

flock of pure-breds of one breed we can better regulate the feed to the general requirement, and when we have found a food ration that will start two or three laying we can rest assured that we can expect them all to soon begin to pay for their keep. When we have a dozen or more different breeds and as many sizes in a flock we cannot do this, for what food would keep one hen in laying condition would keep others rolling in fat; others again would starve on the bill of fare.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.
2nd.—Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore, we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest, or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity.
3rd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessarily for publication.
4th.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

Veterinary.

WARTS ON STEER AND EMBOLISM IN MARE.

1. A steer, two years old in the spring, is troubled with warts on his neck and shoulders and between his hind legs, and along his belly there is a cluster of them; some as big as a hen's egg, and hanging down. They began to decay on the outside, smell badly, and fall off. I applied some castor oil, but don't see that it has any effect on them. I would like to know if there is any cure for them? 2. I have a mare that is over twenty years old, looks well and eats well, and I can't see anything the matter till I begin to work her, and when she goes a little distance she stands a little while and raises her hind feet, turn about, as if in pain. Sometimes she staggers, and after standing for a little she is all right as far as I can see, but will not go far till she acts the same way. She is all right coming back, with a nice load, down hill.

Nova Scotia.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1. A surgical operation will be the better way to remove the large warts. The smaller ones can be removed by applying butter of antimony once daily with a feather, occasionally picking off the corroded portions which will be on the surface.

2. The symptoms shown by your old mare indicate embolism (a partial plugging) of the iliac arteries. There is little benefit to be derived from treatment, especially in a mare of her age. Treatment consists in giving rest and administering about 2 drs. iodide of potassium three times daily. It might be worth while trying this treatment for a couple of months. J. H. REED, V. S.

FISTULA.

Have a horse, five years old, in good condition. Last spring a little pimple or sore came out on top of the neck while plowing on a common walking plow, and his neck was sore almost all summer. He got better towards fall, but there was a little lump left and it is getting sore again. It is on top of the neck where the collar bears. It is on the left side. When it breaks out you can see a little white tube like a goose-quill running up and down, straight, about three or four inches long. It looks to be between the skin and the flesh, or it may be a little in the flesh, not very deep, because you can see a little ridge on the skin about the length of the tube. I work him always with a zinc pad, but it does him no good. What would you advise? J. G. Essex Co.

Ans.—Your horse has fistula, but evidently it is not deep-seated; still, energetic treatment is demanded. It can be successfully treated by an operation, which consists in cutting down on the tube and carefully dissecting it out. It must all be removed, then neatly stitch up the wound and treat by keeping it clean and applying three times daily a lotion of one part carbolic acid to 60 parts water until it has completely healed. Another method of treatment (which will be successful if the whole length of the tube can be reached with a probe) is to roll about 5 grains of corrosive sublimate in tissue paper and insert it into the tube by forcing in with a probe. You must be sure to get the drug the whole length of the tube. Leave alone for a few days, and in the meantime the drug will have corroded the walls of the sinus and you will be able to catch the corroded portion with your fingers or a forceps at the exposed end and pull it out. This, having removed the diseased tissue, leaves the parts in a condition to heal, and after-treatment consists in injecting a little of the above lotion into the cavity three times daily until healed. J. H. REED, V. S.

COLT SPRAINED IN STIFLE.

I have a colt sprained in the stifle and a little swollen. I would like to know what is the best to do for him? C. R. Huron Co., Ont.

Ans.—Place colt in loose stall and give a long rest. Blister the joint once every month with 1½ drs. powdered cantharides, mixed with 1 oz. vaseline, until the lameness and swelling disappear. J. H. REED, V. S.

SUPPURATIVE MAMMITIS.

1. Cow cut her teat on barb wire last summer, and could not be milked dry in that teat, whereupon the milk caked in the udder. It became hard, and has broken on several occasions, running a very offensive matter. Have applied home remedies, but to no apparent avail, as that portion of udder remains the same; other parts of udder not affected. What can be done for it? 2. Cow at pasture came home with the right hind part of udder swollen badly, and within a few days spread to other side, but then slowly became reduced. No cause is known, and she continued milking as before. There still remains a small bunch in udder at the teat? W. M. Welland Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. The inflammation set up in the quarter has resulted in the formation of abscesses. These must be freely opened with a knife and flushed out twice daily with warm water, until all pus is removed, and then a little of the following lotion injected into the cavities: Corrosive sublimate 1 part, water 1,000. This treatment must be kept up until the cavity fills with healthy tissue, and any fresh abscesses that form must be treated in the same way. It is possible the quarter will become inactive, as the secreting cells may be destroyed, but if the suppurative process be not checked, the other quarters may become involved by absorption of the gangrenous material, so it is necessary to treat promptly in order to save the other three quarters.

2. This is a case of hardening or induration of a portion of the quarter, the result of inflammation. The lump may be reduced by repeated applications of an ointment made as follows: 1 dr. each of iodine and iodide of potassium, mixed with 2 ozs. vaseline. J. H. REED, V. S.

MORE FATALITY IN PIGS.

1. I notice in your Jan. 1st issue an enquiry about fatality in pigs, described as breathing heavily for a few days and then dying. I have lost several pigs in the last few years, two or three each spring and fall, at different ages, from three weeks old up to four months. They have been in good growing condition. Generally would quit eating, stand and breathe heavily, never lie down on either side, but squat down with feet under them, sometimes giving quite a jerk with each breath, as though choking, and generally with a cough. I examined the two last that died, pigs four months old, about 100 pounds, and could see nothing, except in stomach there were 7 or 8 worms from 3 to 7 inches long and some undigested barley hulls a little green in color. These pigs were farrowed in August and were never closed up in pen. Had a run on young clover while it lasted; since then have been fed sugar beets and chopped barley. What was it killed them? Please give a remedy for worms.

2. In what way does it benefit rye to boil it as a feed once a day for working horses, brood sows or young pigs? Can it be fed profitably in this way at present prices of feed? SIMCOE FARMER.

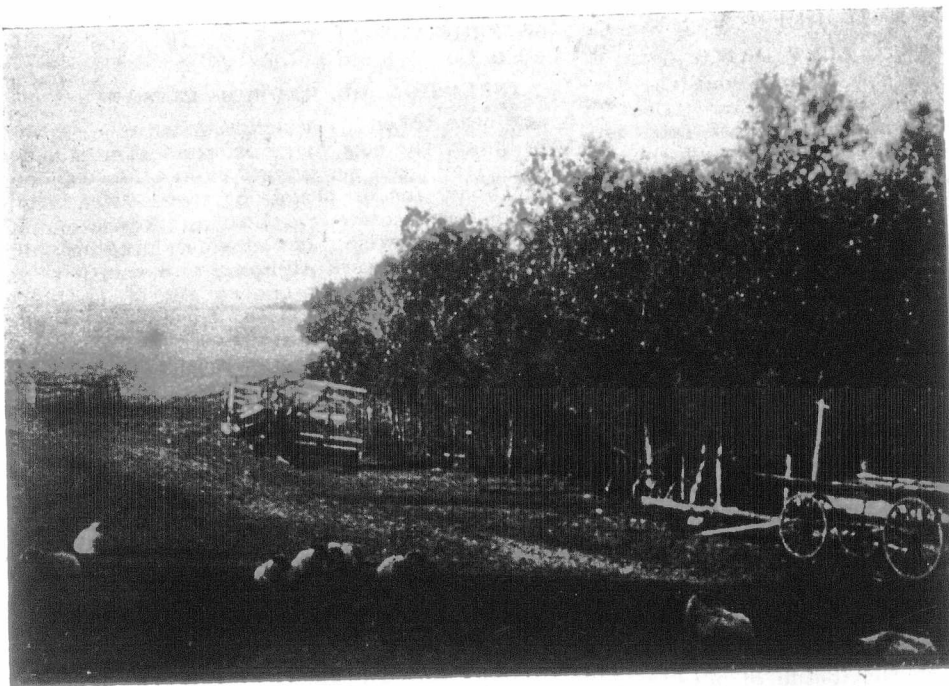
Ans.—1. The symptoms you give are very much the same as those of the pigs referred to in your letter. The disease is evidently not contagious, and must be due to local causes. Symptoms very similar are present in cases of epizootic catarrh in swine, but I am convinced that your losses are due to digestive derangement, due either to the quality of the food given or to overfeeding and too little exercise. You say that your pigs were farrowed in August and died at four months old, which would be in December. The mangolds were good to take the place of green food. If the quarters in which they were kept were damp or cold, the conditions would favor the trouble. I do not think that worms, unless there were many more than you mention, had anything to do with it. I would advise you to purge all your pigs, as has been advised many times in these columns, and then feed daily enough of equal parts sulphur, Epsom salts and powdered charcoal to keep the bowels working freely. See that the surroundings are warm and clean and that the pigs get exercise. From ½ to 1½ ozs. oil of turpentine, given in from 2 to 4 ozs. linseed oil, is a good drench to destroy worms.

2. Boiling rye makes it more easily masticated and digested. I do not consider it good practice to feed any pregnant animal on rye. I think a little of it can be profitably fed at present prices. J. H. REED, V. S.

EXCESSIVE QUANTITY OF AMNIOTIC FLUID.

I have a cow seven years old, had a calf last year. About three months before calving, she began to grow exceptionally large, and kept on increasing in size right up to the time of calving, and by that time she was so large she could with difficulty get through the stable door. When she had her calf, about a barrel of water came from her. She never was any way sick, only looked to be uncomfortable at times. Got through her calving all right, but did not look like the same cow. One would think her whole inside was gone. What would you call the trouble? She is due to calve again in April, and I can see she is going to be the same again. The calf she had last spring was the smallest I ever saw at birth, and did not do much good all summer, though running with the cow. E. C. Perth Co., Ont.

Ans.—In all pregnant animals there is a quantity of fluid surrounding the fetus or fetuses. As pregnancy advances, this fluid, called the amniotic fluid, increases in bulk, and in some cases is formed in excessive quantities. This condition is not a disease that can be controlled; in fact, it cannot be said to be a disease at all. Some females appear to be predisposed to what we might call the formation of an abnormal quantity of this fluid, and in such cases the health of the animal is not interfered with to a greater extent than to make her larger and more clumsy than usual, and the fetus is usually small. Nothing can be done to prevent this condition, and it is probable parturition will take place in a normal manner. J. H. REED, V. S.



A GLIMPSE OF THE FARM OF WM. STEPHENS, VIRDEN, MAN.

LAME MARE.

A mare, 11 years old, supposed to be in foal in fall for the first, took lame in shoulder about two months ago, with a slight swelling in leg. Can scarcely back out of stall. Seems worse after taking exercise, which she does daily in yard. Is in splendid heart, and all right other ways. SUBSCRIBER. Perth Co.

Ans.—Keep the mare as quiet as possible in a box stall. Do not allow any exercise. Blister the affected parts once every month with the following: 1½ drs. each powdered cantharides and biniodide of mercury, mixed with 2 ozs vaseline. Clip the hair off the affected parts, and rub the blister well in. Tie so that she cannot bite the part. In 24 hours rub well again, and in 24 hours longer wash well with warm water and soap, and apply some vaseline. Let her head down now, and apply vaseline every day until the scale comes off. Repeat this every month, as long as necessary. Of course, you must be sure of the seat of lameness, else you may be treating the wrong parts. J. H. REED, V. S.

PRESCRIPTION FOR COLIC.

Would you kindly publish a good prescription in case a horse should take an attack of colic. How much black antimony could you give to a 100-pound hog? We have heard of it as being good for a hog inclined to be stiff. A. R.

Ans.—The standard prescription for colic in horses is: Tincture of opium, 2 ozs.; fluid extract of belladonna, 4 drs.; sweet spirits of nitre, 2 ozs.; water, 1 pint. Give in one dose and repeat, if necessary, in 1½ hours. This is a fair dose for a horse of about 1,200 lbs. The dose would be larger or smaller according to the size of the animal.

About ½ dram is a fair dose of black antimony for a pig of 100 lbs. J. H. REED, V. S.