

Contagious Abortion—Its Cause, Treatment and Prevention

At the request of a subscriber, who is unfortunate in that his dairy herd is afflicted with contagious abortion, we herewith publish a treatise on contagious abortion which appeared in the columns of The Canadian Dairyman several months ago.

Contagious abortion is, probably, one of the most dreadful diseases to which dairy cows are liable. It also occurs, but less frequently, among sheep, goats, pigs and horses. As its name implies, this is a contagious disease brought by the introduction into the vagina of the female of specific bacteria, which, after a certain time, causes the pregnant female to drop her fetus. The same may occur with every female in the stable if proper steps are not taken to prevent it.

It is not an easy matter to know when you have got contagious abortion or simple abortion to deal with. Several cows may abort in the same stable at the same time, yet it may not be contagious but due to the presence in the feed of ergot of rye, a fungus which causes females to abort. This abortion is accompanied by fever and, after a while, by other symptoms, common to "Ergotism."

SYMPTOMS

The first symptoms of contagious abortion are swelling of the udder, congestion and redness of the vaginal mucous membrane, and discharge of a foul smelling matter. Abortion occurs within a few days after the appearance of this discharge. The fetus is generally born dead. The discharge often continues some time after the abortion, in consequence of which the cow may suffer from continued bad health and may become sterile.

TREATMENT

If the cow has already started to abort, no treatment will be of any avail to stop the act, but, having aborted, all discharges and the fetus should be carefully collected and burned and the stall and the whole stable thoroughly disinfected. Quicklime is a good agent for this purpose, as besides being efficient, it neither taints the milk nor diminishes the value of the manure. Wash the genital organs of the patient with a half to two per cent. solution of carbolic acid, and inject some of the same solution into the uterus and vagina at least once daily until the discharge from vagina ceases. Remove all pregnant cows to another stable, or, if possible, turn them out to grass and away from any contact with the infected animals. As to prevention, their external genital organs should be washed with the same disinfectant before turning out or placing in new surroundings.

The aborting cows are not much affected in health. The uterus is the only organ that is affected by the disease and that usually soon yields to injections as described. The affected cows should not be bred again until all discharge from vagina has ceased.

PREVENTION

Here lies the greatest care of the owner. Unless the germ of the disease is present, no amount of filth or neglect can cause it. It, therefore, follows that the greatest care should be to prevent its appearance on the farm. How can this be done? The various mediums by which the germ can be carried are: (1) By cows purchased from infected places; (2) Attendants of infected cows; (3) Veterinary surgeons who have removed an afterbirth from an infected cow, and then carried it to another stable; (4) Bulls in serving cows not fully recovered, and thus carrying germs to healthy

cows; (5) By stable litter and liquid manure from infected stables being allowed to remain where healthy animals can come in contact with them.

Keeping these in mind, the careful farmer will ascertain (1) Whether the herd from which he is buying is free from the disease; (2) That any man who has been attending on diseased cows shall change his clothing while during such attendance, and, also, (3) The veterinary surgeon will do this if alive to his responsibility, besides carefully disinfecting his arms before operating on a fresh case; (4) The stud bull, where strange cows are allowed to come to him, should be disinfected from time to time by the same injection (half to two per cent. Zenoleum or carbolic acid) into the prepuce; (5) All discharges from infected animals, together with stable litter and liquid manure, should be burned or buried in quicklime.

Where there has been an outbreak of contagious abortion, the medicinal treatment for the protection of those cows not affected, and also those that have aborted, on former occasion of the disease, is to give carbolic acid, 15 to 30 drops, according to size of animal, in the drinking water, twice a day for a week, and then cease for a week and continue thus for several months before parturition. The third and seventh months are the most frequent months for abortion to occur.

It is also claimed that this treat-

The Road Horse

H. G. Reed, T.S., Hutton Co., Ont.

The road horse in Ontario is represented by the standard-bred. This breed is an American product. Every other breed of any note in our country has been originated in foreign lands, and has been introduced here by importation. But the standard bred has been originated, improved and brought to its present high standard by American enterprise. Speed at the trotting and pacing gait has always been an outstanding feature in the development of this horse. That great success has crowned the effort, is attested by the fact that to-day there is no breed of horses in the world can compete with him in either of the gaits just mentioned.

The rules regarding registration are different from those of any of the other breeds. Many standard bred horses have been registered that were not born in the purple, provided their more immediate ancestors were registered and they themselves have proved their ability to go in 2:30, or better, and provided they have produced two among their progeny with the same degree of speed. Standard bred horses become eligible for registration. Consequently horses of many different types have been registered largely because of performance and

EASTLAKE
STEEL SHINGLES.
FIRE, LIGHTNING, RUST
AND STORM PROOF

BRUCE, ONT., April 20, 1908.
"We have installed your 'Eastlake' Shingles on nearly a quarter of a mile of road, and are very pleased with the result. The shingles are of good quality, and have stood up well. We have not yet had any severe weather, but we have already given first-class satisfaction, and have never received any repairs."
(Signed) MARSH BROS.,
Shimshie and Harwood, Northcote.

Write for Booklet.
The Metallic Roofing Co.,
Limited, Manufacturers
TORONTO & WINNIPEG

the most favorable conditions, ever become valuable for racing purposes. However, altogether aside from racing the road horse is in demand. The farmer whose tastes run that way, need not be discouraged for he is always reasonably sure of a good price for an animal with quality and speed enough to make him an attractive gentleman's driver. Such a horse must have good conformation, a stylish appearance, and stand a fair amount of speed. The ability to go in three minutes ought to be expected of any high-class road horse. If he can be trained to go in 2:30 or better his value will be increased by hundreds as his record is reduced by seconds.

AN UNREASONABLE PREJUDICE

Many people are prejudiced against the standard bred horse because in their minds he is always associated with racing. This prejudice is unreasonable because (while he is always for the fore on the race track) he also fills his place as a utility horse, and does as much of the useful and necessary work of the country as perhaps any other breed. Practically all the driving is done by him; the liverman, the commercial man, the doctor and the agent, in fact every man, who wants the best driver he can get, looks to the standard bred for such a driver. The man who has had the most experience in driving will nearly always admit that for a horse to go every day, and all day, on all kinds of roads, and in all kinds of weather, the standard bred has no superior, if he has an equal. Some may object to this statement and think that an exception ought to have been made for the thoroughbred horse. But, while we all freely admit that for speed at his own gait, as well as courage and stamina, the thoroughbred has no equal, yet his special gait is utterly unsuited to harness work.

The older the pig grows the more food will it take to make a pound of gain.

GILSON
ENGINE
\$65
For Pumping, Cows, etc.
See also Gilson's Catalogue of all the
Gilson Mfg. Co. 101 York St. GUELPH, ONT.

The Road Horse

A very typical utility road horse, not enough style for showing.

ment will tend to prevent joint ill, or navel ill, in the progeny of females thus treated. The bacteria of the two diseases are claimed to be the same but it is doubtful if it has been conclusively proven to be so.

It is always well to look upon any case of abortion as suspicious, unless the cause of same is known. Prevention is always better than cure. After every outbreak of contagious abortion of the whole stable, that is, stalls, walls, ceiling and floor, should be thoroughly disinfected before returning the animals to them.—S. R.

Has Helped the Farmers.—The dairy industry has put the farmers of this section on their feet. Twenty years ago, 75 per cent. of my trade was done on a credit basis. Now 75 per cent. of it is done on a cash basis. A merchant in a splendid farming section near Rochester, N.Y., where the farmers do not go in for drinking extensively told me recently that nearly all his trade was done on a credit basis. The beauty of dairying lies in the fact that farmers receive their cheques every month.—J. R. Dargavel, M. L. A., General Merchant and farmer, Leeds Co., Ont.

ability to produce performers. As a result of this, composite breeding no very definite type has as yet been established.

From the racing standpoint speed and stamina are the only requisites. Many road horses have lots of the former quality. They can show great bursts of speed, but have not the staying powers to go a mile. Consequently they are utterly useless as race horses, and not much use for any purpose. In the show-ring, however, we look for good conformation, and style, coupled with at least a fair amount of speed.

NOT FOR THE WEALTHY ALONE

It is generally acknowledged that the breeding of this horse with a view of producing extreme speed is a hobby for the man of wealth. The average farmer might better confine his breeding operations to some line where the element of chance would not be quite so much in evidence. When we consider the rare combination of qualities which go to make a good race horse, we can readily understand that only a very small percentage of the horses bred, even under