

The Cattle Disease.

Bureau of Agriculture and Arts, Ontario,
Toronto, Sept. 13th, 1870.

Sir,—I am instructed by the Honorable the Commissioner of Agriculture, to enclose for your information the report of Prof. Smith on what has been designated the "Cattle Disease," which has so recently occasioned alarm among farmers in the western section of this Province.

The malady appears to have been diminishing since the commencement of cooler weather in those places where it first appeared; but several new cases have been just announced in the public press, as having occurred in the more central portions of Ontario.

I have, therefore, respectfully to request that you will, in the interests of the public, draw the attention of your readers to such editorial remarks as you may consider desirable to offer on the subject.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. BUCKLAND,
Secretary.

Editor of the Farmer's Advocate, London.

Bureau of Agriculture and Arts, Ontario,
Toronto, August 23, 1870.

Sir,—My attention having been called by reports in the public press of the appearance of what is represented as a new and serious type of disease, supposed to be contagious, among farm animals in various parts of the Province, I beg to request that you will investigate such cases as you can readily reach, with a view of ascertaining the cause or causes of the malady, and make such suggestions for arresting its progress as may appear in your judgment to be requisite and practicable.

Will you, therefore, have the goodness to take such measures for the attainment of this object as the case may seem to require, and to report the result of your investigations to my Department as early as possible.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN CARLING,
Commissioner.
Principal Smith, Ontario Veterinary College.

Veterinary College, Temperance Street,
Toronto, Sept. 3, 1870.

Honorable John Carling,
Commissioner of Agriculture, &c.

Sir,—In compliance with your request I have, during the past ten days, investigated a great many cases of what is called the "cattle disease," prevailing to a considerable extent throughout the Province. I have examined cases in the county of York, and in the neighborhood of St. Mary's and London, and in every instance, that came under my notice, the exciting cause of the irritation, I believe, is produced by the attacks of flies, that at this season torment both cattle and horses, and during the present season they have appeared in unprecedented numbers, and from their persistent attacks have inflicted an irritation and suffering more than common.

The symptoms are generally confined to the limbs, and the fore legs are usually first attacked, behind the fetlock and knee, and from the animal constantly stamping and kicking to relieve itself of these pests, the irritation is greatly increased, and frequently acute inflammatory action takes place, extending upwards along the absorbent vessels and terminating in the formation of abscesses, causing pain and difficulty in progression, and at the same time producing considerable constitutional derangement which occasionally may terminate fatally. These severe cases are usually a result of carelessness and neglect, or from the application of irritant and poisonous dressings injudiciously applied.

I am glad to be able to report that the great majority of cases, although very annoying to the animal, are not attended with any serious consequences, and the symptoms are so mild in their nature that all that is noticed is merely a slight excoriation of the skin of the parts already mentioned. The flies are found to be most numerous in low, wet pastures, and in districts where there has been an unusual fall of rain. There are many simple remedies, and readily procured, that will tend to allay the irritation, and also prevent the bite of the fly. As to the curative

treatment of cases where there is much inflammation, the parts affected should be carefully fomented with warm water, then dry thoroughly, and dress with carbolic acid lotion, in the proportion of one part of carbolic acid to sixteen parts of water; or an application of equal parts of tincture of benzoin, oil of tar, and linseed oil, to be daily applied. The affected animals should be kept in clean and somewhat darkened stables during the day. In mild cases, dressing the parts daily with the last mentioned application will suffice, (without resorting to fomentations,) or washing the parts with carbolie acid soap, or the use of impure carbolic acid diluted with six parts of water to one of acid. The fly that has proved such a source of annoyance is somewhat similar in appearance to the common house fly, and is called the *stomoxys calcitrans*, described by Harris in his work on insects as follows: "The flies that abound in stables in August and September, and sometimes enter houses on the approach of rain, might be mistaken for house flies were it not for the severity of their bites, which are often felt through our clothing, and are generally followed by blood. Upon examination they will be found to differ essentially from house flies in their proboscis, which is very long and slender, and projects horizontally beyond the head; the bristles on their antennae are feathered above. Cattle suffer severely from the piercing bites of these flies, and horses are sometimes so much tormented by them, as to become entirely ungovernable in harness. This fly lays its eggs in dung, where its young are hatched, and pass through their transformations." In my investigations I have been materially assisted by Mr. Saunders, the well-known entomologist of London.

In conclusion, I have to state that I feel confident there is no great cause for alarm, and that the cold weather of autumn will soon put a stop to the attacks of this pestiferous fly.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
ANDREW SMITH.

From due respect to our authorities we insert the above in full, although we gave our notice, and suggested remedies to our readers last month. The garget in the cow's bags has done us more harm this year than the flies; but from a communication from another source we are not quite sure that we are out of danger yet.

Communications.**To Our Numerous Correspondents.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,—We cannot express ourselves in too strong terms for the honor you have done by forwarding such useful, valuable, and in many instances talented, communications. We feel confident that your writings will be appreciated by our numerous readers, and in fact we consider them the best part of our paper, as they express the various views of the real observing and thinking portion of the inhabitants of our country, and such expressions are of far more real value than the writings of some city attic talented writers, who may have a logical education, but do not really know the difference between a cow and a cabbage stalk. We most respectfully ask you to continue to forward us really useful and practical hints on any subject of importance or interest affecting agriculture in any way, or whereby our readers will be benefitted and instructed. To the really independent and unbiased of our readers who have not yet forwarded us communications on any subject, many of you can add information that may be of advantage to others. Why should you keep that knowledge hid under a bushel? Many of you have sons and daughters that have to attend school for years. Give them instructions what to say if you do not like to write yourselves.

It will do them good to be the instruments of imparting information that will be of value to others. We again ask any one that may disagree with us in our views on different subjects to confute even our own writing if we are in error at any time, and who is free from error? We are quite willing to correct anything that we are satisfied is wrong, and to give a fair hearing to all that may favor us with their opinions, even should they differ with our own.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

Odds and Ends.

BY I. F. INCH.

Come boys and girls, let us gather around the fire this chilly October evening, and have a comfortable chat about farm affairs. How bright the fire burns; even poor pussy enjoys the warm hearth, by the way she is purring. What a pity that there are not fire-places in every farmhouse. Stoves are very well in the kitchen, but give me the old-fashioned open fireplace, with its great pile of cordwood, to talk by.

Now for our talk. The birds are mostly gone to their summer residences in the south, and the flowers have laid by their tiny summer dresses, not to be put on till spring comes again. Girls, I hope you have laid by your summer finery for warm, substantial clothing. Your prints and muslins should all be washed and dried well, then folded and packed away, without either being starched or ironed, as the starch helps to rot the fabric. If you have the summer clothing knocking about all winter they will be entirely ruined before spring, and then you will be at the expense of replacing them, or have to go shabbily dressed next summer.

The next thing to attend to is the rose-bushes and climbing shrubs. The honeysuckle should be tacked up nicely to the side of the porch. The clematis trimmed and fastened over the summer house; and the climbing rose bound to its trellis. If these are not attended to, you will have sorry looking gardens when the heavy snows melt away in the spring.

See that all the flower seeds are gathered and labeled, and the house plants secured from frost. Don't let this winter pass without having flowers in the windows. If you have not a great supply of rare plants, some of the common garden flowers taken up in time, will continue to blossom the most of the winter. The portulacca, pansies, violets and mignonette, look very pretty in a flower pot.

A very pretty ornament can be made by placing a box about 3 feet long by 1 foot wide and six inches high, upon a stand before a window. On the box arrange a frame of glass so as to resemble a small glass house. In this you can plant ferns, mosses, blue violets and other wild wood flowers. Then sink a piece of broken looking glass amongst the moss and ferns, so as to resemble a tiny lake or pond. With a little taste and ingenuity this can be made to look very pretty indeed.

Boys, while the girls are busy in the house and garden, let us see if there is not something for you to attend to in your spare moments. I think there are some windows need glazing afresh. The wind whistles treacherously round some of the panes. Half a pound of putty and a little work will keep out tons of cold air. The old house needs banking up a little. The rats have been playing hide and seek all summer at our expense, and nearly undermined the house. A shovel and half an hour of time, with a little elbow strength will soon remedy all that, and save yards upon yards of flannel for grandmother's rheumatism, next winter.

I hope there are no tools left out to be covered up by snow. If I mistake not, there is a hoe and shovel left out in the

potato field, and a fork in the wheat field. Bring them in, or "Old Father Winter" will bite them most unmercifully, if he gets the chance. There is one thing more to do yet. The cows must soon be tied in their stalls, so look to have the cattle ties all in order. If you don't you will have some refractory animal breaking loose, and killing some of his or her horned companions.

I declare, if we have not talked till ten o'clock, and mother's blowing out the light—so I must bid you all good night.

I. F. INCH.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

A Few Thoughts.

CLUSTER NO. III.

SLANDER.—Among the multitude of phases in which sin presents itself to us, I think it appears the most hideous when in the form of Slander. The blackest and most horrifying demon could have no name more appropriate than SLANDER. But although slander is the most contemptible of all detestable things, it has nevertheless a faculty for presenting itself in such an apparently courteous manner, and in such a modest guise, that it often gains admission and accomplishes its diabolical object, where it never would be allowed to enter were its features sufficiently visible to be recognized as slander. Beware of slander. It is a great counterfeiter. It is one of the component parts of a great many compounds. Slander is about the best auxiliary the devil has in his employ; that is, it does him the greatest amount of service. And all who engage in the business of slandering others, may properly consider the devil their master, and themselves his servants. Their claim cannot be disputed.

Then don't ever slander any body. You don't want to be slandered yourself. If you do it you are a coward,—a sneaking coward. Don't say anything so bad about any body that you don't want them to hear it; but what you have to say, say fearlessly. If we had more out-spokenness and truthfulness, and less deceitfulness and sneaking hypocrisy, our world would be a paradise to what it is.

Concluding Advice.—Shun slander and slanderers, for though they may assume the appearance of angels, they are in reality about on a par with their master, previously mentioned.

JAMES LAWSON.

CLUSTER NO. IV.

FLOWERS.—Where is the man or woman, boy or girl who does not love flowers? If you know such a person I would advise you to have nothing to do with him or her for anyone that can behold these innocent and fragrant beauties which our benevolent creator has so lavishly bestowed, with out some feeling of admiration and sense of gratitude to the giver, is, in my opinion, a very poor specimen of humanity. Shun such: for if they fail to see any beauty in these lovely objects, it must be that their minds—what little they have—are occupied with the very lowest and meanest order of things.

What more lovely than flowers? In what else is comprised such beauty, innocence and fragrance, as the man or woman of taste and refinement beholds in the beautiful flowers which mantle our earth? The most costly apparel cannot be compared to them. Our Saviour, when speaking of the lilies of the field, tells us that "even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

We may also learn many useful lessons from flowers. In many respects,—I don't say all,—they resemble ourselves. There is a great diversity among flowers; so there is among men and women. Those of the richest hues are not always the most fragrant. Another point of resemblance,—external beauty does not always denote real worth. Again,—most flowers are short-lived; so are we.