

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 us 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.]

Veterinary.

Hernia of the Uterus.

Mr. S. HIND, JR., Kent Co., Ont.:—"I have a mare eight years old; she foaled in June last; about a week before she ruptured the abdominal cords, allowing the belly to sag down. Can anything be done for her, and should she be allowed to breed again?"

[The conditions briefly described by our correspondent are not commonly met with, and are due to a relative narrowness of the pelvis or haunch bones—"animals with a sharp croup"—such as the Norman or Percheron class crossed with a purebred animal. In the non-pregnant animal the uterus is small and closely fixed by its ligaments to the sub-lumbar region. When, however, pregnancy is advanced, the great size of the organ, together with the weight of its inmate, brings it in contact with the parietes of the peritoneal cavity, and if there happens to be a weak spot or a rupture, however slight, the heavy uterus gradually forces its way through, and we have seen cases where it actually forces its way into the abdominal sac also. This is termed hernia of the uterus. This may be due to mal-nutrition, "poor feeding," predisposing, relaxation or softening of the abdominal muscles, which leads to their being unable to support the gradually increasing strain or the too lively manifestation of the young and energetic inmate. The muscles of the abdomen become stretched and attenuated, their fibres rupture, and in this way a rent is formed, a tumor appears externally towards the lower part of the abdomen, most usually on the left side. In many instances these appearances are due to violent exertion, or a blow or kick. It need hardly be pointed out that it is very injudicious to attempt to breed from an animal suffering from these conditions.

Treatment.—The only treatment likely to be of any service is to feed the animal on close food, such as clear oats and peas, only a very small quantity of hay. Apply a wide bandage, secured by straps over the loins, which must be worn constantly until the abdomen has regained its former size. Without inspection there is nothing else we can suggest.

Dr. Wm. MOLE, M.R.C.V.S., Toronto, Ont.]

An Ailing Bull.

HARRY SIRETT, Muskoka District, Ont.:—"My bull was taken sick last August; his mouth, lips and eyes were badly swollen, and discharged considerably from the nose of a yellowish color. I gave Epsom salts and one-ounce doses of sulphate of soda, iron and gentian daily for a week. He apparently recovered, all but his eyes, which had a muddy film over the sight. I washed them with a solution of sulphate of zinc, and they seemed to be improving. Last week they seemed to be taken suddenly worse, and at the present time he is nearly blind; he seems healthy and feeds well. Can you advise me with regard to his eyes, and if he loses his sight will it hurt him as a stock bull or be any detriment to his usefulness?"

[From the above description your bull has been suffering from a disease known as glossitis inflammation of the tongue, leading on to inflammation of the lining membrane of the nostrils. It is caused by the mechanical irritation set up by eating coarse food, such as barley straw, cornstalks, etc. The treatment has been very good and attended with the ordinary amount of success. The film over the eyes is due to the inflammation of the lining membrane of the nostrils, which has induced ophthalmia. It is difficult to say whether this is likely to be of a permanent nature, and we are inclined to think it will. Should blindness supervene, it would not be advisable to again use him for breeding purposes. In many cases that have come under our notice the disease has become confirmed and difficult of cure. The extreme emaciation which must necessarily ensue renders the animal worthless.

Dr. Wm. MOLE, M.R.C.V.S.]

Obscure Lameness.

A SUBSCRIBER, York Co., Ont.:—"We have a valuable mare who sprained her hip a year ago. After resting all the winter we thought her much improved and put to light work in the spring. In a short time she became so lame she could not get along. We then had her fired and blistered by our veterinary surgeon. She has done nothing since and is a little lame yet when trotting, and also after standing over night is quite stiff on coming out. Kindly let us know what is best to do?"

[There is nothing more provoking than a lame horse, and in some cases it is difficult to locate the exact cause. We would advise that you have another veterinary surgeon examine her and get a written opinion from him, and if it confirms your regular attendant again follow his advice. This would be more satisfactory to you.

Dr. Wm. MOLE, Toronto.]

Worms in Horse.

GEO. CLARK, Frontenac Co., Ont.:—"I have a horse when standing still will turn around and bite his sides. I was feeding a little salt and ashes, and he passed quite a few worms. I think that is the trouble. Please give a remedy in your next issue?"

[The surest symptom of worms is the visible evidence of their presence which is mentioned above. Other symptoms are the passing of glairy mucus, depraved and fastidious appetite, coat dry and rough, and a general unthrifty condition. Good treatment is to fast the animal for 12 hours, and give aloes, 6 to 8 drams, followed in two days by 1 oz. oil of turpentine in mild oil or linseed gruel. It would be well to repeat this treatment in a week or ten days and follow with a tonic of sulphate of iron, one-half dram twice daily for six days in soft food or solution. This should be accompanied with good feeding with laxative food, including boiled oats, carrots, and good hay. A lump of rock salt in the manger answers a good purpose.]

Heaves.

B. J., Headingly, Man.:—"We have a mare nine years of age, about 1,400 lbs. weight. When driven in warm weather or warmed up at any time, even walking, pants and has great difficulty in breathing. Her three-year-old colt seems to be affected in the same way, and it has never done anything to bring on this trouble. Do you think this is heaves, and will it be hereditary? Can anything be done for them?"

[Heaves in this country, owing presumably to the clearness of the atmosphere, fodder and water, is not very common. The respiratory organs of your mare and colt are, however, from some cause, lacking in power. It is possible that the trouble is of a hereditary nature, and if so, little can be accomplished in way of a permanent cure. It would not be advisable to breed either from the mare or colt. If possible have both animals examined by a competent veterinary surgeon.

W. A. DUNBAR, V.S., Winnipeg.]

Eczema.

W. WATERHOUSE, Little Red Deer:—"I have a three-year-old heifer which had bare patches mostly on the shoulders and neck last fall, and this summer the hair has almost completely gone off her whole body. The heifer is healthy but uneasy. I should be obliged if you would tell me cause and how to treat it?"

[Your heifer is suffering from a form of eczema. Cleanse the skin thoroughly with the following wash: Warm water, two gallons; soft soap, six ounces; liq. ammonia, strong, two ounces. Rub dry and then apply the following with light friction: Creolin, two ounces; fluid ext. of belladonna, one ounce; water, two quarts.

W. A. DUNBAR, V.S.]

Swelling on Leg.

E. C. THOMPSON, Vernon, B. C.:—"An ailment of a cow consists of a large swelling on the ham, just between the femur and the tibia bones and about on a line with the stifle joint. It got very large, but with scarcely any lameness, so Mr. H. applied to the local doctor (in the absence of a V.S.) who opened it and took out fully half a pail of putrefaction. They now syringe it and keep it running as much as possible. The cow had a swelling there before I sold her (by the by, she had calved about two weeks), but I put it down to a slip she had when backing out of the stable one day, the stall being raised up. It swelled considerably within a couple of days, but rapidly decreased again, and when Mr. H. took her was not much more than noticeable, but again it took a bad turn, and he now despairs of saving her. The abscess appears to be four inches deep and with a very foul smell. She is a valuable pure-bred Jersey, and as he has only just brought her of me I should be much obliged if you could give us any advice that will help."

[The swelling and subsequent abscess might indicate that the cow is affected with tuberculosis. If, however, there are no other symptoms of that disease in connection with the animal (which your local doctor should be able to recognize) I would advise you to have the cavity in the leg syringed twice daily with the following lotion: Hydrar perchlor, two drams; muriatic acid, four drams; alcohol, four ounces; water, one pint.

W. A. DUNBAR, V.S.]

Miscellaneous.

Hedge Fence Plants.

THOS. GARVIN, Quebec:—"What is the best hedge plant for the Niagara Peninsula? Great hopes were entertained of the honey locust for a time, but it is not sufficiently thorny, and the cattle eat it. Would the Osage orange be hardy there? In what section of Ontario could plants be bought? An answer in an early issue will oblige."

[The Osage orange is hardy here, and is certainly the best hedge plant we have for turning stock. A great quantity of it is grown here, and turns stock all right. Do not know who would have it for sale, unless Morris, Stone & Wellington. I, however, do not believe it pays to grow a hedge for fence. Our best farmers say they can build a wire or board fence every seven years cheaper than to keep up a hedge fence.

W. W. HILBORN,

Essex Co., Ont.

The Osage orange is hardy in the Niagara Peninsula. Plants could probably be bought of any large nursery firm. I do not know that the Osage orange has any better features to recommend it than the honey locust. I would prefer a hedge of Norway spruce to either. It would be some time before any hedge would be effective against cattle without protective wires. The honey locust is, I believe, somewhat more expensive than Norway spruce, and

when old much more difficult to prune and keep in order. For a road fence where cattle are not likely to injure it, nothing can be more compact or look more attractive than the Norway spruce hedge, and it is quite hardy in the Niagara Peninsula.

MARTIN BURRELL,

Niagara Fruit Experiment Station.]

Cause of Light Oat Crop.

R. S. A., Hargrave, Man.:—"The oats I sowed last spring were apparently good in every respect; still they came up very patchy. There was in some instances a space of from two to three feet between the plants. Can you account for this?"

[If the germinating power of the seed was good, your oats were no doubt injured by the severe frosts which occurred late in May and in the early part of June. The oat plant is very tender in its early stages, and some of our fields were badly injured from this cause last spring. Our early sown oats seldom give as large a return as the later sown ones, and there is less danger from frosts.

S. A. BEDFORD, Supt. Exp'l Farm, Brandon.]

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Manitoba-grown Apples at Morden Fair.

The Morden fall fair enjoys the unique position of being (possibly with one exception) the only show held in Manitoba at which native-grown standard apples were exhibited. Mr. Stevenson, whose fruit orchards and beautiful home at Nelson, only eight miles to the north-west of Morden, made a most interesting and attractive display of standard apples, crabs, and other fruits. Of course Mr. Stevenson's place is particularly favorably situated for fruit growing, and, furthermore, the proprietor, who has been experimenting for many years, knows how to grow fruit. In response to a request Mr. Stevenson kindly furnishes a brief descriptive review, published below, of the several varieties of fruit which he exhibited. The Morden fair cannot be said to have come up to the standard of former years. There was a noticeable absence of stock upon the grounds, although a few fine animals were shown. The display in the hall was good, especially the roots and vegetables. The Morden Woolen Mills made a really grand display of their goods. The attendance was certainly ahead of past years, there being a very large concourse of people present. Mr. Stevenson reports:

STANDARD APPLES.

Wealthy.—A fall variety too well known to need any description here. Trees seven years old from graft, ten feet high, are healthy. This variety, although doing well here, I would not advise any one to plant unless in very favorable localities, its chief weakness being its liability to sunscald. Mine are grown on north side of a row of Scotch Pines, the limbs intermingling.

Lieby.—A Russian variety, admitted to be the hardest of all large apples; came into bearing this year for the first time. Specimens were of good size and fair quality; trees six years old; fall variety.

Little Hat.—Another Russian fall apple, came into bearing this year for first time. Fruit highly colored; flesh white, tender, juicy, subacid; trees five years old.

Blushed Caville.—A Russian variety. This is a fine summer apple, handsomely blushed, large and fine in quality; trees five years old.

Anism.—Russian variety. Tree very hardy, a strong, upright grower. Came into bearing this year for the first time; fruit medium in size; tree seven years old, fourteen feet high.

Whitney.—A small hybrid apple of excellent dessert quality.

CRAB APPLES.

The varieties mentioned below are too well known to require any lengthened description at this time. One variety I will this year require to revise my decision upon. Last year it came into bearing for the first time. The fruit was about the size of marbles. This year the crop was extra heavy, and the apples the largest of any of the crab family grown here. It is known as *Gen. Grant*. Other varieties shown were *Virginia*, *Transcendant*, *Montreal Beauty*, *Hyslop*, and *Sweet Russet*.

Before going further it might be well to note here that all varieties of standard apples and also some crabs are protected every winter in the following manner: On the approach of cold weather four boards are put around the trunks of the trees, long enough to reach from the ground up to the limbs; the space between the boards and trunk of tree is filled with earth. This is the plan adopted by some of the most successful orchardists in Minnesota, and of various plans tried I have found it to be the best. One thing is certain, little success will attend the efforts of those trying to grow the larger fruits if this essential to success is neglected.

Of the plums shown I place at the head of the list the *Cheney* as being the best all-round of the varieties yet fruited here. The rest in order of merit: *Birby*, *Rockford*, *Wyant*, *Chippewa*, *DeSota*, *Newton Egg*, and *Lendlof's Long Red*.

In the novelties shown the *Elderberry* had a good deal of interest for some, it having been generally understood that our climate was unsuitable for their growth. One bushel of berries were picked from a bush planted four years ago. *Large-berried Elder* is the name of the variety.

Amur Barberry.—This is a much larger grower than our common species. This year they bore an immense load of dark purple fruit, which is decidedly ornamental and also useful for making jellies.