

## PROBABLY HEAVES—ABORTION IN COWS.

A. J. M., Victoria Co., Ont.:—"Would you kindly advise me, through your valuable paper: 1. What is the matter with and what would be the proper treatment of a horse? He commenced last summer to breathe heavy if driven fast or after going up a hill with a load, as if his collar was short. But he seems to get worse and frequently coughs, and even after drinking he is very likely to cough; and now if driving fast for any distance he may be heard breathing several rods away.

"2. We had two cows last spring that lost their calves, or, rather, they had to be taken from them dead. We heard of two others in the neighborhood, and also two or three the year before. They seem to be noticeably large for some time before, as though they were going to have twins, and, perhaps, on going into the stable in the morning, one would think by their looks they had calved, and look all round for the calf, but, on examination, would find that they had passed an unusual quantity of liquid—enough to flood the gutter—and that still the calf had not come, and in some of these cases the cow would seem quite contented for a while, and in others would strain hard all the time until the calf would be taken away. In most cases the calf would be wrong-end first and look as if deformed or crooked and out of shape. Some of the cows referred to were in first-class condition. If you could tell us the cause of this trouble, or some prevention, you would very much oblige."

[1. From symptoms given, I would say that your horse has heaves, and little can be done except careful feeding. Good, clean wheat straw is in such cases preferable to hay. If feeding hay, be sure it is of good quality and feed in limited quantities. Do not allow him to overload the stomach. Dampen all his food with lime water mixed with about 1/2 its bulk of raw linseed oil. Do not allow much water after feeding if he is going to work. Such treatment as this will relieve the symptoms, but the disease can not be cured.

2. Abortion in cows is caused in many diverse ways. Sometimes it is infectious. Improper feeding or food of poor quality predispose to the accident. So, also, does poorly-ventilated stables, sudden changes from heat to cold, slips, fighting each other, injuries of any kind, etc., etc. The extra large appearance of the abdomen referred to is caused by an abnormal quantity of fluid in the uterus. In some cows this occurs and cannot be controlled. It may in some cases also be caused by food of poor quality, or by a diseased condition of the genital organs. Cows with tubercular disease of these organs are predisposed to abort. Some cows acquire the habit of aborting at a certain period of gestation. If a cow shows symptoms of the accident, place her in a comfortable, darkened box stall, where everything is quiet, and give her about 3 ozs. laudanum mixed with a pint of water; repeat the dose if you think in necessary in about 4 hours, and keep her quiet until the symptoms disappear. If abortion should take place, remove her from other pregnant animals, remove the after-birth if it has not already been expelled, inject the womb with 1 part carbolic acid to 100 parts warm water, and give her 20 drops carbolic acid in 1 pint cold water three times daily until all discharge ceases. Cleanse and thoroughly disinfect the stall in which abortion has taken place by thoroughly washing with a strong solution of crude carbolic acid, and whitewashing. Be sure to remove all escaped matter from other pregnant animals, and wash off the vulva of the aborted cow and inject into the vagina, once daily, a little of a solution of bichloride of mercury, 1 part to 1,000 of water; wash the vulva with the same. It is also good practice to treat all pregnant cows that may have come in contact with the aborted one in the same way for a couple of weeks. These precautions are necessary in many cases to prevent the accident becoming common. As to the malpresentation mentioned and the deformity of the calf, these are conditions that cannot be controlled. J. H. REED, V. S.]

## CONTRACTED HOOF.

E. F., Grey Co., Ont.:—"Please give me the description of a contracted hoof, and can it be cured; and if so, explain how? I have a horse, and the hoof of a front foot seems to be smaller than the other foot, and the heel is drawn in together, and when standing, throws it slightly forward, and is somewhat over in the knee.

"2. Will you also tell me how the colt lies in the mare, and if they turn before foaled?"

[1. Contraction of the hoof is not of itself a disease, but the result of disease. When a hoof becomes affected with any form of inflammation, the secreting powers of the coronary band become impaired, consequently a normal quantity of horn is not formed, the hoof becomes smaller than its fellow, and the hoof also becomes drier than normal. When disease exists in a foot for sufficient time to cause the above symptoms, a perfect cure seldom results from treatment, but the symptoms can be helped and the growth of horn encouraged by keeping the foot moist, by poulticing or standing in water, or, better still, by repeatedly blistering the coronet. The heel should be kept pared down as much as possible, without exposing the sensitive parts. The apparent weakness of the knee is the result of the horse endeavoring to keep weight off the foot.

2. The fetus may be in any conceivable position in the womb, and does not turn shortly before delivery. Usually the fore feet and nose are presented. This is the normal position. J. H. REED, V. S.]

## ABORTION IN MARE—CONCUSSION OF THE BRAIN IN HORSE.

F. W. V., Perth Co., Ont.:—"I have a mare six year old. She has lost two colts a month before her time. I work her on the horse power about two hours a day, about once or twice a week. I feed her on oats, hay and a little straw. She gets boiled oats often at nights, with at times a little salt and saltpetre, and she is now three months from foaling. Is there anything I can do to prevent her losing it. She foals about June, and works every day through seeding.

"2. I had a four-year-old horse that was working at light work. I had been feeding him good hay and oats (about two gallons a day). He came in from work at six o'clock and was fed some hay; in about an hour I gave him one pail of water and one gallon of whole oats. At half-past nine, gave him some hay and bedding and left him eating hay. I found him dead the next morning at six. He had the floor torn up in his stall and his head skinned and badly swollen. I thought it was colic and turned to inflammation. What would be the cause, and, if such occur again, what would be the treatment?"

[1. Your mare has acquired the habit of aborting, as some females do. Feed on easily-digested food, as good clean hay in moderate quantities, a liberal supply of bran, with a limited supply of oats of good quality, and give two or three carrots daily. The water must also be of first-class quality. Do not work her on the horse power or treadmill. Regular exercise or light ordinary farm work will be beneficial, but do not ask her to perform heavy or tiresome work. About the usual time of abortion, keep her very quiet in a partially-darkened box stall well ventilated. Avoid all excitement, feed very light and watch her closely. If she exhibit any tendency to abort, give her about 2 1/2 ozs. laudanum in half pint water as a drench. You can repeat the dose every two and a half hours as long as the symptoms appear to demand it. This treatment will probably avert the accident, and if she gets over her accustomed period of abortion, it is probable she will carry her foal to full term.

2. It is possible your four-year-old got cast in his stall and died from concussion of the brain, caused by him pounding his head against the stall in his efforts to get up; or he may have died from acute indigestion with rupture of the stomach or diaphragm; or from inflammation of the bowels; or rupture of a blood vessel; in fact, there are many conditions that would cause death, and a post-mortem examination is the only means of telling the cause of death where no ante-mortem symptoms are known. You ask what would be the treatment if such should occur again? The removal of the carcass is the only treatment we can suggest for an animal found dead in the stable. If observed before death, of course, he should be treated according to the symptoms presented. If it were, as you suppose, colic, the best thing you could do would be to give the following drench and send for a veterinarian: 2 ozs. each of laudanum and sweet spirits of nitre, and 1 oz. fluid extract of belladonna. The reason I say send for a veterinarian is that acute diseases that cause death so suddenly require skillful treatment promptly. No fault can be found with the feeding, and diseases of this nature frequently occur without any apparent cause, merely from a weak condition of the digestive organs that cannot be suspected and that probably is only temporary. J. H. REED, V. S.]

## LAME MARE, ETC.

J. MCKINLEY:—"1. A mare, 9 years old, was very lame last summer, but got nearly all right. When trotting slow, she shows a little lameness, and when she stops after driving, she paws and often rests the foot when standing in the stable. She stands on a ground floor. Could you give any reasons for it or any cure?"

"2. And on the other front foot she has two soft lumps, one on each side, just above fetlock joint. Could you give any cure for them?"

"3. A horse, 13 years old, has like fish scales from fetlock joint half way up to his knee, behind his leg, in the long hair. Could you give cure?"

[1. The symptoms you give are not sufficiently definite to enable a person to form an idea as to where your mare is lame. The fact that she paws and rests the foot when standing indicate lameness in fore foot, while the fact that you are told that she has hock-joint lameness, of course locates it in the hind limb. If in fore limb, it is probably in the foot, and I would advise repeated blistering around the coronet, the same as was recommended for the lame pony, in March 15th issue of the ADVOCATE. If in the hock, you had better have the joint fired by a veterinarian.

2. The soft lumps above fetlocks are bursal enlargements, commonly called windgalls. They are not likely to injure her, but long rest and repeated blistering will probably reduce them. Reduction can also be caused by the free and frequent application of cold water and bandaging.

3. Hairy and fleshy legged horses are predisposed to the scaly condition described. Benefit can be derived by dressing the skin once daily with one part carbolic acid to 70 parts of sweet oil. The hair must be parted and the oil well rubbed into the skin. After a few applications, the scales peel off, and as they reappear, you must treat again. J. H. REED, V. S.]

## SYMPTOMS OF PNEUMONIA IN HORSE—BOTS.

FARMER:—"1. What are the symptoms of a horse with pneumonia without a cough? Would it have great looseness of the bowels?"

"2. Can bots get so numerous in a horse that they will kill it, and what are the symptoms of bots in a horse? Do bots attach themselves to the stomach of a horse before it dies, or are they floating in the stomach?"

[1. A horse suffering from pneumonia will in the early stages have a full, strong, frequent pulse, increased temperature, mucous membranes injected, breathing labored, appetite impaired or entirely suspended; will stand continuously with nose protruded and nostrils dilated. Usually there is a cough, and instead of diarrhea, there is a tendency to constipation. As the disease advances, the pulse becomes weaker and more frequent; the other symptoms increase: the breath becomes fetid, etc.

2. In rare cases, where bots are very numerous, they let go of the stomach in large numbers, form into a ball and stop up the pylorus (the passage into the intestine) and kill the animal. Horses do not suffer from bots except in cases as stated above, when the animal will present the symptoms of intestinal obstruction from any cause. Bots are attached to the lining membrane of the stomach by their tails, and as long as they remain so, no inconvenience is manifested by the horse. The popular idea that they eat through the stomach and cause death is entirely unfounded. In most cases, as they mature they let go their hold in small numbers, pass off in the feces, burrow in the ground, and mature into the gadfly, which is ready to deposit its eggs on the legs and jaws of the horse, when by falling into the feed box from the jaws, or being licked off the legs, the eggs gain the stomach, become attached to the mucous membrane, and develop into bots, to be passed off in the feces in the spring, etc., etc. We often hear of a case where bots have killed a horse, and the person who relates the fact will endeavor to prove its truth by stating that when the animal was opened, there was a big hole in the stomach that was caused by the bots eating through, and that they had escaped into the abdominal cavity. The facts of the case are entirely different. The horse had suffered from acute indigestion, with the formation of gases in the stomach, which caused rupture, and consequently an escape into the abdominal cavity of a portion of its contents, along with which any bots that had let go of the stomach but were still in the organ. As I have stated, bots do not cause sickness or death, as is generally supposed. J. H. REED, V. S.]

## MORE SICK PIGS.

A. A., Welland Co., Ont.:—"What is the matter with my pigs? Last spring and last fall my sow bred pigs. Last spring she had twelve, and when they were about three weeks old they got sick. She had a litter of fifteen again the eighth of February, and they got the same sickness and only four are left. They breathe hard. Their nose and ears get blue and cold. I cut one's ear and it would not bleed. Let me know what is the cause of it?"

[Your pigs die from digestive derangement. By seeing that the sow gets plenty of exercise and easily-digested food, both during pregnancy and after delivery, you will avoid the sickness mentioned. Little can be done for the young pigs when they become affected as you describe, and you must observe preventive measures. Give the sick ones sufficient raw linseed oil or Epsom salts to purge them; the quantity of either will be two ounces or more, according to size. It will also be well to purge the sow, and give the sow and young pigs, as soon as they will eat, a little of the following every day in their food: equal parts Epsom salts, sulphur and powdered charcoal. Feed easily-digested food, keep in dry, warm premises, and allow plenty exercise. When giving a pig liquid medicine do not pour it down the throat or it will strangle. To avoid this, pull out the loose skin of the cheek and pour the medicine in there carefully. He will then stop squealing and swallow it. J. H. REED, V. S.]

## LUMP ON HEIFER'S ANKLE.

P. C., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"I have a heifer that has a lump on the outside of her leg, just on the ankle, about the size of a goose egg. It has been on all winter and was about the size of a hen's egg when I first saw it. It is soft and spongy. Can you tell me what to do with it?"

[The soft, spongy condition of the lump, and its gradual increase in size, indicate it to be an abscess, either serous or purulent. Treatment consists in carefully opening it at the lowest part and allowing the escape of its contents, and then injecting it daily with one part carbolic acid to seventy parts water until the cavity fills and the skin heals. In opening be careful not to cut too deeply and penetrate into the joint. J. H. REED, V. S.]

## PARALYSIS IN SOW.

T. E. H., Victoria Co., Ont.:—"Subscriber wishes to know about brood sow, two years old, that raised two litters of pigs. After raising the second litter, she lost power of hind quarters. She drags herself around by front feet; eats heartily, and seems all right every other way. What can be done with her? If I fatten, would the pork be fit for table use? She is gaining in flesh now."

[Paralysis, either partial or complete, is difficult to treat in any animal, and especially in a pig. I would, therefore, not advise treatment, but feed for the butcher, as the flesh will be good for human food. It is possible nature will effect an improvement in the sow's condition; but even so, it will be liable to recur; therefore, it will be better to fatten her. J. H. REED, V. S.]