

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.

ANSWERED BY W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., WINNIPEG, RINGBONE.

J. D. GRAHAM, Carman, Man.:—"A six-year-old mare has a ring bone on one hind foot; it came on when she was two years old, and was blistered at the time; was not lame till about a year ago, but has been getting worse since. The first blister took the hair off; and the place is quite hard now. Please let me know what can be done?"

[The case being of long standing, the only remedy that will be of probable benefit is *firing*, which should be performed only by a properly qualified person.]

SWELLED LEG.

W. B. FRY, Valley P.O., Moosomin:—"Kindly let me know what would be good for a mare with a swollen leg; it is very hard and sore; it swelled off and on all winter. I think there is something in it. Also what is good for worms?"

[You do not state what part of your mare's leg is swollen, nor do you mention whether she is lame or not. The swelling may be due to an inflamed condition of the lymphatic vessels, proceeding from an external or constitutional cause. If the mare is not pregnant, feed her on bran mash alone for sixteen hours and then give purgative dose as follows:—Barbadoes aloes, one ounce; ginger, two drachms; soft soap sufficient to form a ball. Continue the bran-mash diet while the medicine is operating. When purgation has ceased, give morning and evening, in bran mash, for ten days:—nitrate of potassium, two drachms; sulphate of iron and powdered gentian, of each one drachm. If the swelling is between the hock and foot of the hind leg, or between the knee and foot of fore-leg, apply the following lotion morning and evening:—Acetate of lead and sulphate of zinc, of each one ounce; methylated spirits, six ounces; fluid extract of belladonna, one ounce; water, one pint. Hand rub the leg downward when applying this lotion and apply a bandage. Give moderate and regular exercise. Feed light when animal is not working. For worms, give on an empty stomach:—raw linseed oil, one pint; turpentine and sulphuric ether, of each one ounce. Follow up by giving, in bran-mash, every morning for one week, nuxvomica and sulphate of iron, of each one drachm.]

LAME FOWLS.

A. McLEOD, Portage la Prairie:—"I should like you to give me an opinion as to what to do with my fowl. About the 1st May a game rooster in his third season took lame in his right leg, which was gradually grown worse, until now he has no use of the limb. The claws are doubled right under. A young cockerel took it some three weeks ago and is now in about the same state. No hens have as yet been affected. The roost is dry and warm?"

[Your roosters are possibly suffering from arthritic gout, brought on by heavy feeding and, by not having to scratch for their living, insufficient exercise. Examine the feet and see if there are any nodules (small hard lumps) upon the under surface near the junction of the toes. Is your hen-house large enough for the number of hens that occupy it? You have stated that the roost is dry and warm; is it clean and large enough so that the birds can sit upon it without having to grasp it with their feet? Have you a dry yard with ample scratching and dusting facilities in it? Please answer the above questions.]

ECZEMA.

A FARMER, Lorie, Assa:—"A five-year-old horse had scratches very bad last summer, were very hard to heal, and were *stocked* until winter; gave gentian and iron sulphate, which partially reduced swelling. The scratches are getting bad again, worse before rain, and there are small sore spots all over leg from fetlock to hock. What is wrong, and how can I cure it?"

[Your horse's system is out of condition, and the legs manifest a tendency to become "greasy." Feed exclusively on bran mash for sixteen hours, and then give the following purgative dose:—Barbadoes aloes, seven drachms; calomel, one drachm; ginger, two drachms; syrup or soap, sufficient to form a ball. Continue the bran mash diet until the physic has ceased to operate. After this give every morning in mash for two weeks: Hyposulphite of soda, half an ounce; powdered gentian, two drachms; and, during the same period, give every evening iodide of potassium, one drachm. While the legs remain swollen bandage them at night, and apply to them once or twice a day the following ointment:—Boric acid, iodoform and carbolic acid, of each two drachms; vasoline, four ounces; mix. Give regular exercise. Feed very moderately of grain when not working.]

J. WORTLEY BELLHOUSE, Marringhurst, Man.:—"Some three-week-old pigs of mine took sick, seemed to get weak in the back and hind legs, and in a few days, though otherwise apparently in good condition, died. I have other pigs just born, and should like to know the cause and cure, if there is any, for the above complaint?"

[The symptoms are those of indigestion, resulting in constipation and partial paralysis, due, probably, to a faulty condition of the sow's milk. Give the sow a purgative, consisting of from four to six ounces of Epsom salts, according to age and size of sow. Dissolve the salts in one pint of hot water, and add a teaspoonful of ground ginger. Give small pigs a dessertspoonful of castor oil, and rub belly and back with a liniment composed of spirits of camphor, three ounces; soap liniment, four ounces; fluid extract of belladonna, one ounce. Give good attention to the sanitary condition of your pig house, and see that your young pigs have dry shelter from the hot rays of the sun.]

ANSWERED BY DR. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S., TORONTO, SPECIFIC OPHTHALMIA.

LYNDEN:—"Will you kindly inform me what is wrong with my horse? Last spring he had a severe attack of influenza, which I fancy has made him deaf, and when leading him into the stable he is disinclined to enter. When driving him along the road, he will go right up to any object and then suddenly shy away from it. I would like to know what to do with him, as he is a valuable animal."

[This is a serious affection of the eyes, and very often the result of an attack of influenza. It runs its course with considerable rapidity, and often apparently subsides without treatment, returning, however, after a short interval, each attack leaving the eyes weaker than before until a "cataract" forms, when blindness results. When due, as may be in this case, to paralysis of the optic nerve, it is known as "amaurosis" amongst veterinary surgeons. It is rarely attended with that swollen condition of the eyelids, or excessive secretion of tears, which accompanies the more common form of ophthalmia. Probably due to hereditary predisposition, with the attack of influenza as the exciting cause. The pupil of the eye will be seen to be fully dilated, but will not respond to the influence of light. There is no treatment likely to be of service: warm fomentation and a lotion of a soothing character may be used. Take acetate of lead liquid, two drachms; tincture of opium, twenty drops; water, one pint; and bathe the eyes night and morning.]

Miscellaneous.

STERILIZED MILK.

JOHN PEARCE:—"1st. What is sterilized milk? 2nd. How is it sterilized? 3rd. Where, and for what price is it usually sold? 4th. Is it true that sterilized milk will keep for some length of time? Much longer than otherwise? 5th. With a herd of from fifteen to twenty cows, could it be made to pay?"

[1. Milk which has been heated to a temperature of about 175 degrees Fahr., is popularly called "Sterilized Milk."

2. The heating may be effected in a vessel over a fire or by the use of steam or hot water under the milk pan or milk can.

3. Such milk is sometimes sold in the large cities of Canada and the United States. The price is often one cent or two cents per quart higher than that charged for ordinary milk.

4. Sterilized milk, if protected from contact with ordinary air, will keep sweet for a day or sometimes several days longer than ordinary milk which has not been so treated.

5. The question of profit would depend entirely upon whether the purchasers were willing to pay an increased price for the product.]

APIARY.

Increase by Dividing.

On account of the slight percentage of increase, a number of bee-keepers appear to have become anxious to increase the number of colonies by artificial means. I have been requested by letter to give my views as to the advisability of dividing colonies after the honey flow, and lately have come across a man who had actually done so. The argument is, that the hive after the upper story has been on it appears crowded, and a good strong colony should still remain for winter after dividing. My advice would be, not to divide; it will be found when cold weather comes there are none too many bees, and dividing late in the season lessens the chance of successful wintering. Then nothing is to be gained by dividing a colony after the honey flow, from a dollars and cents standpoint: the hive, combs and stores for winter, added to the risk of winter loss ordinary, is greater than the price of a colony in the spring, to say nothing of the queen that should be purchased to put with the queenless divided colony.

PRICE OF HONEY.

Readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will be interested in the price of honey. The season throughout Canada has been a rather poor one for honey, the crop is probably slightly better than last year, and prices should be about the same as last year. There should be a fair margin between retail prices to consumers and prices to storekeepers; if this is not given, the storekeeper will not handle our produce, and we lose a portion of our market, as he is able to reach many we fail to sell to. It is a serious mistake to sell for less retail sooner than wholesale; for instance, suppose 10 lbs. of honey are retailed at 12c. per lb., and the

wholesale price is 10c. per lb., too many will cut prices, and retail at 11c. in preference to wholesaling at 10c. Such an action has the effect of driving storekeepers from handling honey, and injures the bee-keeper. There should be a business-like distinction between wholesale and retail, and the rule not departed from.

NOTES.

Comb honey should be properly graded, light honey well filled being number one, light honey not well filled number two, and dark grades of honey number three; it does not pay to mix them.

Now is the time to see that every colony has at least thirty pounds of honey for winter stores. An eight-frame Langstrath hive, consisting of bottom board, body, eight frames, with combs and lid, should weigh with bees and stores sixty pounds. If you know what the hive you use weighs with combs in, it is not a difficult matter to find out when the colony has thirty pounds of stores; yet the weight of the combs vary considerably, old combs weighing very much more than new. I allow 30 lbs. for bees, hive and combs in a Langstrath. If a colony is short of stores, the more quickly it is fed the better. A good feeder (by that I mean a feeder so constructed that the bees can take the honey from it rapidly, the bees will not drown, and the syrup can be put into it without coming in contact with the bees), such a feeder should be used, and it should never be empty day or night until the required amount is fed; by such a method there will be less waste than if a small quantity only is fed each day. We should not make the mistake to think when 20 lbs. of syrup are given to the bees they will gain 20 lbs.; from repeated tests the best that can be expected is a gain of 15 lbs., and often very much worse—they might not gain more than 5 lbs. It is yet an unsolved problem what is done with this quantity lost in storing; that the results are such is, however, sufficient—the scientific explanation we will leave to our professors. If there is still honey uncapped in sections, they should be spread in the supers; the bees will then carry the honey below. To do this quickly a quilt may be put between the comb honey super and the brood-chamber, with one end of the quilt turned up; this gives the bees a chance to come up and carry down the honey. If there is honey in the extracting supers they should be removed, a quilt, as in the comb honey, placed in position, and the extracting comb spread after uncapping all sealed honey. Of course, if there is plenty of honey below in the hive, this is not necessary. A few combs of sealed stores should then be kept for colonies which may be short in the spring. For stimulative feeding they are far better than anything else, and worth more than the price of the honey which could be extracted. As with farm stock, cattle, horses, &c., it does not pay to starve bees, and it is well to look a long way ahead of us.

Syrup for feeding should be made of two parts granulated sugar to one of water, the mixture brought to a boil; syrup should be put into the feeder when about blood heat.

Avoid exposing sweets to the bees; feed at night and early in the morning, and wash away carefully any honey you may spill in pouring into the feeder. Do not attempt to feed up weak colonies—give it to the stronger, and after the syrup has been stored in the combs give them to the weaker; this prevents robbing.

The Apiary.

CONDUCTED BY ALLEN PRINGLE.

ONTARIO HONEY AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

As in every other department, the honey exhibit from Ontario at the World's Fair is attracting attention by its excellence and extent. No state in the union, or other exhibitor, has anything like such a display of extracted honey as Ontario, and only one (New York) has more comb honey. The Chicago press has spoken highly of our exhibit, and while it might be naturally expected that the Canadian press would not underrate our exhibits in any department, we may be equally sure that the American press will not overrate them. The Chicago papers more than one of them have spoken in high terms of the exhibits in my charge. The *Inter-Ocean* is a leading paper of this city, and has a high and wide reputation. In a late issue it had the following:—"Up in the east end of the agricultural building, under charge of Superintendent Allen Pringle, there is an exhibit which makes the heart of the small boy sigh for cold weather and buckwheat cakes. This is the Ontario honey exhibit, and here again excellence seems to have been the rule in selecting the exhibit. An experienced grower of honey himself, Mr. Pringle takes more than ordinary interest in the product of these industrious little workers. The various grades are all set apart and labeled. For instance, this dark honey down on the lower shelf of the cabinet Mr. Pringle says is made from the buckwheat blossom, and does not rank in flavor with the honey made from the Linden tree flower, or from the flower of the thistle. The honey taken from the clover blossom is regarded as about the best, both in color and flavor."

A New York gentleman, who inspected the exhibit a few days ago, wished to sample a fifty pound cake of granulated thistle honey, which Mr. D. Chalmers, of Poole, Ont., contributed. With pen knife I got him the taste. He declared it was the finest flavored honey he had ever tasted, and that was saying a great deal.