

APIARY.

Bees Under Snow.

"One year I had snow ten feet deep over a part of the hives, so that I lost track of several of them altogether, the wind bringing the snow from a peculiar direction, over and around a knoll. Of these colonies, not a single one was alive on the first day of the next May."

"This certainly has a bad look from your experience. How do you account for these losses?"

"The difficulty seems to be that, as soon as the hives are covered with snow, the pure air is cut off to a certain extent, which, combined with the warmth from the ground, and the snow not allowing that, and the warmth from the bees, to escape, makes the conditions so unusual that the bees become uneasy, break the cluster, go to breeding, consume an undue amount of stores, and die of diarrhea and exhausted vitality before any of the brood, or brood of sufficient extent, emerges from the cells to take the place of the old bees which are prematurely dying off under these conditions. Young bees brought on the stage of action under such conditions do not seem to have the strength and vitality of those which emerge from the cells during September and October."

"Then you would not advise leaving bees where they are liable to be drifted under snow during winter?"

"No, not till I know what the result would be in my locality. Why I say this is, that some say they are successful in thus wintering, and I am bound to believe them. To know this result, without any great loss, I would try two or three colonies for a winter or two. If they winter well, you can safely try more; and when you are sure of the ground you are treading upon, then you can risk the whole apiary or reject the plan as the case may be. This is the only safe way to venture into anything we are not conversant with."—(Doolittle, in Gleanings.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore, we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest, or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity.

3rd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessary for publication.

4th.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

Veterinary.

WASHY COLT.

Will you kindly give me a cure for diarrhea in colt. When suckling, if allowed to follow his mother when driven on the road, he would take diarrhea. Now he is coming two years old. I drive him on the lines, and as soon as he gets warmed up in the least, if I only drive him a mile, he takes diarrhea very badly. He appears to be in good health. His hair is a little dry, but he eats well and is in good flesh. Do not feed roots.

A. P.
Elgin Co., Ont.

Ans.—Your colt is what we call washy—that is, he is congenitally predisposed to diarrhea when exercised. A permanent cure cannot be expected. It is possible the predisposition may disappear as he grows older. You will need to be very careful in feeding him. Do not give anything of a laxative nature. Always water before feeding, and do not allow any water after a meal if you intend giving any exercise. The following powders will prevent the trouble as long as their administration is continued, but it would not be good practice to give them constantly. Still it would be well to try them: Pulverized gum opium, 1½ ozs.; pulverized catechu, 3 ozs.; prepared chalk, 3 ozs.; mix, and make into 12 powders. Give one night and morning in boiled oats.

GASTRITIS IN MARE.

Working mare, six years old, apparently in good health in evening, next morning very sick, breathing heavily, foaming at mouth and trembling in breast and shoulders; lived but 25 minutes. On opening, found probably 40 bots, which were not hanging to stomach; in separating food from stomach the inside lining came off and remained with the contents of stomach. Would these symptoms indicate any disease, or could poison have been the cause of death?

British Columbia.

Ans.—Your mare died from gastritis, or inflammation of the lining membrane of the stomach. This disease may be caused by chills, changes in the weather, large drafts of cold water when the animal is very warm, irritating food, etc.; in fact, it is produced by about the same causes as the different forms of colic. The presence of the bots in the stomach was a normal condition, and had no connection with the disease or its results.

J. H. REED, V. S.

CRACKED HEELS.

I have a driving mare whose heels are cracked most all the time. The cracks are dry and scaly, and sometimes matter comes from them. Her hind legs are swollen badly at times, more so when she stands in the stable for a couple of days. What treatment do you advise?

Middlesex Co., Ont.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Chronic cracked heels or scratches such as your mare has is tedious to treat. Give her a feed of bran only (no hay) at night. In the morning give a purgative ball of 8 drs. Barbadoes aloes and 2 drs. ginger, then feed nothing but bran, and give water in small quantities until purgation commences, after which feed hay and a little grain. After the bowels regain their condition, feed 1½ ozs. Fowler's solution of arsenic in her bran or chop twice daily. Poultice the heels with boiled turnips to which is added a little powdered charcoal. Apply the poultices warm and change three times daily for three days and two nights. This will soften and remove all scales and scurf. If there be any cracks from which matter is exuding, dress once daily for two or three days with butter of antimony applied with a feather. Then apply three times daily a little of the following ointment: Boracic acid, 4 drs.; carbolio acid, 20 drops; vaseline, 2 ozs.; mix. If possible, give her rest in a box stall.

J. H. REED, V. S.

UNTHRIFTY HORSE.

I have a horse coming four years old, apparently in good health. He eats very well. I feed him clover hay and one half gallon of oats three times daily, but he is very gaunt and thin all the time; has been so for about three weeks. I have had his teeth examined by a veterinarian, and pronounced all right. Is there anything I can give him to fatten him and cause him to carry a bigger barrel than he now has. I am giving him of the following powders: Sulphur of iron, 2 ozs.; gentian, 2 ozs.; ginger, 2 ozs.; cream of tartar, 2 ozs.; saltpetre, 1 oz.

Perth Co.

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—The mixture you are giving is a very good tonic and should improve the appetite and digestion. If you would give him a boiled feed night and morning for a few weeks it will probably have the effect of giving him a little more middle. Boil about 1 part, by measure, of barley and three parts oats, all the better if a little flaxseed be added. Of this, feed, if he is idle, about five quarts. If working, feed more. Feed a reasonable quantity of good hay.

J. H. REED, V. S.

LUMP ON COLT'S JAW (OSTEA POROSIS).

I have a colt, coming three years old next May, that took a swelling in left jaw, under the eye, last June; ran down six inches, crossed back teeth; lump was hard on outside, grew (like a turnip) to a point; was treated by a V. S. in September; kept blistering for a month. It kept growing larger; called in a second V. S. in October, who pronounced it lump jaw. Flesh had grown on teeth, which V. S. No. 2 burnt off; both eyes were affected, running water part of the time. Six weeks ago lump bursted and discharged for two weeks and dried up; is discharging a little at present.

Leeds Co., Ont.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—From symptoms given, I would say that your colt has an incurable disease known to the profession as "ostea porosis, or big head." In this disease the bone becomes porous, increases greatly in size, but very little in weight. It resembles in some particulars lump jaw in cattle, but is not the same disease. Your veterinarians have done all that can be done, and unless improvement can be noticed soon, it will be better to destroy the animal.

J. H. REED, V. S.

COWS MILK FOR COLTS AFTER WEANING.

Would you please advise me if you recommend cows milk for colts, weaned, up to one year of age, of the light breeds? If so, do you prefer skimmed milk over the milk fresh from the cow? Some people claim skim milk gives more bone to the growing colt. Is this so?

Lewiston, Me.

J. N.

Ans.—I know of nothing so good for colts after weaning as cow's milk. The best results are obtained by giving the milk fresh and warm from the cows. While skimmed milk is good, it is not nearly as good as the whole milk. Skimmed milk contains no bone-forming substances not found in whole milk, and it lacks substances that are valuable as food for growing animals.

J. H. REED, V. S.

TORPIDITY OF THE KIDNEYS.

I have three horses, all passing thick, milky urine. They are all right otherwise. Kindly let me know in your next paper the proper medicine to get for them?

E. R.

Ans.—The condition you mention is due to a torpidity or partially nonactive condition of the kidneys. Get ¼ lb. each of saltpetre and powdered resin, mix well, and give each horse a tablespoonful in boiled food or dampened chop or bran every night for three doses. If this should not have the desired effect, repeat the treatment after one week.

J. H. REED, V. S.

ABORTION IN COWS.

I have three cows that lost their calves, each in turn, about three weeks apart, one a heifer 22 months old; cows had been in calf about seven months; were served by a pure-bred Ayrshire bull between one and two years old; never had a cow on my farm lose her calf before; have fed cows on corn ensilage and hay, half clover and timothy.

SUBSCRIBER AND READER.

Ans.—There may have been some local cause for the abortions, or each cow may have received an injury from fighting, falling, jumping or something of that nature. If the causes were either local or accidental, of course a recurrence can be avoided by removing the cause. The three cases occurring in the same stable point to contagious abortion. If yours are the only cows that were bred to the bull mentioned, the blame can hardly be laid to him, as bulls receive the virus from diseased cows; while if the bull has been bred to other cows, and none but yours aborted, he is again cleared from suspicion. I hope it is not the contagious form. Still, the symptoms are suspicious, and it is better to be careful. Remove the aborted animals from the others, and thoroughly disinfect the premises in which they stood, by washing thoroughly with crude carbolio acid one part and water 20 parts. After it dries, give a good coat of hot lime wash. Flush out the wombs of the cows with 1 part corrosive sublimate to 2,000 parts water heated to 100 degrees Fahr. Of course this cannot be done after the wombs contract; but if you have any fresh abortions, do this every second day until all discharge ceases, and if any of the three mentioned are discharging, treat them in the same way. If any more abort be very careful to remove and destroy the fetuses and afterbirth. It is good practice to inject a little of the lotion mentioned into the vaginas of all pregnant cows once daily for a week or two. Of course the lotion must be heated to about 100 degrees before injecting. The person who attends to the diseased cattle should not come near the healthy ones, at least not before changing his clothing and disinfecting his hands. The latter can be done by washing in the lotion. If you are satisfied that it is not the contagious form you have to deal with, it is not necessary to take all this trouble, but if it be that form it is necessary.

J. H. REED, V. S.

INAPPETENCE IN CALF.

I have a bull calf, eleven months old, which does not feed since he is weaned. I feed him corn, bran and oats. He looks healthy, but will eat nothing but straw. He refuses hay and even turnips. Please give me advice.

G. W.

Bruce Co., Ont.

Ans.—It is probable your calf is suffering from the effects of overfeeding. The digestive organs have been overtaxed and demand a rest. Calves should not be fed corn. I advise the following treatment: Give a purgative of about ½ lb. Epsom salts dissolved in a pint of warm water. After the bowels become normal, give the following: Bicarbonate of soda, 2 ozs.; powdered sulphate of iron, 1 oz.; powdered gentian, 1 oz.; powdered nux vomica, 1 oz.; mix and make into 24 powders; give one every night and morning. See that he gets regular exercise and feed in small quantities. Use sawdust for bedding.

J. H. REED, V. S.

SUSPICIOUS COUGH AND DISCHARGE FROM NOSTRILS.

I have a horse, 13 years old, with a discharge from nostrils of a thick white or yellowish color, and sometimes it is thin and watery and of a green or bluish color; with a dry, hacking cough, especially noticeable in the mornings on going into the stable. Has been so since last April; has a good appetite and eats well, but does not keep in good condition. What is the cause, and what would be the cure?

Dundas Co., Ont.

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—There are so many diseases in which the symptoms described are present that it is impossible to diagnose without a careful personal examination. I advise you to have your horse examined by a competent veterinarian without delay. The symptoms simulate those often seen in glanders, and if it be this loathsome disease, the animal must be destroyed. Your veterinarian will be able to diagnose the disease, and if there be any reasonable hopes of a cure will give treatment.

J. H. REED, V. S.

ABOUT DOCKING COLTS.

1. What is the best age to dock a colt? 2. What is the best time of the year to perform it? 3. Is it against the law to do so?

S. J. R.

Huron Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. From two weeks to two months old. 2. In moderate weather, when it is neither excessively hot nor excessively cold. 3. No.

J. H. REED, V. S.

RINGWORM.

Seeing a question about ringworm in issue of Jan. 1st, I send the following recipe, which cures bad cases: Borax, half an ounce; water (lukewarm), 1 teacupful; a small teaspoonful of coal oil. Apply two or three times daily until cured.

Grey Co., Ont.

L. STERLING.