

with rigid cartilages, but are we right in doing so? Because if a sidebone is forming there is hereditary taint in that animal almost to the same extent as if the cartilages were ossified and immovable. Still the fact remains that we are anything but agreed on this point.

As to unsoundness generally, we naturally cannot all expect to see things in the same light. That some definite guidance ought to be offered us on points of difference which frequently occur is certainly my opinion, especially with a view to helping the young practitioner, who errs too much on the side of safety I am sure; perhaps not having sufficient confidence in his own judgment. We must not forget we have a very responsible position to perform. Purchasers imagine that if a horse is passed as sound by their veterinary adviser they have a positive assurance of the horse being all right at the time of purchase, and a sort of guarantee that when they come to sell the animal he will pass sound again, but when another opinion is taken on re-sale they often find they are mistaken."

Especially are the above sentences worthy of cognizance when one hears the authoritative pronouncements of the so-called 'expert' judge at fairs.

BUNT OR STINKING SMUT.

Mr. G. H. Clark, Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, in his evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, June 4th and 5th, ultimo, presented at the request of the Committee a statement re the condition in respect to bunt or smut of the wheat crop in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Mr. Clark showed representative samples of smutted wheat, as loaded in the cars at point of shipment, and also the same grade after being elevated, and explained the methods of cleaning and scouring at the lake fronts. This cleaning process cost from 2 to 3 cents per bushel, in addition to the shrinkage of from two to five per cent. in weight. The value of wheat that has been scouring for smut, ranges from three to five cents per bushel less than it would have been had it not been smutted.

From 1905, to March 31st, 1906, 46,890 cars were inspected at the Winnipeg Inspection Office, of which there were 2,834 rejected I, and 3,361 rejected II, or 13.1-16 of the total crop, which is a larger aggregate than the six previous years combined.

In considering the causes for this outbreak of stinking smut in the 1905 crop, he attributed it to the use of weak and shrunken seed from the rusted crop of 1904, to the prolonged cold though moist weather during the early spring of 1905, and to the depreciation in the inherent vigor of the wheat crop, taking the crop as a whole, due to the use of wheat for seeding purposes that had been cut before it was fully ripened.

In some instances, too early seeding and too deep sowing, increased the danger from smut. Smut is capable of attacking the plant only during the very early stages of growth, and before the wheat plant has developed a green leaf. Any factor which tends to weaken the vital energy of the seedling, or depreciate the inherent vigor of the plant, renders it much more susceptible to such diseases as smut and rust.

In the hard-wheat belt of the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan he had found, in almost every smutted crop examined that a large proportion of the heads which carried smut balls were comparatively weak plants which produced only one head of grain, and in many of these heads not more than two-thirds of these grains were displaced by smut balls, the upper portion of the head, as a rule, containing apparently sound grains of wheat. Although it was not definitely known whether grains from diseased plants were capable of perpetuating the disease, despite treatment effective in destroying the vitality of the smut spores attached to the grain, he was of the opinion, which is borne out by the results of experiments with the use of rejected wheat after being carefully treated, that Western farmers have small hope of entirely eliminating the disease, if they continue to use seed wheat taken from a smutted crop, no matter how effectively they treat their seed.

Mr. Clark stated that, while much could be done to maintain the vigor of the crop and the yield and quantity of the wheat by the use of the fanning mill, a much further step in advance is the practice of providing each year ten acres or more of the best and cleanest land on the farm to grow pure seed. This seed wheat should be allowed to get fully matured before being cut. The practice, also, of selecting perfect heads, true to the desired type and variety, to furnish seed for a breeding plot or base of supply of pure seed, has proven a practicable and profitable means of keeping varieties pure, and also increasing the yield and improving the quality of the grain.

Re the treatment of seed to destroy stinking smut, he advised the hot-water treatment where practicable, as it does not impair the vitality and vital energy of the seed to the same extent as poisonous solutions. The wheat should be immersed in water ranging from 132 to 135 degrees F. for five minutes. A solution of copper sulphate, 1 pound dissolved in 8 gallons of water, has given apparently satisfactory results, although it is not known definitely exactly what strength of solution is necessary to kill the spores that are in contact with it for five minutes.

One pint of formalin to 25 or 30 gallons of water, is an equally cheap and effective remedy, and he believed it would largely succeed bluestone as a smut preventive within the next five years. The effect of poisonous solutions such as bluestone or formalin on the vitality of the seed and the vigor of the plant, renders the use of such preventives a choice between two evils, of which the lesser is recommended. Farmers in the West have, however, in their anxiety to overcome the pest, been using too strong solutions, thereby not only diminishing the vital energy of the seedling, but actually killing an unnecessary percentage of the seed.

Referring to the Seed Control Act, Mr. Clark stated that it was having a wholesome influence in encouraging the production, sale, and use of clean seed. The discrimination, ranging from 50c. to \$2.00 per bushel paid to the farmers for grass, clover and other seeds, in favor of the clean article, would have a good effect. The quality of seeds offered by the retail trade had been much improved since 1902.

Official seed inspectors, who are the district representatives of the Seed Branch, had visited most of the seed merchants in all of the provinces during the past three months. About fifteen cases of violation of the Act are now under consideration.

Outlining the general plan to improve the Western wheat crop by the use of better seed, detailed information was given of arrangements with agricultural societies, by which the latter furnished substantial prizes for fields of 10 acres or more, to be judged before harvest, and from the viewpoint of seed purposes. In providing funds for seed fairs, of which 27 were held in the province during the recent winter months, the officer of the Seed Branch located in the West would have direct charge of the work, and supply competent judges for the field competitions, and judges and lectures for the annual seed fairs. These field competitions will be judged by score, according to the following scale of points:


Suitability of variety, 10 points.
Freedom from weeds, 25 points.
Freedom from other varieties and other kinds of grains, 20 points.
Freedom from the attacks of rust, smut and insects, 15 points.
Vigor of growth and uniformity, size of head, strength of straw, and apparent yield, 20 points.
The Provincial Department of Agriculture for Saskatchewan and Alberta have arranged to give an additional grant to each agricultural society conducting these field competitions.

OH, MEMORY!

There is no doubt that the tying of a piece of string round the finger is a really good aid to a poor memory; but there is a well-authenticated case of a farmer who tied a piece of cotton around his finger in the morning to remind him to get his hair cut. On the way home to dinner that evening he noticed the piece of cotton.

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McClary's

LONDON, TORONTO, MONTREAL, WINNIPEG, VANCOUVER,
ST. JOHN, HAMILTON.

"Ah, yes I remember!" he said, and smiling proudly, he entered the accustomed shop, and sat down before the accustomed artist.

"Er—yes, sir?" said the artist, puzzled inquiry in his tones.

"Eh—oh, yes; cut my hair, please," commanded the absent-minded one curtly.

"Why, certainly, sir, if you wish it," said the artist. "But you won't mind my mentioning the fact that I cut it this morning, will you?" *Evening Mail.*

EVERYTHING.

In a little New England village lived a lawyer famous for drawing wills, in which branch of business he had long enjoyed a monopoly of the business of the county.

On the death of a certain respected citizen there was much speculation as to the value of the property, and the village gossip undertook to find out the facts. He hunted up the lawyer and said, rather bluntly: "I suppose you made Blank's will?"

"Yes."
"Then you probably know how much he left. Would you mind telling me?"
"Not at all," replied the lawyer, deliberately. "He left everything he had."—*Sci.*

The following extract is from the report of Superintendent Macdonell, D.S.O., Battleford:

"The following case came to my notice as illustrating how diametrically opposed to a white man's views an Indian's may be. An Indian at Onion Lake was sentenced to one month's hard labor at Battleford for lodge roling his squaw, having pleaded guilty to the charge. He appeared an intelligent, hard-working, decent young fellow, so when signing his release I said, "Well now you are free mind you don't beat your squaw any more." He replied, "I never beat her at all; it was my mother-in-law gave her daughter a bad beating, and my father tell me that if police come I must say I did it, because it would be shameful to let my mother-in-law go to jail. So I did." I wonder how many white men would miss the chance of locking up their mothers-in-law, to say nothing of taking the punishment for them.

LITERARY TONICS.

How many persons ever think of the medicinal properties of the cheap editions of literature that we are blessed with now-a-days? Yet there is often wonderful curative power in a well chosen bit of fiction or book of verse. People will rush off to the doctor or fly to the chemist and spend money on patent medicines, when instead they ought to patronize the bookseller. Nothing serves better to turn one's thoughts from worry than a good novel or a volume of ethics, requiring thought and study.

In the treatment of diseases, especially those nerve troubles that vex our fast-living generation, literature is beginning to figure largely, and now it is not an uncommon thing for physicians to prescribe special reading for their patients. In books—bright books, right books—lie many a sufferer's hope. Melancholia even might give way to the influence of a story such as "Three Men in a Boat," and as much good be derived in this way as harm has been wrought to sensitive nerves by the reading of extravagant and gruesome fiction.

It seems to me that in our reading we make a mistake in trying to keep up with all the latest fiction, instead of finding something that will revive the sense of humor or convey an impression of fresh fields and new-found friends. The lightened mind will almost invariably react beneficially on the jaded body. The heavy mental worker will find a solace in Longfellow's poems. After a day of fever and fret he picks up his volume and perhaps reads "The Day is Done," and the lines that are steeped in the spirit of twilight's quiet, fall on the wearied spirit like the touch of a cool hand on a pain-racked forehead. Here is medicine indeed. Prescriptions could be given in multitude. An ailing small person might be pleased with Lewis Carroll's "Amusing Fancies"; a tired woman-patient lost in her own concerns, should have the genial "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" introduced to her. The library is the best possible chemist's shop. Books may be better than bottles. *—St. Stephen's Club Paper.*