

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 be advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Legal.

Railway Farm Crossing.

SUBSCRIBER, P. E. I.:—"Can a railway company place the farm crossing on my farm just where they choose, or have I a right to locate it; and can I insist upon the company putting in cattle guards to prevent stock running along the railway?"

[The railway company are bound to place the crossing convenient for the farmer for the passing of his stock, wagons, etc. They are not bound to put in cattle guards. The gates when not in use are required to be kept closed by the farmer.]

Fire Burning Off.

SCRIBBLER, Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"My neighbor, in the month of July, makes fires for the purpose of burning off brush, stumps, etc., and the fire gets across the road and destroys my fence. Can I compel my neighbor to make good my loss?"

[A person making such fires is bound in law to take every reasonable precaution to prevent damage to another, at every time of the year, and in the dry months of summer he should be especially careful, and his precautions should be such as practically to insure against causing damage, and if every such precaution was not taken your neighbor is liable.]

Master and Servant.

SUBSCRIBER, Huron Co., Ont.:—"A man servant hires to do general work upon a farm, including dairy chores at a yearly wage. 1. What holidays is he entitled to, and is he bound to work on Sundays? 2. If he leaves of his own accord, without a good legal reason, can he collect from the master his wages up to the time of quitting?"

[1. A servant hired as stated is bound on all the legal holidays and on all Sundays to do the necessary chores about the place, such as feeding and attending to the stock, milking, etc., but on these days he is not bound to do ordinary farm work, aside from these works of necessity. 2. The servant having engaged to work for a year must complete his contract before he can sue for his wages, and he is not entitled to collect any arrears of wages earned if he, without a valid legal excuse, quit before completing his term as agreed.]

Veterinary.

Poll Evil.

I. H., Manitowaning, Ont.:—"I have a colt, three years old, suffering from poll evil. I would like you to give me a cure for it if you can."

[Although considered a distinct disease, it is nothing more or less than an abscess in the poll. The reason why it is difficult to cure is its being in a position that is awkward to get an opening so that the matter will run out. It depends more on the skill of the veterinary surgeon than on any remedies. Wash out with carbolic acid solution, one part of acid to four parts of glycerine and six of water. This should be syringed into the wound every day until the parts present a healthy appearance.]

DR. W. MOLE.

Mud Fever—Sick Calf.

G. K., Munro, Ont.:—"I have a calf seven months old which went off its feed a month ago. I gave it a dose of salts and ginger, but it is no better. When he gets up he staggers around as though he would fall over. He has sucked a cow all the summer and has never been out of the stable."

"2. My driving horse, five years old, seems to be very much irritated along the belly, with the hair coming off in patches. I have seen cases of mud fever on the legs, but did not know whether this was the same disease or not. I have applied lard, sulphur and carbolic salve. Could you give me a better remedy?"

[1. Unless we receive more exact particulars of this case we cannot offer any advice. All that the symptoms indicate is extreme weakness, which might arise from a variety of causes. Repeat your medicine, which seems quite right and can do no harm.

2. With regard to your driving horse, we are of the opinion that you have an attack of mud fever, and your remedy should have the desired effect; if not, try the following: Liquid plumbago, 2 ozs.; olive oil, 1 pint. After applying three times, wash off with warm soapy water, dry and apply again until well.]

DR. W. MOLE.

Stomach Stagers in Hogs.

D. B., Grey Co., Ont.:—"Between November 8 and 10 five of my pigs died. They seemed all right in the morning, but at feeding time at noon three of them were dead. I bled two of the pigs by slitting the ears, and I think it will fetch them around. The symptoms were very strange, and I thought they must have been poisoned. They would sit up on their rumps, champ and salivate at the mouth; would start going around, shaking their head up and down, sniffing and working their nose; some would keep travelling around all over the sty; would run against the walls as though they could

not see anything. When they died they would swell up terribly, and turn a purple color very shortly after. They got no food that they were not used to; nothing but good clean peas and water, as I was fattening them for market."

[Stomach staggers in hogs, or apoplexy, due to congestion of the brain as a result of engorgement of the stomach, is not uncommon amongst pigs, especially when they are put suddenly upon an abundance of food of a highly nutritious character. Peas when given in a raw state are often bolted, the animal does not grind down the food sufficiently, and when it arrives in the stomach swells and distends that organ to such an extent as to cause pressure on the diaphragm, congestion of the brain, apoplexy, and death. The remedy that you employed was quite right and no doubt saved their lives. In these cases death occurs so rapidly that unless you are prepared to act promptly you will often lose your animal. Prevention by feeding more often until you get them accustomed to the heavy food is the best course to pursue. To bleed a pig successfully is quite a difficult matter. We

often hear of cutting off the ears and tails of pigs to make them bleed. It is much more easy to bleed at the inside of the forearm: place a ligature around the leg, and when the vein swells up strike with a sharp penknife, and after sufficient blood has been withdrawn, remove ligature, apply a piece of rag as a bandage and so stop the hemorrhage. Give a dose of purgative medicine: an ounce of powdered jalap in a trough of swill, or carbonate of magnesia may be used in the same way.]

DR. W. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S., Toronto.]

Warts on Cattle.

E. E., Scotland, Ont.:—"I have a steer which is about two years old. Last spring a wart came on its shoulder and soon spread down its legs with a great many little warts. I also notice that three other young cattle which pasture with him are breaking out in their bodies with the same kind of wart. What shall I do? Will it spread over all my cattle which come near him?"

[Warts are growths of the epidermis or outer skin. When large are best removed by a sharp knife. When diffused over a large surface are due to some irritant in the animal's feeding which should be changed. Give internally ounce doses of Fowler's solution of arsenic once a day for five or six weeks. Dress daily with the following ointment: Chloride of ammonia, 1 part; powdered safin, 2 parts; vaselin to form a paste to pour. We have often declared that we would not give this recipe away, as unfair use was made of it on the last occasion. DR. W. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.]

Sheep Going Blind.

I. E., Brockville, Ont.:—"I have sixteen sheep, which have been running in a field of corn, and about half of them have gone blind. Upon examination I found their eyes red and inflamed, with a coating formed over the ball, but no discharge. They do not appear to suffer any pain, have good appetite, and in good health otherwise. What is the cause, and the remedy?"

[The trouble will probably have disappeared before this reaches our correspondent. It is an infectious ailment that will probably go through the whole flock, and in the course of two or three weeks work its own cure. We have seen it repeatedly run its course and disappear without any treatment, and without leaving any permanent ill effects.]

Miscellaneous.

Recognized Stud Books for Coach Horses.

J. W., Manitoba:—"The directors of our society have struck a difficulty as to what are the recognized Stud Books for coach horses. A man showed a coach stallion and produced to the judges a certificate of registration, signed, I believe, by 'King Dodds.' The judges held that this was not from any recognized Stud Book and refused to award him the prize. The man has entered a protest to the directors. If you would let me know what Stud Books for coach horses are recognized, especially if the one kept by Mr. King Dodds is one, you will very greatly oblige."

[There is no Coach Horse Stud Book in Canada. There is a Cleveland Bay one in Springfield, Ill., and a Yorkshire Coach Horse Stud Book in England. King Dodds' book is for trotting horses and not a coach horse book at all. The only coach horse pedigree recognized by the Dominion Live Stock Registrar, Mr. Henry Wade, are the ones mentioned.]

Home Curing of Bacon.

H. H. KIRKPATRICK, Colchester Co., N. B.:—"You would confer a great favor by publishing in the next issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE directions by which a farmer may cure and prepare bacon for market on a limited scale. This question may have been previously answered, but as I am not a very old subscriber it would be new to me, and I suppose many others. I would like to try the experiment on one or two pigs this fall."

[There are a number of ways of curing pork, but the most favored method seems to consist in dry-salting the fresh meat on a table or bench. The half-pig is cut into three pieces—the ham, side, and shoulder. With large, thick pigs, it is well to cut out the shoulder at the joint, taking out the shoulder blade. With smaller pigs up to 250 pounds the fore quarter may be left attached to the side or

severed straight across and salted separately. Now remove the ribs and rub the fleshy surface with salt-petre and then the entire surface with dry salt. Pile the pieces in tiers on a table or bench and leave for five days, then turn the entire pile, placing the upper pieces on the bottom after rubbing each piece with salt, and if any parts appear red or fresh apply a little saltpetre to these. The pile is now left for two or three weeks, rubbed with salt, turned again as before, and left for two or three weeks longer. It is well to keep it in a dark place, which preserves the clear, bright appearance. It is now ready for market, or it may be hung up in cotton bags in an airy shed, or it may be packed in dry oat hulls. Some prefer to have it smoked after it is cured when it is to be used at home, but for market the smoking may be objected to. The hams may be treated in much the same way, but pickling the hams is generally preferred. The fresh hams are placed in a pickle consisting of salt brine, to which is added ten pounds of brown sugar to five gallons of brine. At the end of four or five weeks in this pickle it is ready to be hung up in bags, or otherwise preserved from the light.]

VETERINARY.

The Tuberculin Test.

There is little question of the utility of the tuberculin test properly used in the hands of a competent operator as a diagnostic agent for tubercular troubles in cattle, but at the same time it is not infallible. During the "craze" period a good many State and other governments were foolishly led into a crusade of slaughter, costly, and in many cases, there is little doubt, needless; but one after another, wiser counsels resulted in its abandonment. In this connection the following from the London (Eng.) *Live Stock Journal* is of interest:

"Whatever may be the scientific value of tuberculin—and this is a subject on which most people will be disposed to accept the conclusions of scientists—there are many who believe that its practical value is open to serious question. It fails to pick out the animals that are far gone in tuberculosis, and which everybody would like to see destroyed, while it reveals the existence of the disease in such a minute form that a microscope has to be used in order to discover the presence of the latent taint in the carcass of the animal. Foreign countries and the colonies have all decided that pure-bred stock must be subjected to the tuberculin test on arrival, and be certified to have passed through it without reaction in the exporting country before they can be admitted, and, of course, our breeders have no choice but to comply with this stipulation if they wish to sell to the foreigner. Now it is rumored that several animals that emerged successfully from the test in this country have been detained as 'suspects' when landed in South America. This must arise from one of three causes—the unreliability of the test; the unreliable conditions under which it has been applied in South America, when the animals have probably been weakened by a long sea voyage; or the difference in the kind of tuberculin used. It would be useful to know which of these supposed causes is the correct one. In any case, the incident does not tend to increase belief in the reliability of the tuberculin test for practical purposes."

Professor Bang, of Denmark, who has made a specialty of tuberculin testing, and whose method of eradicating bovine tuberculosis is well known, thinks that it is too much to claim that in 98 cases out of 100 the showing of the test is absolutely reliable. He puts the maximum at 87 per cent. Animals are destroyed which show evident clinical symptoms, the others being isolated; but farmers are not prevented from disposing of reacting cattle when fattened, which show no observable symptoms, and butter is permitted to be made from their milk. Cows with diseased udders, shown by hard swellings, etc., nasal, uterine or intestinal discharges, are considered infective and dangerous. Professor Bang does not consider that calves from tuberculous cows are predisposed to the disease any more than to broken legs or other accidents, unless exposed to contagion after birth. His plan is to remove the calves from dams immediately after birth, and feed them with milk from healthy cows, or sterilized milk. Tuberculin testing is not compulsory in Denmark, but the Government supply tuberculin and furnish competent officers to make the test free of charge. Prof. Nocard, of France, another eminent specialist on this subject, claims that in every case where the test undoubtedly indicates tuberculosis, the tubercles, though perhaps small and few, can be found in the animal if looked for with sufficient care. But it would hardly be contended that such cases would endanger the public health. In fact, Dr. Irving A. Watson, chairman of the New Hampshire State Cattle Commission, stated in a public address not long ago that a small proportion of tuberculous animals are really dangerous, and their slaughter is unnecessary, as many of them either recover under proper conditions or the disease is permanently arrested.

Read our important Christmas Number and Premium Announcement in another column.