

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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Echoes.

A. G. Dickson, Northumberland, N. B.—I have taken the "Advocate" since 1889, and appreciate it very highly. The weekly issue is a great improvement indeed.

Albert Fuller, Middlesex, Ont.—I do not want to drop the "Farmer's Advocate." It is too good a thing to lose. I am sure the weekly paper is a great improvement.

E. Humphreys, Elgin, Ont.—We like the new form of the "Advocate" extremely well, and would not be without it for five dollars.

W. S. Rutherford, Peterboro, Ont.—Enclosed find \$1.50 for the renewal of the "Advocate," as we would not think of doing without it for twice the money.

Willie J. Moak, Stormont, Ont.—Since the "Advocate" has become a weekly it is an up-to-date paper, meeting the requirements of the farmer in every respect.

Siftings.

More pure-bred bulls should be converted into steers. It would help the steer classes at the shows, and also help the pure-bred business.—[Live-stock World.]

In truth, an aged boar should be buried with all the honors, and turn, like "Imperial Caesar," to clay, and not to bacon.—[The Druid.]

The spectacle has been seen of an eminent botanist wasting his time and abilities over an insignificant weed like the "Shepherd's purse," and neglecting the much more important food plants; a great anatomist engrossed in the study of the bones of the frog, and passing by the domestic animals; and a great geologist investigating the composition of the unimportant mineral "camptonite," while the mineralogy of the soil was reckoned of no account. If these and many others in like positions would take up matters of use to the human race, we might progress in farming and many other branches a good deal faster.—[Primrose McConnell, B. Sc.]

HORSES.

Hernia or Rupture in Foals.

HERNIA OR RUPTURE is a tumor formed by the displacement or escape of a portion of an internal organ from its natural cavity through an opening in the walls of the cavity. It projects externally, as a more or less soft, fluctuating tumor, enclosed by the skin. Abdominal herniae are divided into reducible, irreducible and strangulated, according to their condition; and into umbilical, scrotal, inguinal, ventral and diaphragmatic, according to their situation.

A hernia is reducible when it can readily be returned into the abdomen. It consists of a soft, fluctuating swelling, unattended with heat, pain, or uneasiness. Its size and consistence varies somewhat, according to the stage of digestion after each meal. When the animal coughs, it becomes tense, larger, and communicates a sudden impulse to the hand of the examiner.

A hernia is irreducible when it is not strangulated, but yet cannot be returned into the abdomen. The causes that prevent reduction are: 1st, the bulk of the protruded organ is out of proportion to the opening through which it would have to return; 2nd, adhesions of the protruded parts to the walls of the sac, through the medium of organizable lymph.

A hernia is said to be strangulated when the contents of the sac, by virtue of ingesta that has passed into them, experience such a degree of pressure as not only to cause them to be irreducible, but also, by compressing their blood vessels, to disturb, impede or suspend the circulation within them. This condition speedily causes serious inflammation in the protruded parts, which extends and involves others within the abdomen.

A hernia is called umbilical when the protrusion of any portion of the bowel takes place through the navel opening; scrotal when into the scrotum; inguinal when the intestine reaches the inguinal canal, but does not pass to the scrotum (this form is not easily recognized); it is called ventral when the protrusion occurs through an artificial opening in any part of the abdomen; diaphragmatic when the diaphragm (the partition between the lungs and the stomach) is ruptured, and a portion of the stomach protrudes into the lung cavity. A hernia is said to be congenital when it exists at birth, and the protrusion is through one of the natural fetal openings which under normal conditions become closed at birth.

UMBILICAL HERNIA.—We wish in this article to discuss umbilical hernia in foals. During fetal life the blood vessels and urachus of the fetus pass out of the body through an opening, called the umbilical or navel opening. This aperture, under normal conditions, closes at birth, when the functions of the vessels mentioned cease, but in some cases this closure does not take place, and hernia is noticed at once, or appears in a few days. In some cases the closure of the opening, while it may be complete, may be lax and weak, and rupture may take place from violent efforts at any time, until the animal is two or three years old.

The symptoms of umbilical hernia are evident. There is a soft, fluctuating tumor, of greater or less volume, from the size of a marble to that of a goose egg, or even larger, on the floor of the abdomen, at the navel. This tumor can be readily returned by pressure into the abdominal cavity, but usually reappears quickly when pressure is relieved. In the majority of cases the animal appears to suffer no inconvenience. When such a condition exists, there is seldom cause for alarm, and it is seldom necessary to treat; at the same time it should be closely watched, and if it is noticed that the bulk of the tumor is gradually increasing, treatment must be resorted to. In young animals, the omentum and mesentery (those portions of the membrane lining the abdominal cavity, in which the intestines are suspended) are looser and longer than in the adult, and gradually shorten, and thereby draw the protruded intestine into the cavity, thereby effecting a spontaneous cure. Of course, where the hernia is either irreducible or strangulated, this cannot take place, and an operation by a veterinarian is necessary. If the tumor is noticed to be gradually decreasing in bulk, or even remaining about the same, it is better to leave it alone, and allow nature to effect a cure, but if its volume be gradually increasing, or if after a few months it is not decreasing, treatment is indicated.

TREATMENT.—There are many modes of treatment, some of which can be given only by an expert, viz., cutting through the skin, exposing the intestine, returning it into the cavity, scarifying the margin of the opening, and stitching with carbolic catgut or silk, and then stitching the skin; second, placing the patient upon its back, carefully returning the intestine, gathering up the loose skin, and enclosing firmly in a clam, or pass-

ing skewers through it and tying with a cord in the form of the figure 8, so tightly as to shut off the circulation. Whichever method is adopted, care must be taken to not enclose any portion of the intestine. The animal is then allowed to rise, and no further treatment is necessary until the enclosed tissues drop off, which usually occurs in 10 to 14 days; then the raw surface should be dressed daily with an antiseptic, as a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid. Either of these operations, if properly performed, is successful in removing the hernia, but the results are not always favorable, as it is not uncommon for lockjaw to result after any operation for this purpose that causes a raw surface.

Another and safer, though often a more tedious mode of treatment, is the application of a truss. This does not produce a sore, hence the danger of lockjaw is avoided. A truss of leather, or strong sacking, about four inches wide, with a protuberance about the size of half a large orange on its surface, is placed around the abdomen, the protuberance being placed over the navel after the hernia has been forced into the cavity; straps and buckles, or strings, are needed to adjust the truss. The tendency is for the truss to slip backwards, and this must be avoided by attaching to the anterior border of the truss, either straps or strings, which come forward between the fore legs and from the sides, and attach to a strap around the colt's neck. A man has an opportunity of exercising his ingenuity in adjusting a truss for this purpose. Care must be taken to not cause sufficient friction to scarify the skin, and close watch should be given, and the truss readjusted if it becomes displaced. In the majority of cases this will effect a cure in from two to three weeks, and in the meantime the colt is allowed to run with its dam. If the abdominal opening be quite large, the truss may fail to effect a cure, and one of the operations mentioned becomes necessary, notwithstanding the risks mentioned. "WHIP."

Favors Licensing Stallions.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Having noticed in your issue of May 5th an article from J. J. A. regarding licensing stallions, I agree with every word he says, and I fully believe that many farmers who are no judge of a horse are imposed upon by owners of inferior stallions. I know of more than a dozen farmers who bred to a stallion because the owner had a good cut of a horse on his bills; they thought it was the horse's picture. I know of another party who has a registered Clyde stallion, and insures a foal for \$5.00, and his veterinary says the horse has two thoroughpins. Now, I believe if farmers knew this they would not use this horse at any price. I would suggest that the "Farmer's Advocate" take this matter up, in whatever way they think best, for their past record has convinced me that they can accomplish anything they undertake, and they will be doing a twofold good by protecting the farmer who is a poor judge of a horse, and by encouraging the men who are not afraid to invest a good price for a good pure-bred stallion. Prescott Co., Ont. G. A. R.

Drafters Show.

Reports current indicate that the champions of the different draft breeds of horses intend to make one of the strongest exhibits of draft geldings yet seen at the St. Louis Fair, and afterwards at the 1904 International. Rumors are circulating to the effect that the best Britain and the continent can produce will be in competition with the choice of the States and Canadian-bred drafters. A story is going the rounds that a specially selected lot from Scotland is now being prepared near Montreal for these two great shows. Whatever of truth there may be in these rumors, one thing is certain, and that is a few of the largest interests in the States are collecting the best that country can breed, and are prepared to give all comers a struggle for the honors. When the best of the two best horse-producing continents meet there should be something doing.

Examples for Boys.

Christopher Columbus was the son of a weaver and also a weaver himself.
Claude Lorraine was bred a pastry-cook.
Cervantes was a common soldier.
Homer was the son of a farmer.
Demosthenes was the son of a cutler.
Oliver Cromwell was the son of a brewer.
Howard was an apprentice to a grocer.
Franklin was a journeyman printer and son of a tallow-chandler and soap-boiler.
Daniel Defoe was a hosier and son of a butcher.
Cardinal Wolsey was the son of a butcher.
Lucian was the son of a maker of statuary.
Virgil was the son of a porter.
Horace was the son of a shop-keeper.
Shakespeare was the son of a wool-stapler.
Milton was the son of a money scrivener.
Robert Burns was the son of a plowman in Ayrshire.—[Exchange.]