

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 IN DOG.

A. G. G.:—"Kindly answer through the columns of your paper if the treatment for eczema in dogs is the same as that given for a horse in this week's issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, except the difference in food. Will the cure be permanent or the disease return next season again. My dog has had it three seasons, and we wish very much to keep him, but unless he improves shall be unable to do so."

[No. The conditions of a dog's life are quite different. The food of this animal is flesh, whilst that of the horse is solely vegetable. Skin diseases of the dog are particularly troublesome to treat, and in some breeds of dogs, nearly incurable; for instance, the white bull terrier, who suffers severely from this form of skin trouble, and takes on a periodic chronic form. In fine-coated dogs it is difficult of cure. The sudden cooling of the skin causes a very serious amount of irritation; the dog, to relieve this, scratches himself into sores; the redness first appears along the belly, inside arms and thighs. This discharge causes a peculiar putrid smell, characteristic of the disease. Treatment will greatly depend on the size, breed, and condition of dog's coat, the extent of disease, etc. Three or four doses of purgative medicine, followed up with tonics of a vegetable character. A cooling lotion in some cases, a parasitic in other cases. A good general wash may be made from one ounce of Little's soluble phenyle, to a quart of water; the animal sponged over twice a day.

WM. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S., Toronto.]

INDIGESTION IN PIGS—SKIN TROUBLE IN HORSE.

D. V. E., Elgin Co., Ont.:—"I read the ADVOCATE with much pleasure and profit, and as I see many questions answered in its columns, I thought I would like to ask some too:

"1. I have some young pigs, twelve weeks old, which did well till after they were weaned at about eight weeks old, then one or two of them got very thin, when I noticed that they were very badly scoured; then I turned them out, when three more got very thin, apparently the same way, so I shut them up again, but they seem very little better, only they do not seem to purge as badly as before they were out. They have also a slight cough. They are in a comfortable pen, and are fed on ground corn and barley, mixed with shorts and bran, which I soak from meal to meal; also, they get a few whole peas and a little corn on the ear at night. Please tell the cause, and cure, if any?"

"2. Have a two-year-old mare, which, just after she was turned out to grass, broke out in small pimples on neck and shoulder; they are very hard and seem to form a sort of head or core in each pimple, and have kept getting larger."

[It is evident that the digestive systems of the pigs have gone wrong, possibly from too concentrated food and lack of outdoor exercise and earthy matter. If it is not convenient to allow the pigs a run on clover or other green pasture, they should be allowed liberal room, and be given sods and charcoal every day. They should also receive green food, such as rape, mangels, clover, apples, etc., besides shorts, soaked in milk if possible. A few cobs of soft green corn occasionally will do them good. Stop feeding barley and peas until the pigs are considerably older.

"3. For all such skin diseases as are here described, the best treatment is half-ounce doses of hypsulphite of soda dissolved in hot water and given in feed twice daily.]

COW POX.

J. S., Huron Co., Ont.:—"I am having a great deal of trouble just now with milking. Cows' teats are covered with scabs, which come off and bleed as soon as we commence to milk. They are very painful, making it almost impossible to milk them. Teats are quite hot. Have been sore for about two weeks. Is it cow pox? How shall I treat them?"

[It is evident from your description that the cows have cow pox, an infectious disease that is carried from one cow to another by milkers. If all the cows in the herd are affected, there will be no advantage in isolating them, but if only a few have sore teats, they should be kept apart from the others until cured, and the same person should not milk the healthy and affected cows. The symptoms of the disease are as follows: The cow becomes feverish, giving less milk. In a few days pimple-like spots appear on the teats. These later give rise to blisters, which turn to scabs. If it were not for the irritation from milking, the scabs would soon dry up and fall off, leaving the teats in a natural condition. The action of milking, unfortunately, often breaks the blisters and scabs and keeps the sores irritated for considerable time.

A good treatment is to feed green or laxative food, such as grass, green corn, roots, bran, etc. Give for ten days in sloppy food, twice a day, a teaspoonful of the following mixture: Saltpetre, sulphur and ground gentian root in equal quantity by weight. Each time before milking bathe the teats with lukewarm water and castile soap; then milk carefully and apply a mixture of sweet oil, 1 ounce, and carbolic acid, 20 drops.]

ECZEMA.

SUBSCRIBER, Neepawa, Man.:—"I have a mare, 6 years old, that has been troubled with itchininess in her skin for over a year. It appears to be worse on her head, shoulders and rump, but to a certain extent is all over her body. She rubs and scratches until the hair is off and sometimes the skin, but the hair grows on very thickly again. There are no pimples to speak of. I showed her to a V. S. when I first noticed it, and he gave me a bottle of stuff to rub on, but it did her no good. Last fall I gave her a spoonful of sulphur in her grain every night for a month, which seemed to do her a lot of good, but did not remove the itchininess entirely. After seeding this year, I let her run on the grass for about a month, in the hopes that this would fix her up all right, but on taking her in to work again, found her as bad as ever. Some people have told me it was mange, but she has stood in stall with the other horses and none of them are affected by it. Besides, I have washed her well with tobacco, but it has done her no good. She looks well, eats well, and works well, and at present is very fat, but is continually scratching, especially at nights. Have never seen any pinworm in her manure, but once or twice have seen those long, round worms. She is a good feeder, and always in good heart. Will weigh 1,400 or over. Could you tell me what is the matter with her and how to cure it?"

[Your mare is evidently affected with a form of eczema, called *eczema simplex*. It differs from mange in not being contagious, nor being caused by a parasite. This form of eczema is sometimes very troublesome and difficult to treat. Prepare the animal for physic by feeding exclusively on a bran-mash diet for at least sixteen hours, and then give: Barbadoes aloes, 1 ounce; calomel, 1 dram; powdered ginger, 2 drams; treacle or soft soap, sufficient to form a ball. Continue the bran-mash rations until the purgative has ceased to operate. After this, give, morning and evening for two weeks, in food or water, two tablespoonfuls of Fowler's solution of arsenic. Wash the itchy parts, or, if necessary, the whole surface of the mare's body and limbs with the following: To each pailful of warm soft water, add 4 ounces of English soft soap and 3 ounces of strong ammonia. After washing well, dry off thoroughly with coarse sacking, and then apply by smart friction with the hands, creolin, 1 ounce; formalin, 1/2 ounce; fluid extract of belladonna, 4 ounces; water, 2 quarts; mix. Repeat the application of the lotion every alternate day for three times. The treatment should be applied before the weather gets cold.]

Miscellaneous.

NEWFOUNDLAND PUPS WANTED.

C. E. C., Stanstead Co., Que.:—"Where can I purchase pure-bred Newfoundland pups?"

[Will some reader tell us where the pups can be secured. An advertisement should bring some business in this connection.]

HOW TO DESTROY HORSE-RADISH.

J. H. W., Norfolk, Ont.:—"Will you be kind enough, through your paper, to tell how to destroy horse-radish? I have a patch of it that is a nuisance."

[The only treatment we can recommend is to repeatedly dig the ground over, and throw out all roots. What have our readers to say on this question?]

SPRAYING COWS TO KEEP OFF FLIES.

WM. W., Oxford Co., Ont.:—"What is the best application for cows to keep off flies?"

[We have from time to time published recipes of mixtures to be applied to cattle to keep off flies, and still the demand for information on this subject continues. We believe many remedies have been faithfully tested, with more or less success. Will readers who have found any sort of application effective kindly write us what it is, how to apply it, and how often applications are necessary.]

BLACK MEDICK

(*Medicago lupulina*).

ANGUS MCINTOSH, Lambton Co., Ont.:—"By this mail I send you specimens of what appears to be a species of clover. It is growing in our clover fields and along the roadsides. Is it a troublesome weed, and what is it called?"

[The plants received are of Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*), resembling white clover in foliage and form, but its blossoms are smaller and yellow. Its flower stems are longer than those of the leaves, and bear, when mature, bunches of seed pods about the size of pin heads and black in color. This plant need not be feared, as it is not difficult to get rid of when a field is broken up, and stock pasture on it as readily as on white clover.]

PRESERVING CIDER.

J. E. S., Wellington Co., Ont.:—"Will you please send me a recipe for keeping cider. I have a customer who wants to know what to put in it."

[The cider from clean sound fruit should be strained through a fine strainer (haircloth is good) into clean barrels (preferably fresh liquor casks). If it is desired to retain the cider in sweet condition, add at once 1 1/2 ounces of salicylic acid to forty gallons of cider. Cork up tightly and no fermentation will take place. If the cider is desired a little sharp, the adding of the acid may be delayed a few days, or until the desired flavor is reached. The salicylic acid may then be added, which will stop the fermentation in less than half an hour. The bung should then be tightly inserted. This is the recipe used by a member of our staff, who is thoroughly satisfied with the results.]

HAMPSHIRE DOWN SHEEP.

M. E., Missisquoi Co., Que.:—"Are there no breeders of Hampshire Down sheep in Canada? I do not find any advertised, and would like to learn the address of breeders or importers."

[Hampshire Down sheep are advertised in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE by Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Hillhurst, Compton, Que., who imported a number last year and this, and made a very fine show of them at the Toronto and Ottawa Exhibitions.]

REGISTRATION OF BERKSHIRES.

E. E. R., Houlton, Maine:—"Can Berkshire pigs from Canadian registered stock be registered in the States, or will they have to be registered in Canada, then transferred? Please advise, as I am about to buy some in Canada."

[They can be registered in the American Berkshire Record on application to the Secretary, John G. Springer, Springfield, Ill. It is not necessary that they be first registered in Canada. Write to Mr. Springer for blank forms of application for registry and transfer.]

HOMEMADE VINEGAR.

READER:—"Kindly publish in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE a recipe for making cider vinegar."

[To every 10 gallons of cider add one gallon of fresh-fallen soft water boiling hot. Also toast a large thick slice of bread; soak thoroughly in good fresh yeast and put into the barrel. Then add a liberal amount of "mother of vinegar"; the more the better. Set at the back of the kitchen stove or any place where the temperature is warm. Keep the bung hole open, with a piece of cheese cloth tacked over to keep out flies, dust, etc. Don't expect good vinegar in less than five or six months, and if not satisfactory in that time, I would advise putting in a few pounds of good brown sugar, or coarse molasses will do, to give more body. A cheap and good vinegar can be made without cider, as follows: To 8 gallons of clean, fresh soft water add 6 quarts of molasses. Turn the mixture into a clean, tight cask; stir well, then add toasted bread soaked in yeast. Place the cask in a warm place, and in ten or fifteen days add "mother of vinegar." If this is not procurable, insert into the barrel a sheet of common writing paper smeared with molasses and torn in narrow strips, and you will have good vinegar.]

ROSCOMMON SHEEP.

THOMAS E. BARTLETT, Hastings Co., Ont.:—"Could you or any of your subscribers tell me, through your much-valued paper: 1. Are the Roscommon sheep adapted to wet and rough ground? 2. As to their weight, and also the weight of their fleece? 3. Where is the nearest place they could be obtained?"

[1. Wet land is not suitable for any class of sheep, but the heavier breeds, such as Roscommon, Lincoln, Cotswold, etc., do better on rich, low, productive pastures than on high, rough land, where smaller and more active breeds would gain a good livelihood. Roscommon sheep, as they appear in their native Irish homes, are very much like our Leicesters, having been greatly improved by infusions of that blood within the last half century. They will do well on moderately rough ground, but hilly, scant pastures are better suited to lighter sheep.

2. The Roscommon sheep is an exceedingly well-made animal, with the characteristic white face, fleece, form and weight of the Leicester.

3. We are not aware that Roscommon sheep have been imported to this side the Atlantic. Our English representative, W. W. Chapman, Fitzalan House, Strand, London, W.C., England, will, if communicated with, furnish information regarding this breed of sheep.]

SELECTING SEED CORN—SORE EYES IN CATTLE.

J. P. B., Ontario Co., Ont.:—"I send the enclosed clipping from a local paper: 'Gather your seed for the next planting when your corn is in the dough. Before getting hard, strip the shuck back, hang it up, and let it dry until cold weather, then house for winter and you will have the strongest and best seed you ever planted.' Do you endorse it? I prefer well-ripened wheat or oats or peas. Corn may be different, but I doubt it."

"2. Can you tell me what is wrong with one of the cows? Some two weeks ago water was observed running from one eye, enough to keep a wet streak on her face. The eye began to whiten, which whiteness got from a filmy to dense state, and now there is some white matter occasionally coming from it. I should have thought she had hurt it in the pasture, but two others have the early symptoms, and I hear there are many cases like it at a kind of a ranch a few miles east of this."

[1. Until the soft, milky substance in kernels of unripened corn is displaced by solid material, the grain is receiving nutritive matter from the stalks until each seed is packed full of hard material, so that corn plucked from the stalk before that has taken place is immature and therefore not in best condition for seed.

2. The cattle with sore eyes are doubtless suffering from infectious ophthalmia, a disease prevalent in many sections of Ontario for the last two or more years. The best treatment we know of was given in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for August 15th issue, page 476, by J. H. Reed, V. S. The affected animals should be housed in darkened quarters and given pound doses of Epsom salts for a mature beast. Drop a few drops in each eye twice a day, of the following lotion: Sulphate of zinc, 12 grains; fluid extract of belladonna, 15 drops; distilled water to make 2 ounces. Bathe the eyes with warm water before applying the lotion.]