

APIARY.

Spring Feeding the Colony.

The first examination in the spring should be mainly for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the honey stores have been exhausted. It should be early and not so extended as to risk the loss of much warmth of the brood-chamber, says Frank Benton in his Honey Bee Manual, recently issued at Washington, D. C. Merely lifting one end of the quilt, or, if the bottom board is a loose one, tipping the hive back so as to get a view in between the combs, will suffice. Should there not be at least the equivalent of two full frames of honey, it is best to supply the deficiency at once. If combs stored with honey and sealed over are not in reserve, liquid honey or sugar-syrup may be poured into empty ones and placed in the hives. A less "dauby" plan is to use one or more feeders directly over the brood nest, supplying several pounds of food at once. An excellent way is to give at one time all they need in the shape of bee candy, made by mixing fine sugar with just enough honey to produce a stiff dough. This cake should be wrapped in heavy paper and laid on top of the frames, after having punctured the paper in several places with a pencil or sharp stick, to give the bees access. A few strips of wood laid across the frames before the cake is placed on them will give the bees a better opportunity to reach the food. Rye flour put in sunny places and sprinkled with honey to attract the bees will be collected until new pollen comes.

A Note from the Ontario Foul Brood Inspector.

Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

SIR,—Your report of the Ontario Bee-keepers' convention, which was held lately in Brantford, is a credit to your journal and the writer. If I were a farmer I certainly would take the ADVOCATE. I take three bee journals and will soon take two more, which will make five. Every farmer should take the ADVOCATE and some other agricultural journals. I will here give you the names of a few good farmers that should take your journal. . . Woodburn, Ont. Yours truly, Wm. McEvoy.

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.]

Legal.

CATTLE AT LARGE.

MUSKOKA SUBSCRIBER:—"We are not organized into townships in this part of Muskoka, and, consequently, have no pounds or by-laws regulating cattle running at large, and we are damaged considerably by scrub bulls running at large. Is there any effective means by which we can, under the law, protect ourselves from this damage?"

[We think, in your unorganized district, your only effective remedy is to herd or fence, or in some such way protect your own animals. Of course, if your own farm be fenced in with sufficient fences and then strange animals break through, the case is different and you could recover damages.]

FIRE ON RENTED FARM.

CONSTANT READER:—"B rented a farm from A in March, 1895, for a term of years, and in September, 1895, the barn on the farm was burned down and B lost all his crop, on which he had no insurance; A, however, had the barn itself insured. Can A collect the rent due before replacing the barn?"

[If there is no lease in writing and no agreement was made as to what would be the rights of each party in case of the destruction of the buildings by fire, A can collect his rent.]

Veterinary.

CATARRH IN YOUNG PIGS.

D. C. BLACK:—"I have a number of young pigs, two, four, and eight months old. All of them are coughing. Most of them are kept in a stone pen. They are fed on chop oats and barley, also a few carrots and mangolds. Can you tell me what ails them and give a cure?"

[Like all other animals, pigs are subject to cold chills, etc., causing cough, sore throat, etc. The reason why so many are affected is that the same cause affected all—probably some particular change in the weather. A little careful dieting and warm housing, with the administration of the following powders, will, no doubt, soon relieve the urgent symptoms: Belladonna powder, two drams; licorice powder, two ounces; jalap powder, one ounce. Mix and divide into twelve powders. Give one, night and morning, to six small pigs, in some warm slop. Dr. Wm. Mole, M. R. C. V. S.]

RINGWORM.

S. H.:—"I have a two-year-old beast, in fair condition only, and noticed a few days ago several roughish, irregular spots on the skin. On rubbing them with the hand the hair came off freely with some of the cuticle. The spots are located on side flank and around rump. When rubbed hard blood will show; afterwards the parts dry almost like ringworm. I enclose some of the hair, etc., rubbed off."

[Ringworm is a common disease of cattle, and, unlike mange, is not confined to those ill-cared for, and is defined to be an affection implicating the hairs of the skin, not always but usually assuming a circular form—a parasitic fungi of a vegetable character and known by the scientific name of *trichophyton tonsurans*. It is first manifest by slight swelling and some itchiness of the skin. The fungus has a whitish appearance, about the size of half-a-dollar, which, when peeled off with the finger, exhibits a raw surface, discharging a thin, yellowish matter. The fungus dries into a powder of a fine, bran-like character. This covers the epidermis between the hairs and true skin, and forms around them a complete whitish sheath. The hairs break unevenly, become ragged at their ends, and have the appearance, under the microscope, of being eaten through. At the same time their broken ends are much altered—bent, twisted, and lighter in color than the healthy hair. In noticing the rings, occasionally one or more of them run together, forming a patch of some magnitude. They are usually found about the head, neck, back, and thighs, and surrounding the eyes in great numbers, giving the animal a most unsightly appearance. Treatment must be persistent, as the disease is of a highly contagious character, difficult to cure unless thoroughly done. Treatment: First wash the parts with a solution of carbonate of potash, water and soap, then apply the following mixture: Tincture of iodine, one ounce; tincture of iron, one dram; oil of turpentine, one ounce; spirits of wine, two ounces. To be painted on every day until well. To prevent a recurrence of the disease, the stable should be thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed; the harness, collars, clothing, blankets, etc., well washed and exposed to the atmosphere for a day or two. Dr. Wm. Mole.]

CRACKED HEELS AND HIDEBOUND.

READER:—"My horse (twelve years old) when left in the stable a day or two breaks out at the heels. His skin is very dry; seems as though hidebound. He is very hard to feed, taking half more than his mate doing the same work. Kindly advise through your valuable paper."

[Scratches, cracked heels, and grease may for our purpose be classed the same disease in various forms, due to the same cause. It is a very common malady and prevails most during autumn and winter months, confining itself to the hind limbs. Usually sets in with swelling, heat, and tenderness, with stiffness and slight lameness, which passes away after driving and returns on being placed in the stable; generally seen in aged horses of a slow, sluggish constitution, which predisposes to this affection. May be caused by over-feeding on grain of a coarse character—wheat, barley, rye, beans, peas—or an over-supply of oats; unwholesome fodder; close, hot, dirty stables; constant contact with dung and urine; working in deep, irritant mud in limestone districts; snow and freezing mud; more often than not washing legs without properly drying them. These causes induce a dropsical swelling of the limbs (stocking), thus weakening the parts, inducing cracking, etc. As the disease proceeds, or takes on a more intense form, blisters or vesicles appear, which burst, discharging a bright, amber-colored fluid, which is very corrosive in its effects upon the skin, and then known as grease. The relation between the skin and internal organs are most intimate, therefore a visible disorder of the skin will point to some particular fault in the diet, or to an injudicious use of cold water when the body is heated. It is a very troublesome affection in the heavy draught horse, especially so in stallions. Treatment: First give a dose of purgative medicine: eight drams of Barbadoes aloes and two drams of calomel in ball to clear away irritating matter from the bowels. Give soft bran and flax-seed mash, carrots and roots of all kinds, and the following powders: Sulphate of soda, 4 ozs; carbonate of soda, 4 ounces; nux vomica, 2 ounces. Mix and divide into 24 powders; give one night and morning in food. As a wash for the skin and heels apply daily the following lotion: Bicarbonate of soda, 1 ounce; carbolic acid, 2 drams; glycerine, 2 ounces; water, 1 pint. Dr. Wm. Mole.]

CRIB BITER.

A. C. MAILLORY, Essex Co., Ont.:—"I have a mare, eleven years old, which has the habit of cribbing the manger. Will you kindly tell me the cause, and if it can be cured, and what can I do to prevent the habit?"

[A chronic crib biter may be easily recognized by the appearance of the incisor teeth: they are worn and rounded at the anterior borders, and by an enlarged condition of the muscles of the neck and jaw, that may be seen on each side above the channel of the throat (named *Sternomastoides*), chest and jaw. A crib biter seizes the manger or some fixture (the collar shank when nothing else can be taken hold of) by the front teeth, arches his neck, and makes a belching noise; after a time the abdomen becomes enlarged, the animal unthrifty, dry in coat, and hidebound. A wind sucker smacks his lips, extends his head or presses it against some solid body, arches his neck, gathers his feet together, blowing himself out sometimes to a tremendous extent. To prevent cribbing is often very difficult. One method has been resorted to with some success, by passing a very thin flat file between each incisor tooth, which renders them slightly loose and sore, thus preventing a firm hold on the manger. A neck-strap with a small projecting piece in front placed under the jaw will often-

times remove the vice. Placing the animal in a loose box, and feeding out of a swinging pail, removing immediately, will at times cure this habit. Certain animals try to get through long hours of enforced idleness by quietly nibbling the top rail of the manger. Dr. Wm. Mole.]

SOW EATING PIGS.

H. P. T.:—"I have a Berkshire sow that has killed and eaten eight young pigs in one litter, and ten in her last. Can you tell me the cause, and how she can be cured? She is a thoroughbred, prize-winning strain, and I would like to raise a litter from her."

[Naturalists give the pig credit for the greatest amount of intelligence among animals. Showmen state that pigs are more apt at receiving instruction than any of our animals, and say that their wits are quick and their sympathies remarkably strong, but the reverse is commonly assumed. It is perhaps due to their highly sensitive organization that they are liable to attacks of mania, and that it is during these attacks of delirium that they will destroy and eat their offspring shortly after birth. To prevent them doing so may be troublesome, but precaution should be taken to be on hand at the time of farrowing, and see that she is provided with plenty of drink, such as warm milk, gruel, and allow the young pigs to suckle only after she has been satisfied. Dr. Wm. Mole.]

NOTE.—See also page 55, Feb. 1st issue.—EDITOR.]

LYMPHANGITIS IN COLT.

SUBSCRIBER, Oxford Co., Ont.:—"My colt is sore and tender across the kidneys and swollen in the right hind leg. Have given him sweet nitre and saltpetre. He is now two years old, of light breed, and has good care."

[It is very rare to meet with any disease of the kidneys in the horse; the bowels are more often affected from injudicious feeding. Read answer to question above, as this is a variation of the same disease. In this case it appears to be the result of debility and not to the various causes detailed. The dropsical condition of the leg is known as lymphangitis: the bowels become constipated, the urine scanty, and will require slightly different treatment. There is no objection to sweet nitre and saltpetre, and no doubt before you read this the urgent symptoms will have passed away. It generally leaves some permanent enlargement and the animal becomes subject to recurrent attacks. Give iodide of potassium, 1 ounce; powdered colchicum, 2 ounces; powdered gentian, 2 ounces; powdered capsicum, 2 drams. Mix and divide into twenty-four powders, one to be given as a drench in half a pint of warm gruel night and morning. Dr. Wm. Mole, Toronto, Ont.]

Miscellaneous.

OATS VS. SHORTS FOR STOCK.

SUBSCRIBER, Meaford, Ont.:—"Which is, oats or shorts, the cheapest food for horses and cattle, both at \$15 a ton, or bran at \$16 a ton?"

[Shorts would be a trifle cheaper than oats, and either shorts or oats considerably cheaper than bran. This is true so far as the value of the different foods are concerned, and when cattle are to be fed the shorts are the most suitable, but it is pretty generally acknowledged and believed that oats are peculiarly suited to the horse. An addition of a small proportion of shorts to the ground oats may be economical value as horse food.]

SUGAR-CANE.

OLD SUBSCRIBER, Terrebonne, Que.:—"1. Is sugar-cane cultivated in this country? 2. Is its culture advantageous? 3. What is the best kind of cane to be cultivated in this country? 4. How can it be converted into syrup? 5. Where can I get a treatise upon its culture and manufacture into syrup?"

[1, 2. Sugar-cane has not been grown successfully in Canada to our knowledge. 3. The only sort we ever knew to receive a trial was sorghum, which is too easily damaged by frost to be of any use in our climate. 4. The process of syrup-making is too elaborate and of too little interest to our readers to warrant its publication in the ADVOCATE. Bulletin 34 of the Division of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, contains an account of the process of manufacture. 5. Other bulletins upon sorghum and sugar-making can be had by applying to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.]

ALFALFA IN AN ORCHARD.

JOHN TAYLOR, JR., Wellington:—"Is it wise to sow alfalfa in an orchard to remain permanently? Would not the deep roots injure the trees?"

[In our opinion it would not be wise to sow alfalfa among young trees, for the reason that the roots would go deeper than the roots of the trees, and would possibly injure them by depriving them of fertility. In an old orchard such evil effects need not be feared; in fact, the plants would not grow luxuriantly in such a location. If alfalfa were grown there it would be wise to pasture it off with hogs, or allow it to go back into the land.]

SWINE QUARANTINE.

TAYLOR BECKETT, Monck Co., Ont.:—"Will you kindly let me know through the ADVOCATE how long swine are held in quarantine coming from the United States into Canada, and what is the cost?"

[Twenty-one (21) days; average cost about \$2.50 per head.]