause be suspected or known to be an irritant as stated, as the action of the purgative might so deplete the animal as to cause death. In such cases we should attempt to check the diarrhoea, as will be described. Feed him well for a few days, and when he has gained strength administer a purgative to remove the irritant and prevent a recurrence of the diarrhoea. In many cases of slight or even acute diarrhoea, where the animal has not lost his appetite, a change of food and a few days rest will effect a cure. In mostly all cases, thirst being excessive, he should not be allowed to drink large quantities of water at a time, but be given water of good quality often and in small quantities. If, after the action of the laxative has subsided, the bowels do not regain their normal condition, but diarrhoea continues, or if we deem it unsafe to administer a laxative, we must endeavor to arrest the purging by administering astringents and calmatives. Except in very serious cases it is not well to check the diarrhoea suddenly, but in extreme cases we give large doses and check it as soon as possible, even though we may have to administer a little oil later on to overcome constipation. The most successful mode of treatment probably is the administration of opium, catechu and prepared chalk. The dose for an ordinary-sized horse is from 1 to 3 drs. powdered opium, 3 to 6 drs. each of catechu and chalk, mixed in a pint of cold water and given as a drench. In cases that are not severe, we would give the minimum dose, but in extreme cases the

maximum should be given, and in either case the dose should be repeated about every four hours until diarrhoea ceases. Care should be taken to not repeat the dose after the cessation of the purging, else constipation will be caused. It is also good practice to give cold water in small quantities, say of one gallon, in which a tablespoonful of starch has been stirred every hour, or as often as he will take it, but not more frequently than every hour. If excessive weakness is noticed, stimulants, as 4 to 6 ozs. of brandy, should be given, mixed with his drench, and he should be encouraged to eat dry hay and oats, but if he will not take these, give him a little of anything he will take, and if necessary drench him with milk, eggs and brandy. If the faeces be fetid, give about 4 drs. hyposulphite of soda, dissolved in his drinking water, about every eight hours.

"WHIP."

STOCK.

The Sow and Her Farrow.

Fellow farmers! How do you care for your sow and her family? Do you provide a clean, warm, dry place for her to sleep in, free from strong drafts? Do you feed her a bulky, nutritious ration, and require her to get up out of bed and walk a few rods to get that ration two or three times a day? Do you see that she has plenty of clean pump water to drink? Do you know the day when she is due to farrow, and have her in a pen by herself, provided with a little soft, pliable bedding? Is she so fat that she is liable to bad luck in farrowing? Will you be around to see if she needs help? And when the pigs have all arrived, have you an instrument to remove those little needle-pointed tusks to keep them from pricking the mother's teats, thus causing her to jump up and tramp on them, and also to prevent them from cutting each other's face; the stronger driving the weaker away, and taking too much milk, while the weaker gets very little and soon becomes a runt? Probably not more than one farmer in every hundred ever thought seriously of this matter, and I never saw but one instrument made specially for this purpose, and that is made in our own town. My son said to me to-day: "I sent for another tusk clipper, for if I wait for you to get it we won't have it when we need it, and may lose twenty dollars."

Will you give the sow a quart of light feed for four or five days, night and morning, and increase it for ten days till you get her on a full ration, as indicated above, before farrowing? Have you provided room for her and her family to take a walk each day to let the youngsters see the new world? Have you provided a creep for the little fellows to go through to their own trough and get a little warm milk or thin slop with a mite of salt in it; and will you continue to make the slop a little thicker, until by the seventh week, when the little ones are eating more of dry feed and slop than sucking, will you then take most of the food from mother hog for a week, and then take her away from the pigs and feed them liberally?

If you do all this, you can tell your neighbors how to raise pigs, and be able to prove that you know how.

Franklin, Ind.

A. F. WEBB.

[Ed. Note.—If a special instrument for clipping the pigs' teeth is not available, a small pair of pinchers or nippers is the next best thing.]

The Angora Goat.

For three years the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station has been experimenting with the Angora goat, and sums up its experience as follows: Angora goats are quite hardy and thrifty, and can be kept with the same winter care that sheep demand. It takes about 750 pounds of hay to winter one goat. With plenty of young woodland or brushy pasture there will be no food cost in summering them. They are effective in clearing up underbrush in woodland covered with birch or evergreen. They will likely destroy other varieties, except very large trees. They will clear out bushes and waste growth in pastures, in preference even to the grasses. Ordinary fencing will not hold them. A fine mesh-wire fence, of such height that they cannot rest the front feet upon it, will hold them, even in small areas. They do not jump, but are good climbers.

The flesh has a flavor between that of lamb and venison. The carcasses are small, and there is no market in the East for the flesh. The fleece is called mohair, and that from crosses brings a somewhat higher price than wool. The purer the breeding the better the mohair is, and the heavier is the clipping. Three pounds per animal is about all that can be expected from a clipping from seven-eighths bred goats.

They are very docile and intelligent, and make excellent pets. Their bush-eating proclivities would make them a nuisance among decorative shrubs. The Station does not recommend them for most Maine farms.

CHAS. D. WOODS,
Maine Experiment Station.