DAIRY.

Disinfecting Stables.

Of special interest to dairy and stock men generally is the following reminder, recently issued by Dr. A. W. Bitting, Veterinarian of Indiana Agricultural Experiment Station:

The disinfection of stables after a period of constant use should be a part of routine practice. Dairy stables in particular should be disinfected twice a year, and oftener if the conditions demand it. It is not possible to give many stables that thorough disinfection that is possible in houses, because their construction will not admit of it, but it is possible to do very much and at little expense. The ideal method of disinfection is by means of a gas, as that would have the power to penetrate everywhere. The effectiveness of this method depends upon securing a large volume of gas and maintaining it for some time. Unless the stable can be made tight, a gas will be of little use. For all practical purposes the gas produced by burning sulphur over a pot of coals is the best if used in connection with steam. The dry sulphur fumes have little germ-killing power, but when combined with the steam in the air it forms a compound that is deadly. The boiling of water and burning of sulphur should go together. Formaldehyde gas is not so efficient for stable disinfection as many would have us believe. A very practical means of disinfection that may be used under almost every stable condition is by whitewashing. This is not expensive for material and is very easily applied by means of an inexpensive fruit spray pump. The lime should be thoroughly slacked and strained through cloth and made just thin enough to work well through the nozzle. One man can apply two coats of whitewash with the pump and reach all parts of side and ceiling of a room in about one-fourth the time required with the brush. Whitewash will kill or hold the germs with which it comes in contact. It has the effect, too, of making the barn lighter and cleaner. After the first spraying, one application will usually be sufficient if given regularly. As the business of supplying milk to cities and creameries is of large proportions and depends upon cleanliness, this precaution of disinfection should be regularly followed.

Jerseys as Butter Producers.

The exceptional richness of the milk of Jersey cows has earned for that breed a world-wide celebrity. In some of the milking contests which are held in connection with several of the leading cross-channel shows, animals of this breed have for years been figuring to great advantage. Their excellence as butter-producing cattle was again well exemplified at the great annual show of the Royal Jersey Agricultural Society this year, where a special butter test was brought off, and where no fewer than 46 animals competed for the several prizes offered. The milk of ordinary cows that produces 1 pound of butter to every 2½ gallons of milk is considered very fair quality; by way of contrast with this it is interesting to know that several of the cows competing at this butter test produced milk of such extraordinary richness that it only took about half the quantity of ordinary milk to produce 1 pound of butter.

The cow which carried off the gold medal and £10 prize was four years old, and calved on the 1st March. She was thus 67 days in milk, and on the day of the test she produced within a small fraction of 4 gallons of milk. On being churned, this milk gave 3 lbs. ¾ oz. of butter or at the rate of 1 lb. of butter to every 13 lbs. of milk. Even better in this respect were the performances of some of the other competing cows. One of these, which had been 147 days gone in milk, gave 2½ gallons of milk on the date of the trial, and this milk produced 1 lb. 15 ozs. of butter, or at the rate of 1 lb. of butter to every 12.83 lbs. of milk. As a gallon of milk may be roughly regarded as weighing 10 lbs., it will be seen that this cow gave at the rate of 1 lb. of butter to a little over 1¼ gallons of milk. Quite a number of the cows in this competition gave milk which yielded at the rate of 1 lb. of butter to every 1½ gallons of milk, performances which show what wonderful butter-producers these Jerseys are.—Farmer's Gazette.

After the calves have been turned out, do not be so hard-hearted as to give them no place of escape from the sun and flies. A shed or little house of some kind will afford them shelter and give them a chance to grow. Growth is what we are after.

There will be one hundred new creameries established in the State of Minnesota this season.

The Toronto Industrial Dairy Building.

We publish herewith an engraving of the splendid new dairy building which is being erected for the approaching Toronto Industrial Exhibition. The dimensions are 189 feet long by 83 feet wide. It is constructed of dark gray cement blocks, which give it a very fine appearance, and the blocks being hollow will aid greatly in keeping the building cool. The floor is also constructed of cement concrete with proper slope for flushing. The walls are 17 feet high, and the roof, which has heavy, overhanging eaves, is covered with galvanized-iron shingles. To the right and left of the south entrance there is ample space for exhibits of dairy apparatus, and to the rear space for the exhibits of cheese, with ample accommodation and refrigeration for the displays of butter. The right wing will be fitted up especially for the popular buttermaking competitions and demonstrations which constitute such an instructive and interesting feature of the exhibition. We expect that the dairy department of the Toronto show this year will eclipse anything heretofore witnessed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore, we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest, or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity.

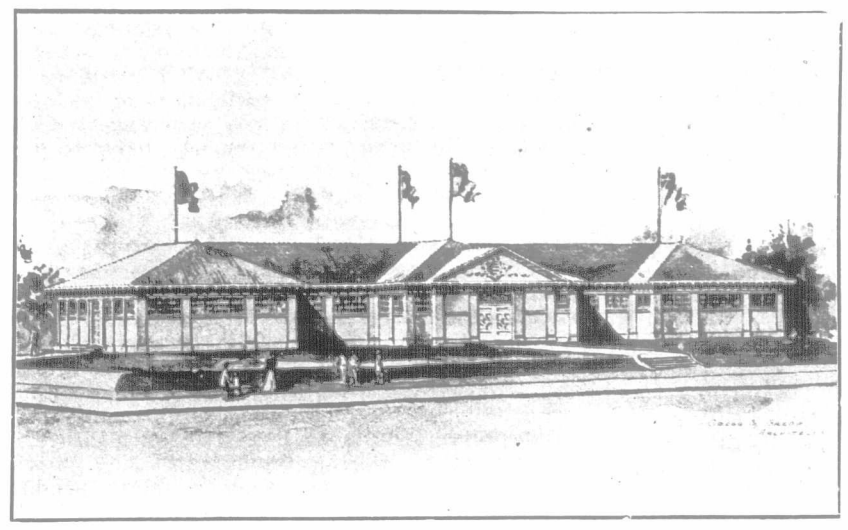
3rd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessarily for publication.

4th.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

Veterinary.

SCOURS IN CALVES.

What is the cause of scours in calves, and what is the proper treatment? A. B.
N.-W. T.



NEW DAIRY BUILDING, TORONTO INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Ans.—Diarrhea in calves is produced by various causes, the principal of which are: Feeding unwholesome milk; eating coarse food, upon which the digestive organs are not prepared to act; irregular feeding; allowing too long time to elapse between meals and then permitting the calf to engorge itself; breathing obnoxious gases, especially carbon dioxide and sulphurated hydrogen in badly-ventilated and filthy stables. These debilitate the general health, and, as a result, digestion is impaired, which leads to an accumulation of undigested materials in the stomach and bowels, and the consequence is fermentation, irritation and diarrhea. The formation of hair balls in the first, third, and sometimes in the fourth, stomach is also, occasionally, a cause of diarrhea in calves. In the trestment of this disease, the removal, if possible, of the causes mentioned or any other known cause, is of the greatest importance. Affected calves should be removed from those not affected, and cleanliness and good ventilation should be strictly observed in relation to both the diseased and healthy animals. The medical treatment has to be regulated by the stage of the disease. If in the first stage, a laxative should be administered for the purpose of expediting the removal of the cause of irritation, and for this I would recommend from one to three ounces of castor oil and an equal quantity of lime water, well shaken together. When the offending agents are supposed to have been expelled, give three times daily, until the stools become normal, one tablespoonful of this mixture: Tincture of catechu, tincture of rhubarb, tincture of camphor, tincture of opium, of each four ounces; dose to be given in two ounces of lime water.

In the second, or "white scours," stage, which is always more or less contagious, the precautionary measures in regard to isolation is still more imperative. In this stage the castor oil and lime water dose should still be administered. Give four times daily two tablespoonfuls of the following: Chalk mixture, 4 ounces; creosote, ½ an ounce; wine ipecacuanha, 2 ounces; tincture of opium, 1½ ounces. Put into a full-quart bottle and fill up with good port wine. The milk which the calf is fed should be boiled. If the abdomen is tender, rub with the following liniment twice daily: Soap liniment, 4 ounces; tincture of cantharides, 2 ounces; liquor ammonia, 1 ounce; tincture of opium, 2 ounces. Mix.

MARE SUBJECT TO COLIC.

1. I have a brood mare that takes colic if allowed to eat grass. She was the same last year. She is all right if fed on dry food.

2. For some years my cows have been unthrifty. They do not shed their hair properly. For weeks at a time they will chew boards, rails, etc. All my cattle, both young and old, do this both summer and winter. They are well fed.
Huron Co., Ont. T. J.

Ans.—1. Try the following with your mare. Take powdered ginger, bicarbonate of soda and slacked lime, of each 6 ounces; gentian, 3 ounces. Mix and make into 21 powders. Give one three times daily in wet bran. If she will not eat them, mix with ½ pint cold water, and drench.

2. There is a lack of phosphates in the food your cattle get. Give 2-dram doses phosphate of lime twice daily to each cow.
J. H. REED, V. S.

WEAKNESS IN YOUNG PIGS.

What is the cause of my two-weeks-old pigs knuckling down suddenly behind the shoulders as though their spines had given way? They are healthy and active. Both the pigs and sow have plenty of exercise. The sow has been fed on mangels and oat chop and housed in a fairly dry stable. T. W. W.
Grey Co., Ont.

Ans.—Your pigs are either suffering from rheumatism, caused by sleeping in rather damp and cold quarters, or are affected with rickets, due to the food of the sow. Give them warm, comfortable quarters, plenty of exercise and grass. Feed some bran and a little pea meal to the sow and mix a little lime water (a cupful) in her food each meal.
J. H. REED, V. S.

SPINAL TROUBLE IN COLT.

I have a yearling colt that seems to have lost control of its limbs. It was all right when I turned it out to pasture with a two-year-old two weeks ago. It did well until a few days ago, when I noticed it wobble around as though weak in the muscles of the back.
Norfolk Co., Ont. J. K. R.

Ans.—Your colt evidently is suffering from disease of the spinal cord, sometimes called in veterinary practice, "locomotor ataxia," although it is not of the same nature as that disease in the human being. Place it in a box stall and give a purgative of about 3 drams Barbadoes aloes and 1 dram ginger. After purgation ceases, give 1-dram doses nux vomica three times daily in damp food. If you notice a twitching of the muscles, decrease the dose to ½ dram. It is probable the colt will recover, but it is liable to be tedious, probably some months.
J. H. REED, V. S.

SPAYING BITCHES.

At what age should a bitch be spayed? How is the operation performed, and what is the size and general appearance of the ovaries?
A. B. V.

Ans.—From three to six months of age is the best time. It requires an expert to operate. The most approved method is to chloroform the animal, place her on a table, cut into the median abdominal line just anterior to the pelvic bones. The horns of the uterus will be exposed, follow each upwards towards the kidney; the ovary is attached by a tube; it will vary in size from a small bean to that of a marble, according to the age and size of the animal. It resembles a testicle in general appearance. It is well to remove the uterine horns as well. The wound should be thoroughly cleansed, dressed with an antiseptic, as iodoform, and then stitched with carbolized catgut sutures. J. H. REED, V. S.

Miscellaneous.

KICKING COW.

I have a young Jersey cow, which we are milking this spring for the first time. The cow, when young, was petted considerably, and now, when we come to milk her, we find her to be quite a kicker. She kicks so badly that it is almost impossible to milk her. There seems to be no cause to the matter, as her teats and bag are not the least bit sore. It is apparently a habit. Will you kindly suggest a remedy, and oblige—
Huron Co., Ont. J. P.

Ans.—The petting should have ensured a quiet