Stock and Dairy.

Carbuncular Fever—Black Leg in Calves.

This is one of a group of blood diseases to which not only horned cattle, but sheep and hogs are liable. It occurs in calves generally under the age of eighteen months or two years, after that age it exhibits itself in other forms, either of congestion of the spleen, splenic apoplexy, or in an abdominal or enteritic form, where there is excessive congestion and extravasation of blood in the intestines, kidneys, and other abdominal organs.

In sheep, the disease exhibits itself chiefly in the form of what in Scotland is termed braxy, chiefly involving the abdominal organs, where there is a rapid and fatal decomposition of the blood and other tissues of the body.

In the hog, the disease shows itself in the skin as well as other parts, and is termed red sickness, red measles, &c. The disease is often internally manifested, as in the ox, it then constitutes anthrax, the dreaded and fatal hog cholera of this continent.

The months of May and June are most fruitful of attacks of black leg although the writer has frequently seen it in the autumn months when there has been a rapid growth of grass after a long drouth.

The causes of the disease are briefly dietetic, occurring generally after a change from dry food to rich luxuriant pasture, inducing thereby a state of plethora or redundancy of rich blood in the system, more particularly when the change in condition has been preceeded by previously stinting, or when the animal has been removed from a diet, poor and unnutritious material, to an abundance of food of a highly nutritious nature. The influence of these causes upon the animal economy induce within the blood certain changes, which tend to grave alteration in its composition and to its death and decomposition.

This disease is rapid in its course, sometimes fatal in a few hours. But there are generally some indications of its commencement. The animal, which previous to the attack, has most likely been thriving rapidly, and is probably the best of the herd, becomes dull and listless, is slightly lame in one or more of the legs, is tender about the loins, ribs, or flanks, rapid, feeble pulse, and the mouth hot and dry. In a short time swellings occur about the shoulders, back, loins, or other parts of the body. The appetite is lost, rumination suspended, the bowels constipated, and the urine scanty and high colored. The swellings at first tender, hot, and painful to the touch, become after a few hours cold and without feeling, and crepitate when handled. The symptoms increase rapidly, and death is the result.

Occasionally the disease will take on a sub-acute character, particularly as the animal acquires age, when the swelling will suppurate, leaving troublesome, ulcerated sores difficult to heal.

When the symptoms of the disease become fully developed, little or no good can be effected, but if recognized in the earliest stages some few cases may, however, be amendable to treatment, purgatives must be used in the first instance, with injections. Locally the swelling may be fomented with very hot water, and strong stimulating embrocation applied. If crepitation under the skin is felt free incisions with the lancet should be made and punctures dressed with turpentine to induce suppuration; later than this stage the chance of success in the treatment of this disease is so small, that practically speaking, it may be regarded as practically incurable.

Prevention, however, is greatly if not altogether in the power of the breeder, and at this season of the year it demands his most serious attention. The disease sometimes assumes the character of an epidemic, and hence has been wrongly regarded as contagious. The true explanation of the matter is that the same predisposing cause of disease will operate on all animals exposed to its influence. On the first appearance of disease, the breeder should at once remove his herd to a locality where the herbage is not so luxuriant, and reduce the plethora of the system by the administration of aperients and diuretics.—*Cor. Kentucky Live Stock Record.*

The Texas cattle drive for the coming season is estimated at 335,000 head.

Hoven or Bloat in Cattle.

As this is the season when danger to cattle occurs from turning them upon fresh clover pasture, a few suggestions upon the subject may not be amiss.

A friend of ours tells us that as a preventative of this, he gives to his cattle early each morning a small bundle of oats to each animal, and if one should be attacked, if it will eat a few nubbins of corn or a sheaf of oats, that it will give immediate relief. Our plan is, and which we have practiced for many years with entire success, to thresh a part of the small-grain crop, stacking the straw in the clover fields, the cattle will each day eat some of the dry straw, which will entirely prevent them from becoming bloated.

Where persons may not have straw stacks in their clover pastures, they can either pursue the course of our friend, of feeding some dry food each morning, or they can build a low rack or pen and keep it filled with straw, hay or fodder.

If the animal is attacked and will eat a bundle of oats, it is as good a means as can be used, if they will not eat, the case is a very serious one and requires prompt action to save the life of the animal. One of two means must be resorted to at once, the one is to plunge a knife into the paunch at its most protruding point in front of the hip, the other is to place a gag of wood of the size of the wrist in the mouth of the animal, and confine it there with a string tied to one end, passing over the head back of the horns, and fasten securely to the other end; it may be described as a big bit in the animal's mouth, secured by a rope head-stall. We clip the following from an exchange on this latter point:

"Various remedies are constantly being prescribed for this—such as stabbing, pouring down oil, soda, etc. We once saved the life of a Short-Horn bull, wtich cost us near $600, in three minutes, by twisting a whisp of hay into a band, placing it in his mouth, and tying it up tightly behind the horns. The working of the jaws, to get rid of this encumbrance, liberates the gas in the stomach, and relief is immediate. We know by that trial ourselves, that this remedy is effectual, safe and simple. One of our best Chester county farmers, when his cows have hoven, tells us he uses a broom-handle in the same way, because quick action is necessary, and this is soonest at hand. Anything binding on the mouth, so as to excite the oction of the jaws of the animal to get rid of it, will answer."

Cattle should never be turned on clover for the first time while they are hungry, allow them to graze on other grass until noon, then turn them in; it is better to keep them off when the clover is wet from either dew or rain.—*Ex.*

Jersey Cows for the Cheese Dairy.

The opinion has been almost universal that the Jersey cow could not be profitably employed in the cheese dairy, but some recent experiments, together with the analysis of cheese made from the milk of thoroughbred Jerseys, seem to point otherwise.

The Winthrop cheese factory has been in operation two seasons, and the cows that furnish the milk average more than half blood Jerseys. During the season of 1874 it averaged one pound of cheese from each 8.07 pounds of milk, but the past season the record has not been quite as favorable, requiring 8.9 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese; although, near the close of last September, six small cheese were made from pure blood Jersey milk, in which only 8.02 pounds of milk were required to make one pound of cheese. With an average requirement from common cows of ten pounds of milk to make a pound of cheese, we perceive a large increased profit in favor of the Jerseys.

Nor is the decreased amount of milk required to make a pound of cheese the only merit in the Jersey's favor, for, from an analysis made by Prof. L. B. Arnold, we learn that this Jersey cheese is very rich, fully equal to the famous Stilton cheese of England, and where, in order to produce this exceedingly rich cheese, the cream is taken off the night's milk and added to the morning's milk, thus giving a double allowance of milk to be incorporated into the cheese. This process of making Stilton cheese, which is the richest cheese known, should be a sufficient answer to one of the prominent objections urged against the advisability of keeping Jersey cows for the cheese dairy, namely, that there must be a large waste of cream in manufacturing the cheese.

Another objection has been that Jersey cows would not give a sufficient amount of milk to make them profitable for the cheese dairy, but it seems to us that the increased richness of the milk will fully make up for lesser quantity.

The average amount of fat in good whole cheese is twenty-five per cent., but Prof. Arnold finds forty per cent. of fat in the cheese made from pure blood Jersey milk. Again, here in Maine, where the cheese season will scarcely average four months, the value of a cow as a butter maker cannot be ignored. If the milk is carried to the cheese factory for four months, there should be at least four months more for butter making during the year. The advocates of cheese factories, when figuring up the income from their cows, usually allow as much for the butter made as for the cheese, and we know there is nothing equal to Jersey cows for making very nice butter; other breeds may make it just as nicely colored, but the solidity and texture are wanting.—*Massachusetts Plowman.*

Dogs as Sheep Protectors.

I used to breed cattle, but having natural fondness for sheep, and an opportunity to purchase a couple of Scotch colley shepherd dogs removing my fear on the score of destruction by mongrel curs, which deters so many from keeping sheep, I concluded to try the experiment which has resulted so satisfactorily.

In my stock of 100 ewes I have half a dozen bells, and in case of danger, the sheep all run to the dogs for protection. This familiarity between the dogs and sheep, with the watchful care exercised, is one of the prettiest sights in the world. These faithful guardians of the flock are ever on the alert day and night. The rapid tinkling of the bells at once arouses the dogs; and about three weeks ago, in the middle of the night, I heard an unusual disturbance among the sheep, but was so confident that the dogs would be equal to the emergency, that I did not come down stairs. In the morning I had the satisfaction of seeing one of the worthless curs which go prowling about at night, lying stone dead along the fence, with marks on him of a desperate fight. I should say, however, that I made one cross by putting my shepherd dog to a Newfoundland slut, and kept the choicest of the litter. He has proved a fine, large dog, about twice the weight of either of the shepherds, and though never interfering in what he seems to consider their special duty, is always on hand ready for service.

It is curious to observe how, when strange dogs cross the place, the two shepherd dogs will take a survey, and if they see much business (they are themselves great fighters), by a kind of silent understanding and arrangement, the three dogs go together; and although we in this country are overrun with all kinds of dogs, there seems to be a general fear of my three dogs, and we are seldom disturbed. I recommend the purchase of one or two good shepherd dogs as the very first step towards keeping sheep.—*Practical Farmer.*

Devon Cattle for Butter and Beef.

The question—What would be the value of Devon cattle for a butter dairy, combined with beef raising, in northern sections of the country? is answered by the *Prairie Farmer* as follows:

Devons are medium milkers, generally, so far as quantity is concerned, but there are instances where individual cows are great milkers. So far as quality is concerned, they rank high for butter making. But our correspondent will bear in mind that beef and butter from one class of animals are not often met with; that is to say, in securing beef points in cattle the milk and butter points are sacrificed, and, *per contra*, when milk and butter is the prime object, beef qualities do not thrive. When bred solely for dairy purposes—selecting animals of superior milking qualities, for that object, this breed has been found highly valuable. The Devons are well fitted for the dairy on account of docility and easy keeping, and other characteristics. It is claimed for them, too, that when the flow of milk ceases, and it is desired to fit a cow for the shambles, the Devons take on flesh very readily under generous feed. It must be remembered, however, that the improvement of any breed for beef is done at a sacrifice of dairy characteristics in the animal, whatever the breed. If a choice of a single breed for general utility was to be made, we do not know that you could do better than to choose Devons.