

Abortion and Carbolic Acid.

SIR,—I know how very easy it is for a man to criticise and find fault, but there is one paragraph in Mr. Rice's letter on the subject of "The Administration of Carbolic Acid" that should not go unchallenged to the readers of your paper. I have no desire or intention to enter into a discussion on the subject of abortion in cattle. There are a great number of able men in Great Britain, Denmark and Germany who have and are at present making daily observation and experiments on this very obscure disease, so that I shall not attempt to describe or in any way touch the subject, only to say that carbolic acid was tried for every contagious disease twenty years ago and failed in every instance to control or prevent infection by internal administration. Therefore, I desire to draw your attention to one or two very misleading statements in his letter.

In the December issue, page 681, "he had tried carbolic acid for milk fever, and being a student and keen observer, made a study of the trouble, and after having found carbolic acid good to prevent abortion and also to hasten the complete delivery of a retained afterbirth (and why not the fetus?), gave it a trial for the prevention of milk fever, and found it a real success." On page 44, January 15th, 1901, he makes the following remarks: "I have received a number of letters; this must be my reason for writing upon this subject, because I cannot say that I have had any great experience with abortion (happily)." Then he goes on to quote a Mr. William Watson's ideas (now deceased). What I would wish particularly to point out is the fact that this gentleman first of all asserts that he has cured abortion, and in the next breath says he has had no experience in the disease. The harm that may arise from such a rash and unconsidered statement is incalculable. Carbolic acid is a virulent poison, and even so small a dose as 20 drops three times a day will cause indigestion, and as he very naively puts it, "giving any cow a few drops of carbolic acid will do no harm (not to his cows, but what about his neighbor's?), no matter how long she may be bred, and it may do a world of good." In the last paragraph: "If trouble were feared while the cattle were in the pasture, I have mixed diluted creolin with the salt. They could not get an overdose of the medicine, because they would not eat enough, and if some will not eat any, but only smell it often, it will do some good." What I desire to say is, that an experienced breeder should be more careful of his statements. There is no doubt that some breeders will rashly try this method, and perhaps with unfortunate results.

SEMPER PARATUS.

Appreciation.

DEAR SIR,—On the principle that men should not first be allowed to die before we speak of the

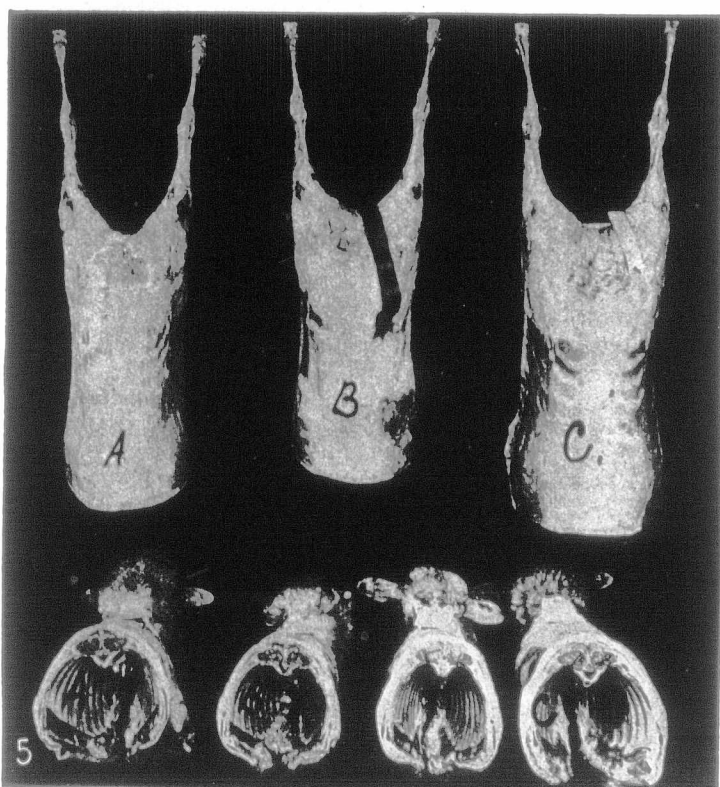


FIGURE III.—REPORT ON SHEEP CARCASSES.

A choice lot of lambs. Any one of them apparently worthy of a prize. The decision was given in favor of B, on account of the better mixture of fat and lean over the ribs. A is a little too thin.

good they are doing, I have decided to drop you a line with reference to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The thought was suggested by the amount and excellence of the matter contained in the issue of Feb. 1st. In the midst of duties almost overwhelming, I spent nearly a whole evening in taking thoughts out of that issue, not with the shears, but with the pen. I may say that it is my custom thus to take thoughts out of all the leading agricultural papers published on the continent. Gauged by this standard, and it ought to be a high standard from which to judge, I find the ADVOCATE more useful than any of the others. Your Christmas number I regard as the most valuable paper of the kind ever issued on the continent. Go on in the good work you are doing, and may you be much prospered in it.

Truly yours, THOS. SHAW.

St. Anthony Park, Minn., Feb. 8, 1901.

FARM.

Spelt, Spelts or Speltz Wheat?

BY WM. SAUNDERS, DIRECTOR DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

Many inquiries have lately been made by correspondents of the Experimental Farms as to the probable usefulness of spelt wheat in different parts of the Dominion.

This variety of wheat is known to botanists as *Triticum spelta*, and is distinguished from other wheats by the adherence of the chaff to the kernel and by the brittleness of the rachis or central stem of the head, on which the spikelets are set. For these reasons the grain cannot be threshed like ordinary wheat, but requires special machinery to separate the kernels from the chaff. This is a very ancient form of wheat. Hackel, in his book on "The True Grasses," says "spelt is one of the oldest grains in cultivation; that in early times it was much cultivated in Egypt and Greece, and subsequently in Roman colonies." It is three times mentioned in the Bible. In Exodus, 9th chapter, 31st verse, we read, "but the wheat and spelt were not smitten, for they were not grown up." The other references are in Isaiah, 28th chapter, 25th verse, and in Ezekiel, 4th chapter and 9th verse.

Within more recent times the cultivation of spelt wheat has greatly decreased, and in most countries has been almost or wholly abandoned. It is still, however, grown to a considerable extent in hilly and mountainous districts in some parts of Germany, Switzerland and Northern Spain.

Hackel says, as the results of experience in Europe: "Spelt has undoubted advantages over naked wheats when grown upon poor soil and with moderate culture. Its demands are less, it is more certain, liable to fewer diseases, and not at all subject to the attacks of birds." He also says that "upon better soil and with reasonable cultivation, the returns are better from common wheat." The late Henry Vilmorin, the well-known French authority on cereals, in his work on wheats, after enumerating the different forms, bearded and beardless, of spelt wheats, speaks of them as being very hardy, remarkably proof against all diseases, enabling people on poor lands and in hilly regions, where other wheats could not be successfully grown, to obtain grain, and subsequently flour. For this reason, he says, they deserve the attention of the agriculturist.

The spikelet of the spelt wheat usually contains but two kernels. These are rather narrow and elongated in form, brittle and riccy in character; in this respect resembling goose wheat.

Among the first importations of foreign wheats made in the spring of 1887 for test on the Dominion Experimental Farms were two varieties of spelt wheat. These were tried at the Central Farm for two years, but the results of their growth here were not encouraging and their cultivation was discontinued.

In the autumn of 1899, when visiting the Experiment Station at North Dakota, U. S., I learned that spelt wheat was grown in some parts of that State as a substitute for barley, and was said to be more productive. Having secured a supply of seed, I arranged for a test to be conducted at all the Dominion Experimental Farms, which was carried out last season with the following results:

Central Experimental Farm.—Sown May 1st; ripened August 18th; time to mature, 109 days. Made strong growth; straw bright, but rather weak and slightly rusted. Length of straw, 30 to 34 inches; length of head, 2 to 3 inches; yield of grain, 2,000 pounds per acre.

Experimental Farm, Nappan, N. S.—Sown May 26th; ripened Sept. 8th; time to mature, 105 days. Growth medium; straw moderately stiff, 34 inches long, slightly rusted. Length of head about 2 inches; yield of grain, 2,640 pounds per acre.

Experimental Farm, Brandon, Man.—Sown April 26th, with a similar plot of Red Fife alongside on April 28th. Both ripened on August 21st, the spelt taking 117 days to mature, and the Red Fife 115 days. Yield of spelt wheat, 2,740 pounds per acre; Red Fife, 1,380 pounds.

Experimental Farm, Indian Head, N. W. T.—Sown April 13th, on clay loam; ripe Sept. 10th; time to mature, 149 days; yield of grain, 1,320 pounds.

Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B. C.—Sown May 11th; ripe August 18th; time to mature, 99 days. Made a strong growth, and did not appear to be subject to either rust or smut. Length of straw, 48 in.; length of head, 2½ in.; yield of grain, 1,340 lbs.

The weight per measured bushel of spelt wheat ranges from 40 to 45 pounds, but as there seems to be no definite standard for this grain, the results of our experiments are given in pounds.

Comparing the yields of spelt wheat at the different Farms with the average given by the best six varieties of six-rowed barley at each of these Farms for the year 1900, we find the following:

	Lbs. Per Acre.
Ottawa—Average yield of six vars. barley	2,792
Average yield of spelt wheat	2,000
Difference in favor of barley	792

	Lbs. Per Acre.
Nappan, N. S.—Average yield of six vars. barley	2,725
Average yield of spelt wheat	2,640
Difference in favor of barley	85
Brandon, Man.—Yield of spelt wheat	2,740
Average yield of six vars. barley	1,902
Difference in favor of spelt wheat	838
Indian Head, N. W. T.—Average yield six vars. barley	2,320
Yield of spelt wheat	1,320
Difference in favor of barley	1,000
Agassiz, B. C.—Average yield of six vars. barley	1,967
Yield of spelt wheat	1,340
Difference in favor of barley	627

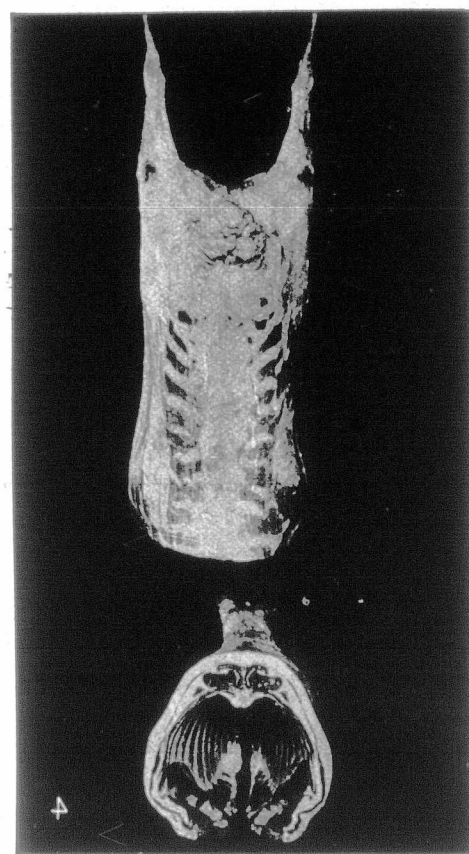


FIGURE IV.—REPORT ON SHEEP CARCASSES.

A prize carcass. Sweepstakes over all breeds. The live animal and the dressed carcass won at Chicago and at Guelph, in December, \$127 in prize money.

Spelt wheat will be further tested, and it may be found of value in some parts of our great country, but the experience had in 1900 at the Dominion Experimental Farms seems to indicate that spelt wheat on the average is inferior in productiveness to the best varieties of six-rowed barley.

A Handy Wire Tightening Device.

In a recent issue is described a method of stretching wire in building fences by the turning of the wheel of a waggon anchored to a stake in the ground. We have a more simple and effective plan. After the wires have been reeled off and lying on the ground, take an ordinary drag boat, put stones enough on it to make a tidy load for one horse. A loop of rope a few feet long is hitched on the wire and put on an upright iron pin or bolt in the rear bar of the boat; then drive on the horse and the strain of the tightening wire stops him, while the load of stones holds the boat to the place with the wire tight. After it is stapled to the posts, with a stick or the hammer handle spring the rope from the iron pin and hitch on to the next wire; a few steps forward and it is tight also. One hundred and fifty yards at a time can be done nicely. Always put the top wire of a fence on first. Macdonald Municipality, Man. A. DRYDEN.

Spelt Once Again.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—“With your permission, I will give you my experience with this cereal. Last spring I imported 45 lbs. from the John Saltzer Co., La Crosse, Wis. I sowed it at about the rate of five pecks to the acre, alongside of oats. The spelt came up first and kept on growing ahead of the oats, and yielded me 40 bushels clean grain. I had no trouble whatever threshing it. I chopped two bags, and it made nice, mealy chop. I am going to try it with young pigs to see how it will feed. As a soiling plant I think it most valuable, as it is much more leafy and remains green longer than oats. I will try it with vetches this spring and report results. Oxford Co., Ont. H. BOLLERT.

Coincidences in Horse Measurements.

In nine cases out of ten it will be found that the height of a horse at its withers is within a small fraction of 2½ times the length of its head. It is very rarely that a horse's height is 2½ times the length of his head. In the same connection it is interesting to note that the length of the head of a horse is almost exactly the same as that from the stifle joint to the hock, and from the point of the hock to the ground.