

essential to correct this evil and better than resorting to drugs. If the main ration has consisted of flesh formers, such as circumstances would permit, milk, shorts, ground oats, peas, whole or ground as meal, oil meal and barley. When cold weather approaches we aim to give a liberal feed of corn in the ear on his floor, and why should he not have a floor to eat from? We never found it a good plan to feed him immediately after service, nor feed him a full meal just before service when knowing this to take place. Of all the hogs on the farm he should be strictly provided with charcoal, ashes and salt, as his yard offers little or nothing in line to keep digestion in natural order. And, if his feed is of more solid mixture, it is a great mistake to withhold water entirely, for fear of it freezing.

Wool—A By-Product

In many of the great sheep-raising countries during late years wool has become a kind of a by-product. In Australia, for example, some years ago the wool product was the chief incentive to sheep-farming, and because fine wools were in demand the sheep raiser bred Merinos. But a wonderful change has come over the business through the establishment of the frozen mutton trade, and to-day the Australian sheep-farmer is breeding cross-bred sheep in order to supply this trade, and the consequence is that there is an extra supply of coarse wools on the market. All the Australian wool of this kind, and which is looked upon more and more as a by-product by the producer and not as the main object of his sheep-raising, is put upon the British market with the result that there is a glut of that quality. Sheep-raisers are following along the same lines in other countries, and thus increasing the production of what are known as the cross-bred wools. To a certain extent the same thing is true of Canada. Wool dealers complain of the over-supply of coarse wools in the country, for which it is difficult to find a market.

"Big Head"

The disease in horses known as "big head" was first encountered near New York and New Jersey. It is a most insidious disease, and has baffled the most eminent practitioners to discover its origin and treatment. There is no pain or serious inconvenience to the sufferer beyond a dullness and loss of appetite. The chief symptoms are an enormous increase in size and swelling between the muzzle and eyes on the top of the face, and this is accompanied by constant scouring. The disease has the effect of rendering the bones of the animals both porous and brittle, and cases have been known in which the cannon bones have snapped when the animals have been made to move fast. Though the disease is probably contagious, the most commonly accepted theory for its prevalence is that some pollution of the land exists. Various treatments of the land have been experimented with in the hope of checking the disease, and some of these are believed to have been successful, as cases of big head have become less frequent. The epidemic is, however, still of a mysterious nature, and has baffled experts who have studied it.

Bone-Chewing Cows

The *Sydney (Australia) Stock and Station Journal* of 20th January, 1899, in its leading editorial says: "When one of our readers sent along a query some time ago as to why cows chewed bones, the question seemed quite a simple, unimportant one; but when the publication of a brief inquiry drew letters from all over the country, we began to appreciate the greatness of the question. . . . We asked Dr. Guthrie, the Government chemist, to analyse the soil from different bone chewing farms, and after having examined numerous samples of these soils, he has decided that the trouble is due to the absence of phosphate."

This matter has been explained through the columns of *FARMING* by Mr. Wallace as due to the same cause. The trouble is more prevalent among dairy cows than other stock, because such a large bulk of the saline properties of cows' milk consists of phosphate. Dr. Guthrie gives the same receipt for immediate relief as Mr. Wallace does, viz, bone ash (phosphate) and salt mixed with the cows' food, but the salt will not avail without the phosphate, as it only makes the bone stuff more digestible. The only permanent and proper manner of correcting the evil is to phosphate the land for the crops to be fed to the cattle. To prove this—phosphate a piece of grass, and note how the cattle will work on that part of the pasture.

CORRESPONDENCE

Shorthorn Importations.

To the Editor of *FARMING*:

I notice in the last issue of *FARMING* an article headed British Shorthorn Importations, based upon Thornton's circular. That circular is a long way astray in regard to the number of Shorthorns imported into Canada. It claims that there were none imported into Canada for some years until last season, and also that there were only 27 head imported to Canada in 1898, and they were brought out by H. Cargill & Son and Arthur Johnston, Greenwood. In December, 1897, I imported 14 head and also in the fall of 1898 I imported 30 head, all Shorthorns. Mr. Cochrane, of Compton, Que., also imported 10 head and Mr. Crerar 3 or 4 in 1898. I have now 23 head in quarantine at Quebec at the present time.

JOHN ISAAC.

Markham, April 29th, 1899.

NOTE.—Mr. Isaac is evidently laboring under a misapprehension in regard to the article in question. The figures given there and which were taken from the circular referred to were only for the three months ending December 31st last, and not for the whole year of 1898. No doubt if Thornton's circulars for the other quarters of the year were examined the importations Mr. Isaac refers to would be mentioned. We are glad, however, to have his letter in regard to the matter, which gives additional evidence as to the increased importations of Shorthorns into Canada.—EDITOR.



Cheese and Butter Factory at Bright, Ont.