

## Veterinary Department.

### Choking in Cattle.

During the autumn and winter months, we are frequently consulted on cases of choking in cattle. At this season, it is commonly produced from feeding on turnips, potatoes, carrots, &c., or it is sometimes produced by an apple becoming lodged in the oesophagus or gullet. It may also be produced by an accumulation of chopped hay or straw. The obstruction may become lodged in any part of the gullet, but it is most apt to be retained in the cervical portion. I because it is narrower there than the part that is within the thoracic cavity.

Generally, choking is easily detected, as the symptoms are of a very alarming nature. There is usually active suffocation, and if the animal attempts to drink water, it is unable to swallow, and part of the fluid will be returned through the nostrils. There is also a spasmodic action of the muscles of the larynx, and of the muscles of the neck, as well as an increased flow of saliva from the mouth, and this is usually greatest when the obstruction is in the cervical portion. Examination from the outside will frequently detect the obstruction. If the rumen becomes tympanitic, it is distended with gas, and is a most serious complication. In the treatment of choking, the obstacle may often be dislodged by manipulation from the outside, by keeping the head protruded, and pressing gently on the gullet; also give small quantities of oil, either linseed or sweet oil, this tends to lubricate the parts, and the animal, in its attempts to swallow, does frequently remove the offending body. When it is near the upper part of the gullet, it may be removed by means of the hand passed to the back of the tongue, and in doing so it is necessary to use an instrument to keep the mouth open. When the rumen becomes alarmingly distended, it may be necessary to puncture it. The proper place for puncturing the rumen is equi-distant between the last rib and the haunch bone of the left side. An accident occasionally incidental to choking is laceration of the walls of the gullet. This may either be produced from the obstruction, or from the abuse of instruments in attempting to force a passage. Frequently a whip stock, or sometimes a walking stick, is thrust down the poor animal's gullet, and the attempted cure proves worse than the disease. In some cases it is necessary to use the probang, which is a perfectly safe remedy, in competent hands.

### Diarrhoea among Dairy Cows.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—You will much oblige by giving me information as to the cause of a disease which my cows are affected with, and also a remedy for same. I have fifty cows, which I stabled about the first of November, most of them in good condition. I fed them regularly Swede turnips, three times a day, about half a bushel per day to each cow. One-half of the cows I fed with hay, the remainder with oat straw. I allow them to go out of the stable once a day, when they get a plentiful supply of water from the creek. They all appeared to do well for a time, until some of them took the scours, which reduces them to complete weakness, and it appears to be running through the whole of my cows. My turnips were grown on old land, manured with barnyard manure. I also applied one barrel of plaster to three acres of the roots. The turnips I first fed were taken from the field and secured in a brick root-house; those I am now feeding I take from a pit. While I fed the turnips from the root-house the cattle did not appear the least affected. My cattle are housed in the same way, in a good, warm, comfortable stable.

I have three cattle which I am fattening. I feed them regularly from the same feed and turnips, say about one and one-half bushels per day, but I do not allow them any water. They have not been in the least affected.

By your giving me any advice as to the cause or remedy for same, you will much oblige.

RICHARD MANNING,  
Exeter Cheese Factory.

Ans.—We are of opinion that the diarrhoea or scouring is the result of feeding largely on turnips, and at the same time allowing large quantities of water. It is also possible that the turnips in the pit were partly frozen, and in that state they would prove injurious and give rise to the symptoms described.

We would recommend to change the food for a short time, and give a few doses of the carbonate of soda combined with powdered gentian, say two drachms of each, morning and night, given in a pint of oatmeal gruel. If the weakness increases, give to each cow one quart of warm ale daily, and mix with it two drachms each of powdered gentian and ginger. We also think it would be advisable to feed a good deal on cooked food, as boiled turnips mixed with bran and chaff, and also to allow a regular supply of well kept hay. If the diarrhoea does not stop when the food is changed, but increases, then more powerful astringents must be used, such as powdered opium, one scruple, to be given twice a day in a pint of starch gruel, until the scouring ceases.

### Injuries and Diseases of the Lips.

THE lips in all animals are liable to be torn on nails and hooks, or on projecting teeth. In horses they are sometimes injured from falling against rough stones; whilst from the cruel and senseless use of the twitch sloughs occasionally separate from the upper lip. The lips when torn or cut are with difficulty secured with sutures, for they are acutely sensitive, and besides, enjoy much freedom of movement. The animal must, however, be kept as quiet as possible until the severed surfaces are brought together with a needle and fine silver wire. In very troublesome cases, it may be well to cast and secure the horse. It is a mistake to prune away, as is sometimes done, loose portions of skin, for unless very seriously injured, when brought into opposition with the living texture union speedily occurs, and thus blebbling is prevented, or at least greatly lessened. The lips are occasionally the seat of warts, and in grey and white horses of melanotic tumours. When superficial and interfering with the prehension of the food, these swellings may be removed. Farcy buds sometimes appear on the lips.

From the eating of hard grasses or clover, as for example, from well ripened strong ryegrass, coarse trifolium or old vetches, the lips, especially of sheep, are sometimes irritated and inflamed; the mucous membrane is abraded, troublesome cracks and occasionally ulcers appear. Young cattle suffer in a similar way when foddered on coarse barley straw. In like manner sheep often have sore lips and mouths when compelled to cut their own roots. In some localities the roots, even when cut and given in troughs, if eaten, as they sometimes are, when smeared with mud, are apt to irritate the lips, particularly of young sheep. Turpentine, strong ammonia, and other such caustic substances, when given incautiously, irritate and inflame the lips.

In febrile complaints the lips sympathise with the rest of the digestive tract, and become dry; whilst in inflammation of the bowels and low fevers they are covered with dingy scales. The eruptions of simple and epizootic aphthae, and of cattle plague, are often noticeable within the lips, as well as in the mouth. Ulcers sometimes appear within the lips, usually resulting from derangement of the digestive organs.

The treatment in most of these cases consists in the removal of any causes of irritation; in feeding the animals so long as the lips are tender upon soft food easy of prehension; in washing the irritable surfaces with some simple astringent lotion, such as Goulard's extract diluted with six or eight parts of water, or a weak solution of alum or of borax.

From injury of the brain or spinal chord the lips are occasionally paralyzed, hanging pendulous as in old age, or being drawn to one side.—*North British Agriculturist.*

SWELLING OF THE SUBMAXILLARY GLANDS.—"R.M.," Canfield, wishes to know whether we or any of our correspondents can inform him if there is any cure for Oosels in cattle, and if so, what it is. Perhaps," he writes, "I have not got the right name of the disease, but this is what I am informed it is. I have a yearling bull that is affected, having a lump on each side of his throat about the size of a duck's egg, and which I am informed will continue to grow until they choke him. I hope you will be able to inform me through your valuable journal the name of the disease, and means of cure, if any."

Ans.—We are unable to make out the disease you refer to, but are of opinion your bull is affected with an enlargement of the glands in the submaxillary region. The hair should be cut off the enlarged parts, and a blistering ointment applied, made up of biniodide of mercury one part, to eight parts of lard. A small quantity to be well rubbed in once a week, and a day or two afterwards dress with lard. Continue this treatment for several weeks.

WARBLES ON THE BACKS OF CATTLE.—"An Amateur Farmer" writes from Riviere du Loup, Quebec, as follows:

"Will you, or some of your correspondents, give, through the columns of the CANADA FARMER, a cure (or kill) for maggots on the backs of cattle? Also, a good method for marking sheep?"

Ans.—The larvae causing the warbles on the backs of cattle are best got rid of by puncturing the warble with a strong needle, and then squeezing with the finger and thumb, when the larva shoots out with much force. The parts should be dressed immediately afterwards with oil of tar.

Various methods have been described for marking sheep in previous numbers of this journal. If any farmer will record his experience, for the benefit of our correspondent and others, we shall be glad to publish the communication.

## Poultry Yard.

### Standard of Excellence in Exhibition Poultry.

#### POLISH.

##### GENERAL SHAPE—COCK.

*Crest*—Composed of feathers similar in texture to the hackles, very large, round, close, and well fitted on the crown of the head, falling backwards, and rather lower on the sides than over the back, but not so low on the sides as to prevent the bird from seeing.

*Head*—With round protuberance on the top, concealed by the large crest.

*Eye*—Large, full, and bright.

*Beak*—Small, even on the surface, rounded on the lower edge.

*Wattles*—In the unbearded varieties, thin and pendulous; in the bearded varieties, none—the under side of the beak and throat being covered with a full, close, muffy beard.

*Neck*—Medium in length, slightly and neatly curving over the back and well hackled.

*Breast*—Deep, full, round, and carried prominently forward.

*Back*—Perfectly straight, wide between the shoulders, and tapering to the tail, hip-bones even.

*Wings*—Ample.

*Tail*—Large, rather erect, expanded and well adorned with sickle feathers.

*Thighs*—Short in the white-crested black, rather long in the speckled varieties.

*Legs*—Rather short in the white-crested blacks, long in the speckled varieties.

*Carriage*—Erect.

##### GENERAL SHAPE—HEN.

*Crest*—Very large, round, straight on the head, not inclining to either side, the surface close, firm and even.

*Head*—Round, the protuberance concealed by the crest.

*Eye*—Large, full, and bright.

*Beak*—Small, even on the surface, and rounded on the lower edge.

*Wattles*—In the unbearded varieties, small and thin; in the bearded varieties, none—the throat and under side of the beak being covered with a full close beard.

*Neck*—Rather short and taper.

*Breast*—Very full, round, and prominent.

*Back*—Straight, the hip-bones even.

*Wings*—Ample.

*Tail*—Large, expanded, and broad at the end.

*Thighs*—Short in the white-crested black, rather long in the speckled varieties.

*Legs*—Clean, neat, and taper; short in the white-crested blacks, rather long in the speckled varieties.

*Carriage*—Rather upright.

#### WHITE-CRESTED BLACK POLISH

##### COLOR.

*Crest*—Pure white; the less black in front the better.

*Beak*—Pure opaline white.

*Remainder of Plumage*—Uniformly rich glossy black.

*Eyes*—Laden blue, or black.