

Questions and Answers

BUMBLE FOOT.

Have noticed for some time my fowls are very lame, first a small lump between the toes, which gradually gets larger until the foot swells so much that there is scarcely any resemblance to a foot. It is nearly always the right foot, it looks red and inflamed as though it would burst. Three roosters and two hens are lame at the present time.

Is there a cure for it, and can you tell me the cause? They seem all right but for that; they eat well, and combs are red, but of course they are very lame. Should be sorry to have to destroy them, as I have only a few left, wolves having taken so many.

Sask. S. W.
Ans.—The trouble very likely is bumble foot, a condition caused by the hen getting pebbles embedded in the sole of the foot, from roosting on narrow perches or from jumping down from a high perch to the floor. Neglected cases may extend to the joints of the leg and become incurable. The treatment is to cut open the abscess and empty out the pus. Wash out with a weak carbolic solution and anoint daily with carbolated vaseline until well.

TUBERCULOSIS AND HEAVES IN HORSE.

1. I have a cow that has had a cough for some time, and now her breathing is hard after running. She is in very good condition, and full of life.

2. Also have a yearling which has a cough and makes a noise like one snoring. How can I cure them?

3. What is the best to give a horse that has the heaves slightly?

Sask. E. C. P.
Ans.—1. Both animals show very marked symptoms of "tuberculosis." We would advise you to have your local veterinarian examine them, he will likely apply the tuberculin test, you may then be guided by his advice.

2. Feed this horse sparingly hay or other coarse feed, be sure the hay is not musty or in bad condition from other causes, oats should be sifted to free them from dust. All feed should be sprinkled with lime water, and lime water only allowed for drinking. Prepare lime water by putting six or eight pieces of unslacked lime in a barrel of water and use the clear solution. Make a fresh supply every day. If possible give him a run at grass.

TENDONITIS.

A mare four years old has a three months' old colt just now. About February I noticed her going a little lame, she ran out with some other mares all winter and has never been worked this last year. I examined her but could find nothing wrong, but after two or three weeks the tendons below the knee of her near fore leg swelled and got hard. I have blistered her leg twice now from the knee down, the swelling seems to be now around the fetlock. She does not go very lame but still I would not like to work her in the condition she is now. Please say what would be best to take down the swelling.

Alta. J. W.
Ans.—In about three weeks from the time you put the last blister on, apply another, from just below the knee to well below the fetlock. Make a blister of cantharides, 2 drams, biniodide of mercury, 2 drams, lard 3 ounces; well mix and rub in for twenty minutes, tie her head up for forty-eight hours, then wash off with warm water and soap, smear with vaseline every three days turn her out on pasture for the summer.

HOMEMADE LIGHTNING RODS: SOME MINOR DETAILS

In "The Farmer's Advocate," some time ago, there was an article on controlling the lightning bolt. Please give directions for erecting such rods on my barn.

1. The barn is 50 x 72, with a lean-to 20 x 72, which makes the

barn 70 x 72 on stone foundation; side posts of barn, 19 ft. high; from peak of roof to floor, 40 ft. Please give directions for twisting the nine strands of No. 9 wire, and full directions for erecting on barn, and also fastening it to ridge of barn and down the gable ends.

2. How deep in the ground should ends be put?

3. What distance out from the end of barn on boards, and also the distance from foundation?

4. How many strands of wire will I have to put in the uprights that will be fastened to the rod on the ridge?

5. Will two upright points be enough in that length of barn, and how high and how far from the ends of barn, or would three be better?

6. I have a windmill on barn, erected about the middle of barn, and 10 ft. to one side of ridge. Would it be wise to put a twisted wire in ground in basement and fasten it to bottom of grinder? The grinder is below the floor in basement, right under the shaft.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1 and 3. Highest lines and projecting points should be specially guarded. Your idea that the rod should be run along ridge and down each gable end into the ground is correct. A very good plan for twisting the cable is to fasten each strand of wire to one of the spokes of a wagon wheel, while the other end of each strand is fastened to a stake driven into the ground at the proper distance and strongly braced.

Wires should be drawn evenly tight. Next, brace the wagon wheel, raise the wheel off the ground with wagon jack, and turn wheel until cable is sufficiently twisted. The rod might with safety be stapled tightly to building as a general thing, but, occasionally, a discharge being conducted along the rod might be so violent as to be accompanied with a spark.

To provide against danger of fire in such a case, it is well to keep it an inch from the building. This can be done by putting a cork under the rod between the prongs of staple, or four-inch nails can be driven in such a way as to form an X, and cork and staple dispensed with.

2. At least five feet. Permanently damp earth should be reached.

4. The uprights are usually cut off from the rod proper, sufficient length being allowed for them when measuring the length to be made.

5. Allow seven feet for each upright, one and a half feet for twisting around main rod, add five and a half feet of perpendicular. Three or four should be used on a barn as long as yours, the end ones to be not more than five feet from ends of ridge.

6. Very wise, indeed.

SOW-THISTLE AND DAISY.

I enclose you the blossoms and roots of two weeds. One looks like a large white daisy with, I may say, innumerable roots, and so fine that they cover the ground like a mat, and kill all other vegetation. The other looks like a large orange daisy, and, like the white, covers the ground, and destroys the pasture. Do you know if spraying would fix them, and the kind of spray, or anything else one could do to get rid of them?

Wash. D. H. S.

Ans.—The weeds enclosed are perennial sow thistle and ox-eye daisy. Spraying with chemicals has never been carried out successfully against sow thistle, nor do we know if it is destructive to the ox-eye daisy. If the sow thistle is in small patches only, smother it out with straw or manure. Summer-fallowing for two seasons in succession will destroy it, providing no plant is allowed to show any green leaves. It is a most difficult weed to deal with.

The ox-eye daisy is not a weed of the worst class. It is generally found growing on poor soil. A good dressing of manure will usually greatly diminish its strength. The use of hoed crop is recommended to thoroughly eradicate it.

RUPTURE OF THE DIAPHRAGM.

Had a horse, thirteen years old. Refused his oats Sunday night; dull on Monday. Tuesday took thumps; gave him a ball of aloes Wednesday. Thursday he was a very sick horse, seemed better, but no appetite. Seemed in agony, stood up all the time; temperature and pulse normal until Thursday morning; died at 11.30 p. m. Stood up until he dropped dead. Opened him, found the large bowel and small intestines full of water.

A. E. W.

Man.

Ans.—It is unfortunate that you did not carry your post-mortem examination a little further. If you had examined the diaphragm we think you would have found the cause of death to be due to rupture of that muscle. Thumps, or spasm of the diaphragm, is generally caused by over-exertion, particularly if this occurs soon after a full meal, or a hearty drink of water. Race horses are often affected, and horses at pasture will sometimes get excited and run until they suffer from spasm of the diaphragm. The treatment consists of keeping the horse quiet in a well-ventilated loose box, and the administration of a drench composed of tincture of opium, 1 ounce; spirits of nitrous ether, 1 ounce; water, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint. Repeat in one hour, if necessary.

DEBILITY AND DIABETES

1. I have two mares, one ten years old and the other three years old, which I believe have had the distemper. Both were in good condition at the commencement of seeding, but have got so thin that I cannot do a day's work with them. I am feeding these mares heavier than my other horses, which have worked harder, and they are in good condition. What is the best thing for them? The symptoms they had were general weakness, swellings under the jaw and side of the gullet. Water comes down their nose when drinking, and the three-year-old choked at one stage when eating oats.

2. Horse, five years old, has all of the above symptoms, and is in poorer condition. He urinates from two to three times an hour when working.

T. E. E.

Sask.
Ans.—Both mares have had an attack of laryngitis (sore throat), for which they apparently received no treatment, as a result they have become run down in health and condition. They should have a rest for a week or two on pasture to recuperate, and the following medicine, three times a day, mixed with damp bran and oats: Powdered sulphate of iron, 2 ounces; powdered nuxvomica, 2 ounces; powdered gentian, 4 ounces; nitrate of potash, 3 ounces. Mix well, and give a tablespoonful at a dose.

The five-year-old horse is suffering from diabetes, which may become a serious disease if not promptly treated. First, attend to the feed, see that it is free from mustiness or other defects. If found to be musty, do not feed any more of it, but give a complete change of diet; a run on grass being preferable. Give this medicine morning and evening for a week or ten days: Iodine crystals, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces; sulphate of iron, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces; iodide of potash, 2 ounces; bicarbonate of soda, 2 ounces. Divide into twelve equal parts. Give one part in a large capsule, or mixed with treacle to combine it. Roll in paper to make a ball. This horse should not be worked until his condition has improved.

RIDDING POULTRY HOUSE OF MITES

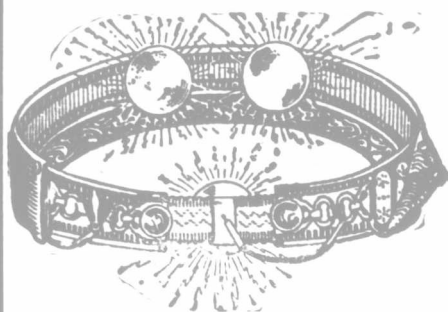
Can you tell me how to destroy mites in a henhouse? Have tried whitewashing and smoking with sulphur, and spraying coal oil, etc.

Sask. J. W.

Ans.—Try spraying thoroughly with a two-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid. If the nest boxes are infested, soak them in this solution, or in a solution made with sheep

dip. Wash the perches, walls and ceiling thoroughly. If the mites can get into crevices where the carbolic will not reach them, seal the crevices up with hot tar. Fumigating with sulphur, providing the house is tight, ought to rid your building of these pests. If the mites remain on the fowls during the day, give the flock a good dipping. Sheep dip, prepared according to directions, is effective. Keep fowls away from the infested quarters until the mites are destroyed therein.

TRY NATURE'S MEDICINE.



Don't give up because drugs have failed to cure you. Drugs were made to sell, not to cure.

The practice of drugging was originated by savages, and is founded on superstition. It is entirely out of place in this day of progress.

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