

INVERSION OF THE RECTUM IN PIGS.

J. B. Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"I am much pleased with your paper; I think it should be in every farmer's house. If you allow me space I would like to ask a few questions through the ADVOCATE. First: I bought some seven pigs last fall, about three months old. They were very thin, having been poorly cared for. I put them in a comfortable pen, dry and warm, fed skim milk with bran and shorts, scalded, barley and oats chopped, and sugar beets. I gave sulphur, charcoal and salt, and after two or three weeks three of them took something like piles. The bowels came out about one and a half inches and remained so till one died and I killed the others. Since then I have heard of others who have lost pigs the same way. What is the cause and is there any cure?"

[Your pigs suffered from inversion of the rectum, which is caused by digestive trouble, either from constipation, when by excessive pressing the intestine becomes protruded, or the reverse condition, viz., diarrhea, when on account of the irritable condition of the lining membrane the animal presses excessively with the same result. It is probable in your case the trouble was caused by a too sudden change of food and surroundings, associated probably with want of exercise. The condition is hard to treat. The bowels must be regulated, the protruded portion washed thoroughly with warm water and bathed with laudanum and gently returned, then a truss arranged to prevent its protrusion, and removed to allow the animal to defecate and a little laudanum injected into the rectum to allay irritability. If constipated, a physic must be given. If diarrhea be present, laudanum in one-half to four dram doses, according to the size of animal, should be given every four hours until the diarrhea ceases. It is very hard to cure. Better prevent it by careful feeding and plenty of exercise.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

SUDDEN DEATH OF PIGS AND SICKNESS IN OTHERS.

J. M., Grenville Co., Ont.:—"Having two hogs die in one night and three more sick, I would like to know, through the ADVOCATE, the cause of death? I am feeding gluten meal from the starch factory all winter. Two days before they died I emptied the salt out of a pork barrel into the barrel that I feed the hogs from. Please give me some idea of the cause of death, and is there any treatment for the sick ones?"

[You apparently suppose that we are possessed of wonderful powers. You state that two of your pigs have died and three others are sick, and ask for the cause of death and a cure for the sick ones. You do not give post-mortem appearances of the dead, nor the symptoms of the sick. It is, in many cases, hard to arrive at satisfactory conclusions when these symptoms are given; but when we have nothing to work on, it certainly may be called "shooting in the dark." However, I will make a shot. My opinion is that they died from digestive troubles, caused, probably, by the refuse from the starch works, aided by the salt you mixed with it. For the sick pigs I would advise purging with Epsom salts, from 2 to 8 ozs., according to size, with an entire change of food for all. Feed a little powdered charcoal, Epsom salts and sulphur (equal parts) regularly once daily, in order to keep bowels in normal condition.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

BONE SPAVIN IN MARE OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE.
S. McC., Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"We have a mare twenty-one years of age this spring. She has raised seventeen foals, and is with foal again. I think she has never been harnessed nor had a shoe on her foot. She has what some call a jack spavin. It has been on for some years, and this winter it seemed to cause her much pain, especially in rising. Could it be cured? Would it be advisable to blister?"

[There is a possibility that firing and blistering might cure the lameness in your mare, but the probability of affecting a cure in a mare of that age that has had a spavin for some years is slight. Your mare has certainly rendered you good service as a brood mare, and is not through yet, and if she were mine I do not think I would inflict her with the pain and distress of an operation; there would be no use of blistering. The old mare deserves all the kindness you can give her, and especially as you do not ask her to perform any work, I would advise you to leave the hock alone, and if she become helpless (which will not likely occur from the spavin) have her destroyed.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

SKIN DISEASES.

CONSTANT READER, Emerson:—"A two-year-old filly is troubled with an apparent skin disease. When she shed her hair last spring it came in in spots, the hair appearing to be brighter in spots, as though she were going to be dappled. After a time the hair on these spots came out. These spots are along right flank and outside of the hind leg. She is also slightly lame on this leg. The spots have kept spreading all winter. When the hair happens to get rubbed off it does not grow on again. Skin looks quite healthy where the hair is off. The filly is in good health and moderate condition, but hair is dry. Any spots made sore by the other horses biting her are very slow to heal. Might say she had distemper last summer and got pretty badly run down, but has been better for months."

[See answer to T. H. L. Use, however, four drams of aloes and forty grains of calomel; follow with the powders as recommended. In addition, apply sulphur and coal oil, mixed to the consistency of cream, once or twice a week, to the spots. The trouble is probably some of the aftermath of distemper.]

INDIGESTION IN STEER.

W. B., Ontario Co., Ont.:—"One of our steers that we are feeding is not doing well. He bloats after eating and seems uneasy, and is constantly switching his tail. He will eat his feed in one half the time it takes the others, then will lie down, the bloating then appearing, but will disappear soon after he rises. He breathes harder than the others, and while lying down groans considerably. We feed equal parts ensilage and cut oat straw, with about one and a half pecks of pulped turnips and about three quarts equal parts of ground oats and barley, night and morning, and at noon about three quarts of the meal only. We presume it is indigestion, but from what cause we are unable to determine, as the others fed just as he is are doing nicely. What can we do for him?"

[Your steer certainly suffers from indigestion, caused probably by overtaxing the stomach, as he is a greedy feeder, or possibly the weakness is congenital. I would advise you to give him a smart purgative of two pounds Epsom salts, feed nothing but a little bran until the purgative acts, and then feed lightly, gradually increasing the amount until you have reached as great a quantity as he can digest without distress. It would be better to feed less at a time and oftener. Animals with weak digestion, of course, cannot be fattened as quickly as others. They must be fed according to their powers of assimilation and digestion. Give the following powders, which will tone and stimulate the digestive glands: Powdered sulphate of iron, powdered gentian, powdered nux vomica, of each 3 ozs.; soda bicarbonate, 6 ozs. Mix and make into 24 powders, and give one night and morning, shaken up with half a pint of cold water and given as a drench.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

EITHER CHRONIC LAMINITIS OR NAVICULAR DISEASE IN PONY.

H. P. H., Chicoutimi Co., Que.:—"I have a fine French-Canadian stallion pony, three years old. He is lame in front feet. His hoof is too dry and hard, and does not grow. What shall I do to cure him?"

[Your pony evidently is affected with either chronic founder or navicular disease. In either case a permanent cure is not likely to be effected, but the symptoms can be relieved by the following treatment: Remove the shoes, pare feet and heels well down and blister the coronet (that part just above the hoof) all around every three weeks. Let him have a long rest. Use for blister 2 drs. each biniodide of mercury and powdered cantharides mixed with 2 ozs. vaseline. Clip the hair off for 1/2 inch above hoof, rub the blister well in. Tie his head so that he cannot bite the part, and in 24 hours rub well again, and in 24 hours longer wash off and apply vaseline to the parts every day until the scale comes off. Repeat the blistering every three weeks. If you cannot allow the pony the necessary rest for the above treatment, get him shod with bar shoes and poultice his feet every night with boiled turnips or linseed meal. Get the shoes changed every three weeks.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

WEAK EYES IN MARE.

W. R., Lambton Co., Ont.:—"I bought a mare last fall, and learned afterwards she had pink eye before I bought her. Her eyes are inclined to be milky-looking. Now, is there any danger of it returning again? Are horses subject to it after having it once? She is not doing as well as I would like her to, but she has been working pretty hard. What kind of treatment would you advise?"

[The fact that your mare has suffered from pink-eye does not predispose her to further attacks, neither does it render her immune. It may be that she has suffered from a disease of the eyes called periodic ophthalmia; the milky-looking condition of the eyes would indicate this. If so, she is liable to a recurrence at any time without apparent cause, and nothing can be done to prevent it, as it is a constitutional disease, and will eventually end in cataract, causing blindness. I would advise you to put a few drops of the following lotion into the eyes twice daily with a feather: sulphate of zinc, eight grs.; fluid extract belladonna, ten drops; distilled water, one ounce. If her eyes at any time become sore, keep her in a darkened stall. Give her a purgative, followed by light food, and use the lotion as directed.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

IMPURE BLOOD.

T. H. L., Crystal City:—"I would like to know, through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, the cause of this disease? About a year ago my mare's left hind leg began to swell and get stiff. A lump came on about a foot above the knee joint. It was lanced and it healed up and broke again, and another broke just behind the hip bone. It healed up and broke again, and another has broken just above the knee joint. I am bathing it well with warm water and carbolic acid. It heals up every few weeks, but breaks again. It discharges a thick matter."

[The cause at this late date would be hard to determine: probably due to error in feeding. You might give the mare an aloetic pill, made as follows: Barbadoes aloes, six drams; calomel, one dram; powdered ginger, three drams; soap sufficient to make a ball. Prepare the mare for the physic by keeping away all roughage for sixteen hours, allowing only bran mash. Follow the purgative with powders made as follows: hyposulphite of soda and nitrate of potash, each four ounces; arsenious acid, two drams. Make into eighteen powders and give one morning and night in the feed.]

PROBABLY ACTINOMYCOSIS.

SUBSCRIBER, Brant Co., Ont.:—"I have a young cow that has been troubled for two months with a swelling along under part of jaw. First thing noticed wrong was the skin under jaw seemed to be hanging loose, with no particular lump under. It kept swelling slowly until it now hangs quite solid, and swollen from the throat almost to the jaw, and seems to affect her breathing, and it hurts her to eat. During all this time the saliva has been running from her mouth, especially at the time and for a while after eating. What is her trouble, and how can she be cured?"

[It is probable, if you examine your cow's tongue, you will find it enlarged and hardened (a form of actinomycosis called wooden tongue). If this be the case, nothing can be done, and it would be better to destroy her. If the tongue be not affected, I would advise the following treatment for throat and jaws: Make a liniment of equal parts raw linseed oil, oil of turpentine and liquor ammonia Fortier. Rub the swollen parts well with the liniment and then apply a warm poultice. Do this twice daily until the parts become well blistered, after which apply some sweet oil or vaseline every day. If the trouble is confined to the soft tissues of the parts, this will probably effect a cure.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

A CASE OF QUITTOR.

SUBSCRIBER, Keyes, Man.:—"A year ago last September my mare came home very lame on off front foot. For six months she went on three feet. During that time and until the present I have poulticed, blistered and pared, and she is better, but not cured, as she is some lame yet. Her foot is badly contracted and has an enlargement just above the coronet in front, about two inches long. At one end of this enlargement it breaks periodically and discharges mostly black blood, with a little matter at first. As she is a valuable beast, should I continue to blister? Will it hurt to work her a little in the seeding? Should I still keep paring hoof, or not? Nothing in foot, as we have old hoof all off."

[Would advise you to call in a surgeon and have an operation performed. No permanent cure can be expected until such has been performed. There is probably some foreign substance in the foot or a piece of diseased bone.]

ABSCESS ON EWES JAW.

E. R., Oxford Co., Ont.:—"I have an imp. Shropshire ewe with a lump on the side of the jawbone, just under the ear, about half the size of a goose egg, slightly soft to the touch. Would you please tell me what it is, and cure for same?"

[From symptoms given, I would say that there is a purulent abscess on your ewe's jaw, and the treatment is to open to allow the escape of pus, and then treat with carbolic acid one part, water sixty parts, twice daily, injecting a little of the lotion into the cavity until it fills.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

NAVEL RUPTURE.

SUBSCRIBER, Manor, N.-W. T.:—"I have a year-old heifer, has a lump underneath her belly, on navel, size of a big apple. Can I do anything for it? Will it stop her from breeding?"

[Your heifer has what is termed a navel rupture, I should judge, which can be removed by an operation. It will not hinder her from breeding.]

MARE WITH TENDER SKIN.

A. N., York Co., Ont.:—"I have a well-bred mare that has a very tender skin; harness galls come on her seemingly without provocation. Can you tell me what I can apply to toughen the skin at the affected parts?"

[It is important to have well-fitting harness, having collar and back band lined with felt, kept clean and soft. The harness should be frequently cleaned and oiled to keep it pliable and smooth. Apply to the parts liable to become sore, once a day, tannic acid, 4 drams to 1 1/2 ozs. of whiskey, or a decoction made by boiling oak bark. After a drive, when the mare has perspired, wash the back and shoulders, rub them dry, and apply the above remedies.]

Miscellaneous.

MAKING A HOTBED.

Frontenac Co., Ont.:—"I intend making a hotbed for to grow tomatoes, cabbage, and other plants. Would you please publish in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE as to how and when to do it successfully?"

[Get a window sash large enough to cover the side of bed required. Make a frame the same size as sash, out of 2x12 inch plank. Now make a pile of fresh horse manure, mixed with straw to moderate the heating. Allow the manure to heat up well, and turn it over for the bed. As the manure is put in the bed it should be tramped down quite evenly and firmly. Make the bed three feet deep, and two feet larger each way than the sash and frame. Now put on the frame and sash, and let it settle and heat for a day or two. Then level the top and cover with loamy soil six inches deep. As soon as the soil is warmed through, and dry enough to work, make the surface fine with a rake, and the bed is ready for seed. It is well to make the bed on the south side of a building, and have the sash slope four inches to the south. Bank the frame outside with manure, and on very cold nights cover the sash with old carpet, horse blanket or the like. Water as required. On a mild day raise the sash for ventilation, and as the heat increases, it is well to shade the young plants in the middle of the day. The bed may be started any time after the 10th of March. See article in this issue on that subject.]