

Temperature in Milk Production.

To embark in winter dairying without making provision for the proper housing of the cows will prove an unprofitable piece of business. Some are making a mistake at this very point. Disappointment naturally follows. As a usual thing the blame is laid either at the door of the cow or winter dairying itself. The real responsibility is with the man. Possibly he may not have the best cow for the business, but the chances are that he has not so adjusted her conditions that she can render him profitable service in yielding a liberal supply of milk for buttermaking in the winter season. If the untimpered blast and snow beat through the cracks of the old "lean to" against her, and a zero atmosphere chills her blood, the "chop stuff" that is poured into her manger, instead of re-appearing in the milk pail, will be used up in keeping herself warm. Nature is not to be cheated. Like the Arkansas jury that Hoard used to tell about, the cow will "find for herself" first, and if the man will persist in running his head against that inexorable fact so much the worse for the head. Though seemingly obvious, many are slow to realize how important the question of temperature in the stable really is.

In the Scottish Farmer, Mr. Alexander Pottie, M. R. C. V. S., contributed conclusive evidence on this point. A dairy farmer by degrees became unable to pay his rent, and the landlord was about to force him out. The cows, though getting plenty of food, were thin and giving very little milk. Mr. Pottie was called in to settle the dispute if possible, and undertook in one month to effect a marked improvement, the tenant acting under his instructions. What was the result? In the time specified the cows had begun to appear in fair condition, and were giving nearly double the quantity of milk. The stable prior to that had been extremely cold, and this condition of things was aggravated by the feeding of too watery food. Mr. Pottie gave very little extra feed, but took particular pains to bring the temperature of the byre up to 63 degrees, and keep it as near that as possible. In another instance a dairy farmer found that his cows were not milking as they should, though healthy and in fair condition. Mr. Pottie, on investigating, concluded that the temperature of the byre was too low. It was brought up to 63 and kept thereabouts for ten days instead of at about 52 degrees. What was the result? Instead of a loss of £2 per week, there was a net profit realized of £2 18s. 4d., and the following week £3 4s. The profits continued to vary from £2 18s. 2d. to £3 5s. 9d. thereafter from the herd weekly. The farmer had attempted by heavier feeding to correct his losses, but failed, and it was not till the air space of the stable was reduced (there being an open loft above the cows), and the place made comfortable, that the desired result was secured. This was done at practically no expenditure to speak of. No stove or other artificial heating was introduced, the air of the stable being warmed by the heat of the cows' bodies once the great loft was closed.

What is true in the Old Country is just as true in Canada; in fact more care must be taken here because of the severe frosty weather. Let no one, however, be alarmed that he must necessarily erect a costly bank barn. Not at all. For temporary purposes the old stable can be made warm by careful "battering" outside and the use of building paper carefully put on and made secure by strips of lath. See that there are no draughts from beneath the floors, as is usually the bane of stables hoisted up on posts. And having made the stable warm, see that it is well lighted, for a dark stable is usually a dirty one. Cows should have pure air to breathe also. Filth in the stable will find its way into the milk and butter.

Western Ontario Dairymen's Association.

The work of cheese factory visitation and milk inspection, so efficiently carried on by Mr. T. B. Millar, under the direction of the above Association, will be continued next season, commencing on April 1st, the Executive having recently re-engaged his services. During January, February and March, Mr. Millar will have charge of the milk testing department at the Ontario Agricultural College Dairy School, Guelph.

The Association also retains the services of Mr. J. W. Wheaton, as secretary. The wonderfully increased membership, the great success of the annual and local conventions, and general helpfulness of the Association to the dairy industry, speak volumes for his energy and executive ability.

At the annual convention to be held in Stratford on January 15, 16 and 17, the following are expected to give addresses: Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. Thos. Ballantyne; Mr. John Gould, Ohio; Mr. C. H. Everett, president of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association; Mr. F. M. Davis, Potsdam, N. Y.; Prof. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner; Prof. Fletcher, Experimental Farm, Ottawa; Prof. Dean, and Messrs. A. T. Bell and Wm. Rennie, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and other practical dairymen.

When a dairyman has mastered the two points of cleanliness and temperature in the dairy, he is a long way on the road to success in producing dairy products of a uniformly high quality, and quality is what money is searching for.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

A Superintendent of Institutes Appointed for the Province of Ontario.

For some time past it has been clear to those who have given thought to the subject that the time has arrived when the work of arranging and providing for the successful carrying out of the annual series of Ontario Farmers' Institutes, and directing the system generally throughout the Province, should be in the hands of a superintendent, whose time and energies would be mainly given to the work. This course has been pursued with great success in several of the States to the South and West. The increasing interest manifested by the farmers of Ontario in availing themselves of this additional means of gaining information, and hearing experienced and successful men discuss questions with which they are familiar, has encouraged the Provincial Minister of Agriculture to extend the work, and to place it more directly in the hands of a capable and efficient officer. The present is an important juncture in Canadian farming. Never was knowledge more needed; but beyond this function the Institute has an inspiring and unifying value as an agency in bringing farmers into closer confidence and sympathy with each other.

The choice of the Minister of Agriculture has fallen upon Mr. F. W. Hodson for this important post. A general awakening in Institute work may be looked for. His success of recent years of developing organizations of breeders is especially a good guarantee for the future. We bespeak for him the hearty co-operation of local institute workers, and predict an era of extended and increasing usefulness in the Institute system under his supervision.

SKETCH OF THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT.

BY J. C. SNELL.

The announcement that Mr. F. W. Hodson, of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, Ont., has been appointed to the above position will be received with favor by all who know the man, his antecedents, his fitness for the work and the whole-souled energy which he throws into any task he undertakes. For the information of those who do not know him so well, the following brief sketch of his life and career is presented:—

Mr. Hodson was born in 1836, in Whitby Township, Ontario. His early education was received at the Public school, the graded school in the village of Brooklin, and the Whitby Collegiate Institute, in all of which he distinguished himself by his energy, perseverance and ability. Of a practical turn of mind, he sought useful knowledge by reading the best books he could secure, and by close observation of his surroundings. In the spring of 1880, the late William Weld, Esq., of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, whose custom was to visit successful farmers and stock raisers, to study their methods and to learn the secret of their progress, discovered in Mr. Hodson the promise of a valuable associate, and chose him as assistant editor. On receiving this appointment, he left the farm, and for two years resided in London, throwing all his energy into the work. In 1882, finding the confinement incident to editorial work injurious to his health, he resigned and resumed farming. In April, 1887, he returned to the ADVOCATE, where he has since remained, giving his best energies to the extension of its influence.

As an organizer, Mr. Hodson has done his best work. In 1889, aided by prominent breeders, he founded the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and the next year the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association. He has since been joint secretary and executive head for these two bodies, which have done so much in forwarding the interests of the breeders, in the wider diffusion of information, and in promoting the spread of improved stock. Carefully conducted sheep and swine records of the best standard have been established for registering the pedigrees of pure-bred animals. Valuable reports of the proceedings of these Associations, containing papers by practical breeders and feeders of stock, have been freely circulated and published in the agricultural papers. Delegates from these associations have been accorded a place on the committees of the leading Fair Boards of the Dominion, to watch the interests of exhibitors and breeders. A list of competent judges have been nominated each year, from which Fair Boards have made their selections with good results. A very successful winter fair has been held in connection with the Provincial Fat Stock Show, and liberal prizes paid by the Breeders' Associations. This show has been instrumental in showing what splendid results can be attained by good breeding and liberal feeding combined. In 1891-2 he acted as associate judge of Ontario farms entered in competition for medals given by the Agricultural and Arts Association.

As a money making farmer, he succeeded under circumstances not the most favorable, but such as would have discouraged and daunted a less determined and less hopeful soul. His ancestors were prominent breeders of live stock, and at an early age his inclinations in that direction manifested themselves. He is best known as a breeder and importer of Cotswold sheep and as importer of Shropshires. Though attending school part of the time from 1873 to 1876, yet, by working evenings and mornings and holidays, and by directing and assisting others, he turned out several show flocks of a high standard of quality. In 1876, in connection with his father, he fitted a flock of Cotswolds, which were among Canada's most worthy exhibits at the Centennial Exposition. In 1877-8 and 9, he exhibited sheep at many of the leading American shows, capturing a majority of the prizes for which he competed, and selling animals at very remunerative prices. In 1881, through the late H. H. Spencer, he made his first importations of Shropshires, and in partnership with Mr. Spencer he imported a large number of Shropshires and Southdowns in 1882. This also proved profitable. From this time until the spring of 1887, when he resumed his journalistic work, Mr. Hodson devoted his time to the breeding of Cotswold sheep and Berkshire swine, and to feeding cattle for the British market, and for the Christmas and Easter trade. If earnestness of purpose, faithfulness and perseverance, together with an intelligent understanding of the importance of the work, and of the needs of those it is intended to benefit, are qualifications for the position, I feel safe in saying that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has made a wise selection, and has placed the "right man in the right place."

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.

ECZEMA.

THOS. IREDALE, JR., Gartmore:—"I have a horse eight years old; came in two weeks ago with a chill, went off his feed, had a stoppage in his water for two days and a night. After I had got his kidneys to act freely, pimples came out all over the lower part of his body and neck—the pimples were about the size of a five cent piece—and broke and ran enough to form scabs, then dried up. His appetite has since then improved. Three days ago his sheath swelled up, and since then his belly has swollen up to the front legs; when pressed with the fingers, the impression remains for a short time. His eyelids also were so swollen that he could hardly see for twenty-four hours; they ran a little matter and then the swelling went away."

[Your horse's ailment is a form of eczema, and is probably due to faulty assimilation of the nutritive properties of the food, or to an inactive condition of the excretory glands of the skin, causing retention of effete material in the system. Feed the animal exclusively on bran mashes for twenty-four hours, and then give the following in the form of a ball:—Barbadoes aloes, six drachms; calomel, one drachm; ground ginger, two drachms; syrup or soap, a sufficient quantity. Continue the bran mash diet until the physic has ceased to operate. After this, give morning and evening in food, for one week: Hyposulphite of soda, three drachms; nitrate of potass, and gentian (pulverized), of each two drachms. If the skin remains sore, apply to it twice daily: Acetate of lead, one ounce; tinct. of opium, four ounces; add water to make one quart. W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., Winnipeg.]

UNTHRIFTY CONDITION OF MARE AND SPINAL AFFECTION.

H. DELF, Indian Ford, Man.:—"I could you inform me what is the matter with my mare. She is eight years old, and in poor condition. When standing in the stable all night her legs stock up, her eyes are dull, skin loose, and she is troubled with a few pin-worms. I cannot get her fat. I feed her flax seed and boiled oats at night, and two gallons of oats every day, and lots of good hay. She works every day and has a good appetite. (2) I also have another horse ten years old, and in good condition. He works every day, but towards night gets played out; he seems to have no use in his hind part; when we back him up or turn him short he falls down. He sweats across the hind part, at night. He eats well, he gets three gallons of oats a day, and lots of good hay."

[There are several causes that would be productive of the condition you have mentioned, but, from your description of the case, I am unable to decide as to which of them is operating. I would, however, advise you to treat as follows:—Feed on small rations of bran mash for twenty-four hours, and then give in bolus: Barbadoes aloes, five drachms; areca nut, three drachms; fluid extract of male-fern, four drachms; santalin, twenty-five grains. Forty-eight hours after giving the above, commence and give morning and evening in food, for ten days: Sulphate of iron, nitrate of potassium, and gentian, of each one drachm. (2) The horse is suffering from an affection of the spine, and being up in years, he probably will never recover. You may try the following treatment: Give morning and evening in food, for two weeks: nux vomica, pulv., bicarbonate of potassium, and gentian, of each one drachm. Rest is absolutely necessary. W. A. DUNBAR, V. S.]

BONE SPAVIN.

F. N., Wawanesa, Man.:—"I have a mare that about a year ago became very lame in nigh hind leg, and subsequently a swelling came on the inside of hock joint on that leg. It is now quite large, and the mare very lame. I have shown it to local vets., who pronounce it bone spavin, and, under their direction, I have fired it once and blistered it repeatedly, but without any apparent benefit. Can you recommend anything likely to prove effectual?"

[I would advise you to repeat the firing, and see that the application is properly performed. Superficial firing is of very little value in most cases of bone spavin, and to be of benefit it should be done deeply with the budding or pointed iron. The parts, after firing, should be kept open by the judicious application of blisters for at least five weeks. Absolute rest is essential. W. A. DUNBAR, V. S.]

Miscellaneous.

RAPE CULTURE AND SHEEP FEEDING.

WM. HUNTER, Underwood:—"1st. Will rape sown this fall stand the winter, and grow up for pasture next summer. I sowed a field on the 3rd of August, but it did not come up until September, on account of dry weather? 2nd. How is the best way to feed sheep to fatten them through the winter? 3rd. What is the best ration for winter feeding without turnips? 4th. Should sheep run out in a yard when fattening, or will they do as well in a roomy house?"

[1st. The rape plant is a biennial, producing seed the second year when allowed to make full growth the first year, but when so young as in the above-