

BLOODY MILK.

E. H., Grenville Co., Ont.:—"I have a valuable cow that made a very large bag last spring and nearly lost the hind teats, but I kept rubbing them. During the time, she gave bloody milk for more than a month. She is now starting to make a bag, looks well, and I am now milking the two hind teats. Kindly let me know whether I am doing right?"

[We do not recommend hand milking before calving, as we are of opinion it is one of the main causes of milk fever. We think that your cow suffered from a severe attack of garget, and that the udder became congested or inflamed as the result of cold by exposure. The bloody milk was an effort of nature to get rid of the material thrown out by the inflamed tissue. We would recommend that you feed your cow very sparingly, and should the udder become distended, support by means of a blanket over the loins, cutting out four holes for the teats. Give plenty of water at parturition, and immediately afterwards a dose of Epsom salts, allowing the calf free access to her for the first four days. When this practice is followed we have never been called in to treat a case of milk fever.]

DR. W. MOLE.]

FOUL IN THE FOOT OF COWS.

B. L. O., N. S.:—"Will you please let me know what will help my cow? She is lame in the front feet. Some three years ago there were a number in this neighborhood the same, and one person told me that he had to kill them, as they got no better."

[From the peculiar form of the foot of cattle they are especially liable to the lodgment of dirt within the cleft of the foot, which causes lameness. On examination, we find a foetid discharge proceeding from the part, which spreads to the back part of the heel, causing little vesicles to appear in the form of little scabs on the coronet. The treatment consists of cleansing the part by hot fomentations and a poultice of turnips, bran or linseed meal. The parts being cleansed, take a strip of strong flannel, double and pass between the claws, drawing each end forward and tying between the loop. Apply the following liniment until well: Powdered sulphate of copper, 1 ounce; molasses, 4 ounces. Boil until it assumes a reddish appearance; apply daily.]

SCOURS IN CALF.

R. J., Perth Co., Ont.:—"Would you advise me what is the trouble with my calf? It is about two months old, and has scoured ever since it was born. It has sucked the cow ever since it came. The excrement it passes is very thin and of a yellowish-white color, slimy looking. It seems in pain, grinding its teeth, and looking round to its side. It is fed clover hay, pulped mangels, and chopped oats. Can you tell me the cause and give me a remedy?"

[A gentle purge may be given first of all. Take castor oil, 8 ozs.; tincture of opium, ½ oz.; peppermint water, 1 oz. Give two tablespoonfuls twice a day until the bowels act more naturally. If any improvement takes place a small quantity of pepsin may be added to the milk until the animal is strong enough to eat solid food, which should be of a nutritious character. Chopped oats, boiled flaxseed gruel, and whole milk, mixed, should be the diet of poor, weakly calves.]

DR. W. MOLE.]

MARE ABORTED.

READER, Ont.:—"I have a mare fourteen years years old that slipped her foal nine weeks before she was due to foal. She got hay morning and night, and good clean wheat straw the rest of the day. I fed half-gallon oats in the morning, turnips at noon, and a little boiled oats at night. She was in good health, and was doing light work two or three times a week. She did not receive rough usage and never slipped or fell. What is the cause of abortion? If bred again would she be more liable to slip in future, and would it be objectionable to use the same sire?"

[It is quite impossible to decide what was the cause of the abortion. Sometimes the smell of blood or a fright or some little derangement of the system will be followed by abortion by mares. Her feed and care were apparently all right, provided the roots were never fed frozen nor the fodder ergot. Mares that once abort are usually liable to do so again. The sire had nothing whatever to do with the abortion, any more than that he got her in foal.]

ITCHING STALLION.

SUBSCRIBER, Carleton Co., Ont.:—"I have a stallion four years old that has a very heavy dandruff in his skin. He is very itchy, scratching his tail and mane. Kindly advise what will cure him?"

[We have found it no easy matter to stop stallions rubbing their manes and tail when being well fed. It is possible that the one in question is being pestered with small lice, and for fear that he is we would advise rubbing pulverized sulphur well into his neck and other parts that he rubs. Then after three days give him a thorough washing with one of the commercial sheep or cattle dips. (Any of those advertised in our columns are good.) Apply the liquid warm and vigorously until his skin is clean. Every few days following rub more of the dip into the itchy parts. This treatment will remedy the external cause, but he should have sulphur and saltpetre, half and half, one tablespoonful in mash once daily, to cool his blood. Keep the horse in comfortable, dry quarters, as the sulphur will tend to make him liable to catch cold. It would be well to lower his diet to some extent.]

COLT WITH RINGBONES.

Stormont, Ont.:—"I have an 1898 colt that seems to be getting ringbone or such formation on all his legs. I do not know whether it is hereditary or from tying him up too much. Last fall when I took him from his mother I put a halter on him, and I suppose he stood a month or so without getting any exercise. The weather was so cold, and hardly any snow, that I hated to let him out. I am at a loss to know if this is the cause. Both sire and dam are sound, but I am told that many colts from the dam's sire are blemished with ringbone. The horse himself is sound, and a fine Hambletonian. The humps on two of the joints are quite a size, the other two not so bad. I have rubbed on Kendall's Spavin Cure and other such medicine, but I cannot see any good from it. What course would you advise?"

[Without seeing the case it would be unsafe to pronounce the trouble "ringbone." The chances are, however, that such is the case, especially if he possessed a natural weakness in the pastern joints and his feet were allowed to grow long, throwing him back on his joints. We think it would be well to allow a qualified veterinarian to deal with the case. At any rate, he should have a roomy box stall and be fed well, and if the trouble is really ringbone, his joints should be blistered with an application of mercury or cantharides, about 1 to 16 parts of lard; also have his feet levelled up.]

Miscellaneous.

EWES REJECTING LAMBS—STRAW FOR MANURE—SACCALINE A FAILURE.

C. S., Grey Co., Ont.:—"I. Could you or any of your innumerable readers give me any information through your pages on making ewes become attached to their lambs? I have four ewes with eight lambs, three of which ewes will only sustain one lamb each. One of the ewes in particular took care of her lambs till they were about two days old, when she rejected one. I have heard of putting some sort of drugs on the lambs, but have forgotten what it is. Is there any such satisfactory material?"

"2. Is dry straw as valuable to put on the land for manure as when the same amount is fed to stock and then drawn out?"

"3. I saw an inquiry, I think it was in your columns, some weeks ago on saccaline, the new forage plant, to which I have been watching for a reply, but have seen none. I tried it for two years with absolutely no success. The second year I tried the seed in the same manner as tomato seeds, but after the plants grew about an inch or an inch and a half high they dwindled away. Would like to hear of the experience of somebody else?"

[1. The plan that we have adopted with ewes that rejected their lambs is to put the ewe in stocks for a few days in a small pen where the lambs may be kept close to her. Drive down two round, smooth stakes firmly, about five inches apart. Put the ewe's head through, and tie a rope across near the floor and another at the top of the stakes, holding them close enough that she cannot extricate her head. This need not interfere with her comfort, but it will give the lambs a show. It is claimed a good plan to cut off the lambs' tails, and allow the blood of the favorite lamb to fall on the back of the other one. It is also recommended to tie a dog in the pen with the ewe and lambs, which will cause her to protect her family and thus gain an affection for both of them. We know of no drug to apply. In this issue we publish a useful article on raising pet lambs.]

2. Straw loses a small proportion of its fertilizing value by passing through the digestive system of animals, but it is rendered much more concentrated and suitable for plant food. An application of dry straw to heavy clay land would improve its mechanical condition by preventing it from baking together, but in a dry season it would be liable to dry out severely.]

3. In 1896 the FARMER'S ADVOCATE tested saccaline, and found it as much of a failure as our correspondent has done. We published our experience with it in our volume of that year.]

GROWING RAPE AND MAMMOTH CLOVER.

NOVICE, Grey Co., Ont.:—"1. Can rape be grown early enough for July or August seeding? Would it be good for finishing grass cattle? How much seed per acre broadcast and in drills?"

"2. Is it possible or advisable to grow two crops of Mammoth clover seed following each other? Will Mammoth clover give good pasture after cutting one year for hay? I am very much pleased with your paper. Every farmer should take the ADVOCATE."

[1. Rape sown like turnip seed, in drills, if rich, well-prepared land, not later than the 15th of May, should produce a fairly heavy top suitable for pasture early in August, provided the field were surface cultivated frequently in the intervening time. From two to three pounds of seed per acre, in drills 28 inches apart, would be a liberal seeding. If sown broadcast, 4 pound of seed per acre would be necessary, and the crop would grow more slowly, since the land could not be cultivated while the rape was growing. It would furnish an excellent pasture for growing or fattening cattle or sheep, but we would consider it profitable to give a small grain ration along with the rape to cattle that are finishing.]

2. We think it is not advisable to attempt to grow two succeeding crops of Mammoth clover seed, as it is not liable to do better than the red clover in producing a full crop the third year after

seeding. Mammoth clover cannot be depended upon to produce a sufficient stand for pasture the season after it has been cut for hay, although after a very favorable winter and spring a fair crop might be secured.]

FLAX SEED FOR CALVES—WALNUTS AND CHESTNUTS.

YOUNG SUBSCRIBER, Bruce Co., Ont.:—"1. Which is best for young calves, flax seed boiled or flax seed ground? 2. Do you think that walnuts and chestnuts would thrive here?"

[1. We would not think of feeding flax seed to young calves, even if ground, without boiling it, but for those two months old and over they would do about as well on the ground flax, mixed in small quantities with mixed bran and chop.]

2. Walnuts and chestnuts seem to do about equally well under the same conditions of soil and climate. They may do well on a considerable variety of soils, if these are of a deep, light, porous and dry nature; but they will not succeed on a heavy or cold-bottomed land. The walnut especially requires a free exposure to light and warmth, and a situation not much exposed to bleak winds. It is apt to suffer damage from late frosts in May just at the time when it breaks into foliage, and it is not liable to do well in a climate that reaches a temperature as low as 30° below zero.]

ARTICHOKES.

J. S. H., Huron Co., Ont.:—"1. Please compare artichokes with other roots for feeding stock. 2. What is the best variety? 3. When and how should they be planted? 4. What kind of soil is best adapted to their production? 5. If pigs are allowed to harvest them, what months of the year should they be allowed to run to them?"

[1. Artichokes do not differ very materially in composition from potatoes nor from sugar beets, but feeding value of roots does not seem to depend so much on composition as on the relish stock have for them. We have never known artichokes to be fed to stock other than hogs, and when fed raw the hogs did better on the artichokes.]

2. Jerusalem.

3. The tubers are well supplied with eyes, and therefore can be cut up in small pieces. The land should be prepared as for potatoes, and the sets planted fifteen to eighteen inches apart, in rows three feet apart. They should be planted early in May, or as soon as the ground is fit to plant potatoes.]

4. Artichokes are frequently planted on rather poor, sandy soil, such as sidehills and the like. They prefer a mellow, loamy soil, rather rich.]

5. Since artichokes produce their fruit like potatoes, below the surface, it seems like a lazy man's method to allow hogs to do their own harvesting. The tubers do not ripen till late fall, when they are ready to feed, or they may remain in the ground all winter, as the frost does them no injury.]

INSPECTORS OF HACKNEYS.

A. Mc., Wellington Co., Ont.:—"In your issue of 15th Feb. I see by Mr. H. Wade's answer to questions by a Lanark subscriber regarding rules of registration, that the plan adopted in regard to Hackney horses is to start with an inspected mare, then two crosses from such a mare would be what he calls 'full registered.' Now, the question I wish to ask is, By whom should such a mare be inspected? By answering this question in your issue of April 1st you will greatly oblige."

[The Hackney Association has a number of inspectors appointed. The nearest to this gentleman would be Mr. O. Sorby, of Guelph, or Mr. Adam Beck, of London. Besides these gentlemen, we have Mr. Robt. Beith, M. P., Bowmanville; Robert Graham, Claremont, Ont.; H. N. Crossley, Rosseau, Ont.; A. Wilson, Paris; Jas. A. Cochrane, Hillhurst, Que.]

LUCRETIA DEWBERRY NOT BEARING.

F. C. E., Huron Co., Ont.:—"What is the matter with our Lucretia dewberry? It is covered with blossoms every spring, but as soon as the fruit is nicely set and the prospects of a good crop the fruit canes blight and die, while the new wood grows up fresh and green."

[It is very difficult to give any very satisfactory answer to a question—especially in the case of diseased fruit—unless one has a specimen of the affected portion. It is possible that the disease which troubles the dewberry of your correspondent is one known as anthracnose, but I could not say positively without getting a sample of the wood. This disease can be prevented to a certain extent by spraying the canes with Bordeaux mixture before the buds burst, 10-15 days later and again two weeks later.]

W. T. MACCOUN, Horticulturist.]

Central Exp. Farm.

PROTECTION FOR WATER TANK WANTED.

OLD SUBSCRIBER, Waterloo Co., Ont.:—"Because of the severe frost some time ago a great many have had their water system frozen up. Would you or some of your numerous readers let me know through the columns of the ADVOCATE a way to protect a wooden tank so as to keep the water in it from freezing, the tank being in a stone building where no stock is kept?"

[A method that suggests itself to us, although we have had no occasion to adopt it, would be to surround the tank with a wall of lumber, leaving eight inches to a foot of space between it and the tank in which to pack sawdust, shavings, or chaff well packed in. We hope readers will suggest a satisfactory plan to keep out the frost.]