

Veterinary Department.

Influenza in Horses.

THIS is a disease which is often experienced amongst horses during the end of winter and early part of spring; it is a specific fever, and has a tendency to assume various forms, very often exhibited as a catarrhal attack of the air passages, and also tending to involve many different organs of the body, and more particularly the great centre of the circulatory system. In some instances the attack is so slight as only to consist of a very mild form of sore throat, accompanied with a swelling of the parotid gland; whilst in other cases it appears in a malignant form, soon followed by great weakness and loss of nervous influence, accompanied by a fever of a low typhoid kind. The whole respiratory tract appears to experience an inflammatory attack of a sub-acute form, often extending to the heart and to its covering, (the pericardium). Influenza is generally most prevalent and always appears in a severe form in damp, low-lying localities, where the drainage is deficient, and is also of a more serious nature when animals are standing in stables where the air is very impure, owing to the want of proper ventilation and cleanliness—and more especially among horses that are in low condition. In these cases, where there has been an insufficient supply of nutritive food, the system is not in a fit state to withstand any debilitating influence. This disease frequently occurs in an epizootic form, when a great number of horses will become similarly affected. It has been supposed to result from some atmospheric cause or agency. At certain periods the disorder will run through entire stables, attacking all and sundry; whilst again, the attack will be confined principally to young horses, of the age of from two to six years. At one time it was the opinion of some writers that this disease was contagious in its nature. This, however, is not the opinion of veterinarians of the present day, and influenza is not considered a contagious disorder. The name influenza, we believe, originated with the Italians, as they supposed it was produced by the influence of the stars. The symptoms of influenza are somewhat variable, and in its simplest form it bears some analogy to common fever. The horse shows extreme dulness, and a great disinclination to move. He hangs his head, and the coat looks bad, losing its natural glossy appearance and becoming staring and dusty looking. The eye is also dull, the upper eyelid is partially closed, and there is an increased discharge of tears, giving the eye quite a watery appearance. The circulation is greatly altered; the pulse is quick and exceedingly weak in cases where the depression is great, the pulse at the jaw being very indistinct. The ears and legs are cold, and the mouth is hot and sticky. The respirations are more or less altered according to the intensity of the attack, in mild cases there is little difference in the respiratory movements. As the heart has a great tendency to become affected in this complaint, there will sometimes be regurgitation of blood in the jugular vein, which will almost be pulsating like an artery, and the sounds of the heart are also increased, as the ear applied to the left side can very easily detect. The throat is sore, and generally a cough is present, which is easily excited by pressure on the head of the windpipe, (*larynx*.) The appetite is completely gone, and in fact the animal can scarcely be induced to look at food. He soon shows signs of great debility, and when attempting to walk he reels and staggers, and it is only with difficulty he can be kept on his legs. The above are the principal symptoms observed when the disease is of a very debilitating nature. In mild cases the respirations are very little disturbed, and the appetite is not completely gone.

These sequelae of influenza are inflammation of the lungs and pleura, and the formation of water in the chest.

and also in the pericardial sac. The latter is known as *hydrops pericardii*, or dropsy of the pericardium. The inflammatory action may be set up in the lungs or pleura in a very insidious manner, and it may have gone on to a considerable extent before the more alarming symptoms are noticed, especially by the casual observer. There will then be perceived flapping of the nostrils and labored breathing, and a heaving of the abdominal muscles; the pulse will be increased, often ranging one hundred beats per minute, and very weak; the debility increases, and the horse stands persistently. Very often there is a discharge from the nostril of thick yellow matter, and when the throat is much affected this is a very good symptom. In cases that are likely to terminate fatally the discharge has a very offensive smell, and the extremities increase in coldness, and the patient refuses both food and water.

The signs of returning health are a more regular temperature of the body, the pulse becoming slower, the appetite returning, the eye looking brighter, and the bowels being moved in a regular manner.

In the treatment of influenza, the strength of the patient must be supported. If what has been called heroic treatment is resorted to, viz., bleeding and purging, influenza proves a very fatal disease. From the beginning the strength of the animal must be sustained. The horse should be placed in a comfortable airy box or stable, and the body clothed according to the state of the temperature. It is generally advisable to give stimulants and tonics from the first, as a quart of good beer three times a day, in which might be mixed one ounce of nitrous ether. The bowels should be opened gently by means of clyster, and if the throat is very tender a stimulating embrocation should be well rubbed into the sub-maxillary space, or head of the windpipe. Of course many of the stimulants used in veterinary practice are useful in influenza, but we just mentioned such as can be easily procured. The horse should also be encouraged to take food that is easily digested, and the clothing should be removed at least twice a day, and the body well rubbed over. As recovery takes place slowly it is greatly expedited by the use of tonics.

The Dairy.

Suggestions to Canadian Cheese-Makers.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In October I had the pleasure of visiting some of the dairy districts and cheese-factories of Ontario, and now offer a few remarks and suggestions concerning the latter.

While I was everywhere generously received—especially by my friend Harvey Farrington, Esq., of Norwich,—and while I found many things to be approved, and apparatus in some of the factories better adapted to their use than I have ever met in the States, yet, in some other and more important matters, I cannot but believe that there is room for improvement.

In my judgment the factory-system of Canada is in some respects radically wrong. With us, good water and abundance of it is deemed an essential thing to insure success; with Canada cheese factories this is almost entirely overlooked. It would not be difficult to show how grave a mistake your dairymen are making, nor would it be risking much to say that some of your factories will be short-lived on this account.

Lack of water necessitates the making of cheese twice daily. Not only is this night work unnecessary—it is positively detrimental to the product of your dairy. One of the prolific sources of bad flavor in cheese arises from the fact that milk is not sufficiently cooled before being warmed and “set” for cheese. The temperature of the milk should be reduced to about 60°. Where the animal heat remains.

the result is similar to that which ensues when meat is put into pickle before cooling. Bad flavor with us arises in part from not cooling the morning milk—yours, from cooling neither morning nor evening.

Besides, it is felt—and by none more than by Mr. Farrington—that even when milk is properly cooled, it is better that it should have attained an age of twelve hours or more before being reduced to curd. Exactly why this is so, or what chemical change comes over it, it is difficult to say. That the product is better when the milk is somewhat stale, is fully believed by many of our best cheese-makers.

In the same connection, it is pertinent to ask why it is necessary or right to keep so many persons laboring at night? Why the extra expense of keeping under pay two sets of hands, when the result is only a positive disadvantage to the cheese?

Such thoughts must have impressed themselves upon the minds of the intelligent cheese-makers of Canada, who will not be slow, I trust, to apply the remedy.

If a bountiful supply of good water cannot be obtained, let ice be used, or the new milk “Agitator.”

Again, I am convinced that with us, as with you, immense quantities of cheese are injured in flavor by the practice of salting the curd before it is sufficiently drained and cooled, and by dipping it into the hoops while yet too warm.

I found that many of your factories had on hand (Oct. 25 to 30) nearly all the cheeses made since the beginning of the season. Further experience will convince your dairymen that all cheese made up to August—unless quite perfect in make and flavor—had better be sold as fast as cured in sufficient quantity.

I tried many cheeses in various factories, and found many of good quality; candor compels me to add that I also found many that were execrable.

I noticed universally that your cheese-makers seem to have no faith in highly colored cheese. In this, I think, they are mistaken. To England we look for our best market, and there we find that London is the market which best appreciates strictly fine cheese, and is willing to pay the best prices for it. But London calls nothing strictly fine which is not highly-colored, as well as quite right in every other particular.

Many of your dairymen are, doubtless, as well or better informed in regard to cheese-making than I am, but I have thought that the above suggestions may be of benefit to others.

Very respectfully yours,

GARDNER B. WEEKS,

Sec. Am. Dairymen's Asso.

VERONA, Oneida Co., N.Y., Dec. 11, 1867.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We are much obliged to Mr. Weeks for the above letter, and hope it will not be lost on our dairymen. That there is much truth and force in the criticisms made by our correspondent, we are but too well persuaded; and we repeat the conviction heretofore expressed, that if the cheese factory system is to succeed in this country, it must be by dint of unrelenting care, the most scrupulous cleanliness, and rigid observance of the conditions on which alone cheese of first-rate quality can be made.

The Mammoth Cheese in England.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I have great pleasure in handing you extracts from Liverpool newspapers sent to me by my Liverpool House, referring in flattering terms to an achievement of Canadian skill and enterprise in dairy production.

The Cheese I bought of Mr. Harris, in New York, after it had gone through a course of exhibitions in the United States, and shipped it to my firm in Liverpool, who sold it to the gentlemen referred to in the paragraphs.