

Contagious Diseases.

E. A. M. Gibson, Delaware, paid a visit to remonstrate with us upon what he described as a harsh and uncalled for article in our last number upon the diseased cow in quarantine at Point Edward, saying that we were not writing in the true interest of the farmers of Canada, that such articles were calculated to injure those breeders of cattle who were interested in the improvement of our stock, and tended to prevent the introduction of superior animals into the Dominion. He is of the opinion that Tuberculosis is not contagious, but hereditary, and that there is not the slightest danger to be apprehended from such disease, but admits that any animal swallowing the saliva of an infected beast might take the disease. He has a cow that had been sent to Chicago, and after remaining there only two weeks, was returned to this country; she was detained in quarantine, and was put in the adjoining stall to the cow we mentioned, and run in the same yard. He was aware of this disease being at Point Edward, and also knew of Pleuro-pneumonia at Chicago, yet considered that as his cow had only been away from Canada so short a time the long quarantine prescribed was altogether unnecessary. He further stated that he and other stock men would not be so foolish as to bring ruin on the herds by introducing contagious diseases among them. He admits that the quarantine is imperfect, but considers that as much was done as could be with the money devoted for that purpose, but to insure complete isolation at least two acres of land and separate buildings would be required for each animal, and that we were causing unnecessary alarm. He further said that we had benefited agriculture by our writings, and appreciated our efforts, but considered that our remarks upon the cattle diseases and quarantine were calculated to do much injury to stock men.

Sheep Farming.

During the last couple of years, but more especially the time we are now passing through, sheep farming has assumed a feature of some importance as regards demand, and which, we have no doubt, will tend much to the advantage of many of our small farmers, who especially devote themselves to this branch of farming. It is to be very much regretted that notwithstanding the pretty general diffusion of good rams throughout the country, we see the short-sighted policy adopted by many sheep-owners of using either ram lambs or inferior old ones, because thereby they are enabled to save a few dollars. Although the price for wool is at present low, mutton is bringing a good figure, and holders of inferior bred sheep are obtaining more money for their sheep than they ever thought of getting, and hence they are satisfied; but we wonder if such people ever contrast their prices with those which other people get for well-bred, well-cared for animals. This system of keeping inferior animals where good ones could be equally well kept, and of course with a better profit, is very reprehensible, especially so when we remember the many facilities for getting good ewes and rams. To possess a fairly good flock of ewes, and a ram of good dimensions and good wool, and of no chance breeding, is to have the first thing needful, but this in itself will not be sufficient, if the necessary amount of forethought, energy and intelligence is not forthcoming, and it is often owing to the want of these latter qualifications that so many failures in sheep farming take place. On farms that are not strictly sheep farms, but where cattle are kept, we think it a profitable venture to run some sheep, that is if the requisite time and attention can be given to them; but in such cases we are of opinion that the sheep ought not to be folded with the cattle, but should be made to follow the heavier stock, as they are moved from field to field. We are aware that many good agriculturists are opposed to the mixed system of feeding sheep and cattle, but we believe that practical experience in the matter has long since proved that it is beneficial to the land, as well as profitable to the owner. We have often seen fields in dry summer time so parched, that although they were intended for cattle, no cattle could live on them, while sheep would not only have found substance but would have fattened on them; this we hold was a loss to the farmer. In like manner, many a farm has fields attached to it on which, during the autumn months, cattle could not be kept, but on which sheep would have ample subsistence and thrive well. There are other uses also to be claimed for running sheep on the farm with cattle; they clear off all the grass left by the heavier stock, and this, as well as by their droppings, produces a close, even

growth for them when they are again put on the pasture. Sheep are also very useful in clearing pastures of many of the weed pests that sometimes infest them; in fact, some of the most pernicious of these are greedily eaten by them when in a young state—the repeated eating down of these weeds ultimately destroys them and thoroughly rids the pastures of their presence. With prices as they now stand, and as they are likely to continue, holders of sheep need not hesitate to use artificial food in their feeding. In using rich food for the feeding of sheep, folding on the poorer pastures, if convenient, ought to be selected, as the enriching power of sheep manure when thus fed is very considerable. It is a fact well-known to sheep farmers that lands worked out and of little value have been permanently benefited by the folding and grazing of sheep on them when fed with oil-cake or other rich foods; and in calculating farming profits the farmer should always take into account the improvement his lands have received, owing to this class of feeding. This is a point which most of our stock-owners seldom take into consideration when casting up their profits, but if looked into it must be seen that it is a matter that should never be lost sight of. There cannot be a doubt that sheep farming, either in breeding, feeding or fattening, is paying and is sure to pay; but by a much more extended and better system of selecting at least well-bred rams, the addition to the sheep profit of this country might be increased by at least one-fourth. —[Ex.]

Lameness of Horses.

Shoulder lameness is frequently due to a strain, or to direct violence, and is shown in repose by the hanging of the limb, from disinclination to move the muscles, and during motion, by the dragging and difficulty to bring forward the limb, which is done by a rotary movement. It is also shown by the flinching when the foot is lifted and carried forward and backward. If the elbow is affected, there will be a singular "hanging" of the limb and excessive nodding of the head in motion.

In splint, lameness is usually much increased by exercise. Pressure on the limb shows tenderness, and there is increased heat with more or less swelling. A small splint, in developing, may give much more pain, shown by lameness, than one fully formed. Ring-bone and ossified side cartilages, in their early stages, may be recognized as causes of a peculiar stiffening gait, with the weight thrown upon the heels. The lameness nearly or entirely disappears before the bony deposit appears about the middle or lower pastern. Strains of posterior and other ligaments and tendons of the lower limbs evidence themselves by the local symptoms and alternation in gait. But there are cases of temporary lameness, from very obscure causes, attributable only to sudden strain of some ligament whose exact situation can only be surmised.

The short quick step of the horse with that inflammation of the feet known as chronic laminitis, in which the weight is thrown upon the heels of the fore limbs, is easily recognized. In the less frequent affection, navicular disease, the weight is thrown upon the toes, the gait is short and the lameness, slight at first, is increased by exercise.

Corns are discovered by rapping and pinching the sole at the space between the bars and the quarters in the forefeet. Disease of the frog is self-evident by the peculiar odor. A sand-crack sufficient to produce lameness cannot escape observation. Accidental injury to the feet will generally be known by the history of the case. Lameness in and about the hip-joint is most frequently the result of strain, and is to be recognized by the peculiar want of movement of the hindquarter, and, if of long standing, by the wasting of muscles of the region. —[Prof. Slade in the American Agriculturist.]

A HEAD OF CABBAGE.—Many of our readers are now turning their horses on the young grass, causing the animals to "slobber" to a greater or less extent. This is annoying, especially in the driving horse, but the remedy is very simple and easy at hand, consisting of a head of cabbage fed to the horse just before using him for work or driving. It is cheap and effective.

CURRY THE COWS.—An occasional currying (daily if possible) will add materially to the appearance of the cows, and is very beneficial in a sanitary point of view. It is not the rule to do so, we well know, judging from the appearance of nine-tenths of the herds we see, yet those who do make a proper application of currycomb and brush in this direction find it pays to do so.

Feeding Green Corn to Hogs.

The practice of feeding corn in the milk stage, or after it is glazed, is a common one in the west. The old crop has been fed out, or the hogs and shoats have become tired of the hard, dry corn, and take to the new with such a relish that men have concluded that corn in the milk is just the thing to make cheap pork with. The argument is rather based upon the fact that hogs like new, soft corn better than old, dry, flinty corn, than that a bushel of green corn will make more pounds of pork than will a bushel of old corn. I am not at all convinced that I can make as many pounds of pork with one 100 ears of new as I can with 100 ears of old corn. I say ears because 100 of one should equal 100 of the other, while measuring by weight, the new must be discounted heavily on account of the excess of water it contains.

No one will deny that it will take a greater number of roasting ears than of old corn to make a feed for a hog, cow, or man. It is safe to say that it will take twice as many new ears to make a satisfactory feed. Now if twice as many new ears as old are consumed, we must have twice as many pounds of pork for a like number of ears or acres of corn to get the same amount of money for our crop. It is admitted that hogs tired of old corn will take a new start by a change to new; but that only proves an agreeable change. If the hogs had been so handled as not to become weary of the old feed, no such violent change of feed would have been necessary.

Taking a lesson from my own experience, I would say I have concluded that feeding roasting ears to pigs intended to ship for breeders, or to fat hogs intended for market, is wasteful. If one has a hog or sow intended for show, and the quickest growth in shortest time, regardless of cost of feed, is the aim, then of course roasting ears, beefsteak and new milk all may be fed, and prizes enough may possibly be gained to pay for the outlay. —[Ohio Farmer.]

PINK EYE IN HORSES.—An authority says: "Really, attention and good nursing are more essential than medicines in ordinary cases of this ailment. Bleeding and physicking are dangerous, and all depletive or reducing measures should be avoided. The horses should be kept in dry and well ventilated stalls, or box-stalls, and ventilation and cleanliness should be attended to. The body should be lightly blanketed, and the legs hand rubbed and bandaged with flannel strips or hay bands. Exposure to drafts of air should be avoided. The food should consist of sweet, aromatic hay, or newly cut grass, and occasional rations of soft, warm feed or mashes in small quantities. If there is any difficulty in swallowing, a mild, stimulating liniment, such as hartshorn liniment, should be applied to the throat. Setons, rowels and blisters should be avoided. The drink should consist of cold flaxseed tea. When much debility prevails, with reduced or no appetite, and local swellings, give twice daily a drachm of carbonate of iron and two drachms of gentian root mixed with a little molasses and applied upon the root of the tongue. Disinfectants should be used, but not under the nose of the horse. Chloride of lime, dissolved in twenty parts of cold water, should be sprinkled behind the horse; or carbolic acid, same dilution.

We extract the following from a lecture by Professor Scott, of the Royal Agricultural College, England:

Within the last few years a great deal has been added to our knowledge of many of the contagious diseases from which farm animals have suffered so much in the past. A strong opinion is growing up amongst scientific men that all these communicable diseases have a similar origin. It has been proved that the contagion of disease consists, not of gas or vapor, but of solid particles—minute animal and vegetable organisms—sometimes floating in gas, in the air we breathe, or in the water we drink; and that, like organic seeds in the soil, they multiply themselves in suitable media, after a certain period of incubation. Each particular disease requires its special germ or seed for its production. We never find the virus of one disease producing a disease of another kind; in fact, diseases "breed true"—like producing like—just as much as we find to be the case with our farm animals and plants themselves. All the conditions for propagating a disease may be present; but there will be no disease unless the germs are planted. When that takes place, however, the disease spreads like wildfire.