

Some of these, which the agents have represented as being hardy and quite suited to our climate, have been found utterly useless, many of them being too tender to stand our winters, and others not producing enough fruit to pay for the cultivation. These varieties Mr. Caston has left standing, properly labelled, as an object lesson to the neighbors for twenty miles around, and the people of South and Center Simcoe now write the Director each year, before ordering their trees, for advice as to the best varieties to plant.

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 necessarily for publication.

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

Veterinary.

PARALYSIS OF FORE EXTREMITIES IN CALF.

A calf, ten days old, became affected in a peculiar manner. It was apparently all right when fed in the morning, but on going to feed it in the evening its front legs were completely powerless. It could raise up on hind legs and move around with breast and nose on the floor. The front legs were quite limber, and it had no power even to draw them in or to stretch them out. In this condition we let it remain for six days, when we knocked it on the head. Its appetite all these days was as good as usual; digestion, etc., all right, and it seemingly suffered no pain. It had no swelling in any part whatever, the eyes bright, its breathing regular, only it was getting weaker every day. The affected limbs were cold. I used liniment and fed it different things in the milk. We never had the like in our stables before. What was the trouble, the cause, and remedy, as more of our calves might be affected in the same way?

Bruce Co., Ont.

[The paralysis of the fore limbs in the calf was due to an affection of the brain, in all probability a tumor or abscess pressing upon it. Cases of this kind occasionally occur. They cannot be prevented, neither can they be successfully treated.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

INFLAMED UDDER IN COW—WIRE HOOPS FOR SILO—BREED OF COWS TO SUPPLY CITY MILK.

1. I have a Jersey cow, 8 years old, whose udder is swollen and hard in one quarter. She gives thick milk, but not bloody. The milk from the other teats is normal. She has been calved about three months. She had one with the same trouble last year, and she lost one teat.

2. Would cable wire do for silo hoops? Are they used? If so, how many strands of wire and how many bands for a 24-foot silo (12x24)? Would hemlock do for a circular silo, and what width should the planks be?

3. The farmers of this township are largely engaged in supplying milk to the Toronto dairies. The common or Shorthorn grade constitute the majority of the herds. Would the Holstein or Ayrshire give better results? Would the milk of the Holstein be rich enough to satisfy the Toronto standard? If desiring to establish a pure-bred herd for this purpose, what breed would you advise me to choose?

York Co., Ont.

[1. See answer to Joseph Pearn's question in last issue re "Maladdress and Udder Trouble."

2. Fence wire has been recommended for binding stave silos together by winding it around and around, from bottom to top, a few inches apart, getting wider apart towards the top. We do not believe, however, that this sort of binding can be satisfactory, because of the difficulty of drawing and holding the wire perfectly tight and in re-tightening the wire after the first filling. If any readers have had success with this sort of bands we would be pleased to learn from them how the difficulties we have mentioned were overcome. Hemlock plank is frequently used for silo construction, but is not so satisfactory as pine because of his aptness to check and warp. The planks should not be less than 8 nor more than 10 inches wide.

3. It is true that the Holstein is blamed for giving milk low in fat, but it is also a fact that there are many high-testing cows in this breed, and are spoken of as butter-bred cows. The Ayrshire as a breed is a good dairy cow, but for a first-class high-producing herd, careful selection is necessary. In fact, this is true with any breed, and even a grade herd may be built to be high producers by selection and the use of pure-bred bulls bred for rich production. It is impossible to say which breed should be chosen, as much depends upon the tastes of the owner. It is well in any case to commence with a first-class bull and a few high-producing females of the chosen breed, and then gradually improve the grade herd while getting into the pure-breds. In case the herd did not give milk that would pass the market standard, the introduction of one or more Jerseys, and mixing their milk with the rest, would give quality to the lot. Success with any breed depends more on the management than on the breed.]

RINGBONES ON ALL-FOURS.

I have a driving horse which is ringboned on all-fours. He has been like this for about two years. He is stiff on the front legs when he comes out of the stable, but he seems to be all right when he gets out for a little while, only he limps a little. What can be done for him? Will he get worse if let go without doctoring? Can he be cured so as not to be lame, and without leaving the marks? If so, how should he be treated? He will not have much to do but a little driving this summer, and can be spared from that if necessary.

Grey Co., Ont.

[The probability of the lameness increasing if no treatment is given depends somewhat on the seat of the ringbones. If low down, they will surely become worse; if high up on the pastern, the lameness may not increase to any great extent. The only satisfactory treatment is the use of the firing iron, followed by blistering by a competent veterinary surgeon. This will remove the soreness, but not the enlargement, and scars are almost certain to be left.]

OCCULT SPAVIN IN MARE.

I have a heavy Clyde mare, eight years old, that is lame on the right hind foot or leg. Three years this spring I saw her limp first. She put the crop in that spring and took off the harvest that fall. She has done nothing much since. She had a foal a year ago and is heavy in foal again. When she walks you could not tell she was lame. I have had her to two or three veterinarians and they could not tell what was wrong. She is no better when she is doing nothing than when she is working. If she is worked hard for a week or two she will limp a little for about a dozen steps when brought out of the stable first. If you know what is the trouble, please send a cure through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Lanark Co., Ont.

[In my opinion your mare is lame from occult, or blind, spavin, one which does not show any enlargement, but in which the true hock joint is involved. Cases of this kind are hard to cure, but benefit, and frequently a cure, results from firing and blistering, which should be done by a veterinarian. A good test for spavin lameness is to get an assistant to hold the horse; then you take up the hind foot and forcibly flex the hock. As soon as you release the animal, the assistant must walk her off. If spavin exist, she will usually walk lame for a step or two.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

BRAIN TROUBLE IN HORSE.

I have a horse that shakes his head nearly all the time. He would make you think by his actions that the flies were bothering his nose, and sometimes he makes motions with his front feet as if a bot fly had stung him under the chops. He eats and drinks well, and is in good condition. He has had distemper twice this winter; has a cough yet. I worked him all spring. His feed has been a common six-quart pan of ground oats, barley and buckwheat three times per day, and a pan of potatoes at night, after work; also a good forkful of hay three times daily. About two weeks ago I changed his feed to whole oats. Last Monday I turned him out to grass. He seems no better. The white around his eyes is very red. He has been in this condition about six or eight weeks.

Leeds Co., Ont.

[Your horse's brain is affected. It may be simply congestion of some of the vessels, or it may be pressure caused by a growth. If the former, a cure may result; if the latter, he will not get better, although the symptoms may not become serious. I would advise you to give him a smart purgative of, say, eight drams Barbadoes aloes, two drams ginger, either as a ball or shaken up in a pint of cold water and given as a drench. Allow him to run at grass after purgation ceases, and let him have a few weeks' rest if possible. For affections of this kind little good is derived from treatment other than that prescribed.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

WEAK FOAL.

My mare's foal was weak and could not stand alone, but would suck when lifted up. I cut navel string about 9 in. long, but on second day it started to bleed, and died in a few hours. The mare was in good condition, but not too fat. I have another mare to foal next month. Will you kindly give me a remedy if the next foal is like this one, and would you breed to the same horse again?

Victoria Co., Ont.

[When the navel cord of a colt is not ruptured, a strong, coarse string should be tied tightly around it, about an inch from the abdomen, and the cord cut about an inch below the string. The string is left on until it sloughs off. The parts should be dressed 4 or 5 times daily with 1 part corrosive sublimate to 1,000 parts water. It is good practice to dress the parts with this solution in all cases until the opening heals, as it prevents joint ill. If colt be too weak to stand, it must be helped and held up to nurse every hour or two until it gains strength. See that the meconium (the contents of the bowels when born) is passed. Do not give purgatives, but give injections of warm water with a little soap, and insert your (well oiled) finger and remove what you can. As soon as the faces passed are yellow in color, you will know that the meconium has all been passed. If the foal does not gain strength after nursing a few times, it will require a great deal of attention both day and night.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

CHRONIC COUGH.

What should I do for my horse? He has had a cough for about seven months, and it appears to be just from the throat. When working for a while he coughs a lot. The cough is a dry one.

Strathcona, Alta.

SUBSCRIBER.

[We would advise you, not knowing the history of the case, to get the following made up at a drug store: Muriate of ammonia, two ounces; chlorate of potash, two ounces; fluid extract of belladonna, one ounce; molasses sufficient to make one pint. Give one tablespoonful, placed on the tongue, twice a day. It might be beneficial to stimulate the throat with a liniment such as turpentine and ammonia, two ounces; raw linseed oil, four ounces; mix and apply externally to the throat with the hand once daily. Stop when signs of blistering are seen, and anoint the parts with clean, sweet lard.]

SCROTAL HERNIA IN FOAL.

I have a colt, two weeks old, with badly swollen testicles. The morning he was foaled he got a box between his legs, and I think it was nothing else that hurt him. He doesn't walk lame or show any soreness. Please prescribe, and oblige.

Alberta, N.-W. T.

W. PENNY.

[Your foal has scrotal hernia (rupture), which is not infrequent. Unless the hernia be very large and interfering with the animal's action, or is gradually becoming larger, leave it alone and nature will gradually effect a cure by a natural shortening of the omentum which draws the intestine up into the pelvic cavity. If the rupture be very large or gradually increasing in size, it will require an operation, which can be successfully performed only by an expert, as it consists in casting the animal, cutting down on the intestines, returning them through the inguinal canal into the pelvic cavity, and stitching the inguinal ring and scrotum.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]

SWOLLEN LEGS IN HORSE.

Subscriber wishes to know what is the cause of a young horse, five years old, being swollen in the hind legs? He is a heavy horse, would weigh about 1,300 lbs. The legs have broken out and are running; it started like scratches first. I feed hay and six quarts of oats at a feed, working every day, farming. What shall I do with them? Is there any cure? I wash with castile soap and lukewarm water, and I apply Egyptian liniment. Please let me know as soon as possible. I have taken the ADVOCATE nearly four years and like it well.

Muskoka District, Ont.

[Cases of this sort that are of long standing are difficult to deal with effectively. Feed nothing but a little bran for twelve hours, then administer a purgative of ten drams of Barbadoes aloes, two drams of ginger, mixed with soap or treacle and made into a ball. Allow nothing to eat but a little bran and give water in small quantities until purgation commences (generally about twenty-four hours), then feed grass and bran. When purgation ceases, give one of the following powders every night in damp food: Soda bicarbonate, 6 ozs.; powdered nitrate of potassium, 3 ozs.; powdered resin, 3 ozs.; arsenious acid, 4 drams; mix and make into twenty-four powders. It is a mistake to wash the legs; in fact, they should be kept dry, but clean. Dress the raw surfaces with butter of antimony, applied with a feather, once daily for four days. Then poultice with ground linseed five parts, powdered charcoal one part, continuously for three days, and then apply the following lotion three times daily: Sulphate of zinc and acetate of lead, of each 1 oz.; carbolic acid, 2 drams, and water, 1 pint.]

SKIN DISEASE IN CATTLE.

My calves and yearlings, during the past winter, have been troubled with two varieties of skin disease. 1st. The hair came off around the eyes, nose and ears, and scabs formed and spread more or less. The surface of scab was rough like a grater. In descriptions of ringworm, the hair is said to come out in circles, but this came off in irregular blotches.

2nd. The hair came off them also along the backbone, but here the skin seemed to dry up and come off in scales. The cattle had good feed (turnips and hay) and warm stable, with exercise every day.

Annapolis Co., N. S.

R. J. M.

[The first trouble mentioned is undoubtedly ringworm, although the hair does not fall out just as is described in the descriptions you have read. It is due to a vegetable parasite, and is very contagious. Treatment consists in removing the scales by washing with soap and warm water, and then applying a dressing to kill the parasite. Dressings do no good until the scales are removed, as the parasites are under the scales, and thereby escape. A very effectual dressing is composed of one part white hellebore mixed with six or eight parts vaseline. Tincture of iodine also acts well. Apply twice daily. If you use the ointment, rub it on with your fingers; if the iodine, apply with a feather.

The second trouble is probably a form of eczema, or possibly an extension of the first. Rub the following ointment well into the parts twice daily: one part carbolic acid to sixty parts vaseline. Keep the animals on grass and no internal medicines will be necessary. Keep affected animals away from healthy, and disinfect the stalls in which they stood, or you will probably have a recurrence next year. A thorough washing with one part crude carbolic acid to one hundred parts water will do as a disinfectant.]

J. H. REED, V. S.]