

Veterinary Department.

Pneumonia in Horses.

The disease Pneumonia, or inflammation of the lungs, is a common occurrence amongst horses, and especially so during the end of winter and the commencement of spring. In horses, as in man, pneumonia does not by any means affect both lungs at the same time in all cases, and in the majority of cases one is more inflamed than the other, and that is generally the right lung. The causes of pneumonia are various, such as sudden changes of temperature, impure air, &c. It is very apt to supervene upon an attack of catarrh or sore throat, if a horse is put to hard work when labouring under any of those affections. It is also frequently produced from carelessness in the administering of medicines, especially such as are not properly mixed or diluted, or from forcing medicines down the nostrils, a very common habit in Canada. The other day we were consulted about two horses which had died, showing all the symptoms of acute pneumonia, and produced from pouring irritant medicines into the nostrils. Pneumonia, like many other affections, is generally ushered in by a shivering fit, and at this period the skin is harsh and cold, which is due to the blood having left the surface of the body and flowing in an undue amount to the lungs. The pulse at this stage is not materially affected; but is sometimes rather weaker than natural. When the shivering ceases, the horse begins to breathe hurriedly; the perspiration soon becomes more laboured and oppressed; there is also flapping of the nostrils, with great working of the ribs. The laborious breathing is owing to the suffocating sensation the animal feels in consequence of the lungs being overloaded with impure blood. The pulse is quick and soft, not hard and wirey as in pleurisy; the mucous membrane of the nose and eye are injected, the ears and legs are cold, and the mouth very hot and dry. The horse generally stands persistently; in the early stage he may lie down, but only for a very short time. In some cases there is a short catching cough; the breath also feels hot; and if there is a space in his box or stable through which cool air can enter, he is sure to keep his nose against it. He does so from an instinctive feeling, which nature implants to secure for him the advantage of cold air, which is more condensed than warm, and less quantity is therefore required to be inhaled for the purification of the blood. This circumstance alone should show the importance of supplying plenty of fresh, cool air, for chest affections. The coat is generally staring, and the secretions are impaired. The patient, while the acute symptoms last, refuses food, but will often drink, and a little cold water seems to be very grateful. If the acute symptoms become aggravated, death will take place from the third to the ninth day. The signs of recovery are the pulse becoming slower, the ears and legs more of a natural heat, returning appetite, and lying down occasionally. Pneumonia is, not a very fatal complaint.

In the treatment of pneumonia, as in congestion of the lungs, we recommend pure air; therefore, without delay, place the patient in a cool, roomy, and clean box; have the body comfortably clothed, and the legs bandaged—the amount of clothing must be regulated according to the weather. If discovered in the early stage, when the pulse is full and oppressed, and the horse in good condition, a few quarts of blood may be abstracted. Give, also, one to two drachms of aloes, in balls. As a sedative, the Fleming tincture of aconite may be given in doses of ten drops, well diluted, every two or three hours. Encourage the patient to take nitrated drinks, and apply to the sides clothes wrung out of hot water. By the second or third day, if the horse is still not much relieved, cut the hair off the sides and chest, and apply a blister. If the disease has existed for any lengthened period, or when signs of debility are visible, blood-letting is injurious; but aconite may be used for a few doses, then nitrous ether, or the liquor of acetate of ammonia may be given in ounce doses every three or four hours. In many cases a quart of good beer, three times a day, is highly beneficial. After an attack of pneumonia the horse should be tenderly cared for some time.

PARASITES AFFECTING THE MUSCLES OF THE OX.—Dr. Cobbold, at the late meeting of the British Association, read a paper on the peculiar parasites infesting the muscles of oxen, which had first attracted attention during the epizootic of rinderpest among cattle. These parasites, he stated, consisted of an external egg-shaped envelope, separated by divisions into compartments, which were filled with cells. The nature of these cells, he remarked, was such as to render it quite probable that their origin was vegetable, although the bulk of evidence on the matter pointed to their animal origin. Dr. Cobbold, stated that these bodies are in no way characteristic of rinderpest, being found in the finest beef. His observations, moreover, established the fact of their being altogether harmless.

VETERINARIAN.

Poultry Yard.

Keeping Fowls in Orchards.

The public has yet to learn the full advantages of keeping poultry. Few seem to appreciate the service they may do among the trees in an orchard. Let any one try them in an orchard of a quarter or half an acre, where they may be kept by picket fence, four or five feet high, putting in say 125 fowls, and observe the result. He will avoid the annoyance in the garden of which so many complain, while they will work among the trees, doing just what is needed, keeping the ground well cultivated, and destroying everything that can injure the fruit trees in the shape of bugs, worms, or other insects, and lay a large number of eggs, which are a cash article, to say nothing of the chickens which pay well for raising at the present time.

I have tried it, and I know it is so. I have about 100 fowls, which have worked admirably among my trees, keeping the ground in good condition, keeping off the insects, and promoting the growth of the orchard. I am satisfied that we have yet to learn the full benefits which may be derived from the proper management of fowls, and it is quite possible that the method I have suggested may offer the best way of getting our apple orchards into bearing condition again.—*Cor. Northern Farmer.*

MOVING.—A man in the country says that he moved so often during one year, that whenever a covered waggon stopped at his gate, his chickens would fall on their backs and hold up their feet, in order to be tied and thrown in.—*American Paper.*

HATCHING EGGS ARTIFICIALLY.—J. R. Glover writes to the New York Farmer's Club, that he has been so engaged in his experiments in hatching eggs artificially that he has not had his clothes off more than two and a half hours in any of the twenty-four for the last three months. The results of his persevering labors he sums up as follows:—I have used about 1,600 eggs, and I have now on hand, in good condition, sixteen chickens—just one chicken to one hundred eggs." Still he believes the thing can be done, if we only knew how.—*Prairie Farmer.*

A NEGRO DISCUSSION ABOUT EGGS.—In the fairest village of Western New York, the "cullud pussens," in emulation of their white brethren, formed a debating society for the purpose of improving their minds by the discussion of instructive and entertaining topics. The deliberations of the society were presided over by a venerable ducky, who performed the duties with the utmost dignity peculiar to his color. The subject for discussion on the occasion of which we write was, "Which am de mudder of de chicken,—de hen wot lay de egg, or de hen wot hatches de chick?" The question was warmly debated, and many reasons pro and con were urged and combated by the excited disputants. Those in favor of the latter proposition were evidently in the majority, and the President made an attempt to conceal that his sympathies were with the dominant party. At length an intelligent ducky arose from the minority side and begged leave to state a proposition to this effect: "Specs," said he, "dat you set one drozen duck's eggs under a hen and dey hatch, which am de mudder, de duck or de hen?" This was a poser, was well put, and nonplussed the other side, even staggering the president, who plainly saw the force of the argument but had committed himself too far to yield without a struggle; so after cogitating and scratching his wool a few minutes, a bright idea struck him. Rising from his chair in all the pride of conscious superiority, he announced: "Ducks am not before de house; chickens am de question; defore I rule de ducks out!" and do it he did, to the complete overthrow of his opponents.

The Apiary.

American Bee Plant.

(*Cleome Integrifolia*.)

This plant has been cultivated to some extent in this neighborhood for several years past, and proves one of the best and probably the very best honey-producing plant known. It was introduced by the writer about the year 1860 as a new annual flowering plant, from the Rocky Mountain region, but its great value was not at that time known, and was not discovered until a year or two after, when the writer was surprised to see the plant covered with bees while other flowers in the immediate neighbourhood were quite neglected. The next year a much larger quantity of this plant was grown, and it was found that the honey stored in boxes at the time that this plant was in bloom was of a much finer quality than any other. Every succeeding year of its cultivation confirms this, and I find that while this plant is in bloom nearly all other flowers are discarded; even the buckwheat, which every one knows is a great favorite with the industrious little fellows, is quite decried. The honey stored from this plant is positively the finest, both to the eye and the palate, of any that I ever saw.

The plant is of easy culture and looks well in the flower garden. It is a strong grower, and much branched like the common mustard plant, though its flowers are a bright purple, and are produced from midsummer until frost destroys it in autumn.

It will grow on any soil, though a rich one suits it best, and may be sown in drills, or broadcast if the ground is clean. Autumn is the best time for sowing, as it comes into bloom sooner. It has already acquired the local name of "Bee Plant," in this vicinity (Chicago) and as it is indigenous I propose that we call it the Great American Bee Plant.—*H. A. Terry.—(Prairie Farmer.)*

THE usual time of the issuing of a swarm is from ten o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon. I have, however, known a swarm to rise as early as seven in the morning, and as late as five in the evening. Butler mentions an instance of one rising later than five.—*Bryan.*

When the general massacre of drones takes place, not only all those that have undergone their full transformations, but every embryo, in whatever period of its existence, shares the same fate; the maxim with bees being to attend to the general welfare of the community, not to allow those to eat that are not useful in some way.—*Am. Bee Journal and Gazette.*

ATTENTION to the following particulars may guard the bees from many of their enemies, viz: A frequent cleaning of the hive-floors; the use of new or well-cleaned hires; the timely renewal of the coverings; and keeping the ground bare around the apiary, particularly in front of it. This last precaution may also prevent the entanglement of the bees in rubbish or long straggling vegetables, should they, on their return home, fall down through fatigue or the weight of their loads.—*Am. Bee Journal and Gazette.*

Bees, when swarming, are generally peaceable, and, if treated gently, may be hived without danger or difficulty. A remarkable instance of their inoffensiveness at this period is related by Mr. Thorley. Wanting to dislodge a swarm from the branch of a codling-tree on which it had clustered, he placed the hire in the hands of a maid-servant, who, being a novice, covered her head and shoulders with a cloth to guard her face. On shaking the tree, most of the bees alighted on the cloth, and quickly crept under it, covering the girl's breast and neck up to her chin. Mr. T. impressed her with the importance of neither flinching from nor buffeting the bees, and began immediately to search for the queen, which, on finding, he gently seized and removed, but without effecting a dislodgement of the swarm. Thus disappointed, he suspected there was a second queen present, which actually proved to be the case. On securing her and placing her in the hire, with a portion of the bees, the rest followed in multitudes, till in two or three minutes not one bee remained on the girl, who was thus released from her state of apprehension and alarm, without feeling the point of a single sting.—*Am. Bee Journal and Gazette.*