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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Veterinary.

### BRAIN TROUBLE—ABORTION.

1. Calf, three weeks old, apparently healthy, suddenly commenced to bellow and jump into the air, with head turned back; fell, struggled, frothed slightly from the mouth, and died in fifteen minutes. We had the contents of the stomach analyzed, and there was no trace of poison. Four cows died during the winter, showing similar symptoms.

2. A year ago, mare produced weak foal that died in about twenty-four hours. Last January, she aborted twins at seven months' gestation—one healthy, the other decayed. Will she abort next year? **W. M. P.**

Ans.—1. The symptoms indicate a tumor or other growth upon the brain, for which nothing could have been done. The brain trouble in this calf and in cows mentioned may be tubercular, and, if the cattle are of the same family, the predisposition is hereditary. There is no disease, except of the brain, that will produce these symptoms.

2. Mares carrying twins are more liable to abortion than those carrying a single foetus. Some accident caused the death of one of the foetuses, and this caused abortion. It is quite probable she will carry foetus to full term next time. At about seven months of gestation, keep her very quiet for a month. Watch closely, and if she shows symptoms of abortion, give two ounces of laudanum, every three hours, until symptoms cease. **V.**

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Miscellaneous.

### MARE NOT IN FOAL.

In the fall, A traded a mare to be with foal, to B for cattle. The mare turned out not to be in foal. Can B come on A for damages? **C. M.**

Ans.—Probably not.

### ASHES FOR ONIONS.

What soil is the most suitable for seed onions, and is it beneficial to use ashes for the same? **A. H.**

Ans.—The onion can be grown on almost any soil, from a light sandy loam to black muck. The one essential is that the soil be well drained, and a good fine seed-bed prepared before the seed is sown. Whether or not it would pay to use wood ashes depends largely upon the requirements of the soil. Any soil deficient in potash will certainly be much benefited by the ashes, and with the onion crop, which requires a large amount of potash in an available form, there would be little danger of mistake in using them upon most soils. The best method, however, of determining whether your soil requires ashes or not is to apply the ashes to a few rows of onions, and leave others untreated, and note the difference in results. **H. L. HUTT.**

**O. A. C.**

### ASPARAGUS CULTURE.

Will you kindly give me some information in the cultivating of asparagus? What soil is the best? How long can you keep it cut for table use? How to treat it in the fall? If fertilizer is used for covering in the winter, at what time should it be uncovered in the spring? The asparagus is a vegetable we are very fond of, and we would like to know all we can in regard to the care of it. We have had a bed for a great many years, and we sometimes think we should have more yield from it. **A. H.**

Ans.—Asparagus plants in several varieties may be obtained from most of the leading seedmen at about one dollar per hundred. These are usually one- to two-year-old plants, ready for setting at once into permanent plantation. There is no difficulty in growing plants from seed, as the plants grow readily, and if sown in a row in the garden, where they can be cultivated, they should make good strong plants in one or two years; usually two-year-old plants are best. The asparagus bed should be located in a warm, sunny location. The warmer the soil and situation, the earlier the crop. The old plan was to grow plants in beds four or five feet wide, but a better plan is to set the plants in rows, three or four feet apart, and from two to two and a half feet apart in the row, so that good cultivation can be given by means of the horse cultivator or wheel hoe. The plants should be set at least four or five inches deep, and the richer the ground is made before planting, the better growth they will make. All they require is thorough cultivation from the first thing in spring until about the middle of the summer to keep the beds from becoming weedy. It is a good plan to apply a top-dressing of well-rotted manure after the last cutting in the summer, before the tops are allowed to grow. This is much better than applying manure in the fall, as is usually done, for growth is retarded in the spring, and the crop is several days later than it otherwise would have been. For at least a couple of years after planting, no crop should be expected from the newly-planted bed. The third season it may be cropped freely, and it is always well to cut every stalk as soon as long enough for cutting, and not allow any of the small, spindling stalks to grow. The longer the cutting is kept up, the more the plants are exhausted. It is, therefore, well to cease cutting about the time that early peas come in on the same ground. After this, the plants should be allowed to make all the tops they will, and thus store up plant food in the roots for early crop next spring. At the end of the season, after the tops have died, they should be cut out and burned. In sections where the asparagus rust is troublesome, it becomes necessary to spray the beds with Bordeaux mixture. The asparagus beetle, which is becoming so troublesome in many places, is a difficult one to hold in check, as it works upon the young stalks, which cannot well be sprayed

without injuring their market value. One of the best methods of holding these beetles in check is to allow poultry to have free run of the plantation during the early part of the season. Thorough spraying with Paris green and the Bordeaux mixture should be given as soon as the tops are allowed to grow. **O. A. C.**

**H. L. HUTT.**

### TESTAMENTARY.

1. Has the executor of an estate the right to employ a solicitor for guidance and charge the estate with the expenses thus incurred?

2. A man dies, leaving a wife and two children. His estate is valued at \$2,800. The widow received a legacy of \$1,800 two years previous to his death, which she kept for herself. What proportion of his estate can she claim from the children? **EXECUTOR.**

**Ontario.**

Ans.—1. Yes; whenever really necessary.

2. We assume that the man died without leaving a will. The \$1,800 legacy is not legally to be considered in respect of the question put. It does not affect the matter. The widow is in a position to claim one-third, absolutely, of the balance of the \$2,800 remaining after payment thereof of the funeral and testamentary expenses and debts.

### QUALITY OF BRAN.

I am sending you a sample of bran for which I am paying \$22 a ton. Have been feeding it to my horses, and, though it weighs heavy, and looks good, except that there are some bits in it that look like pieces of timothy, yet my horses do not seem to care for it. Will you kindly tell me if there is anything in it that would cause the horses to dislike it, or how it can be accounted for? **SUBSCRIBER.**

Ans.—The sample of bran forwarded by you on May 21st, has been submitted to analysis, and the following data obtained:

	Average of 8 Genuine Canadian Brans.	%
Moisture .....	10.58	11.07
Protein .....	13.63	14.52
Fat .....	3.98	4.87
Carbohydrates.....	57.02	54.19
Fibre .....	9.44	10.14
Ash .....	5.35	5.71
	100.00	100.00

Side by side, for the purpose of comparison, I have placed the average composition of Canadian bran as determined by us a few years ago. It will be seen that the sample in question is somewhat low in protein and fat, though not sufficiently so to warrant any suspicion of adulteration. Its genuineness is also attested by the fact that the percentages of fibre and ash are not greater than those from brans of excellent quality. This sample contains, as pointed out by our correspondent, some few fragments of hay, weed seed, hulls, etc., but this foreign matter, in our opinion, is not present in sufficient quantity to brand the feed as adulterated.

**FRANK T. SHUTT,**  
Chemist, Dominion Exp. Farms.

### GOSSIP.

Dairymen and others building or refitting cattle stables, should look up the advertisement of Mr. A. M. Rush, of Preston, Ontario, setting forth the desirable features of the "U Bar" swinging stanchion, which gives comfort and freedom to the cows, are readily adjustable, easily opened and closed, and have other important advantages.

The prize list of the Canadian National Exhibition, to be held in Toronto, August 29th to September 14th, has been issued, and may be had on application to the Secretary and Manager, Dr. J. O. Orr, City Hall, Toronto. Livestock entries close August 5th; agricultural and dairy products, August 12th. Stock must be on the ground September 2nd. The cash prizes are liberal, totaling \$50,000, and the classification varied to suit the most exacting. The rules and regulations governing entries in each class are given, and all necessary information furnished in the publication.

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