



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
VETERINARY.

DIARRHOEA IN SHEEP.

Several of my sheep have had diarrhoea. Some partially recovered and eat, but do not thrive, others died after a few days. I feed hay and roots, no grain.

H. A.
Ans.—The diarrhoea is doubtless due to local causes. Probably you are feeding too many roots, or the hay and roots may be of poor quality. Change the food. Give clover hay of first-class quality, and feed oats twice daily. Give no roots for a while, and then feed in small quantities. The diarrhoea can be checked by giving half a drachm of powdered opium, two drachms catechu, and four drachms prepared chalk, in half a pint of cold water as a drench every four hours until the diarrhoea ceases.

FOUL IN SHEATH.

Steer became clogged in his sheath so that he had difficulty in urinating. I got a veterinarian to attend to him, but he is filled up again.

G. W. H.
Ans.—The only treatment is to remove the collection with the fingers. In most cases the steer has to be cast and secured with hobbles. Inject with a four-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid in warm water, after removing the obstruction, and it is good practice to inject the sheath about every second day, especially in cases like this that have recurred. It is probable the condition is due to too much lime in the drinking water, and a change of water might prevent it. Some steers appear particularly predisposed to it.

FOUL IN SHEATH.

Five out of ten steers got foul in sheath. They were on clover pasture, and are not much better in the stable.

A. A.
Ans.—See answer to G. W. H., this issue.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TURNIP LICE.

Is there any remedy for the turnip louse? They are getting very troublesome in this locality.

SUBSCRIBER.
Ans.—Plant an early patch of a few rows as a trap, and plow it under when the lice appear. Destroy all weeds upon which the aphids feed or propagate. Spraying with dust or kerosene emulsion is sometimes recommended, but is seldom satisfactory. A reader in Dec. 15th issue of the "Advocate" recommended sowing ashes on the turnips as a remedy for lice.

TEXTBOOKS ON GEOLOGY, MINERALOGY, ETC.

Kindly direct me to some one who could furnish literature on the formation of different minerals, etc.

W. E.
Ans.—Any of the following may be ordered through your bookseller: Scott's Introduction to Geology; (Sir A. Wm.) Dawson's Handbook of Geology; (Sir Archibald) Geikie's Outlines of Field Geology; Dana's Manual of Geology; (Sir Archibald) Geikie's Text-book of Geology (Edn. of 1903); (E. S.) Dana's Minerals and How to Study Them; Harker's Petrology for Students (Cambridge, Eng., 1902).

RATION FOR MILCH COWS.

We have some fresh milk cows. We feed them, per day, 25 lbs. mangels (pulped), 4 lbs. bran, 4 lbs. crushed oats, half lb. pea meal, 1 lb. cottonseed meal. This mixture is fed with roots in two feeds. Also all the timothy and clover hay that they will eat. Is this a balanced ration, and enough; if not, what is? Should a heifer, two and a half years old, get as much as an aged cow?

D. G. M.
Ans.—Not knowing the amount of hay the cows consume, we cannot tell the exact ratio between the nitrogenous and non-nitrogenous constituents that go to the cows' maintenance. But, assuming that with the above allowance of grain and roots, a cow weighing 1,000 lbs. eats 15 lbs. of mixed hay, then she will have about the proper amount of dry matter, but a rather narrow nutritive ratio. To remedy this defect, some chaff or cut straw might be fed, or the cottonseed meal taken out of the ration and replaced by peas, or bran allowance slightly reduced. If the ration were to be improved at all, it would be in the direction of reducing the amount of nitrogenous substances, or widening the nutritive ratio rather than narrowing it, and by following the course indicated, this would be done. A heifer two and a half years old, in milk, will scarcely eat as much as a cow of four or five years of age, and in reducing her allowance be guided by the amount of roughage she eats, reducing the grain allowance in proportion. Some individuals, however, may possibly eat as much as an aged cow, in which case give all they will clean up.

BONES IN THE CARCASS—QUALITY.

1. Can you tell me through the columns of your paper how many pounds, proportionately, is there of bone to the 100 pounds flesh in an unfattened beef, and how much in the finished animal?
2. How many bones are in the vertebrae of the cow and horses respectively?
3. Does the coarseness or the fineness of these denote any difference in the quality of the animal?

R. E. M.
Ans.—1. Prof. Armsby gives the following percentage of bone in the dressed carcass:

	Per-centage.
Well-fed ox bones	7.4
Half-fat ox bones	7.3
Fat ox bones	7.1

2. There is not a fixed number of bones in any specimen of either class. In the neck there are seven, in the back eighteen or nineteen, the loins six, the croup seven, and the tail from thirteen of twenty, averaging for the horse sixteen, and the ox eighteen.

3. Yes. In speaking of the quality of a horse, fineness of bone is invariably one of the associated characteristics. Fineness of bone is one of the most certain signs that flesh is also fine-grained, although a fine-boned ox or cow may carry some fat or flesh that is far from being fine in quality, but fineness of bone must always be associated with what is known as quality, especially in the horse.

SEQUEL TO DISTEMPER.

About a year ago, my pure-bred Percheron stallion, three years old, had distemper, swelling under jaw. It never broke, and it has left him thick in hind legs around hocks. I would like to get clear of the swelling. What treatment do you advise? Exercise apparently has no effect. Would a blister be beneficial?

HORSEMAN.
Maple Creek, Assa.
Ans.—Chronic thickening around the hocks in stallions are frequently hard to get rid of. Would advise you to prepare him for a physic by feeding him on bran mash for a few days, after which give him one ounce Barbadoes aloes and one-half ounce of ground ginger, either in the form of a ball or as a drench shaken up in a pint of tepid water. After the above has operated, procure the following: Powdered digitalis leaves, six drachms; potassium iodide, six drachms, and potassium nitrate, one ounce. Mix and divide into twelve powders. Give one each morning and evening in feed. Give him regular exercise. A mild blister might be beneficial, but do not blister too severely, especially in front of the hocks.

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THOS. MERCER, Markdale, Ont.

IRREGULAR STRANGLES.

1. Last July, I bought a bunch of Western horses coming from Montana. In a short time after arriving on the Canadian side, a very bad form of distemper broke out among them. In some cases large lumps would appear on the body, and finally fester and break. In other cases, especially the yearlings, the legs were affected. They would swell and often break out in horrible sores—many died. Those taken in and cared for in the stable seemed to die quicker than those which were let run. About September, the distemper had died out, but it left those which survived very thin. By freezing-up time, they had gained up in flesh; but some of them, when they would lie down, were not able to get up again without help. Several valuable animals died from this cause. I had a veterinarian examine these several times, but further than to say it was kidney trouble, he did not help them. Now, at this date, the disease seems to be still among them, and the legs of some are swelling. I have some of the very thin ones in the stable, and though they are getting the very best care and feed, they do not fatten. Kindly tell me what the disease is, and how to treat it in its various stages, and how to deal with the weak, thin ones?

2. Please, also tell me how to cure a horse of cribbing?

W. L. H.
Ans.—1. When the Characteristic swellings and abscesses of distemper break out on the body, legs, etc., the disease is then known among horsemen as bastard or irregular strangles, and the mortality is then very high, especially in poorly-nourished animals exposed to the inclemency of the weather. As a sequel, many, as in your case, are left weak and emaciated, as a result of the poisons (toxines) not having been eradicated from their system. As you say, they are receiving the very best of care, etc., in the stable; it is not likely they will improve much until they get on to the grass next summer. For treatment, procure some tincture of iron,

give affected animals from one to two tablespoonfuls twice a day, according to age and size (must be given well diluted), also give one tablespoonful of the following twice a day in feed (boiled barley and flaxseed preferable): Powdered nux vomica, two ounces; powdered gentian, six ounces; soda bicarbonate, six ounces. Mix thoroughly together.

2. The best plan of curing a cribbing horse is to remove all objects away from him upon which he is likely to fasten his teeth, or else cover with tin or sheet-iron; could also try a strap buckled tight around the throat.

PIGGERY VENTILATION.

I have built a large pigpen one and a half stories high, with a hip roof, and loft for holding chop and straw. When the weather is cold, white frost forms on the inside of the roof, making everything wet when the weather is mild. Would you advise stove heat or ventilation, or both; if so, should the ventilators be run through the roof or through the gable ends; of what size should they be, and how many? The pen is 26 x 32, and 18 feet high at the ridge.

S. E. R.
Ans.—In this case, we would try ventilating by putting tile in the walls near the ceiling on both sides, about 12 feet apart. Over these rows of tile, put a board with hinges on the bottom edge, so that it would open and close aperture according to the direction of the wind. Then in the roof, put two ventilators to draw the air out of the loft. This we think would improve the conditions; but if not sufficiently, put two trapdoors in the ceiling to let the foul air through to the ventilator in the roof. A stove would be used only as a last resort, and only when every other means of reducing the dampness of the pen failed.

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