

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Veterinary.

EDEMA AND SCRATCHES.

Aged mare, in good condition and working, is swollen under the abdomen. Her hind legs are also swollen, and heels cracked. H. H.

Ans.—Feed bran, only, for eighteen hours, then give a purgative of eight drams aloes, two drams ginger. Feed bran only, and give a little water at a time for twenty-four hours. Follow up with one ounce Fowler's solution of arsenic night and morning for ten days. Cease for one week, and repeat, etc. Poultice the cracks with linseed and charcoal for two days and nights (do not wash), then dress several times daily with sugar of lead, one ounce; sulphate of zinc, one ounce; water, one part. Give regular exercise, and do not feed heavily on grain. The condition is caused by high feeding, and an alteration in the condition of the blood. V.

Miscellaneous.

GRAFTING—PLANTING—CEMENT BUILDING BLOCKS.

1. Would you consider it advisable to top-graft a miscellaneous assortment of fall apples with Spy, Greening and Baldwins?

2. How far apart should spruce for a windbreak be set in a single row?

3. Is there any difference in feeding value of: (a) White and yellow corn; (b) Indian or flint corn, and dent corn?

4. A company here is formed for making cement blocks for building houses. They are about 32 inches long, 10 inches high, 9 inches wide, with a 2-inch dead air space. Do you know how they would be for the purpose, being set in cement of course, or could any of your readers give any information?

M. A. G.

Ans.—1. Yes, provided the trees were hardy, and the proper distance apart.

2. Spruce will spread and fill the space if they are twenty feet apart; but the closer they are together, of course, the sooner the windbreak is formed. We would not set closer than ten feet, nor wider than twenty. If the windbreak is wanted at once, it might be well to set close, and then thin out later on.

3. (a and b) No. chemical analysis show these to be all alike.

4. These blocks are coming into quite general use. The new dairy building on the Toronto Exhibition Grounds is made of this material. Defects in the making of these blocks are possible, and that is the feature to be guarded against. There is no doubt of their durability, if well made.

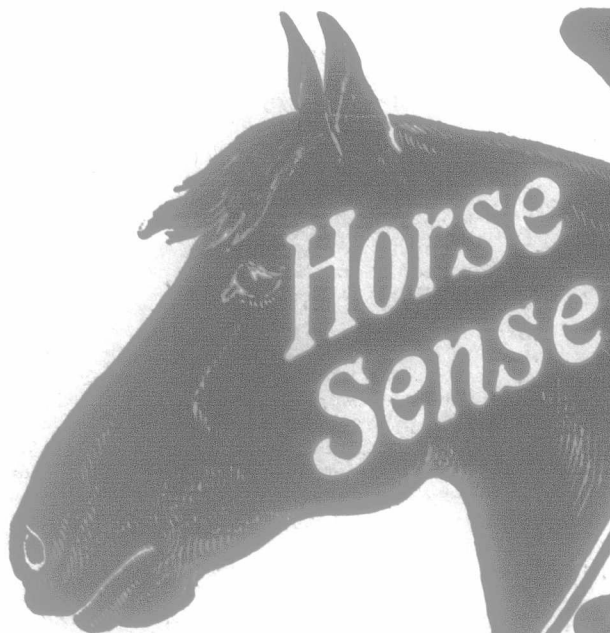
SNOWBIRDS—BARLEY.

1. Does the snowbird change its color, and remain with us the year round? If not, where do they go to for hatching and rearing their young?

2. How does beardless barley compare with any of the bearded varieties, as regards the yield per acre and feeding value? Does it require more seed per acre than the bearded kinds?

Ans.—1. By snowbird we presume you mean the junco or slate-colored snowbird, which is, perhaps, the most common variety of the species. Regarding this bird, whose migrations occur in April and September, Mr. Neltje Blanchan, a well-known authority, says: "A new come forth in September, migrating at night from the deep woods of the North, where they have nested and moulted during the summer; but not until frost has sharpened the air are large numbers of them seen." Then, "starved into familiarity . . . when the snow has buried seed and berries, the snowbirds appear about the haunts of men. Rejoicing in winter, they, nevertheless, do not revel in the deep and fierce Arctic blasts . . . but take care to avoid the open pastures before the hard storms overtake them." This latter statement probably answers our correspondent's query, as to the intermittence with which flocks of these birds appear.

2. Our experience with beardless barley was not very encouraging. The first year we grew it on root land and had a very heavy crop; but the straw was weak, and the grain shelled off badly. The next year we put it on land not quite so rich, but it grew very poorly—thin, short and uneven. Others have reported similarly. It has less hull than the bearded barley; consequently, it is a little better for feeding. Between a bushel and a bushel and a half per acre is enough seed.



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