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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Muskrats.

Would muskrats do well in water that tastes a little of salt? It is a drilled well. I would have a pen of them.

A. E. R.

Ans.-We have had no experience in the raising of muskrats, but would think that unless the water was too salty for drinking purposes, it would have no evil

Bloody Milk.

I have a cow that gives bloody milk out of one teat. It is just like clotted blood. There seems to be a small lump at the top of the teat on the inside. What would you advise me to do for it?

Ans.—Bloody milk is generally due to rupture of some of the small blood vessels of the udder, usually induced by congenital or inherited weakness. Treatment consists in bathing the affected parts, long and often, with cold water, and giving one ounce of tincture of iron in a pint of cold water as a drench three times daily until blood flow ceases. If the cow becomes constipated, give a pint of linseed oil. If this does not effect a cure, try giving three drams of nitrate of potash three times daily in a pint of water. This will probably correct the stringiness in the milk. Obstructions in teats can only be removed by a delicate operation, which cannot be done with positive assurance of success. It requires a veterinarian.

Sowing Salt.

Does it pay to sow salt, and how much to the acre, on land that straw falls down? When should I sow it, before sowing grain or after; this fall or next spring? M. M.

Ans.-Common salt contains none of the constituents usually considered essential to the growth of plants. Sometimes it is beneficial in promoting the decomposition of potash, lime and magnesia compounds already present in the soil. It is believed to increase the solvent action of soil water upon phosphates and silicates, and is also considered to enable soil to hold water a little better. Sown at 200 lbs. per acre, it sometimes proves beneficial on mangels. On grain crops its value is problematical. It tends sometimes to stiffen and brighten straw, but under some conditions it is even injurious, and often of no value. We would advise sowing a regular fertilizer in its valuable on fall wheat, and when sown on the spring grain should be put on in the spring, at about 200 lbs. per acre. Put it on as a top dressing.

Killing Bindweed.

I have some small patches of bindweed on my place. I have tried smothering, but failed. Would covering over with a coat of fresh-burned lime, say, two or three inches deep, then let it air slake, kill the weed, or what is the best and cheapest way of getting rid of this pest? H. J. M. Ans.-Killing bindweed is one of the

most difficult tasks a farmer has to face. It is one of the most persistent of our many weeds. We have been fighting it at Weldwood ever since we got the place three years ago last spring, and we still have some. The lime on small patches might kill it. If the patches are quite small, we should be inclined to try salt, put on thick enough to kill all vegetation. Smothering it out is next to impossible. If it is covered with manure, unless the covering extends well over the outer edges of the patch, it will creep outside and grow luxuriantly. You might be able to kill it by this method, however, if great care is used. We have seen patches covered with tar or felt paper, weighted down with stones. It is difficult to keep it down, however. We have it at Weldwood spread over a field. We have greatly weakened it by clean cultivation. Two years ago the field was summer-fallowed and cultivated thoroughly at least once a week, an l sometimes oftener. Last year it was in corn, kept cleaned by frequent cultivations. This year the bad part of the field is in buckwheat, sown thickly, and the bindweed, while there still is some, has been



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