

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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### Cream Gathering and Home Buttermaking.

A gingery contribution to the farm-separator and creamery-butter discussion has been received from a feminine correspondent, who takes exception to the aspersions upon farm women, as a class, which she reads into some of the former letters on the subject, arguing truly that, because a few women may not be so cleanly as they might, is no reason for reflecting upon the whole class. She further asserts independence of creamery facilities, contending that it pays better to make butter at home, anyway, if only for sake of the buttermilk, and concludes with a severe indictment of the cream-gatherer.

We are very glad to publish this letter, for, while some of her characterizations are rather too sweeping, she adds to the discussion an important point which other correspondents have overlooked. Cream-gatherers are not all as the one she has depicted, but too many of them are not so careful as they should be, and some of the methods practiced are anything but cleanly. The cream-hauler fills a responsible position, and only an intelligent, cleanly man should be so employed. The trouble is, it is difficult to secure enough of the right class. Creamerymen and instructors should, however, spare no pains to educate haulers, and impress on them the bacteriological importance of cleanliness. Milking and cream-gathering are two jobs which call for exceptional cleanliness, and yet two which, by reason of the nature of the work, are commonly performed in a disgustingly filthy manner. We hope for better things some day, but as yet conditions are open to vast improvement.

Meanwhile, something could be accomplished at certain factories by a change in the method of gathering cream. There are now four systems in vogue, (1) the ordinary milk can, (2) the wooden-jacketed can, (3) individual cans (a can for each patron), (4) the large cream tank, in which the whole day's collection is mixed, as received by the hauler. In Western Ontario, the tank is used principally in the northern districts,

where the routes are long, and where the discredited and out-of-date oil test is still in vogue. The oil test, by the way, should, for various reasons, be abolished. With it would go the dirty measuring rule which comes in for "Kirsty's" strictures. Where the Babcock test is used, the common method is to weigh the cream for test, and then the hauler doesn't have to put a ruler in the cream at all.

If, in addition, a system of grading cream could be introduced, and it be then paid for according to quality, as well as richness, a considerable improvement might be speedily effected in the quality of creamery butter. Grading, however, is considered of doubtful practicability under present conditions of creamery competition. As matters now stand, the quality of all the cream is often injured by the quota sent by careless patrons, and, as a rule, the cream-gatherer doesn't improve it any.

"Kirsty's" retort on behalf of the farm women may be answered by those to whom it is addressed. For our part, we have only to add that, while some farmers' wives are not so cleanly as could be wished, we give them credit for being, as a class, a long way in advance of their husbands, and the latter are doubtless far in advance of the men in most foreign lands. But the whole world is awakening to an appreciation of the importance of cleanliness in relation to bacteriology, and practices that were once condoned are now condemned. We all need to wake up.

As for the relative economy of making butter at home, and sending cream to the creamery, while we place a high value on buttermilk, we have a much higher regard for woman's leisure and woman's flesh and blood. Home buttermaking may be necessary where there are no decent factories or creameries within reach, or, in cheese-factory districts, where Saturday night's milk is made up for home use; but the extreme self-sacrificing spirit of the hard-working woman who will voluntarily incur the labor of buttermaking for the sake of a few pails of buttermilk, is to be pitied, rather than admired.

## HORSES

### Common Colics.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Speaking both as a farmer and as a veterinary surgeon, I find the most common ailment of horses is what is popularly known as "colic."

Originally, this term colic, was applied rightly and solely to pain in the colon, or large bowel, but now it is loosely given to any and every kind of abdominal pain. Whether the pain arises in the stomach, intestines, liver, kidneys, bladder, or any other organ, it is called colic. This is unfortunate for several reasons. A farmer sees his horse in pain—he immediately flies to some quack medicine, some cure-all for colic, and the result is, death of the horse. Veterinary surgeons know that the sixteen or seventeen kinds of colic—i.e., abdominal pains—arise from different causes, have their seat in different organs, and require different treatment, and we know, also, that the treatment for one may be fatal for another, since it either kills by increasing the trouble, or by wasting valuable time.

It is quite impossible for the average farmer to diagnose all these forms of disease, but the three most common forms he can readily distinguish.

#### SPASMODIC COLIC.

In the first case, we have what is known as spasmodic colic, or the common colic. In this case there is the usual pawing, rolling, and looking back to the flanks; but notice, particularly, there are intervals of ease, during which these actions cease, and the horse may even eat. Hence, we say the pain comes in spasms, or is spasmodic. Notice, also, that there is no abdominal swelling. Here, then, we have two distinctive symptoms to guide us, and these may be regarded as diagnostic, viz., the pain followed by intervals of ease, and the absence of swelling.

Now for treatment: This disease resembles gripes, or colic or belly-ache in man. What would you do for yourself if you personally had an attack of gripes? Remember, the horse is essentially built on the same plan as ourselves. It has the same flesh, blood and nerves, and drugs to a very great extent, have the same action upon the horse as they have upon ourselves. Well then, what would you do if you yourself suffered from colic? A good glass of spirits, is not a bad thing, and may even be repeated. Suppose

we try the same thing for the horse. Try the effect of half a cup of whiskey to a cup and a half of water, and give this as a dose.

N. B.—See that the horse has it. If the horse has the colic and the man takes the medicine, the cure is most uncertain. Don't leave this to the hired man. Watch it given. A little exercise may also be given, and will help matters. Repeat as desired—say, every half hour. A little ginger may be added, if desired.

There are few fatal cases from this form of colic, if the disease be not complicated by the addition of other troubles, and many cases pass away unaided. This is the form that gives the quack medicine, the patent cure-alls, their credit. A horse is sick from colic; a dose of Couper's Cure for Colic is given; the horse recovers. A glowing letter of thanks is sent to the manufacturing chemist (who knows as much about horses' diseases as the horse knows of his, and who probably got the prescription second-hand from a veterinary). However, the letter is sent, and published broadcast. Now, note the result: Farmer Giles reads it, buys a bottle, tries it in a case of colic, and his horse dies. Why? Simply because it was the wrong medicine for his particular case. Let me repeat: "There is no universal cure for all forms of colic."

I have given a cure which is very little known outside the profession, yet it almost invariably succeeds. Whiskey (or any alcoholic beverage) is one of the most common drugs to be found in the farmhouse. It is cheap. It is good; and, best of all, it can do no harm.

#### FLATULENT COLIC.

Now let us notice Farmer Giles' case, in which the patent mixture failed. There were, to a great extent, the same symptoms, yet, by a little careful examination, various little differences could be noticed. There were no intervals of ease, because the pain was constant. It was, perhaps, not quite so violent, but it was continuous. The body, too, appeared to be fuller than usual, or, in other words, it was swollen. This swelling was to be seen more especially in the hollow just in front of the hip, particularly on the right side. Very probably the hollow had quite disappeared.

Here the farmer had a much more dangerous disease to treat. It was most probably caused by the food. Other reasons may be given, but follow them to the root, and you will arrive at the same conclusion. Some food inside, instead of passing onward, as usual, had through various causes become arrested. The heat and moisture inside the body, aided most invariably by bacteria, caused the formation of gas. Now, had the passage been clear, this might have passed away as readily as it had been formed. Then all would have been well. But, if as is usual in such cases, it became stopped, blocked up, say by a mass of partly-digested food, or even by some fold of the bowels, this gas will accumulate and inflate the bowels to such an extent that there may even be a rupture.

Now, what shall we do in such a case? The gas is there. It must come away, and we must remove the cause of this fermentation, also. In other words, we must open the passage. Personally, I never hesitate for a moment in such a case to push an instrument called a trocar and canula through the skin and into the bowel, and thus allow the gas to escape. I have saved many a desperate case by this, and have yet to see my first bad result. Having got rid of the gas, we must get the bowels to work freely, and we must try to stop the formation of more gas. Here a mistake is made by many so-called horse doctors. It is usual with some to give a dose of laudanum, with the intention of easing the pain, and, so far, so good, although it is curing the result, not the cause. Laudanum has not only the effect of deadening the pain—the peristaltic movements, as we say—so that by paralyzing the bowels, it prevents this offending material passing onward, but this materially aids in the formation of the products of the fermentation; in other words, it helps the gas to accumulate. The result of using laudanum is generally that the farmer has to hunt up another horse, and pay for it, too.

Suppose, now, however, that he had given, say, rather less than a half teacup full of turpentine (to be exact 1 ounce), added to a pint of raw linseed oil, what would have been the result? Why, the turpentine is an antiseptic. It destroys the germs which cause the gas, and it is to some extent a pain-killer. The oil (mind, I said raw linseed oil) acts as a mild purgative, and thus helps to move onward the blocking material.

If he had lived near a chemist, he should have asked him to add a dram of Fluid Extract of Belladonna. This drug acts as readily as laudanum in deadening pain, but does not check the action of the bowels. But some method of getting rid of the gas already formed is also required.

It may be that the block is taking place in the rectum—the last piece of the bowel. I always