

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

## THE VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

The disease I intend to dwell upon this month, is Pephritis, or acute inflammation of the kidneys in the horse. A disease not by any means common; but the quack is ever ready, if called to attend a case where the animal is suffering more or less abdominal pain, or he may be laboring under an attack of partial paralysis, when the man of salves and Liniments at once puts the case down as one of Pephritis.

I have seen this well exemplified, by one of our self styled veterinary sugeons treating a case of congestion of the lungs for Pephritis. But *au revoir* to quacking and its minions.

The kidneys are two reddish, oval bodies, situated in the lumbar region of the spine, performing the function of the secretion of urine. Their average weight is about 41 ozs. The causes of this disease are, principally, over exertion, heavy draught up hill, exposure to cold, food of an improper quality, such as burnt hay, musty oats, &c. If a horse having a predisposition for pephritic disease be exposed during cold and wet seasons, it will speedily be produced. And lastly, that abominable practice so much in vogue of late years, of giving too much diuretic medicines, such as Black Antimony, Saltpetre, Sulphur and Resin. The abusive administration of the above named ingredients acting upon those delicate organs, the kidneys, and they being so susceptible of their actions, are fertile producers of Pephritis.

**SYMPTOMS.**—The horse is continually up down, and making attempts to void his urine; walking with a straddling gait, refusing to come round in the stall, seldom or never laying down for any length of time. Upon pressure being applied to the spine over the region of the kidneys, the animal crouches, evidently evincing excessive pain. Sometimes the urine is suppressed. Again, there will be small and frequent evacuations which are of a palish color; often, however, the urine will be tinged with blood. He will also have a hard, quick pulse, mouth hot and dry, the body is often dedewed with perspiration, when a urinous smell will be perceptible.

The treatment must consist in counter-irritants being applied over the loins, but the Pulo Cantharides in combination with turpentine must be avoided. Throw up infections per rectum of oliaginous fluids, draw blood to the extent of from two to three quarts and no more; clothe the body and bandage the legs, allow the animal a plentiful supply of water as well as mucilaginous drinks, such as Linseed tea, gruel, &c. Act gently upon the bowels, keeping

them open; give Diaphoretic medicines to act upon the skin, and keep the stomach in condition to digest its food.

The terminations of this disease are resolution, or a return to a healthy condition of the diseased organs; suppuration, or the deposition of pus or matter in an inflamed part; scirrhus, softening and mortification. But the first named termination will be most earnestly desired in treating a case of Pephritis.

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To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

## DOES IT PAY TO KEEP BEES?

Dear Sir:—Having often been asked the question "does it pay to keep bees, or is it safe to invest money in an Apiary?" I have always answered the question by saying that it does pay, and is safe to invest money in them, if the party investing thoroughly understands their nature and habits, and is willing to give them the proper amount of care and provide them with suitable hives. I now purpose giving a short account of my success in bee-keeping: Some fifteen years ago I purchased two colonies, not with the intention of raising money out of them, but for the purpose of providing myself and family with a luxury in the shape of nice, pure white honey; but I soon became convinced that they could by proper management be made to yield a profit, besides supplying my table with a wholesome luxury; but as there were at that time no moveable comb hives, I had to labor under a considerable disadvantage, as well as loss. Very often some hives would refuse to swarm until the season for collecting honey was nearly over, consequently the young swarms could not gather enough to winter on, and not having the moveable comb hives so that I could build them up from those that had plenty and some to spare, I had to destroy them, which was a loss. Then again, other hives would refuse to swarm altogether, which was of course a loss of all increase from such hives. Then again, some colonies would swarm, and the young swarm would take a bee-line for the woods. Other hives would get infested with millars and worms, which would sooner or later destroy the colony; but after all the losses, I made a fair profit by selling honey and occasionally a hive of bees. But since the introduction of the moveable comb hives and Italian Bees, I have made more than double the profit, for there has been no loss of young swarms going to the woods, or of colonies refusing to swarm or being destroyed by millars, for I have practiced artificial swarming, which does away with all loss in that direction. If millars get into a colony, I remove the cards and clean them out, and save my stock. I also remove cards from full stocks that have them to spare, and strengthen the weak ones in the place of destroying them as heretofore. Then again, the Italian bee defend themselves much better from the millars and are better workers, consequently they store more honey in boxes for their owners. I commenced in the Spring of 1867 with twelve Italian stocks worth at that time about \$200. Last week I sold the increase of stock for \$500, and during the two years I have realized \$400 in honey, wax, and Queen's sold, allowing \$200 for cost of hives and time in attending to them, (which will more than cover it,) leaves \$700, or \$350 profit each year; not a bad interest on \$200 invested for two years. A word to parties intending to start an apiary. Get, if possible, a location where white clover is plenty, or better yet, induce your neighbors to sow Alsike Clover, which is one

of the most profitable crops a farmer can grow, either for seed, or for hay, or both, and for bees it is ahead of anything I ever saw. Provide yourself with good moveable comb hives and the Italian Bees. An apiary started with such advantages and with proper attention, I am satisfied will prove a profitable investment.

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To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

## BEE HUMBUGS.

Since the year 1864, when an interest was awakened in bee-keeping by the introduction of Moveable Comb Hives, various attempts have been made to palm off upon bee-keepers, worthless hives and sundry bee humbugs. As with other branches of business, so with bee culture; it has its proficient, amateurs, novices and pretenders. Generally it is with the last two mentioned classes that our worthless hives and various humbugs originate. The novice, in bee-keeping, is often suddenly attacked with that disease, "bee on the brain," and he ignorantly but innocently fancies he has mastered the whole science of bee culture, and is therefore prepared to astonish the world by producing from his diseased brain, a bee-hive which will supplant all its predecessors. Now with many, to think is to act, hence yearly there are introduced to the public, several "best bee-hives in the world," which, however, prove to be either bungling attempts at an imitation of some good hive, or a worthless throwing together of timber, embracing in its construction, not one scientific principle, but often many features directly opposed to the nature and wants of the honey bee. Their fanciful shape, novel construction and the many advantages claimed for them, cause them to take with unsuspecting bee-keepers who are not educated in the science of bee culture, and often are sold. The country is full of such worthless trash, parties paying more than they would have to do for really good hives, the reputation of which has been established for years—hives constructed by those well acquainted with bee culture, and hence prepared to construct a hive adapted in every feature to their wants. The other class whom we have styled pretenders, are generally unscrupulous persons who do not hesitate at anything by which they can add the 'dimes' to their pockets. It is with this class that bee humbugs generally originate. Having a small smattering of knowledge, they make great pretensions, tell wonderful stories about bees, what strange things they have known bees to do. How one swarm went away because the owner quarrelled with his wife, another died because a child died, and they failed to whisper it in the hive, while a third was so particular that it would not stay in the hive because there was a rusty nail in sight. In this way they arouse the curiosity of the uneducated bee-keeper, who is soon ready to swallow all they have to say. They then come forward with their pretensions to superior knowledge. They can do this or that with bees. They have some wonderful secrets. For a "V," (five dollar bill) they can tell you how to take the bees out of your bot hive, take away their honey, put them back, and they will be all right "in the Spring." They have got a curious compound with which they can charm the bees so they will not sting, only 50 cts. a bottle, and the receipt to make it, only another "V." Thus the honest and unsuspecting bee-keeper is victimized, while the pretender "feathers his nest." The following, which has called forth this article, is an extract from a letter just received from B. Barry, Esq., of Lambton, Co. Huron. He writes:

"During the past season, in Bosanquet, the management of bees has been taught in a secret school, and one of the things taught is the art of drawing bees a distance of two miles. They claim to be able to draw a swarm from