

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN.

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:
IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNATYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

BRANCH OFFICE: CALGARY, ALBERTA, N.-W. T.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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the farmers of the Province should insist that it be there located whenever it is established.

The proposition has been made to establish the proposed school in the City of Toronto, in connection with the Provincial University, but we cannot think that it would be in the interests of forestry to do so. What likelihood would there be of attracting forestry students from the ranks of the votaries of the "professions" who throng the University, or of effectually reaching with its influence the agricultural community? It might in some way or other suit the University, but we are very sure it would not be in the interests of the school itself.

Through their representatives in the Legislature the agriculturists of the Province should insist that the school should be established in its proper place, in conjunction with the Agricultural College at Guelph.

What our Friends are Saying.

Amos Rittenhouse, Haldimand Co., Ont.: Enclosed find our renewal for another year. We are pleased with the "Advocate," as it is practical and up-to-date.

M. E. Bebee, Grey Co., Ont.: The change to a weekly you so generously made in our paper, the "Farmer's Advocate," I am sure will be appreciated by many, including myself.

S. G. Catch, Brome Co., Que.: I enjoy reading the paper very much, and think no farmer's home should be without it.

James G. Darke, Wentworth Co., Ont.: I think your paper is of very much importance to anyone who has stock, and also as for other information.

Duncan A. Ross, Glengarry Co., Ont.: I am very much pleased with the "Advocate" since it has been changed to a weekly, and I feel sure its influence will have a wonderful effect for good upon the farmers of this country.

HORSES.

Joint Ill or Navel Ill in Foals.

A large number of foals perish every year from a disease called joint or navel ill, sometimes called arthritis, from the fact that the joints suffer from acute inflammation. The disease is more prevalent some years than others, and in some localities it is much more frequently noticed than in others. In fact, in some years it prevails very extensively, and appears to be almost epizootic in some localities.

CAUSES.—Until the last decade or so various opinions existed as to the cause. Some claimed it was congenital, others that it occurred only in foals that did not receive the first milk (the colostrum) of the dam; others that it was due to an impure condition of the milk of the dam; others that it was due to the insufficient ingestion of calcareous salts, and originated during intra-uterine life or the sucking period; others that it was caused by exposure or chills. These and other theories were advanced as causes, but close observation tended to prove the incorrectness of each. It has been demonstrated beyond doubt to be due to a germ that exists in the earth or the dust, etc., on stable floors, and which gains entrance to the circulation by means of the navel opening, and having an affinity for articulations it attacks the joints.

SYMPTOMS.—The first symptoms usually shown are difficulty in moving, and an apparent stiffness and soreness of some of the joints; the hocks are probably the most frequently involved, next the knees, but any of the joints may be attacked, and frequently several, either simultaneously or gradually, one after the other. In rare cases the stiffness appears before any visible alteration of structure, but usually there is a noticeable swelling and soreness to pressure. Temperature is increased, and usually respiration is hurried. The little animal has difficulty in rising, and progression is more or less painful, according to the joint or joints attacked, and the severity of the attack. The desire for nourishment is diminished, and he sucks very little and soon lies down again. He soon becomes emaciated and very weak. The swellings of the joints and the soreness increase; the swellings become puffy, and if lanced or allowed to burst a muddy colored, thin fluid escapes. In some cases abscess after abscess of this nature forms; in others the progress is slow and abscesses do not form, or if present contain little fluid and do not rupture. In most cases the articular cartilages of the joints become destroyed as a result of the disease, and upon manipulation the denuded bones of the joint can be felt and heard grating against each other. Emaciation, weakness and refusal to take nourishment gradually and in many cases rapidly increase; he loses all power to rise or move if lifted, and soon dies. In some cases the symptoms are complicated by diarrhoea. The disease is noticed in two to four days, to possibly as many weeks, after birth, usually not later than ten days, and the duration is also variable. In many cases death results in a few days, while in others the symptoms are not so severe, develop more slowly, and, as a consequence, the foal will live longer, possibly for some weeks.

TREATMENT.—This is seldom successful, and when by very careful attention and nursing the life of the foal may be saved, recovery is usually only partial, for unless the progress of the disease be arrested, the articular cartilages, as mentioned, become destroyed, and when this has occurred they will never be reproduced, and, as a consequence, the bones become united by bony union, which renders the animal more or less a cripple, and worthless. Curative treatment consists in an endeavor to allay local inflammation by the application of heat, either in the form of warm poultices or bathing with warm water and the use of an anodyne lotion, as tincture of opium, 4 ozs.; chloroform, 1 oz.; acetate of lead, 1 oz.; water to make a pint. In the meantime means must be taken to destroy the germs, and the administration of about 5 grs. iodide of potash in a little of the mother's milk about every six or eight hours gives probably the best results. It is also good practice to give the drug to the dam, also in dram doses, twice daily. The strength of the foal must be sustained by holding him up so that he can suck, and if he refuses to do so he must be given his dam's milk in small quantities, say 2 to 6 ozs., according to size and age, frequently, say every hour, or at most every two hours. As has been stated, treatment in a well-established case entails a great amount of time and attention, and is seldom followed by success, hence we must depend largely upon preventive measures. When we know that the trouble is due to the entrance through the navel opening of a germ, we also know that if this can be prevented the disease will not appear. In the first place, if the mare is about to foal in the stable we should see that all possible precautions are taken in the way of cleanliness and antiseptic measures. The stall should be regularly and thoroughly cleaned, and

the floor covered occasionally with slacked lime, or washed with a germ-destroying agent, as say a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid. If she is going to foal outside, all we can do in this way is to see that she has a nice, clean plot of grass, where no stagnant water or mud holes exist. In addition, we should have a bottle of some good antiseptic ready, such as a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid, zenoleum, creolin, kresol, or other product of coal tar, or a strong solution of corrosive sublimate, say 15 grs. to a pint of water. As soon as possible after birth the navel string and opening should be thoroughly dressed with the solution (I may say that I prefer the last mentioned), and the dressing should be repeated four or five times daily until the opening has closed and healed. This prevents the germs from entering, and destroys any that may be gaining entrance. If these precautions are properly carried out the disease will seldom or never develop.

"WHIP."

To Prevent Galled Shoulders.

During spring work farm horses are often very much troubled with galled shoulders. The chief reason for this is that during winter they have little or no work to do, and their shoulders become tender. When spring comes they are expected to do a full day's work without any preparation, and sore shoulders is the result.

To expect a horse to tug faithfully at his load when his collar is pressing into the bare, bleeding flesh, shows lack of common judgment, combined with cruelty. We can easily understand how a horse working under such adverse conditions would lose in flesh as well as mettle. For such cases the old proverb fits admirably, "An ounce of prevention," etc., and in this connection we would advise bathing the shoulders every evening with strong salt water for a month if possible before horse work in the field commences. If the animal can be worked a little, so much the better, but in such cases always wash the shoulders with pure water before applying the salt water. If this is done, and the collar fits, there will be no galls. The second thing is to see that the collar fits the shoulder. The collar should fit snug, right close to the neck all along the portion to which the draft is applied, but should not be so tight near the top as to pinch that part of the neck. Underneath the neck in the center there should be an inch space when the animal is pulling, so that his wind may not be interfered with. Never buy a collar without fitting it on the horse for which it is intended, and do not change collars from horse to horse. Some collars have hard spots in them, and others soft, spongy places; buy neither. Some collars are harder on one side than the other; these, too, should be avoided. One with a uniform, moderately-hard filling is preferred. If it is impossible to get one that fits, one that is of proper length and of good quality may be fitted by cutting a slit under the hames opposite the part that does not suit, and by either taking out or inserting filling the proper form can be made. Then the face of the collar may be hammered where such is needed to give the proper shape, with a fairly large, smooth round stick. Do not use a hammer or square stick, as such often injures the leather. The slit need not be sewed up unless quite long, for the hames will hide it.

Leather-faced collars are considered the best, and by applying a very little oil occasionally, just enough to keep the leather pliable, but under no consideration sufficient to ooze out on the shoulder, the collars will wear well and the danger of galls will be lessened. It goes without saying that all collars should be kept scrupulously clean. Each morning the face should be scraped with a dull knife, or some similar instrument, and then rubbed off with a clean, dry cloth. Keep the mane as much as possible from under the collar, and carefully keep whatever hair there is on top of the horse's neck clean. If this is allowed to become matted, a sore neck is certain if the animal be worked hard.

If the harness, including the collar, be kept pliable by oiling, the horse will do his work with less nervous wear, and, consequently, maintain his flesh under a heavier strain. Bathing the shoulders with salt water should be continued for some time after spring work begins.

Bigger and Better all the Time.

A. E. Main, Richmond Co., Que.: I saw in the "Farmer's Advocate" a short time ago a letter from my friend and neighbor, Mr. P. P. Fortner, of Dalking, in which he said that he had taken the "Advocate" since 1874. Well, I think that I can say that we have taken it longer than that. My father subscribed for the "Advocate" I think in 1866, and we have taken it ever since. It was only a small paper then, and has steadily kept growing and getting better every year, and it is, I think, second to no agricultural paper in the Dominion.