

The *Country Gentleman* is glad to know that there is a prospect of the importation into the United States, next spring, of Norfolk Polled cattle, the merits of which for the dairy, as well as their symmetry of form, have been frequently referred to. They have long been bred with care, and during the past ten years, as we are assured, have been considerably improved.

FATTENING HOGS.—Joseph Harris gives in the *American Agriculturist* an extract of a letter of John S. Bowles of Ohio, describing his treatment of fattening hogs. He has now 165 head—and generally endeavours to have 30 head ready for market every three months the year round. An engine grinds and cooks his corn. In shelling, the cobs alone run the engine. He thinks cooking food saves grain, saves time in fattening, and renders the animals less liable to disease. It can hardly be otherwise; for the man who will take the pains to give them good, pure, wholesome food, will provide clean sheltered quarters for them, and to avoid the bad air and filth which some farmers permit, and which as every one knows are a fruitful source of disease everywhere. No animal takes more pains to avoid dirt than a pig, if he can obtain what he wants; and the farmer who crowds him into foul quarters must not only expect these animals to become diseased, but ultimately the eaters of such badly fed pork must become diseased also, as many do.

A VALUABLE HORSE—The Pottstown (Pa.) *Leader* gives an account of a mare which is employed at the iron works at that place. Her business is to haul carts loaded with iron. Part of the day she is required to draw a cart from the furnace to the puddling mill, and the rest of the time to the plate mill, which lies in another direction. The distance to each place is over two hundred yards. The mare has been engaged in this business for over two years, and after only a few trips has made her rounds without a driver. One route leads over a railway track, and such is the sagacity of the animal, that if she sees a train approaching at some distance she hurries over the track, but if it is near at hand she stops for the train to go past. As the wages paid to drivers in this establishment are \$41 per month, it will be seen that this mare has saved her present employer \$1,600 by going without a driver.

There is such a demand for teams for the shanties, and such high wages offered, that owners of good horses do not wait, says a local paper, until their threshing and marketing is done, before starting up the Ottawa. The Ottawa Valley is full of unthreshed grain, and hay, and is likely to remain so until the timber-drawers "catch up" to the axemen in the woods, and there is no more work for them in the shanties. A great many farms are left without anything in the shape of a team except young colts and old brood mares.

Veterinary Department.

Bog Spavin.

In compliance with the request of a correspondent, we again take up the subject of bog spavin, though we have already repeatedly described its nature and treatment:—

Bog spavin is a disease attacking the hock joint of the horse, and consists in distension or dilatation of the capsular ligament of the true hock joint. The hock of the horse corresponds to the ankle of the human being, and it is therefore a very complicated structure. There are no less than ten bones entering into its formation, six of which are known as the bones proper of the hock, and the union of these bones forms a number of articulation with very limited motion. The union of a very powerful bone (called the astragalus), which presents an articulating surface that has been likened to a pulley, with the tibia or thigh bone, forms what is known as the true hock joint, and this joint allows of very extensive motion.

The bones are kept in their position by white fibrous substances called ligaments, some of which are called binding ligaments, whilst others are known as capsular. The articulation formed by the ten bones above mentioned, presents a very large ligament, and this, like other ligaments of the same class, is lined by a very important membrane called the synovial membrane, from which is formed the synovia, or, as it is familiarly known by the majority of our readers, the joint oil. Passing over this joint, both in front and behind, are a number of tendons or sinews, all of which are bound down by a fibrous substance that is called the annular ligament.

The hock joint in a healthy state contains from two to three drachms of synovia, the secretion and absorption of which are gradually taking place; but when this structure becomes irritated from undue stress or motion of the joint, a larger quantity of synovia is formed than can be absorbed, and the result is pressure and distension of the capsule, producing a bulging or tumour at that part that is but little protected by ligament or tendon; hence the soft puffy tumour known as bog spavin appears first towards the antero internal part of the joint, and has been so called from its yielding and fluctuating feel in contra-distinction to bone spavin, which is hard and unyielding. When the irritation is extensive or prolonged, the secretion alters in character, and the whole joint may become severely diseased, producing either a thickening of the capsule or leading to a deposition of osseous matter between the articulations, and consequently lessening the motion of the joint.

The causes of this disease are both predisposing and exciting. Some of the heavier breeds of horses are very liable to bog spavin

and bursal enlargements, and so are horses that have a tendency to swelling of the legs. In the lighter breeds some are predisposed from some faulty conformation, as weak and ill-shaped hocks and limbs.

The exciting causes are sprains of any kind, or putting young horses to hard or rapid work. A very common cause is backing horses forcibly and quickly when attached to a heavy load, or anything whatever that sets up an irritation in the joint. In young horses this affection is very quickly produced.

From this brief description of the nature and causes of the disease, the reader will more readily comprehend the course of treatment that ought to be adopted.

When the capsule is thickened and accompanied by a deposition of osseous matter in the joint, although means may be resorted to that will give relief to a certain extent, yet the parts can never be restored to their natural condition; but in recent cases, before any change has taken place in the nature of the secretion, the enlargement may be completely dispelled.

It must also be understood that in the treatment of bog spavin the patient should be kept perfectly quiet, and therefore the placing of him in a comfortable box or stall is of very great advantage. The enlargement should be bathed two or three times a day either with cold or warm water. When lameness is present, the latter appears to be the most soothing in its effects. The food should consist of bran mashes for a few days; and if the horse is in high condition, give a good dose of purgative medicine, the operation of which tends to increase the action of the absorbents. Pressure is also beneficial, and may be applied by means of a truss, or by a carefully applied bandage. Whenever the irritation is somewhat allayed, blisters are useful, and in blistering invest a considerable surface with the application. The safest and the best blisters are cantharidine or biniodide of mercury ointment. Caustics and other nostrums, which are much vaunted by itinerant practitioners, should not be used on any account, as they tend to blemish the parts, and are not so effectual as other applications. We have mentioned the general course of treatment that should be pursued, but we would recommend our correspondents to call in the services of a duly qualified veterinary practitioner in all severe and alarming cases of bog spavin.

Sore Throat in Horses.

Diseases of the organs of respiration in the horse have been unusually prevalent during the fall and winter, and in many instances have proved of a very alarming nature. No doubt the great exciting causes of the various complaints have been the severe weather and the very sudden changes in the state of the temperature, often aggravated, however, by the injurious effects of the impure air that is generated in ill-ventilated stables. The mucous membrane of the larynx has been principally affected, in many cases, producing what is commonly known as sore throat. The symptoms are a difficulty in masticating the food and in swallowing. The latter