

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

## NOTICE.

We have decided to discontinue giving answers to legal questions, many of which we find are not of general interest. It is really no part of the legitimate work of an agricultural paper, and is not, as a rule, adopted by the best papers of this class; besides, our space has been pretty heavily taxed with questions upon agricultural and live stock, and we desire to encourage this feature by giving more prompt answers than we have been able to do in the past on account of the large amount of matter which at times accumulates in this department. Our friends, we trust, will take kindly this announcement, and not refer any more legal questions to us.

## Veterinary.

## BRONCHITIS.

FARMER, Waterloo Co., Ont.:—"Please advise me as to cause and treatment of the following: Mare 18 years old, weighs about 1,100 lbs., keen traveller and good worker; has never been worked very hard, and always well cared for; she has been on pasture several weeks, worked, and driven a little. Last week I drove her a few miles, when, as soon as I started, she coughed every little while, and occasionally passed wind, just like as if she had heaves. I have hitched her twice since, and she does the same. When she stands I see nothing wrong in her breathing. She feeds just the same as usual. All the change I can see, she does not travel off quite so keenly. She is always in the stable at night, and gets a half gallon of oats morning and night when on pasture. We are very much pleased with the ADVOCATE."

[The mare probably has a slight attack of bronchitis, and it would not be surprising if it developed into heaves, at her age. Give soft mashes morning and night, in which mix a liberal amount of boiled flax seed, say half a teacupful, well boiled, in half gallon water; also give her one of the following powders in her feed each morning and evening: Chlorate of potash, 1 ounce; ammonia muriate, 2 ounces; powdered Lobelia leaves, 1 ounce; powdered stramonium, 1 ounce; powdered digitalis, 2 drams; powdered nux vomica, 1 ounce; all well mixed and divided into 12 powders. Do not allow her to overload the stomach with any kind of food, especially dry hay.]

## LAME MARE—RINGBONE—WEAK FOAL.

SUBSCRIBER, Renfrew Co., Ont.:—"I have a draft mare, nine years old, lame of the hind leg. The local veterinary surgeon thinks that it is a 'spavin.' I blistered it, without any effect. 2. I have also a young mare with ringbone; blistered it a good deal; had it fired; all without effect. 3. I have a foal bending at the knees and fetlock joints. It also seems as if the muscles of the breast and shoulders were weak and loose. Can you prescribe anything for these cases?"

[In the case of spavin and ringbone very little more can be done than proceed on the lines already chosen, as they are both incurable diseases. In the case of the foal we would recommend that you try cotton wool and DRY bandages. Get a pair of bandages four yards long, three inches wide, apply a sheet of cotton wool to fill all the depressions in tendons and joints, then wind the bandages firmly around, tying the ends with wide tape. Continue the treatment, with hand rubbing, night and morning, removing the bandages each time. Keep animal in loose box at night, turning out to pasture on favorable occasions. You may expect considerable improvement in the course of three weeks.]

DR. WM. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.]

## LEUCORRHOEA.

S. M., Bruce Co., Ont.:—"I have a valuable cow that the afterbirth did not come all away after calving. About a week after we noticed a whitish-colored matter coming from her, more especially when lying down for the night. She does not seem to do as well as she should, although in the best of pasture and has access to water at all times. Please let me know what is best to do for her, as I am afraid she is not going to come in heat this summer?"

[The cow's ailment is leucorrhœa (whites), caused, no doubt, by the retention of part of the foetal membranes. The womb and vagina should be thoroughly washed out once a day with warm soft water. This should be done with a large syringe, and the injections should be continued each time until the water flows out quite clear. After each washing the parts should be injected with permanganate of potash, two ounces; water, fifty ounces. Give internally in mash twice daily for two weeks, iodide of iron, one dram. As the discharge disappears the local treatment should be gradually discontinued.]

## WOUNDED JOINT.

SUBSCRIBER, Agassiz, B. C.:—"A friend has a horse that was cut with a road scraper, nearly two weeks ago, just above the fetlock joint of the left hind leg. At first there was a watery substance running from cut, now it is thick and looks as if the marrow of the bone was oozing out. Kindly let me know what to do to effect a cure?"

[You do not mention what degree of lameness is manifested, but judging from the nature of the discharges, it probably consists of coagulated synovia, "joint oil." If it is, you have a case of open joint, which is always a serious lesion, especially if not properly treated at first. I would advise you to apply the following blister all around the joint: Powdered cantharides, four drams; vaseline, three ounces. Mix well, and apply by smart friction with the fingers. If there is great lameness it is advisable to place the animal in a sling. Keep the bowels open with laxative food.]

W. A. DUNBAR, V.S., Winnipeg.]

## TAPEWORM IN LAMBS—COWS CHEWING BONES.

H. J. W., Norfolk Co.:—"Would you please tell me, through your valuable paper, what is the matter with my lambs? What do cows need when they are crazy for old bones, pieces of tin cans, or leather? Also, an excellent tonic for sheep, the tonic to be mixed with their salt; give proportions of each? Symptoms of lambs are: Their wool seems to stand out dry, harsh and dead, and they do not nor have not done well for a couple of months back. They are Shropshires, and have pastured some on low land. In their droppings you will often see little pieces of white mucus resembling a little worm about a sixteenth of an inch in length. Have examined them closely, and can't see any life in them. On one occasion I found a long, flat, ribbon-like worm about a foot and a half long; at least, I thought it was a worm, and it was apparently dead. The thought has just struck me that possibly my lambs have got tapeworms and the small worms are the excrement from the mature tapeworm. Please give advice."

[From the symptoms described, we are led to believe that the lambs are infested with one or other of the various species of *Tenia*, or tapeworm. The existence of the worms in lambs or sheep becomes evident by the appearance of the white segments attached to the small balls of dung voided by the sheep, or by their adhering to the wool about the tail. This, however, only happens after the lamb has been infested some time and the segments of the worm have become matured. It is when these segments are eaten by sheep along with the grass or other food that the tapeworm is propagated in fresh subjects. Infested pastures should therefore be abandoned. The worst results to infested sheep or lambs is due to the intestinal irritation set up by the worms, and the reflex action of this on the nervous system. The results are necessarily the wasting of the lambs, which become poor, unthrifty and hidebound, and frequently pot-bellied by distension from gas in the bowels, or shrunken and gaunt from want of sufficient support. The symptoms, in addition to these, are pale skin, dry, harsh fleece without yoke or oil, a tottering gait, and the lambs eat and drink more than with their natural appetite, but at the same time fail to digest their food or thrive upon it. Finally diarrhoea becomes more and more severe, and death occurs by actual starvation and exhaustion. If, however, the lambs can be carried over until the worms are all ejected as segments, and no fresh infection occurs, recovery is rapid and the lambs soon become thrifty again. Treatment is hopeful, and may consist of turpentine in half-ounce doses, on the empty stomach, for a few days; the roots of the malefern powdered, in two-ounce doses, given in two or four ounces of castor oil for a full-grown sheep, have all been more or less beneficial. Regular use of salt with a tonic is also a good preventive. A good tonic powder is gentian, ginger and sulphate of iron finely powdered and mixed and given in teaspoonful doses for grown sheep, and half that quantity for lambs. This may be given in the salt or in ground feed, or with molasses spread on the back of the tongue. It is also well to mix pine tar with the salt, sufficient to render it quite brown in color. This acts as a tonic, and is good at this season to prevent the gadfly from depositing its eggs in the nostrils of the sheep.]

When cows chew bones and other unnatural materials, it is an indication of a craving for mineral or earthy matter. The writer has found it good treatment to mix wood ashes with their salt, in the proportion of 1 part ashes to 2 of salt.]

## Miscellaneous.

## WORMSEED MUSTARD—GOVERNMENT TESTING DRILL.

SUBSCRIBER, Peel Co., Ont.:—"I enclose a weed found on my farm. It is very thick about the fences, but does not seem to be much in the grain. Is it a mustard? Is it hard to keep down?"

"2. Could you or any of your readers give me any information concerning a drill owned by the Government for testing land for minerals? Two years ago I dug a well and found a peculiar substance in the rock, about 40 or 45 feet below the surface. I sent it to the city, and it proved to be copper and zinc. As this piece came to the top along with a bucketful of the rock, we could not tell where it came off. Would like to have the land tested, but do not feel able to invest enough to dig down so far."

[The plant sent for identification is one of the mustard family, known as treacle mustard or wormseed mustard. It is technically known as *Erysimum cheiranthoides*, and belongs to the natural order Cruciferae. It is of annual duration; that is, it comes from seed, matures and dies in one season. It is a common plant on roadsides, but is

not likely to become much of a pest where good farming is practiced. The way to deal with it is to prevent its seeds from ripening, by cultivation or by cutting it off near the ground about the time it is coming into blossom.]

Regarding the Government drill, we would say that full information can be obtained from Mr. A. Blue, Bureau of Mines, Toronto. The Government owns a drill which is furnished free for boring for minerals, but the parties for whose benefit it is used must meet the expense of operating it.]

## BUTTER TO CREAM.

R. D., Huron Co., Ont.:—"How much butter can we make out of 12 inches of cream in a circular pail of 12 in. diameter, the cream testing 75% of butter-fat? I have taken the ADVOCATE since Christmas and think it the best farmer's paper in America."

[In answer to the question, "How much butter can be made from 12 inches of cream in a circular pail 12 inches in diameter, the cream testing 75 per cent. butter-fat (butter oil)," would say that the quantity which the patron would be credited with is 9 pounds. Any patron can reckon the amount of butter his cream will make by multiplying the number of inches of cream by the test and dividing by 100. For instance, a patron delivers 20 inches of cream testing 80 per cent. "butter oil," he is credited with 16 pounds butter; 30 inches, testing 90 per cent., = 27 pounds butter, and so on. From the test given by subscriber the creamery is using the "oil test churn," and the test is spoken of as so much per cent. "butter oil," and not "butter-fat," as in the case of the Babcock test. The main difference between the "oil test" and "Babcock test" is that the former gives the percentage of churnable fat or oil in the cream or milk, while the latter gives the absolute percentage of butter-fat in the cream or milk. The oil test is used largely in cream-gathering creameries, while the Babcock test is specially suited for whole milk or separator cream.]

H. H. DEAN, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.]

## GROWING BRIGHTER—COTTED FLEECES.

A. E. B., York Co., Ont.:—"Enclosed please find one dollar for your valuable paper for 1899. Your paper grows brighter and brighter with each issue, and every farmer ought to have it in his home. I have seen several articles about sheep in your paper, but never saw the cause or cure for cotted fleeces on sheep. I have 14 Leicester ewes, and every one was cotted this year. Some are young and some are old. They were in a sheltered place all winter, and fed on pea straw, clover hay, and turnips, with a little grain towards spring. Could you please explain the cause and cure, if any, and oblige?"

[The cause of cotted fleeces is not well understood. It is sometimes attributed to a lack of nourishment for one or more separate periods during the season, causing weak places in the fiber. We believe it is not likely to exist early in the season or before the warm weather arrives, and we have never known sheep of the medium- or fine-wooled breeds to be troubled with it. We would recommend keeping the sheep in vigorous condition, dipping at least twice a year to keep the skin healthy, as well as free from vermin, and shearing early. If any of our readers have anything better to offer we will be pleased to hear from them.]

## PLAN OF CHEAP HOUSE WANTED.

"1. Please give through the columns of your paper the plan of a house which would cost about five hundred dollars, not including the stonework."

"2. Also let me know if postage stamps would do to send you with subscribers' names?"

[Five hundred dollars seems a very small amount with which to finish a dwelling house after the stonework is up, but we presume it can be done, and we hope some of our subscribers will send us a suitable plan for doing so.]

2. Yes, we will accept postage stamps of one and two cent denomination. Postal notes, which can be obtained at any post office for two cents each for amounts up to one dollar, are very convenient and safe, and much used by subscribers when sending renewals or new subscriptions to our office.]

## PASTEURIZING MILK.

READER, Quebec:—"Can you furnish through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE the addresses of firms who sterilize milk before delivering it for city trade? What firms sell sterilizing machinery?"

[We are not aware that any companies sterilize milk for the market, but pasteurizing is not uncommon. The Kensington Dairy Co., Toronto, and Croil & McCullough, Montreal, use pasteurizers in connection with their business. The Walker-Gordon Laboratory, of Boston, Mass., and the St. Ives Park Dairy Farm, Chicago, each prepare milk in a special manner for infants and city trade. The Richardson & Webster Co., St. Mary's, Ont., and R. A. Lister & Co., Montreal, deal in all kinds of dairy machinery.]

## THE BEST POTATO DIGGER WANTED.

ENQUIRER, Prince Edward Co., Ont.:—"I send you following query for columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE: What manufacturing company makes the best potato digger?"

[Hand work seems to be rapidly giving place to that which can be done by horse power in all lines of farm work, and it is not surprising that good potato diggers are in demand. Manufacturers of such machinery should serve their own interests by letting the merits of their goods be known through our advertising columns before the digging season commences.]