

**PERSISTENCE OF THE URACHUS AND LAMENESS IN COLT.**

A colt, two weeks old, began to lose water from its abdomen, close to the navel, when one week old. We got the discharge stopped, but it became lame on its right hind leg, on which there is a crack just above the hoof, which is swollen and sore. The colt is otherwise healthy. Please give nature of disease and cure?

Norfolk Co., Ont.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Your colt had what is called persistence of the urachus. In foetal life, a small quantity of urine is secreted, and there is a tube, called the urachus, leading from the lower part of the body of the bladder to the navel opening, which conveys the urine into the foetal membranes. At birth this tube should become obliterated, as its function ceases and the urine escapes by the urethra, but in some cases the tube remains open, and urine in greater or less quantities will escape in drops, or occasionally in a stream. The sore or crack just above the hoof has no connection with the above condition, and doubtless has been caused by an injury, and is the cause of the lameness. It would be good practice to apply a warm linseed-meal poultice to the crack, changing it twice daily for a few days, and dress with 1 part carbolic acid to 40 parts sweet oil.

J. H. REED, V. S.

**TO DEVELOP ACTION IN HORSE — VACCINATION FOR ANTHRAX.**

1. How will I shoe or weight a three-year-old colt, from a Hackney stallion, to develop his high-stepping qualities as much as possible?

2. There has been an outbreak of anthrax about six miles from here. Would it be well to vaccinate the cattle, and if so, how would it be done? Could a farmer do it himself?

Stormont Co., Ont.

McD.

Ans.—1. Have your colt shod with a rolling-motion shoe; that is, a shoe without any calkins. Instead of having a toe calkin, have the toe of the shoe nicely rounded. Gradually increase the weight of the shoes until you discover what weight causes the best action. Use a Liverpool bit with a little curb, but do not teach him to pull too hard on the bit. Make him drive up promptly, but do not force him too fast. You will soon see at what pace he acts well. Keep him at that pace, and after a while he will probably go faster. It requires patience and considerable skill to properly develop action in a horse.

2. In order to render cattle immune from anthrax, it is necessary to inject a serum especially prepared for the purpose. This serum, I believe, can be procured in New York. A farmer who has the proper instruments might be able to inject his own cattle, but the instruments would cost more than the operation. As you are so close to where they are using the serum, you can get particulars there.

J. H. REED, V. S.

**FATALITY IN CALVES.**

This spring my calves all died. They would swell on both sides of the head, like lump jaw, linger for a week or so and seem to choke. I had them tied in a stone stable; it was rather damp. Was it that caused it, or what was the trouble, or what should I have done for them?

Huron Co., Ont.

WM. HALLAHAN, JR.

Ans.—Your calves probably died from a form of catarrh, caused by the unsanitary surroundings. It is probable you would have avoided the loss if you had placed them in a dry, clean, well-ventilated stable. Treatment would have been of little avail without changing quarters, and then a spontaneous cure would have resulted.

J. H. REED, V. S.

**Miscellaneous.****CHEAP COUNTRY PAINT.**

In looking over the May (1888) number of the "Advocate," page 135, I came across a cheap country paint, composed of hydraulic cement and skimmed milk. I would like to know is there any difference between it and Portland cement? If there is any difference between the two, where can I procure the hydraulic cement?

King's Co., N. B.

T. H. CASSIDY.

Ans.—Portland cement is not classed as hydraulic cement. What are known as rock or native cements are hydraulic cements, and are usually used for external applications to buildings. It can be got from Isaac Usher, Queenston, Ont., or John Battle, Thorold, Ont. To apply it, mix with skim milk to a proper consistency to apply with a brush. The Spramotor Co., London, Ont., sell first-class cold water paints, also spraying machines to put them on. We believe they are cheap and durable. Their painting machine would apply the cement and milk paint very rapidly, or it can be applied with a brush.

**OIL OR MINERAL DEPOSITS.**

I have a piece of ground that several people who have seen it think contains oil or mineral. It is a black color, about 20 feet in circumference, and has always been the same; it is in a sandy field. Any little stone thrown on it will turn black in about a year.

Buffalo Co., Ont.

Ans.—Write Dr. G. M. Dawson, Director Geological Survey Department, Ottawa.

**ON ROUND-SILO CONSTRUCTION.**

1. If a silo were required 24 ft. high, and you intended building with two lengths of plank, 12½ ft. long by 6 in. wide, and had ends matched at planing mill, making a slanting splice, would you allow that splice to run straight around, or cut plank so that the splice would come 8 ft. from bottom and top alternately?

2. A plan was given me the other day as cheaper and better—i. e., the silo would stand better when empty—to have plank split at planing mill into ½-inch lumber, thus making four ½-inch boards from each plank. Then put up scantling as studs for round silo, nail on the inside the lumber horizontally; next, put on tar paper and another thickness of ½-inch lumber, and silo is complete when required height is reached. Kindly give your opinion in next issue, and if you advise the latter, how thick should the studs be on outside of silo? and greatly oblige.

Prince Edward Co., Ont.

FARMER.

Ans.—1. We would recommend that the splices be 8 feet from the bottom and top alternately, and that two of the bands be of 2-inch hooping, and that they cover the two splices.

2. We are in receipt of your favor regarding the construction of silos, and in reply beg to say that we have two, 26 ft. in diameter by 38 ft. high to plate. They are constructed of 2-in. by 4-in. studding, set 16 ins. between centers, into a foundation of stone and cement. They are sheeted inside and out with two thicknesses of half-inch boards, the inner and outer covering having a thickness of tar paper between the boards. In order to sustain the heavy pressure, we have found it necessary to strengthen them with two heavy band-iron hoops, placed 5 ft. and 8 ft. from the ground. The above construction we have found to give splendid satisfaction, but would hardly care to risk building one with only a sheeting of two half-inch boards with tar paper between, as the blank air space obtained by covering both sides of studding helps greatly to keep out frost, and the extra thickness of boards also strengthens the structure. The sheeting of ours runs around. If we were building a silo 14 ft. in diameter, we would build it of 2-in. by 6-in. staves, and instead of making it 24 ft. high, have it not less than 30 ft. The deeper the silo the better, within reason. Although we feed a large herd, our 26-ft. diameter silos are too large to get the very best results; a feed only takes a skinning from the surface over so large an area, whereas if we could take off three or four inches at a time it would be all the better. Otherwise, our silos have given us the best of service, have not had to renew a single board yet, although they have been up seven years. Between each studding we have bored an inch hole from the outside, which we cork up tight when full and take out when empty, so as to give ventilation and preserve the wood.

J. M. SHUTTLEWORTH.

"Bow Park," Brant Co., Ont.

I doubt very much if half-inch lumber would bend to a 14-ft. circle sufficiently true to make a tight wall, unless of extra quality. The lumber is apt to crack or break at the knots when sprung to a much smaller circle than twenty feet diameter; 2 x 4 in. studs is plenty heavy enough for any size of silo built on this plan.

I would not build again on this plan if building. The round concrete silo that is being largely built in this section this year is by long odds the best silo I have seen anywhere.

Huron Co., Ont.

H. SMITH.

**EGYPTIAN WHEAT WANTED.**

Would you kindly, if possible, inform me, through the columns of your valuable paper, where I could procure Egyptian fall wheat for seed (bearded red wheat)? My neighbor had some mixed with Dawson's Golden Chaff, and the Egyptian seemed to be about all that was left in the field when he cut it. I would like to get about fifty bushels of it, if possible, as it is the hardest wheat I have ever grown.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—It is interesting to learn that the Egyptian variety of fall wheat possesses merits so enviable as those referred to by "Subscriber." It is probable that Egyptian Amber, a variety that does well in Ontario, is identical with the sort wanted. Any of our readers having Egyptian or Egyptian Amber seed for sale would do well to announce it in our advertising columns Sept. 1st issue.

**FALSE FLAX (Camelina sativa.)**

I am sending you, under separate cover, sample of weed found growing in this section. Will you kindly let me know its name, habits, and whether it is of a destructive nature?

Middlesex Co., Ont.

FRED H. ORRIS.

Ans.—We have already referred to this weed, false flax, twice this year in response to enquiries. In June 15th issue, page 405, we gave a description and treatment of it, and referred to it again July 1st, page 410. Last year we published a good illustration of it in our issue for July 2nd, page 386. We refer Mr. Orris to these back numbers, as no doubt he has had wisdom enough to preserve them.

**HUNGARIAN GRASS FOR SHEEP — GLUTEN MEAL FOR COWS AND HOGS.**

Is Hungarian a good feed for sheep in winter? At what stage should it be cut?

2. What is the feeding value of gluten meal for milk cows and hogs, compared with shorts at the same value per ton? A SUBSCRIBER.

Glengarry Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. We have never used Hungarian grass for winter-feeding sheep, nor do we consider it particularly suitable, although no doubt sheep would do fairly well if given it cut green and well cured. Sheep prefer a leafy fodder, also an occasional change of diet. We would recommend cutting the crop early, just as the heads are shooting, curing it carefully in the cock, and testing the feeding cautiously for a few weeks. Since Hungarian hay does not agree with all classes of stock, it would be well to supplement the Hungarian with hay of some other sort (clover preferred), or pea straw.

2. Gluten meal contains considerably more nitrogenous matter than does shorts, hence is more valuable for feeding dairy cows. Some cows, however, do not take to the gluten meal very kindly, and in that case it is of little use. We fed gluten meal quite extensively last winter, and got satisfactory results from it. Gluten meal is to be preferred to shorts in balancing a ration consisting of largely corn silage and timothy hay. Where clover hay is used, it is not so valuable for balancing rations. For hogs, I should judge that shorts would be much better, as this feed seems to be especially well adapted for feeding these animals. I have not heard of gluten meal being fed to hogs, except in experimental work fed along with other grain. Below is the composition of these two feeds:

	Water.	Ash.	Protein.	Carbohydrates.
Gluten meal.....	8.2	0.9	23.3	61.6
Shorts.....	11.8	4.6	14.9	68.7

(Hennig)

O. A. C. Dairy Dept.

H. H. DEAN.

**ARE THE SEEDS DEAD?**

A large number in this section seeded down this spring (timothy and clover); it sprouted all right, and grew until it was about one and a half or two inches high, when the dry weather struck it, about the beginning of June. We had no rain during June, and it wilted away. Some think it will come again, as we have plenty of rain now. Please let us know, through your valuable paper, and oblige?

Huron Co., Ont.

JOSEPH STUBBS.

Ans.—It is impossible to say definitely whether the timothy and clover will come on all right, as that depends on the extent to which the plants are injured, and on the fertility of the soil, and on the rainfall after harvest. We have frequently seen bare fields at harvest time become green soon after a shower, and turn out to be well clothed with grass and clover before the end of the growing season. At any rate, with occasional showers the next few weeks will probably decide whether the fields are fit to leave or be plowed up. We would plow the seeded fields last, if that has to be done.

**THE LOSS IN SPREAD MANURE.**

To what extent does manure lose its fertilizing value if it is allowed to lie on the top of the ground from two to four days after spreading? Would there be any difference in this respect between manure in the spring that has not heated in the pile and manure that has been saved during warm weather.

Middlesex Co.

READER.

Ans.—Unless there comes a heavy rain and washes away a portion of the manure, there is practically no loss of fertility by reason of the manure being allowed to lie spread for a few days on the surface of the ground. The only loss that occurs in manure, apart from leaching, is by volatilization of gases formed during fermentation, and since fermentation does not continue in manure thinly spread on the land, the loss at such a time is insignificant.

**BOOKS ON HORSES AND SHEEP.**

I read the "Farmer's Advocate" regularly, and like it very much. Could you advise me where I could get a book on the care and training of horses, especially race horses, touching harnessing, feeding, saddling, and breaking; also the different ailments of horses, their symptoms, and remedies? I also want a book on sheep-raising, as sometimes sheep apparently in good condition die.

Durham Co., Ont.

JOSEPH BRIDGES.

Ans.—We would call attention to our published list of books in August 1st issue, page 515, as every book in that list is a good one on its especial line. A book not in that list, but one which a person interested in race horses should have, is Ed. Geers' "Experience With Pacers and Trotters." It was reviewed in the "Farmer's Advocate," May 15th issue, page 346. We would also recommend "Veterinary Elements" for Mr. Bridges, and either "The Domestic Sheep," by Stewart, or "The Sheep," by Rushworth. We can furnish any or all of these books at the regular retail price, or as premiums, according to our published announcement.