COLIC—LAME HORSE.

SUBSCRIBER, Wolseley, Assa.:—"1. We have been bothered a lot this fall with colic, or colic pains, in our horses. They have run out in the day and been fed straw at nights, with perhaps three quarts of oats. Some of the oats had heated a little, but we thought the feed was too light to do any harm. Our horses are in good order and seemed to enjoy picking out during the day. What would you think was the cause, and what could be done to prevent it? What can be done to musty or heated oats to make them safe food?

"2. One of our horses came in very lame behind the other night. The only thing we could find wrong was a crack across the front of the knee joint. Since then he has not improved, and the lower part of the leg has swollen up. What would be the cause and cure?"

[1. Improper food is evidently the cause of the colicky pains in your horses. Rations of frozen grass, straw and musty oats are not only innutritious, but are more or less poisonous, and when we consider that the digestive organs of the horse are not made of iron, either cast or malleable, it should not be a matter of surprise if such food were the cause of something much more serious than colicky pains. Change the diet to food of good quality, and the colicky pains will surely disappear. The boiling of musty oats, or exposing them to a strong heat, 190° Fahr., will, to some extent, destroy their noxious properties, and will make them more safe food.

The crack across the front of the joint would indicate that the trouble is probably due to some local injury or irritation. Would advise you to keep the animal in the stable. Prepare him for a dose of physic by feeding exclusively on bran mash for at least sixteen hours, and then give Barbadoes aloes, seven drams; calomel, one dram; ground ginger, two drams; syrup sufficient to form a ball. Apply the following liniment to the leg twice a day and use a bandage: glycerine, six ounces; creolin, half an ounce; tincture of opium, four ounces; acetate of lead, one ounce; water, five ounces. W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., Winnipeg.]

PROBABLE RUPTURE OF BLOOD VESSEL.

A. J., York Co., Ont.:—"Cow calved at half-past ten o'clock; had to assist her. Gave her a pail of scalded bran at eleven o'clock, which she ate at once and appeared to be all right, and was dead and stiff next morning at six. When opened, the stomach was grown to back about six inches wide on each side back, full length of stomach."

[The post-mortem appearances given do not in the least indicate the cause of death. Nothing is said about the appearance of any organ but the stomach, and the condition in which it was found would not cause sudden death. The probability is the cow in calving (you say she had trouble and had to be assisted) ruptured a blood vessel, not large enough to cause immediate collapse, nor even cause any apparent distress, but the internal bleeding continuing would, of course, cause death in a few hours. If this were the cause a post-mortem examination should have revealed a large amount of clotted blood, probably in the womb, possibly in the abdominal cavity or enclosed in the intestines. But this might not be noticed by a person not accustomed to post-mortem examinations.

J. H. REED, V. S.]

MARE FAILING IN FLESH.

SUBSCRIBER, N. D. de Lourdes, Man.:—"I have a six-year-old mare, very little used; am feeding her well, good hay, oats and chop three times a day. She is failing in flesh, although she eats well. She does not seem feverish, but grinds her teeth and slobbers. Please give cause and treatment."

[Have your mare's mouth and teeth thoroughly examined. Examine beneath the tongue and see if there are any sores caused by spear grass. If you cannot discover anything wrong with the teeth or mouth, we would advise you to prepare the animal for physic by feeding exclusively on a bran-mash diet for at least sixteen hours, and then give the following dose: Barbadoes aloes, seven drams; calomel, one dram; powdered ginger, two drams; soap sufficient to form a ball. Continue the bran-mash diet until physic has ceased to operate. After this, give in food, night and morning for ten days, sulphate of iron, one dram; soda bicarb., nitrate of potassium and powdered gentian, of each, two drams. W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., Winnipeg.]

WARTS ON UDDER AND TEATS.

W. R. A., Dundas Co., Ont.:—"I would like to have you give through the ADVOCATE a cure for warts on cattle, as I have a heifer coming two years that has some large lumps that look like warts that seem to be full of blood, with some smaller ones on the udder and teats, which, if not cured or removed, will prevent milking?"

[Such warts as have constricted necks can be clipped off with a pair of scissors, and the raw surface thus made dressed with a little butter of antimony applied with a feather once daily for three applications, after which a little carbolized oil 1 part carbolic acid to 50 parts sweet oil can be used as a dressing twice daily until the parts heal. For those that have broad bases use butter of antimony applied as above every day. This corrodes the surface of the growth, and occasionally you will be able to pick a scab or scale off, which gives the dressing a better chance to act. This is a slow method of removing warts, but when the knife or shears cannot be used it is the best.

J. H. REED, V. S.]

SWELLING OF LEGS, WITH INCIPIENT DIARRHEA.

FARMER, Essex Co., Ont.:—"A horse nine years old, when standing in the stable for a couple of days his hind legs swell and his bowels act too freely, and he is not doing well for the feed he is getting. He feeds well on good hay and oats three times a day. If he is out every day, he seems to be all right. What treatment would you advise? Please tell me what can be done, in next issue of FARMER'S ADVOCATE."

[It is probable your horse does not properly masticate his food, which would account for the diarrhea, or it may be there is some foreign body in the intestine, which also would account for it. Have his teeth examined, and if necessary dressed. Give him nothing to eat for 12 hours except a little bran, then give a purgative of say 8 drs. aloes, 2 drs. ginger, either as a ball or mixed with a pint of cold water as a drench. Feed nothing but bran until purgation commences, then feed good hay and a little grain. Give, after purgation ceases, the following: Nitrate of potash, 4 ozs.; bicarbonate of soda, 6 ozs.; ginger, 4 ozs.; arsenious acid, 4 drs. Mix and make into 24 powders, and give one every night and morning in damp food. Repeat the prescription if necessary. J. H. REED, V. S.]

VENTRAL HERNIA IN MARE.

H. P., Pictou Co., N. S.:—"A fine mare, while working in the woods, slipped, falling on her side on the end of a limb of a tree. About an hour after a small lump appeared on her side, about half the size of a hen's egg, directly below the end of the sixth rib from the shortest one. I put on a bandage and small pad of cork to press in the lump, which I kept on for ten days, then took off the pad and put on a wide bandage tight, which is still on. Do you think it a rupture, and did I treat it right?"

[There is little doubt that the mare has ventral hernia (rupture caused by an injury). Whether or not this exists can be told by manipulation. If rupture exists, the opening through the abdominal walls can be felt, and careful manipulation will in most cases return the intestine into the cavity. There are different ways of treatment. I have found fair success from trusses such as you have used, and from clams. The latter can be successfully applied only by an expert, as there is danger of enclosing some of the intestine. You had better continue with the truss. It should have a pad to press directly over the tumor. The intestine, of course, must be returned into the abdominal cavity and the truss then applied with pad directly over the tumor to prevent protusion of the intestine. Cases of this kind are hard to cure. It is probable your mare's usefulness will not be interfered with, but time alone can tell whether she will ever be all right. J. H. REED, V. S.]

FOUL IN FEET AND SOME OTHER TROUBLE IN COW.

W. R., Norfolk Co., Ont.:—"A cow's breath has a very bad smell. Her feet are all sore, and in the split are scabs that are so sore that she lies down quite a bit of the time. I tried Epsom salts, and that did no good; then I tried sulphur, and that was no better. I looked in her mouth and her teeth are all right."

[The trouble with your cow's feet is certainly foul in feet. Poultice with boiled turnips until you get them nicely softened and all scabs and scales removed, then apply a little butter of antimony with a feather once daily for three days, after which dress three times daily with the following: Carbolic acid, 1 part; sweet oil, 60 parts. It is impossible to say what the cause of the foul breath is without a personal examination. The odor may come from the lungs or from the stomach. You might try the following for a couple of weeks: Give 3 drams pulverized hyposulphite of soda in a mash three times daily. I would advise you to have her examined by a veterinarian. J. H. REED, V. S.]

BLEMISH ON COLT'S FOOT.

J. A. K., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"I have a two-year-old colt that had his foot cut on a disk harrow about four months ago. The cut is on hind foot, about two inches above hoof. When cut, a piece of skin about the size of a silver dollar was left hanging, and which I got removed. The cut took about three months to heal, and left a callous and has not haired. I tried to blister, but it has not taken effect. Can I remove this blemish, and how?"

[The scar cannot be removed, because the hair roots have been destroyed and cannot again be made to grow. If there exists a high callous lump, it can be burned down partially with acids by a veterinary surgeon.]

Miscellaneous.

WHAT KIND OF ROOFING?

R. W. LITTLEJOHN, Kent Co., Ont.:—"Will you please tell me what you think of metal shingles for roofing a barn, or would you prefer cedar shingles? Have you had any experience with mica roofing or any of the paper roofing advertised?"

[None of our staff have used the forms of roofing referred to, but have heard them all highly spoken of by those who have. What has been the experience of our readers with them, including such points as durability, price, cost of laying, compared with shingles or slate, etc.?]

BARN PLAN WANTED.

A. E. S., Westmoreland Co., N. B.:—"Will you please give me a plan of a barn about 75 feet long and 36 feet wide, 15-foot posts, with basement? I would like to keep cattle in basement, and also keep manure under cover. Would like a few horse stalls over basement, and let manure go through floor and mix with other manure below. I want a place to hold about 1,000 to 1,500 bushels of roots. The manure shed might be limited, as I propose hauling it out say once a week. Can you give me a plan of such a barn that will stable as many cattle as convenient, and the best method to feed and water, with plenty of light and ventilation?"

[We would direct attention to the barn plan that appears in our issue of January 15th, page 45, which is 75 feet long by 36 feet wide. We believe that plan will answer the purpose, modified in some of its details. Instead of putting the horse stables across the end of basement, it could be placed in the same position on the upper floor. One could then utilize a portion of that end of the basement space for manure shed. This should be separated from the cattle stable by a tight wall, to keep the smell of the heating manure out of the stable. In Ontario Province the manure shed is passing out of favor, as the manure is being hauled directly to the field as it is cleaned from the stalls each day. For this it is better to have an 8- or 9-foot passage behind cattle, in order to drive through with a wagon, sleigh, cart, or boat. For a root-house, one could utilize the space beneath the driveway to the barn floor above, marked box stalls. The best plan we have seen for building root-house under the driveway consists of an arch, described in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for November 15th, page 653. To build the arch there described requires wooden arch frames to set up and cover with boards on which to build the bricks. The wooden arch frames can be dispensed with, however, by building a strong, level platform across where the arch is to commence, and pile on moist clay in oval shape. The bricks for the arch would be set on the clay, and when the mortar became firm, the platform and clay could be removed. We will gladly give space to suggestions by readers that will help Mr. Simpson to plan his barn.]

CEMENT WALLS.

J. F., Peel Co., Ont.:—"Have you seen any barns built on concrete foundation walls? Do you think that they are better in every way? I have been canvassed by an agent for cement. Could you throw any light on the subject for me?"

J. C. K., Norfolk Co., Ont.:—"Is a wall made of concrete cement as good for a pigpen as a double inch wall of boards with felt paper between?"

J. E. J., Lennox Co., Ont.:—"I am thinking of raising my barn and putting a cement wall under it, and I would like to have your advice as to which cement you would recommend, Queenston or Thorold? Do you think there is any difference in their quality or price?"

[In point of appearance, durability, and economy in outlay, we know of no stable wall equal to one properly constructed of cement concrete, where the materials are reasonably accessible. We have repeatedly published complete instructions, and pamphlets covering the subject fully can be obtained from the John Battle Estate, Thorold, Ont., or Isaac Usher, Queenston, Ont. Our readers report both of these cements giving excellent satisfaction when used according to directions. As we understand it, both are "rock cements," made in a similar way. As to cost, write the manufacturers or enquire of their local agents. It is very important that good, clean, sharp sand and gravel be used. For walls, one part cement to five or six of sand and gravel are recommended, and for floors where there is a good bottom and a fine quality of gravel available, three inches mixed one part cement to three of gravel is approved. Many superior floors, however, are made with the bottom four inches one to five or six, and about an inch surface mixed two parts fine gravel or sand to one of cement. The material should be mixed dry thoroughly first and then wet, and when laid, be made not too "sloppy." In walls, field stones or old brickbats may be freely used for bedding-in the inside, thus saving expense, but they should not reach the outside. For hogpen walls, six inches in thickness is said to be heavy enough, and for barns, about ten or twelve inches. As to the comparative cost of cement, with double board and paper between walls, which many men like, that will depend upon localities. Where possible, it is a good plan for parties intending to build to visit some of those who have had such structures in use, where useful hints are always to be picked up.]

GOOD PEN—AQUATIC SEPARATORS.

T. S., Huron Co., Ont.:—"The Fountain Pen came to hand; it writes the best of any I ever tried. Many thanks.

"Do you know anything about the Aquatic cream separator."

[For the result of a careful test made by our staff of one of these so-called separators, see FARMER'S ADVOCATE, page 540, Sept. 1st, 1900, and you will not likely waste any money buying one.]

RECIPE FOR DYEING SKINS WANTED.

B. PALMER, Algoma, Ont.:—"Would some reader kindly give me a recipe for dyeing skins, pelts, etc., a brown or black color?"