

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.
SURGERY NECESSARY.

A. H. R., Gladstone, Man.:—"I had a one-year-old colt castrated last spring; about a week after something like a cord appeared hanging from the wound; it was about an inch long, and remained for ten days; then a small swelling came in the back part of the sheath just in front of the wounds, it continued swelling until now it is as large as one's fist; swelling is quite hard, one of the wounds is not yet healed, colt seems healthy and is thriving well. Please advise."

Your colt was probably castrated by the clamp method, which, by prolonged tension of the cords, is frequently productive of the trouble you have mentioned. The ends of the cords, having to remain so long in contact with the tissues of the scrotum, become attached thereto, causing extra irritation, inflammation and consequent tumefaction. The proper remedy is to remove the tumor by surgical means, but the operation should be undertaken only by a qualified person.

WORMS IN HORSE.

HARRY DOLF, Indian Ford, Man.:—"I have a seven-year-old horse that is run down in flesh and seems weak; when walking he crosses one leg over the other; he is full of worms, both long and short. I gave a physic of one pint linseed oil, and one ounce of aloes, which brought away a good many worms. He feeds well now and has a sleek coat. What can I give to strengthen him?"

Give, morning and evening, in mash, for one week: Nux vomica and sulphate of iron, of each one drachm; areca nut pulv., four drachms. Give a moderate ration of dry grain (oats) at noon.

MARE SUFFERING FROM GENERAL DEBILITY.

"VERITAS VINCIT," Reaburn, Man.:—"I have a mare which foaled about two months ago all right. She was allowed to run with her foal on the prairie, but gradually fell off in flesh until she became very thin, and not coming home at night, was found, next day, lying unable to get up. Getting assistance, we got her home and thought it better to keep her in the hay yard instead of in the stable. Have had her only since 1st June; looked all right when she came, but have since learned that she was poorly fed and hard worked to within two days of foaling. Since I got her she has been regularly fed oats, and, since finding her lying on the prairie, her feed has been chiefly bran-mash, with boiled barley or oats scalded mixed in it. There is a discharge from her nostrils, which may have resulted from getting cold, being kept out, as when she lies down she is yet unable to raise herself, and seems powerless to do so, and we were afraid she might injure herself in the stable. When on her legs she seems all right, and walks around, although rather timidly. Of course we took the foal off her. Aged 13. Seems to want power in the hind legs, or weakness over the loins. Has improved in flesh somewhat since taking care of her and feeds well. What is the best treatment in this case?"

The symptoms you have mentioned are indicative of general debility, arising, probably, from an insufficient supply of nutritive food. It is also quite possible that the animal, being in a weak condition, may have, in attempting to rise, injured the muscles of the loins. Put the mare in a large box stall (one with an earthen floor preferred), where she will be protected from the hot rays of the sun and the cold atmosphere of night. Keep the stall clean, well ventilated, and give plenty of dry bedding. Carefully examine the teeth and see that there is nothing to prevent the proper mastication of food. Give, every morning for two weeks, in boiled grain: Bi-carbonate of potassium, two drachms; and, for the same period, give at night, in a bran mash made by boiling, a tea cupful of flax-seed in sufficient water to scald four quarts of bran, powdered nux vomica, sulphate of iron and capsicum, of each half a drachm; powdered cinchona, two drachms. Rub over the loins once a day, until the skin becomes quite sore, the following liniment: Sweet oil, four ounces; turpentine and strong ammonia, of each two ounces.

ANSWERED BY DR. MOLE, M.R.C.V.S., TORONTO.
LAMINITIS, OR FEVER IN THE FEET.

J. THOMPSON, Barrie, Ont.:—"Will you kindly advise me what to do with my mare. She was foundered some time ago. Her soles have dropped and she is walking on the bones of her feet. There are also large rings or hollows around the feet, as if she is going to lose her hoof."

The mare has what is known as laminitis, or fever in the feet, and descent of the pedal bones has taken place, causing the dropping of the soles. She cannot be cured, as the changes are too great for nature to replace the position of the pedal bones. Shoe her with what is known as the "Quoit Bar Shoe," slightly thicker at the toe than heel, give plenty of frog pressure, and apply a smart blister around the coronets.

SCHIRRUS CORD, THE RESULT OF CASTRATION.

"QUACK," Turtle Lake.:—"I had a colt castrated last spring. Since that time I have noticed a lump grow as big as a man's fist; it breaks every two weeks, runs matter for a day or so, and then heals. What can I do for him? Several of my neighbors' colts are in the same way; one had the lump cut away, but it almost killed the horse."

This condition is one of the results of unskillful castration, is a very troublesome and unlooked-for complication, and due in most cases to rough handling or dragging upon the cord during the operation. These tumors give rise to a stiff, straddling gait and the constant discharge of matter; often grow to an excessive size, one that has been brought under our notice exceeding ten pounds in weight. The horse must be prepared for castration, and the spermatic cord will be found in a hardened condition, from which the word "schirrus" is taken. The tumor must be removed and the parts properly attended, when no doubt a good recovery will ensue. There is no great difficulty in the operation to anyone who understands the anatomy of the parts. The details cannot be described, as so many conditions may be present that could not be foretold. Get a qualified veterinary surgeon to recastrate, when all the above conditions as described in your letter will disappear.

Legal.

FARM RAILWAY CROSSINGS.

JAMES JOHNSON, Marden.:—"A railway company having constructed a farm crossing and placed guards leading from the gates to the track, for the purpose of preventing cattle or other animals from going along the railway lands by the side of their track, and for the purpose of preventing wagons, etc., from going over the bank, the guards being now very old and having become very dilapidated and useless, is the company bound to repair the guards, etc., and what notice are they entitled to that the repairs are required?"

When the railway company constructs a farm crossing they must make it convenient and proper for the purpose of passing or driving over the same; and if the guards were necessary in the first place (as the company must have considered them to be), so they are, we suppose, just as necessary now. The company must keep the crossings, culverts, as well as all fastenings to the gates, etc., in repair; and it is the company's own business to ascertain when repairs are required, and consequently you are not required to give them notice.

RIGHTS UNDER LEASE.

GEORGE COUSINS, Guelph.:—"I have rented a farm for seven years, and am told that my landlord, by his will, proposes to leave the farm to his wife to take it at his death, and after her death to his children. How would the will affect me? Would I still be entitled to occupy the farm for the unexpired portion of the seven years?"

They will could not take away any of your rights under the lease, provided it is properly drawn and signed by your landlord.

My mother died, and by her will bequeathed certain money to me to be received by the sale of land. The payments made for the land were from time to time, as they became due, paid to the executor named in the will, and the moneys were by the executor appropriated to his own use, I being under twenty-one years of age. The executor was my mother's husband, and he has since married again. What would be my rights, in case of the executor's death, to recover my moneys as against the widow and children of the executor, and as against a mortgage of the executor's own property?

[Any moneys received by the executor belonging to you should be paid to you as directed by your mother's will, and the executor must account for and pay over these moneys to the parties entitled, and a judgment may be recovered against the executor; and to satisfy the judgment, of course the executor's property is liable, no matter whether he has a wife or children or not. As against the holder of a mortgage on the executor's estate, the mortgagee is to the extent of his mortgage a purchaser or owner of the property, and, consequently, if the mortgage is bona fide and the money was actually advanced upon it, the mortgage would be entitled to priority.]

Miscellaneous.

COW STABLE CONSTRUCTION.

G. M.:—"How many cubic feet of air should be allotted to a cow in a properly ventilated winter stable?"

2. "What is the best method of ventilating cow stables?"

3. "How to build a cow stable that the walls may be dry in the coldest weather?"

1. From 450 to 500 feet.

2. For perfect ventilation the flues should be built in pairs, one for egress of foul hot air, the other for ingress of cool fresh air: the former from a point immediately underneath the joists up to the cross. Thence the latter from a point just above the floor of the barn above, should reach nearly down to the level of the basement floor in the feed passages. Thus a perfect current will be created. As the cold air is heaviest it will all come down the latter, while the hotter and lighter air will all ascend through the former.

3. Moisture on the inside of walls of any kind in very cold weather is often due to lack of proper ventilation, in order to keep the stable warm enough. Precautions may be taken, however, to good effect. Proper drainage and eavestroughing has a marked effect in keeping the stable walls and surroundings dry. If stone is used in building, care should be taken not to have single stones to reach through the entire thickness, as in such a case frost would have a good conductor. If bricks are used, and built into a hollow wall, moisture will give very little trouble at any time when properly ventilated. Wooden walls having air spaces seldom become damp. The outside of studs should be boarded and battened; the inside boarded, then a layer of tar paper, fastened on by nailing on laths in perpendicular lines from top to bottom; then a lining of boards, which will give an air space from top to bottom.

PROTECTING CLOVER.

C. E. PICKET, Andover.:—"If young grass and clover seeds are covered lightly with buckwheat straw in the autumn, can it be burnt off in the spring without injury to the plants?"

We would not recommend burning off the mulch, as it is probable that the clover will be lifted in places, and would be damaged by the fire. Raking off with a horse rake, if not allowed to become too full, would be a much safer plan.

FEEDING FROZEN TURNIPS.

M. LESSER, Dog Creek, asks if frozen turnips are injurious to cattle.

Frozen food of any kind is very unsafe to feed to any animal. It is almost certain to produce scours, and is liable to induce colic and inflammation of the bowels.

ANSWERED BY J. W. WHEATON, SECRETARY OF WESTERN ONTARIO DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

MILK FERMENTS.

A patron of a cheese factory asks for the cause of the "alkaline ferments," or ferments producing the bad flavors in milk.

All fermentations in milk are produced by very minute forms of life or micro-organisms, generally known by the general name of "Bacteria." They are now considered to be forms of plant life, and can only be seen by means of a powerful microscope. These minute forms of life are in the atmosphere, and more particularly around cess pools, dead carrion, dirty whey-tanks, badly ventilated stables, etc. They do not thrive so well when exposed to a pure atmosphere, and consequently thorough aeration of the milk will put it in a condition to withstand the growth of these germs to a great extent. If the atmosphere is not pure where milk is exposed, germs will find their way into it. If milking could be done so as to exclude the air from the milk, the difficulty would, at least, be partially overcome. Sterilizing has also a marked effect in diminishing the effects of these microbes. Comparatively little is known of bacteria in milk. We only know something of their effects and a few counteracting agents as given above.

DAIRY.

How To Get a Babcock Tester.

Farmers engaged in dairying are finding it absolutely necessary to test their cows for quality of milk as well as quantity. For this purpose nothing equals a four-bottle Babcock Tester, which retails at about \$9. We have completed arrangements enabling us to offer one of these, with pipette, measuring glass and acid, as a premium to every one sending us eighteen new yearly subscribers (accompanied by the cash) to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. One dollar pays from now till the end of 1904. Canvass your neighborhood, and at the fairs, and you can easily secure a "Babcock." No dairyman should be without it.

Quick Churning.

BY PROF. H. H. DEAN, O. A. C., GUELPH.

A great many people are anxious to have the churning done in a few minutes. From ten to fifteen minutes exhausts the patience of the average man or woman. I saw an exception to this while out with the Travelling Dairy in the eastern part of the province in the month of June. As we drove along over the hills and through almost impassable roads, it being the time to do "road work," we passed a log house, and on the shady side was a man and two women. The man was exercising the muscles of his arms in a perpendicular manner, his hands tightly clutching the top end of a dash-churn. From appearance I should judge that when the man grew tired churning, first one woman and then the other took a turn at it. They had evidently made up their minds to a half-day job, and did not seem to be at all put out at it. Possibly one was the man's best girl, and in that case he would not object to the churning lasting for a long time. As a rule, however, the churner wants it to "come quick" and have done with it. Some apparently good authorities recommend quick churning, but our experience goes against this, especially in hot weather. The trouble we have had with rapid churning in summer is that the butter is usually soft, and the churning is not so effectually