

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Veterinary.

RETAINED AFTER BIRTH.—CATARRH IN SHEEP.—
ASCARIS LUMBRICOIDES.

W. T., Norfolk Co.:—"1. My cow, five years old, eats her grain well; calved in January, but did not do well; she had a blood discharge for weeks after. She was in good flesh when calved, but went right down to a skeleton; her hair seems dead and stands on end; eyes look bad; her flow of milk nearly gone. What is wrong with her and what is the best treatment? 2. I have a ewe that runs at the nose and eyes; is weak and cannot get up; keeps her head straight out; will eat grain; drinks considerable water; her wool pulls out in handfuls. Another seems to be commencing to run at the nose. Is it a disease or what is wrong? What can I do for them? 3. My horses are very bad with worms and have had them a year; hair very rough and stands on end. I feed them well, but it does not seem to do them any good. The worms are about three inches long, round, and white. What will I do for them?"

[1. This is a very common accident after parturition in the cow. During calving the vagina may be bruised so as to cause escape of blood beneath the lining membrane, and it will then coagulate into large clots. The lips of the shape will appear swollen and raised into irregular folds. In other cases the retention is owing to the firm connections established between the uterus and the mouth of the womb. If the accumulation of blood is not extensive it may be reabsorbed; but if abundant, as appears in your case, it leads to irritation, causing the formation of new tissue and the decomposition of the material. The evil smell and the fetid discharge escape by the vulva on the floor, matting the hair near the root of the tail. The whole system becomes contaminated with the poison, and fever of a low typhoid character sets in; this leads to ill-health, emaciation, and drying up of the milk. Treatment must be of a stimulating character, and will vary according to the conditions; from some cases we have seen, we are of opinion that it is often due to drinking ice-cold water at time of parturition. Laxative medicine with a good tonic should be given, the womb washed out every day by means of a stream of warm water with one per cent. solution of creolin. When the case is allowed to proceed to ulceration, there is not much hope for success or permanent cure. 2. Catarrh or pneumonia in sheep is due to cold, exposure to wet, or turning out to the biting winds from close, ill-ventilated sheep-pens. The peculiarities of sheep diseases are the various symptoms met with. The symptoms are common from the same cause, and usually a considerable discharge from the nose and eyes, heaving of the flanks, ceasing to ruminate, insatiable thirst, grinding of teeth, and constipation of the bowels. The falling of the wool is due to the malnutrition. Treatment is at times difficult, and medicine should be given in gruel once a day: Epsom salts, 1 oz.; belladonna, 20 grs.; until improvement takes place. 3. The name of the parasite that your horses suffer from is *Ascaris lumbricoides*, and as many as 2,000 have been counted in the intestines; they generally frequent swamps. The horse swallows the ova whilst drinking. They cause colic, chronic indigestion, rubbing the tail against the wall, and a hard, harsh, dry, staring coat. Give a bolus composed of the following: Aloes, Barbadoes, 1 dram; antimony potassa, tart., 1 dram; sulphate of iron, 2 drams; gentian, 4 drams; to be given every day for one week.

DR. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.]

EXCESSIVE SECRETION OF URINE.

FARMER, P. E. Island:—"My year-old heifer has for a long time been drinking immoderately large quantities of water. Is it a symptom of tuberculosis, or only indigestion; she is not thriving?"

[The disease that gives oxen the prominent symptom of excessive thirst is often due to disease of the liver. It may be due to parasites, especially in young animals, as they do not suffer from obstruction of the bile ducts until late in life. We require more definite symptoms and better history than is here given before we can advise. If you cannot obtain the services of a qualified veterinary surgeon, send us answers to the following enquiries: What food has the animal been getting; is it frosted or mouldy? Is the belly very large and dropsical; the urine a pale straw or decided yellow in color? Is she very costive; are the faces buttoned, hard, and of a whitish clay-colored appearance? In the meantime give the following powders: Epsom salts, 2 ounces; sulphate of iron, 2 drams; iodide of potassium, 1 dram; in a quart of gruel ever day until the urgent symptoms are removed. It is not a symptom of tuberculosis alone, and points to indigestion.

DR. MOLE.]

Miscellaneous.

HYDRAULIC RAM.

"KENMORE":—"In your issues of Jan. 1st and 15th Mr. Allan and Mr. Taylor gave descriptions of a hydraulic ram. I would like to know, through your valuable paper, some more about it. Is it necessary to build a dam where there is four feet of water the year round? Will the ram work under water, say four feet? How much would the ram and pipe 500 feet long cost and where could they be obtained—one sufficient for a large stock? Where should the ram be placed, the banks being twelve feet high and steep?"

[If by four feet of water is meant four feet of a fall from the top end of the drive-pipe to ram [see ADVOCATE, Jan. 15th, page 29, diagram], yes. The water can be elevated fifty feet above the ram. A ram will work in four feet of water. If setting the ram down four feet into the water is meant, it would not be necessary. It would have just as much power kept up level with the surface. A good, large-sized ram and 500 feet of pipe would cost between \$50 and \$60, not more than \$60. Much will depend on the amount of fall in the drive-pipe, which will determine largely the size of ram and pipe required. A dam is required only where there is not sufficient fall or head of water. If you have that without a dam, all the better. Be sure the top end of the drive-pipe is completely covered with water all the time, as no air must be allowed to enter. The ram would have to be set at the foot of the bank to have the power.

JOHN TAYLOR, JR.

NOTE.—R. McDougall & Son, Galt, Ont., manufacture an excellent hydraulic ram, and will, no doubt, gladly furnish our readers with any information desired on this effective and economical system of raising water. Rams vary in price from \$9 to \$22.—ED.]

COARSE WOOLS AND FINE WOOLS.

H. L. J., Que.:—"Please inform me, through your valuable paper, which breeds of sheep are classed as 'coarse wools' and which as 'fine wools'?"

[The usual classification makes three classes—fine, medium, and coarse. The one really fine-wooled breed is the Merino, with its numerous varieties. The medium-wooled breeds are South-down, Dorset, Suffolk, Shropshire Down, Hampshire Down, Oxford Down, and Cheviot—the wool being coarser as we go down the list. The coarse-wooled breeds are the Leicester, Lincoln, Cotswold, and Black-faced Highland.]

CORN AND COB MEAL.

ARTHUR MERSIER, Lincoln Co.:—"I would like to know, through the columns of your valuable paper, if it would be advisable to feed corn and cobs ground together to cattle we are fattening and to horses, both working and idle? Some farmers say corn and cobs ground together are better, and others say it is not as good as corn ground alone. I would like to have the opinion of some of your practical farmers."

[The corn and cob are often ground together without shelling, and where the cob is not too large and woody the mixture has given good results in feeding. The ground cob is believed to be of value (1) on account of the food and ash constituents which it contains, and chiefly (2) on account of the beneficial mechanical influence which it has on the digestion of the corn meal. Corn meal fed alone is a very highly concentrated food, more or less unsafe to feed. The ground cob or chaff or wheat bran or ground oats would, if mixed with it, render it mechanically safe. We notice that corn meal contains 1.4 per cent. of ash, 9.2 of protein, 1.9 of crude fiber, 68.7 of nitrogen (free extract), and 3.8 of fat; while corn and cob meal contains 1.5 per cent. of ash, 8.5 of protein, 6.6 of crude fiber, 61.8 of nitrogen (free extract), and 3.5 of fat. We invite correspondence upon this subject from our readers who have had experience.]

BEAN GROWING—HOG FEEDING AND SCALDING.

GAVIN L. STAIR, Hants Co., N. S.:—"1. Can you give me any information about the cultivation of the ordinary field bean—the amount of seed per acre, how sown, whether in drills or on raised drills, and average crop per acre? 2. What temperature should water be in which hogs are scalded when butchering the same? 3. In feeding hogs on raw mangels, in winter, how many pounds of, say, shorts or pea meal should be mixed with a bushel of mangels so as to give a good growing ration—the mangels to be pulped?"

[1. The May 1st and June 1st (1895) issues of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE contained exhaustive articles upon bean culture. Beans are sown with an ordinary grain drill or bean planter at the rate of three pecks per acre. The average crop per acre is from twenty to thirty bushels on good land. 2. The proper temperature of water for scalding hogs is about 190 degrees, Fahr. A good rule is to use five pails of boiling water to one of cold. One means of testing the heat is to dip a little fresh blood upon a chip into the water, and if it turns white or cooks quickly the water is too hot. The blood should retain its red color for fifteen or twenty seconds and then gradually fade away into a light shade. 3. When hogs have a comfortably dry and warm pen, from ten to fifteen pounds of pea chop or fine shorts to a bushel of pulped roots should, if fed regularly and wisely, produce rapid growth.]

SILAGE AND HEALTH.

J. P. HEMMING, Wellington Co., Ont.:—"I wish to gain some information regarding silage as a food for milch cows. It is my impression that silage, undergoing a slow process of decay, must be injurious to the milk of cows fed upon it for human consumption. My observation for a number of years leads me to think that fevers are more prevalent during the winter months, when the cows are being fed upon ensilage, than at any other time, which causes me to consider that that food has something to do with it. It is allowed by medical men that the milk of a healthy cow fed on grass is good for invalids."

[It is claimed by scientists that the fermentation which takes place in good ensilage is similar to the first step in digestion; in other words, it is a

preparation for easy digestion. We know several cases where ensilage has been kept over for summer feeding, and it was evidently in just as good condition as the previous winter. We see no reason why good ensilage, kept properly covered in a well-constructed silo, would not keep for years. It should not decay any more than properly-canned fruit. We may say that Mr. E. D. Tilson, of Tilsonburg, who has fed ensilage to his cattle for fourteen years; Thos. McMillan, Huron Co., who has fed it for some ten years; and many others with considerable experience claim that their stock is particularly healthy during the winter season. Members of our staff who have had ensilage in use for several years have found no ill effects, but quite the reverse. According to reliable reports, fevers were much more prevalent during last summer than they have been since winter commenced, and there is doubtless more silage being fed this winter than in any previous year, and the cases where it was fed last summer were exceedingly rare, so that it is most unreasonable to attribute fever, even indirectly, to its use. We believe that good silage is more nearly like grass as a cow-feed than any other fodder.]

QUANTITY OF SEED PER ACRE—SPRING CULTIVATION.

LEVI SMITH, Simcoe Co.:—"1. Will you kindly publish in the ADVOCATE how much seed should be sown to the acre of wheat, oats, peas, and barley, upon sandy loam, free from stumps and stones? 2. When land is well plowed in the fall, is it better to plow it in the spring with a gang or single plow?"

[1. The quantity of grain to sow per acre should vary with varieties, a small seed taking less than a big grain. The quality of stooling or tillering is different in different sorts, which should be observed in deciding how much to sow per acre. We give the extreme quantities that are usually sown by good farmers: Wheat, seven to nine pecks; oats, two to three bushels; peas, two to four bushels; barley, seven to ten pecks. 2. When land has been well plowed in the autumn, it is not wise to plow it at all in the spring when grain is to be sown. It is much better to prepare the seed-bed by means of a modern cultivator—spring-tooth, disk, or diamond-pointed—followed by the harrow.]

FLAX-SEED MEAL.

W. T., Lynedoch:—"Where can I get ground flax-seed meal in Canada at wholesale price?"

[The National Linseed Oil Co., West Ganson St., Buffalo, N. Y., ships large quantities of linseed meal into Canada. W. T. should make his wants known to them. We will publish the plans you ask for in an early issue.]

SILAGE VS. TURNIPS.

SAMUEL SANDERS, Annapolis Co., N. S.:—"I would like you to answer, through the columns of the ADVOCATE, the relative value of turnips and ensilage, also the difference in the cost of growing and which will produce the most tons to the acre. I contend you can raise as many tons of turnips as ensilage to the acre."

[In climates that are hot and moist, corn grows to perfection, while a cooler temperature is more favorable to the growth of turnips. When one comes to compare the cultivation of silage crops with that of roots, there are two essential points in favor of the former. One is their smaller expense and the other is their practical certainty. At the Ontario Agricultural College it was estimated that an acre of roots produced 42,780 pounds of green substance, which is equal to 4,877 pounds of dry matter; whereas an acre of corn yielded 41,172 pounds of green substance, which contained 8,135 pounds of dry matter, a difference of 3,258 pounds of dry matter in favor of the fodder corn.

The Pennsylvania Exp. Station kept a careful account of growing, harvesting, and storing an acre of beets and an acre of corn. When the beets were secured in the pit their total cost was \$50.07, while the acre of corn placed in the silo had cost in all \$21.12. These figures can only be approximations, but it is believed that the ratio between the cost of an acre of roots and an acre of corn expressed by them is, at all events, not too unfavorable to the former. According to official statistics, the average of raising an acre of ear corn and placing it in the silo, in favorable corn countries, is \$14.75. On the other hand, the cost of raising a crop of roots has in different States been found to range from \$31.36 to \$60 per acre. Mr. E. D. Tilson, of Brant Co., Ont., as reported in the ADVOCATE of Jan. 1st, grew last year 20 tons of ensilage corn per acre on 50 acres (1,000 tons in all), and placed in the silo he figured the cost at \$1 per ton.]

FLAT PEA FOR SILAGE.

J. W. DOHERTY, Kent, N. B.:—"I am thinking of planting one and three-quarter acres with Wagner's wood pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris Wagneri*), but before doing so would like some information as to its value as a fodder plant and how it compares as such with the Grafton horse bean that forms a part of the 'Robertson mixture.' I understand it is very rich in albuminoids. Will you, therefore, please let me know through your columns the percentage in this plant of digestible albuminoids, carbohydrates, and fat, when in bloom (in a wilted condition); that is, in a condition for ensilage purposes? My particular reason for this enquiry is to ascertain if this plant may not take the place of the Grafton bean, which does not do extra well in this climate."

[The chemical composition of the flat pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*) vine is similar to that of