

the work is so arduous he never smiles. Hence, do not have those great, unsatisfactory feathered mobs around, but fewer, better, more profitable fowls. There is no patented process of feeding. Every farmer's wife who rears a brood of chicks has her own especial way of feeding them, which she believes is best, and yet, with all these differing methods, the chicks come safely through. Nature's practical lesson here is variety. Times have changed from the past, when farm chicks received little else than corn-meal dough; this oftentimes mixed with cold water and very sloppy, then thrown upon the ground or into some unclean receptacle, instead of on clean straw, paper or boards. Corn-meal is too heating for an exclusive diet, nor does it contain enough nitrogenous elements of food to make a well-balanced ration in itself. Last summer I found I could make "animal meal" to put in chicks' johnny-cake by rubbing chopped, cooked meat through a colander. Some writers recommend sorting gravel, because occasionally chicks swallow the large pieces and thus stop up the opening out of crop, but I give simply that gravel which the hens have worked over, because the latter pick out all the large bits first. Being asked at one Institute whether I would prefer broken rice or wheat for young chicks, I said the former is delicate and nice for very young ones, but wheat has the bone-forming material. Owing to its being so cheap last summer, and fed so freely, was partly due the fact that my pullets laid exceptionally early. One lady had had trouble with cottage cheese being constipating to young chicks, and so it is, but beans, chopped onions, and puddings of mixed meals are generally loosening, and secure a balance.

One gentleman lately asked how to locate his new hen-house. Other things being equal, place it on the edge of the barnyard, where there may be wasted grain, where the cattle trample down good paths through the snow, where the warm manure first melts that snow, and where the hens can find fun and improve the manure by scratching the latter over and thoroughly mixing it. Our Institute superintendent has his on the edge of a plum grove, which, in this dry climate, is kept heavily mulched. The hens prevent curculio ravages, stir the soil and work up and in the mulch.

As I write, have just finished a conversation with Dean Sudduth and Dr. Parkyn, of the Minn. University, who are giving lectures on hypnotism, already tested in controlling vicious horses. Dr. Parkyn, by the way, is a Canadian. The Dean can make hens sit by hypnotism. As so many biddies have that failing already, I begged he should suggest winter laying to them.

Duck Fattening.

Duck farming has become quite an extensive industry in many sections of the United States, especially in the vicinity surrounding large cities. This line of farming is not, however, confined to the United States, as the English Vale of Aylsbury is noted for its duck-fattening, says the British Journal of Agriculture. The ducks used, which are of the pure white Aylsbury breed, require constant care and attention all through the spring months, and no one who rears a large number has, during that period, time to engage in any other work. It is said that in the village of Weston Turville eleven men fattened 1,000 ducks apiece annually, and that about 16,000 or 17,000 were sent from there to London in a year. As a rule, the duck fatteners do not themselves keep stock ducks, but buy eggs from farmers or others who have them to sell.

As prices are highest in February and March, it is the object of every duck fatterer to have as many ready for market at that time as possible. At the beginning of the season as high as £1 ls. is obtained for a pair, which gradually falls to 6s. or 7s. per couple by the month of August.

As regards accommodation, a small back yard or garden attached to a cottage affords sufficient room for the bringing up of some hundreds of ducklings. Some shedding is necessary for the protection of the young ducks from the weather, and the ground is usually divided by planks into pens to keep the ducklings of different ages apart. Their water supply is given them in troughs or shallow vessels.

At the beginning of the season, eggs for hatching and sitting hens have to be paid for at comparatively long prices, which, of course, is more than balanced by the selling price of the produce. The food for the young ducks consists principally of chopped eggs, rice, and barley meal. The ducklings are killed when eight to ten weeks old, and are sent to London, plucked, where they are eagerly sought.

The Most Profitable Shade Tree for the Poultry-yard.

Says a writer in the Indiana Farmer: "I have five plum trees, three of which are in the poultry-yard, and the others are of the same variety, but are growing outside the fowl-yard boundary. Last year the three trees were loaded till the limbs required propping to hinder their destruction by breaking down under their luscious burden. The fruit was of superior quality, and free from insect stings. Those outside the yard have each year borne a slim crop of wormy fruit." The truth of this statement is self-evident, and we would advise every one who has a hen-yard to plant a few plum trees of choice variety within its borders. The hens will do much better for having the shade of the trees. All insects that can be reached—such as curculio, etc.—will be devoured before the fruit is injured.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Veterinary.

GROWTH IN THE THROAT.

St. Lawrence Co., N.Y., U.S.A.—"I have a cow seven years old. I notice that she breathes quite heavy, and last February she began to snore, and it keeps getting worse. There is quite a discharge from her nose, and since she has been out to grass the matter is quite green. When she coughs it seems to relieve her for a few minutes and then she snores as bad as ever. It sounds as if something were loose, as it rattles quite hard. Can you tell me what is the cause and if it will hurt her? What would be the treatment, and if the milk will be affected?"

[Tumors sometimes grow in the throats of cattle as the result of an injury from the probang, or cold or an attack of catarrh. Should they attain any size will give rise to obstruction in the respiration. They are known to veterinary surgeons as nasal or laryngeal polypi, according to their situation. The tumor may be so situated as to hang loose, thus giving rise to the rattling, and when the animal coughs may be displaced from its position, and so ease the animal until it again becomes replaced in its old situation. Treatment—It should be removed by placing the hand into the pharynx and twisting or cutting the tumor off from its attachment. In cases where it is grown so strong as not to be removed by these means, a veterinary surgeon could remove it by means of the ecraseur. Unless this is done she will probably choke to death, so that an operation is certainly the most advisable. The milk is not likely to be affected, and the green color of the discharge is due to the staining from the grass becoming mixed with the discharge. There is no danger from the operation if skillfully performed.]

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

SICKNESS IN LAMBS.

NEWFOUNDLAND SUBSCRIBER:—"Kindly inform me, through your enquiry columns, the cause of death in my lambs. I had a sheep drop two fine ram lambs six weeks ago. One was put into the barn as smart as usual in the evening; on the following morning I found it dull, eating nothing. It laid senseless for some time, occasionally springing to its feet, as if in pain; it died, being 28 hours ill. The second lamb seemed a little dull: when standing, placed all four feet together, making the back arched like a half-moon, or what we call "crumped up"; it continued in this way until it perished a few days ago. What was wrong with them? Are others liable to be attacked? What will prevent its occurrence? What could I give as a medicine when attacked?"

[We cannot say that the symptoms given are very definite, and only two seem to point specifically to any disease—springing to its feet, as if in pain: all four feet together, making the back arched like a half-moon. These symptoms are generally described by shepherds as "Louping Ill." The post mortem examination generally reveals the presence of grass and wool in the fourth stomach, where they become compacted into a ball-like mass, sometimes as large as a hen's egg. It generally attacks the most robust lambs, and is most prevalent in cold, backward spring months. It seems probable that the wool found with the dried grass in the fourth stomach is pulled from the neighborhood of the udder during the lamb's efforts to reach the teat. Something in the way of prevention might be done by clipping the long wool from the mammary gland and its neighborhood at lambing time; this is called by the old shepherd, "udder locking," and if it were more frequently practiced we should hear less of the death of young lambs. This disease is not contagious, but the same conditions will give rise to the death of many sheep in the same flock.]

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

ULCER OF THE CORNEA OF THE EYE.

C. W., Lambton Co.:—"I have a heifer that has a small growth on the white of her eye, which resembles a seed wart at times. The eye appears sore, and waters nearly all the time. Can you tell me what it is and what I can do for it?"

[An ulcer of the eye is produced by bruises, scratches, or any direct injury of the cornea. If it spreads superficially upon the cornea, the transparency of the membrane is lost, and very often results in destruction of the whole organ. Treatment.—It is of great importance, as soon as the ulcer appears, to prevent it growing larger; that is to say, to convert the corroding process into a healthy one. For this purpose nothing is more reliable than touching the ulcer with a piece of Lunar caustic or nitrate of silver, which should be repeated at the end of four or five days if not relieved. If only superficial, where no destruction of tissue has taken place, a lotion composed of sulphate of zinc, 30 grains; tincture of opium, 10 drops; water, half a pint; bathe the eye several times a day.]

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

RUPTURE IN CALF.

JAMES MCC., Russell Co.:—"Please let me know in your valuable journal if some calves have double navels? I have a bull calf about a month old with something quite unnatural in that part of the body. It is not thriving well. To all appearance it has two navels."

[We do not think it possible for an animal to have two navels. From the description, we conclude that the calf has a rupture or hernia, which is a protrusion of a part of the bowel through an opening in its walls. Remedy: Fast for several hours, cast, place on the back and return the protruded part. Retain in position by stitches, clamps of wood or iron, skivers or elastic ligatures. Cantharides blister applied to adjacent skin causes swelling, and in slight cases shuts up the opening. If this treatment seems beyond the capabilities of Mr. McC., it will be well to call in a qualified veterinary surgeon. That would be safer in any event.]

Miscellaneous.

JAS. MCCARTHY, Russell Co.:—"I bought a steel roller last year, highly recommended. Now, many farmers say it is too heavy for clay; that it packs it so tightly that rain falling upon it forms a crust that prevents a large portion of the grain from coming through. Others say: 'I don't use a roller at all, and my crops are as good as my neighbors.' What is the general opinion regarding the utility of rollers; are they indispensable implements upon the farm, or can they be dispensed with with as good results as with their use? 2. Many farmers say that manure should remain in a pile or heap undisturbed for at least two years, or until it has become fully rotted; unless it is so it is of little value. Others say if it is not removed in the spring it will fire-fang and waste. What say you?"

[1. It is the general opinion, including our own, that the roller is an almost indispensable implement upon the farm. Many of our best farmers do not consider the work in connection with seeding a field complete until it has been rolled. This is especially true in a dry time, as the crumbling of the surface forms a mulch which hinders evaporation, in the same way that shallow cultivation does. Of course the action will not be the same on all soils, and perhaps a heavy clay soil such as you evidently have is the most difficult of all soils to keep in nice growing tilth. In a wet time no land should be rolled, especially clay; when the difficulty you speak of is liable to occur, the rolling may be left till the grain is two or three inches high. The field will then better withstand a drouth, and trouble by baking will not likely occur. There is an important advantage in rolling, especially when grain is liable to lodge, by crushing lumps out of the way of the reaper. It is also requisite in properly preparing land for corn or roots. 2. When farmyard manure can be kept a few months without leaching, fire-fang or over-heating, there is no loss and it is in more soluble condition than when first taken from the stables; but unless land is very open and liable to dry out very readily, why not allow the rotting process of the manure to go on in the soil and thus save every particle of fertility and also improve the mechanical condition of the land? We intend publishing an article on the care and application of farmyard manure, in an early issue, which will answer your question more fully.]

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto.

Toronto is destined to become a very important market in the near future, and it will be the object of these reports to give an accurate account of personal inspection by our own correspondent. The prices quoted will be for top quotations of the best articles, and points of especial interest to the farmer will be at all times noticed, and the last market before publication always given. The supplies of cattle and quality of stock will receive especial attention. It being the Queen's Birthday, only a moderate supply on offer; market brisk; buyers eager. Only 22 loads of cattle, 110 hogs, 41 sheep, 31 calves. All the cattle were sold; best shipping at \$5.25; one as high as \$5.40. Butchers' cattle, 3½c. to 4½c. One carload averaged \$38 per head. There was some difficulty in placing all orders for shipping. Light stockers, weighing from 800 lbs. to 900 lbs. each, fetched 3½c. to 3¾c. per lb.

Hogs. This line was easier: \$4.70 per cwt. Calves were in demand. Choice veal touched \$5.00. There is still a good demand for dairy cattle; few on offer; \$40 for best with calf.

Sheep brought about 4½c. for good yearlings. One feature of the market deserves notice: a very fine lot of grade hogs, with the Tamworth cross, from around Guelph, brought 1c. per lb. over all others. The colors ranged from orange to tawny and deep red; many showed quite leopard spots.

Several shipments of cattle have been going forward this season to Belgium.

Hay.—Fifty loads on offer; market steady; \$10 to \$11. There was a moderate trade at St. Lawrence market; offering of grain small; one load of wheat sold at 94c. Hay unchanged at \$11.50; about 30 loads on offer. There is a report on the market that Messrs. Ogilvie have bought all the wheat at Fort William, at \$1 per bushel, afloat.

Prices range as tabulated:

Milk and springers	per cwt.	\$25 00 to \$40 00
Butcher's choice	per cwt.	4 00 " 4 50
Butcher's good	per cwt.	3 60 " 3 80
Stockers and feeders	per cwt.	3 50 " 4 25
Export	per cwt.	5 25 " 5 40
Lambs	per doz.	3 00 " 4 00
Eggs	per doz.	10 " 11

Poultry scarce.

Toronto, May 24th.