

session was devoted to short addresses given by Prof. Faville, of the Horticultural School; B. W. Chipman, Secretary for Agriculture; Dr. E. M. Kierstead, of the University; Professors Craig and Fletcher. A number of important resolutions were passed by the Association, among which was a petition to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, asking an amendment to the Act regarding the size of apple barrels, making the stave 30 inches, distance between heads 27 inches, diameter of head 17 inches, diameter of bulge 19 inches. The meetings throughout were well attended, and were the most profitable for years. The exhibit of fruit, orchard and garden implements, etc., was large. If the various petitions presented are all granted, the result will be productive of great benefit to the Association. Prof. Faville, S. O. Parker, and R. W. Starr were appointed a committee to prepare a score card for judging fruits at exhibitions.

The Officers for the ensuing year are: Pres., J. W. Bigelow, Wolfville; Vice-Pres., C. R. H. Starr, Port Williams; Sec., S. O. Parker, Berwick; Treas., George Munro, Wolfville.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquiries must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Veterinary.

TUMOR ON HORSE.

J. W. DOHERTY, Kent Co., N. B.:—"A four-year-old gelding last fall showed a slight puff on the inside of hock, which caused slight lameness. As time passed the enlargement assumed the form of a tumor, the skin ulcerated, with a slight discharge of pus. It has a base of three inches moderately firm adherent to the tissues about the size of a closed fist. It does not look like a wart that I ever saw, but more the appearance of an epithelioma on the human body. What is it? What treatment would you advise?"

[Fortunately, animals rarely are affected with malignant growths; they are mostly of a benign character. This case occurs to us as being of that order, and we are inclined to think that it is a warty papillomata. We would certainly recommend that it be dissected out and dressed with a view to prevent further growth by means of constant pressure. DR. W. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.]

INDIGESTION IN MARE.

J. E. S., Monck Co., Ont.:—"I have a valuable young mare, coming six years, that I purchased last spring for a driver, and she is troubled with the scours, at least as soon as she is driven a short distance and gets slightly warmed up. She is fed on good hay and oats. Would you please tell me the cause, and what would you suggest as a cure?"

[Your mare has indigestion. Have her teeth examined by a competent veterinarian and feed her less liberally on grain. Better have her oats ground and feed a little bran in each feed. Always water before feeding and do not allow her to drink large quantities at once, especially just before driving? As a tonic give a teaspoonful of the following in each feed for a few weeks: Bicarbonate of soda, pulv. gentian, charcoal, of each four ounces; pulv. nux vomica, two ounces; pulv. capsicum, six drams. Always drive slow for the first two or three miles, as she is probably of a nervous disposition and fretful.]

PROLAPUS OF THE UTERUS.

A SUBSCRIBER, Huron Co., Ont.:—"I have a ewe that is heavy with lamb, but will not be due to lamb for several weeks yet. When she lies down and chews her cud her womb or something of that kind protrudes about the size of a man's closed hand. When she rises up it disappears out of sight. She does not appear to be sick and is always ready for her feed with the rest. I am feeding to five ewes about a half bushel turnips and a half gallon oats and peas, mixed, three times a day, with pea straw. Will any serious results follow, or can you recommend any treatment?"

[We have known many similar cases both in ewes and cows. It is seldom that any serious consequences follow. The ewe will probably go her full time, give birth to her lambs without difficulty, and have no after trouble. You are feeding pretty heavily, and the trouble is more likely to occur in the case of ewes that are fat and full. We would advise feeding more sparingly and withholding the turnips until after lambing. Substitute bran for peas in the ration. If the trouble gets worse tie three or four locks of wool across the vagina. If it is a short-wooled sheep binder twine may be used, tied to locks of wool and across the passage. This should be removed when the signs of parturition are observed.]

DEHORNING CALVES.

SUBSCRIBER, Halton Co., Ont.:—"What is used to stop the growth of horns on young calves, and how soon should the application be put on?"

[Scrape the tender horn with a knife and rub with a stick of caustic potash (moistened) at the age of eight or ten days. Two applications are generally sufficient.]

COWS WILL NOT DRY.

HOMER BEAMER, Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"Would you kindly inform me through your valuable paper

the best method to manage a cow that does not go dry before coming in. I have owned her three years and she has never gone dry. Have considerable trouble with her udder when she comes in."

[The very fact that the cow in question gives trouble with her udder at calving time when she fails to go dry indicates that it would be a more serious case with her should she be allowed to dry, because of the extreme activity of her lacteal organ—the udder. We know of a number of dairy-men who never allow their best cows to dry before calving because of the danger such would involve. They feed moderately on rather dry food and give the last three weeks' milk to the calves or pigs.]

Miscellaneous.

TREATMENT FOR SMUT IN OATS.

R. M. WHITE, Cardwell, Ont.:—"1. Will you give a method other than the 'hot water' for preparing seed oats so as to prevent smut? 2. Would the sulphate of copper or blue vitriol preparation which is commonly used for seed wheat injure the seed oats?"

[1. The most effective method of ridding oats of smut is to immerse the seed for about forty-five minutes in a 3 per cent. solution of potassium sulphide (liver of sulphur). The difficulty of drying the seed after the treatment is not great, provided one has a floor space of suitable area. The seed may be several inches deep, and yet dry in a comparatively short time if frequently turned with a shovel. The application may be made in a tub, a half barrel, or other tight box. The number of gallons of water desired (for example, 25 gals.) would be provided, in which should be dissolved six pounds of the fungicide. The seed should be stirred a few times while in solution. A man's ingenuity will suggest the best method of making the immersion—whether to put the seed in a sack of coarse cloth, in a basket or frame covered with wire gauze, or directly in the watery solution. 2. While in Manitoba sulphate of copper is as effectively used with oats as with wheat, experiments conducted by Prof. W. A. Kellerman, of Ohio Experiment Station, have proved conclusively that copper sulphate has the effect of delaying germination, while potassium sulphide is just as effective as a fungicide, while it causes no delay in germination.]

TOLL FOR GRISTING.

H. B., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"Is there a statute governing the amount of toll custom grist mills are allowed for gristing, and what is the amount of the toll?"

[We are not aware that a statute exists governing the toll for gristing. The custom was in the days of tolling for millers in water power mills to charge one-twelfth, and in steam power mills one-tenth. It is now the general custom to exchange so much wheat of certain weight and quality for so much flour, or flour, bran, and shorts.]

SILAGE FOR COWS.

A. M., Perth Co., Ont.:—"I am making preparation for building a silo, but am told that silage is not fit to feed to cattle, especially milch cows, as it will destroy their teeth in two years, and as I have six cows which I would feed silage to if I built the silo, I would like to hear from Mr. E. D. Tillson, of Tilsonburg, or some one else who has had considerable experience with silage before building. I am a constant reader of the ADVOCATE and would feel greatly obliged for above information."

[One of our staff has fed cows, some fourteen head, ensilage for six winters and has yet to see the first bad effects on their teeth.—EDITOR.]

MR. TILLSON'S REPLY.

In reply to your correspondent's enquiry regarding the effect of silage on cows' teeth, I may say that I have fed silage in large quantities to my cows for fifteen years and have never seen the sign of any bad effects, either on their teeth or in any other way. I have fed it to horses, hogs, cattle of all ages—milking, fattening, and growing—and could not see my way clear to farm without it. I have fed it alone to young cattle all winter as an experiment and they came out all right, but did not do quite as well as those to which dry fodder, such as hay or straw, was given in addition. The feeding of ensilage to all sorts of stock has been entirely satisfactory. Young cattle grow rapidly, beefing cattle fatten readily, and milking cows give a liberal flow of milk on it, and the effects upon their health has been to keep it in the most desirable condition, and as for injuring the teeth I have yet to see the first ill effects. No doubt your correspondent was advised by some one who never used silage.

Norfolk Co., Ont.]

A. PATRON, Iowa, U. S.:—"Can you or any of the readers of the ADVOCATE tell me through your valuable paper how to make a small butter-worker, giving illustration of same; one that I could work the product of five to fifteen cows?"

[Will some kindly disposed dairyman send us a description of a butter-worker such as Mr. Patron and many other readers would like to see in our columns.]

WANTS EMBDEN GESE.

L. C. McC., Elgin Co., Ont.:—"Can you give the address of any breeder of Embden geese? I have been watching your columns for some time, looking for some one to advertise."

[If some breeder of Embden geese will place an advertisement with us he will do himself and such men as L. C. McC. a positive benefit.]

GREEN VS. RIPENED OATS AND WHEAT.

GAVEN L. STAIRS, Hants Co., N. S.:—"Would one obtain as much nourishment from a field of oats or of wheat in cutting the crop and curing it as oat hay or wheat hay—the same to be cut when the grain is in the milk stage—as to allow it to ripen to be threshed, the product in grain to be ground and again mixed with the cut straw, the whole to be fed to beef cattle? If one could obtain as much food from the crop in this manner it would save an immense amount of labor, time, and money. The grain crops raised on my farm are all sold off the farm as beef, and as I raise or will raise in a few years' time some thirty acres of grain, I would like to have your opinion on this subject. To my way of looking at it, I cannot possibly see any good in allowing the grain to ripen. At what stage of ripeness should the crop be cut so as to have the full amount of nourishment in the straw?"

[The above is undoubtedly a very practical question, to which many dairy and beef-raising farmers are devoting some attention. The question of labor-saving is undoubtedly money-saving when wisely done. In reply to Mr. Stairs, we would refer to our own experience with oat hay. On two occasions we were short of winter fodder, and cut a field of oats in the milk stage. The crop was heavy and took considerable curing. We stacked the fodder and commenced feeding it to milch cows about February. The fodder retained its green color fairly well, but had a rank, unsavory odor which the cows did not relish, but they picked it over, leaving quite as much or perhaps more than they would have of oat straw. Had the crop been less bulky and rank-growing, the fodder no doubt would have been palatable and the results more favorable. As it was, we decided that green oats were not what they were cracked up to be. In our opinion one of the first essentials in a fodder is palatability. If stock do not relish a food it will do them very little good, no matter what nutriment it contains. According to our experience, the best time to cut an oat crop is when the grain is well advanced in the dough stage; it will by then have received all its nutriment, some of which will be in the straw, which will readily dry in small sheaves. If this could be very carefully fed as cut, sheaf by sheaf, so that the feeder could know how much grain each animal was getting, no doubt the results would be as satisfactory as by any other method; but when a pile is cut at once and shaken up, as it is sure to be, the oats would settle to the bottom, which would render anything like accurate feeding for each animal next to impossible. We would, therefore, recommend cutting the grain on the green side, having it threshed and fed mixed in the desired proportions. This is a subject on which considerable helpful discussion might well arise. We therefore invite the views of practical men based on experience.—ED.]

FERTILIZER FOR MANGELS—PRIZE PUMPKINS.

MR. D. PELTON, Grenville Co., Ont.:—"Will you kindly answer the following questions through the columns of the ADVOCATE: (1) Is hen droppings considered a good fertilizer for mangels and all kind of roots? What is the best fertilizer for roots and vegetables? (2) For prize specimens of pumpkins do you advise growing with corn or separately?"

[(1) Hen droppings alone are too strong for any crop, but mixed with farmyard manure, ashes or soil into the form of a compost they would give excellent results upon mangels or other root or garden crops. A liberal general manuring with farmyard manure is generally the most suitable fertilizer for roots and vegetables, but if a quicker acting stimulator is desired for turnips apply superphosphate, or for mangels, nitrate of sodium or sulphate of ammonia. (2) We believe the largest pumpkins can be grown by planting alone on rich soil, leaving the plants a good distance apart, six or eight feet, and giving frequent surface cultivation, also a few applications of liquid manure through the season.]

CRIMSON CLOVER—KAFFIR CORN—FLAX.

F. WALKER, Oxford Co.:—"1. Will you please give in your paper some notes on crimson clover. Would it afford any considerable fall pasture sown in corn after last cultivating, say end of July or first of August. If so, should it be left for another year or plowed up? 2. Would you recommend growing Kaffir corn as a fodder? 3. What do you think of sowing a small quantity of flax seed in oats, and how much? We value your paper very highly."

[1. Crimson clover has had very little trial in Ontario as yet, but from a number of reports received we have yet to hear the first favorable one regarding it. Sown as suggested in July or August, it would not produce any pasture to speak of that fall, but in a favorable location, soil, and season, it might survive the winter and produce a fair crop the following season. It being an annual, it seeds the first summer and dies. Sown for three seasons in spring at the Guelph Experimental Farm, it produced per acre 4.66 tons of green fodder. 2. Kaffir corn has been given very little trial in Ontario, but as it is a Southern or African plant, we do not consider it will ever be grown much in this country, since we already have so many satisfactory fodder crops, such as corn, lucern, millet, etc. Grown two seasons at the Guelph Farm, it produced an average of 9.15 tons of crop, without heads. There could be no harm in growing a small plot for a trial. 3. The practice of sowing flax among oats or barley is yearly increasing. A bushel sown on