

# TO CORRESPONDENTS AND THOSE DESIRING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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## Questions and Answers

Veterinary.

### OPERATING ON HORSE.

I brought a horse to town who had a running sore over his hip bone. I consulted a V. S. about him, he pronounced the bone diseased and said he would chloroform the horse and scrape the bone for seven and a half dollars. I have a powerful bacteriologist's microscope. I told the V.S. that I had examined the matter issuing from the sore and did not think it came from decaying bone but from a flesh abscess. However I told him to operate on the horse. Three days afterwards on going to town I found the horse on his side unable to rise, he had then been down continuously for two days. The V.S. informed me that on probing the wound he found a pocket of matter extending downwards several inches, and that he had pierced the skin at the bottom of the pocket and scarified the sides of the pocket. Three days afterwards hearing that the horse was still unable to rise I told a man to tell the V.S. to destroy the horse which he did. The V.S. now sends me a bill for \$20, the incision through the skin figuring for \$7.50. Must I pay the bill? The horse was in good condition, able to work well. I would not have sold him for \$50. The V.S. was in error about the trouble. The horse was lost at once as a result of his operation. I suspect dirty instruments poisoned the horse.

Lillyfield.

C. F.

Ans.—The bill looks exorbitant and in view of the fact that you had a verbal agreement to perform the operation for a less amount you would be justified in protesting the account. Of course the V.S. would be entitled to some remuneration for the keep of the horse.

### WHITE SCOURS IN CALVES.

My calves mostly die when three days old. Quite a few of my neighbors are losing theirs the same way. They are strong when born, and drink the first day and next morning all right. Are all right in bowels the first day, then they start to scour, always getting worse, till it comes through them like water and has very bad smell.

A. R.

Ans.—This is a contagious disease called white scours. The germs that cause it gain entrance to the system through the torn and raw surface of the new-born calf's navel string. Authorities are not perfectly clear regarding the nature of the germ or germs that cause it, but prevention is the only cure yet known. The name white scours is rather misleading, for the discharge from the bowels is not always white, or even dirty white, but the characteristic symptom is severe diarrhoea, with a lightish colored and foul discharge. White scours affect calves from a few hours to a few days old, but some cases live for days and even weeks after the first illness, and eventually die of pneumonia. The disease is often coincident with an outbreak of contagious abortion. The germs thrive in the absence of light and the presence of moisture. For the affected calves, we hold out no hope. When any more cows calve, have them in an uninfected, clean place a week before parturition, and use an abundance of fresh bedding. The calf should be received on fresh, clean bedding. Tie the navel cord an inch and a half to two inches below the navel with a disinfected cord, and disinfect the navel string immediately by holding under it a dish containing a fifteen per cent. solution of formalin or a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid. Repeat until the navel cord all shrivels up. The formalin treatment has been recommended to us by a veterinarian, who says he has found it very satisfactory. Try it, and report results. The only treatment we can recommend, if after these precautions are observed the disease

appears, is a dose consisting of laudanum, half dram; tincture of catechu, half dram; castor oil, half ounce. Given in warm milk as a drench.

### CATTLE COUGHING.

1. I have a cow that began coughing over a year ago, and at long intervals. Recently she stopped coughing, and is apparently well. She gives milk, bluish in color, which we only make use of in feeding calves, for fear of tuberculosis. She calves this spring. Would you advise keeping calf? Since two months ago, two steers have been coughing. As there is no veterinarian within thirty miles, I intend to treat as you will direct.

G. C.

Ans.—1. Would not advise you keeping any animal that has the slightest suspicion of tuberculosis. In the meantime, you might give for the cough: Chlorate of potash, pulv. nux vomica, pulv. digitalis, pulv. lobelia, of each a quarter pound. Thoroughly mix, and give level dessertspoonful twice daily. We think calf might safely be kept.

2. Consider one year old the best age for castration; prefer warm dry weather; such as month of June. Do not think it injures their growth and spirit.

### CHRONIC NASAL DISCHARGE.

Valuable mare, 11 years old, was always ready and willing to work. She had a foal a year ago. When I commenced to work her in the fall, she had lost life and ambition. About five months ago I noticed a slight noise when breathing, and a discharge from her nostrils. These symptoms have increased, especially the discharge, which is copious when drinking. She eats well, but her hair is dry and stiff. She is in foal again.

H. M. D.

Ans.—The symptoms indicate either heaves or chronic catarrh. If the former, she cannot be cured, but the symptoms will become somewhat relieved when she gets on grass. Moistening her food with limewater will relieve the symptoms to some extent. If the trouble be chronic catarrh, treatment will be tedious and possibly unsatisfactory. Give her, three times daily: One dram sulphate of copper, and twenty five grains sulphate of quinine. Keep her comfortable. The trouble was probably caused by exposure to wet and cold, or if she has heaves to feeding too heavily on food of poor quality. As you value her highly, I think it would be advisable to consult a veterinarian, as it is hard to diagnose without very definite symptoms in cases where different diseases cause symptoms so similar, especially the rattling breathing and nasal discharge.

### NASAL GLEET—TUBERCULIN TEST.

I saw a question and answer re nasal gleet in your issue of April 26, but it was not sufficiently complete to suit me, so I ask some questions:

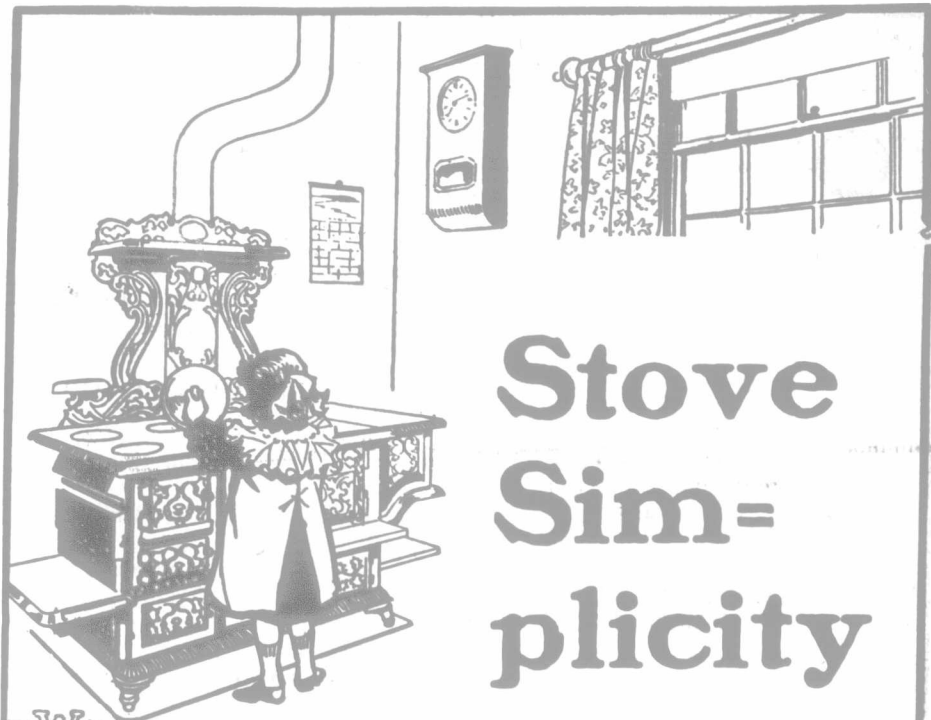
1. Is nasal gleet contagious?  
2. What are the symptoms?  
3. I have a mare that coughs while at work, but little when idle. A few days ago, when coughing, there was a discharge of a whitish secretion, with three little red spots in it, from her nostril.  
4. I also saw something about tuberculosis, but the answer was not satisfactory. Cannot a farmer test his own cattle, and how is it done?

Que.

F. R. T.

Ans.—1. No.  
2. An irregular discharge from one or both nostrils; some days the discharge will be slight or absent, some days copious. There may or may not be a cough. In rare cases the discharge contains blood. There is usually general unthriftiness. In some cases there is a bulging of the bones of the face, and in some cases the nasal discharge has a foul odor.

3. I am inclined to the opinion that your mare has chronic disease of the lungs, but it may be nasal gleet, which of course, is a chronic disease. In either case, the red spots you mention were blood which escaped from a small vessel in the nostrils which ruptured during coughing. On the other hand, your mare may be suffering from glanders.



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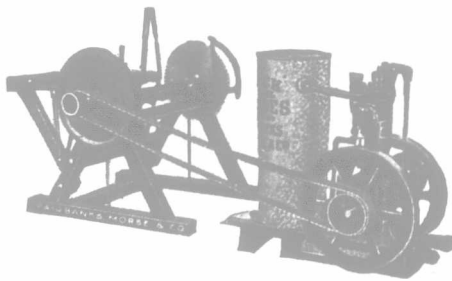
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