

## Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. If an answer is specially requested by mail, a stamp must be enclosed. Unless of general interest, no questions will be answered through the ADVOCATE, as our space is very limited. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Matter for publication should be marked "Printers' MS." on the cover, the ends being open, in which case the postage will only be 1c per 4 ounces. 5. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed. 6. No questions will be answered except those pertaining purely to agriculture or agricultural matters.

Correspondents wanting reliable information relating to diseases of stock must not only give the symptoms as fully as possible, but also how the animal has been fed and otherwise treated or managed. In case of suspicion of hereditary diseases, it is necessary also to state whether or not the ancestors of the affected animal have had the disease or any predisposition to it.

In asking questions relating to manures, it is necessary to describe the nature of the soil on which the intended manures are to be applied; also the nature of the crop.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

**Saddle on Working Harness.**—Discussions prevail with us about the saddle on working harness; some say it is useless, others again the reverse. In your experience I hope to get a satisfactory solution.—ENQUIRER, Carrick.

[The general rule may be laid down that the less fixings about the harness the better. However, for young or wild horses the rule should sometimes be reversed. For horses that are well broken in, we would not use a harness saddle for field work or in the wagon, especially in warm weather. The horses feel freer and will likely perform more work.]

**Feeding Grain to Horses on Pasture.**—When a horse runs out on pasture in summer, will it do him any good to give him a small feed of grain before driving him? Some say that it won't unless he is fed regular.—E. H., VIENNA, Ont.

[It is injurious to horses to feed grain when their stomachs are full of grass, as the bowels are then overloaded and digestion is interfered with. However, when the stomach is only partially filled with grass, a light feed of grain will not likely prove injurious, although it is better to accustom the horse to grain on grass by feeding it regularly and not at distant intervals of time. A good deal depends upon how the animal masticates the grain.]

**Enlarged Thyroid Gland.**—I had a calf last spring that died, we think from an extraordinary large lump of flesh, very much like a liver in appearance, growing around the windpipe, and an aged ram we had was affected the same. I should like your opinion as to what it is and the cause of it, and also if it could be cured.—T. W. P., OXENDEN.

[It is a case of enlarged thyroid gland, often found in young stock, the cause not often being known. The treatment is as follows: Dress the enlargement with tincture of iodine, and for young calves, give small doses of iodide of potassium in the milk, say one-fourth of a drachm every morning and evening. The ram may be treated in the same way, but give the iodide of potassium in half drachm doses in soft feed—such as bran mash or boiled oats.]

**Calves in Orchard.**—I suppose you are aware that calves, from one to three months old, when allowed to run in a young orchard, are most destructive to the trees. I was surprised to find this to be the case when I let a few of them into my orchard two years ago. The same number of goats could not have been more industrious in peeling off the bark than they were during the short time they were allowed to remain, and these same calves at six months old did not molest the trees in any way. Now it would be very convenient for me to put the calves in my orchard this year, and I want to know if you can give me a remedy for the above, or suggest some plan of protecting the trees.—R. B., Brantford.

[We know of no better plan than using hurdles to fence in the calves between the rows of trees, moving the hurdles every week or so. These hurdles come useful for various other purposes, and should therefore not be regarded as expensive.]

**Michigan Canadians.**—Myself and family prize the ADVOCATE very much. Though a Canadian publication, I find it just as well adapted to our wants here in Michigan as when I lived in Canada. In reality I think you Canadian people are becoming more American every year. This country has a marvelous power of "assimilation." Our crops were very good here last year; hay saved in fine condition; fall wheat good; 30 to 40 bus. per acre was a common yield. One man had 5 acres of Egyptian wheat that weighed over 50 bushels to the acre. Barley did fair, peas well, oats not so well as previous year. We did not have as much rain in harvest as Ontario; clover seed good, one of my near neighbors had 134 bushels from 20 acres.—W. S. MARLETTE, Mich.

#### The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone's Farm—The Kerry Cow as a Lamb Raiser—Clovers and Grasses.

—Having read your valuable paper with thorough interest for some years both in England and Canada, I would feel pleased if the following facts may be of any value for your columns. My father farms 635 acres in the Parish of Hawarden, near Chester, England, under the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, and has won several hundreds of premiums at different exhibitions both for crops and stock. He has a breeding flock of from 250 to 350 ewes, of which I had charge. About 7 years ago we had a very wet and cold lambing season, consequently the ewes were weakly and short of milk; thus I had several pet lambs, which you know are a great nuisance. Having a very small half bred Kerry cow, it struck me she may be a useful assistant to rear the lambs, so with a little patience I succeeded to get her quiet with them (had no difficulty to get the lambs to suckle her, and in a short time she got fond of them) that she made more fuss over them than if they were her own calves; eventually we turned her to pasture with 8, which she reared splendidly; if one was sickly she would fondle it continually, never straying away more than a few yards. She knew her own, and should a stranger try to steal a suckle, became very furious with it, but would adopt any lamb in about 4 days. One season she reared 14 (not all at the same time), but am sorry to say that, when we weaned the last lot she reared (it was in the harvest, and we were too busy on another part of the farm to note her doings), the poor creature fretted so badly that she fell very sick; we could not conceive what to do for her, so put her in the stable; in a few hours she became very weak, being hardly able to stand. As a last resort I brought her favorite lamb, and will never forget the next sight I saw; when I got to the stable door she was moaning at the further end of the box stall, but the instant she heard the lamb, the poor thing came trembling across (too weak to walk), and never once took her nose from the lamb until she died in a few hours, being about 2½ days from the time we weaned the lambs, when she was in perfect health. The pastures in which they grazed were close against the railway track and highway; very frequently a passer-by would call at the house to say that the lambs were sucking one of the ewes, not thinking they had any right to do so. The above facts can be thoroughly vouched for. If you will allow me, I will say a few words on clovers and grasses. Your prize essayist is perfectly correct in his admiration of Timothy, Cocksfoot (orchard grass) and Meadow Fescue, as for permanent pastures we found them 100 percent better than any other kind; but Cocksfoot is the best. Our attention was first called to this several years ago, as we noticed that there was a particularly rough-looking, strongly and quickly-growing grass which the sheep ate ravenously, and would always pick it out, gnawing it almost out by the roots, while they refused to eat the grass around until it was eaten. My father at once inquired from a well-known seedsman what it was. He said it was Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Father was so much interested that he tried several experiments, proving the three I named far the best, but Cocksfoot will grow twice the bulk that Timothy will for a hay crop, while the Fescues are not much use for hay crops. Our favorite mixture for hay is one or two years, is Red Clover, White Trefoil and Alsike; grasses, Italian Rye Grass, Cocksfoot and Timothy. Your essayist speaks highly of Rye grass for permanent pasture, from which I infer he means the English Perennial Rye, which we considered to be a worse weed than the thistle, being so very why that no animal will eat it. But the great secret in getting good pastures or hay lies in the proper cultivation and preparation of the soil for a seed bed. A deeply worked clean seed bed must first be had, but it should be at the same time rather firm on the bed's surface, as this enables the seeds to strike out and take hold of the soil easier. The best plan we found was to plant wheat after a hoe crop in the fall, and sow the seeds in the following spring as soon as the wheat would bear harrowing and rolling. Yours respectfully, J. R., Brantford, Ont.

**Value of Barley Straw—Alsike vs. Red Clover.**—(1) What is the feeding value of barley straw, and how does it compare with oat straw? (2) Will Alsike clover do as well off sand and somewhat dry soil, as red clover? And, both being the same price, which would you advise me to sow? (3) Can Lucerne be sown with other grasses, or must it be sown alone?—C. W. B., Prescott, Ont.

[1. Both grown on the same soil and harvested alike, oat straw has a considerably higher feeding value than barley straw. 2. Yes, if the weather is not too dry. We would advise you to sow Alsike. 3. Lucerne may either be sown in permanent pasture mixtures or by itself. It is well adapted to soiling when sown alone.]

**"Roaring in Horses."**—I have a horse that has the "Roars," or at least what people call the "Roars." The horse seems quite well when standing still—at least he is well at all times, only after taking a heavy pull he seems to get out of breath and becomes quite choked up; he tosses his head up and down, and opens his mouth occasionally until he gets his breath. Then he appears as well as a sound horse. The animal is in good condition, only he appears to be getting a little blind.—W. G., Bracebridge, Ont.

[If the roaring is caused by a thickening of the mucous membrane of the larynx (windpipe), it will be relieved by a stimulating liniment, such as a mixture composed of equal parts of turpentine, ammonia and oil, rubbed in every third day. When it is caused by atrophy of the muscles of the larynx, there is no hope of relief, except when treated by a skilled veterinary.]

**Seasonable Notes on Poultry.**—Success in the poultry yard depends largely on the pride that is taken in this department, and the one that has this is sure to succeed. As the hatching season is now upon us, a few seasonable notes may not be out of place. The first and main point in the poultry yard, as well as in any other business, is honesty—straight-forward dealing, no matter who he or she may be with whom you have to deal with. No one ever made anything by trying to take the advantage of any person. Great care should be taken with the setting hen. If it is at all possible, never have her where other hens are laying, but get them into a place by themselves where they will not be disturbed by other hens, and after they are once set all that is required is to give them feed and water daily, and leave them to come off and on at their own will, and never handle or touch the eggs, as the hen will turn them often enough. But in order to have early chicks we must have a warm place both for the setting hen and also for the chicks after they appear. Ducks by this time should all be laying, and now is the time to set for early birds and show purposes. They should be set under hens, as you will have better luck this way, and by doing this you can keep the ducks laying right on. Ducks are great foragers; therefore they grow very rapidly, and can be raised on every farm with large profits to repay all trouble that is bestowed on them, especially if they be pure bred, for they can be sold in the fall for a handsome price for breeding or for the market.—W. B. C., Aberfoyle, Ont.

**Alsike for Pasture and Seed.**—Would it be injurious towards securing a crop of seed to pasture a field seeded exclusively to Alsike clover until say the 10th or 15th May, my object being to lessen the growth of stalk and thereby to prevent lodging as much as possible.—J. T. K., Iona Station.

[Much depends upon the season and locality; but as Alsike makes a poor growth after August, we think you would not be safe in pasturing much in spring.]

**Interesting Notes from Manitoba.**—There is not much of any interest that seems to suggest itself to me on which to write you. Wheat has taken a turn in favor of the farmers, who now get 75 cents for best wheat; but unfortunately there seems to be but little of that remaining in farmers' hands. Barley may be bought for 25 cents, and oats for 18 cents per bushel. Pork is quoted at the low figure of 4½ cents, and beef, according to quality, from 4 to 7 cents per lb. I was glad to learn from your correspondent's letter in last month's issue that there are some parts of our country where prosperity, and its twin sister contentment, are no strangers. I wish they were more generally known over its entire surface. But the deserted farms, with their buildings falling to pieces, and the yellow petals of the wild sunflower and artichoke gleaming in the sun, where a bountiful harvest of golden grain should be gathered, seem to tell another story. Yet nature has lavished her gifts upon some parts of our country; we have a soil full of fertility and easy cultivation. Still we languish. How is this? The want of railway facilities doubtless has been a great drawback to our prosperity. It is neither pleasant nor profitable to have a two or three days' journey to market our grain, and then to receive about enough for our load to pay expenses, and on returning to our homes to find that some prowling Indians had paid our house a visit during our absence, and kindly carried away our blankets and store of provisions. This is no fancy picture, but has really happened this fall. Another drawback has been and still is the heavy taxes on our tools and other necessities of life. Why should we have to pay 35 percent more for an inferior article, for the benefit of a few eastern manufacturers? If there is any reasonable cause why this should be, we certainly are so pig-headed that we cannot see it. We seem to think that we ought to be allowed to buy where we can get the best value for our money, and not be compelled to give \$250 for a binder when we can get its equal for about \$100. This seems to touch a sensitive place—our pocket. But notwithstanding our grievances, fancied though they may be, we have some faith in the future of our country. It is too good a land to be given up to the red man as a hunting field. What we want is a start, and with fair play, in a few years we shall become one of the chief food-producing countries in the world. In your last issue there was, in "Papers for Amateur Fruit-growers," a little good news for us in Manitoba. If there are varieties of apples so hardy as to thrive in places where the thermometer seldom falls lower than 40° below zero, they certainly