

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

PERIODIC OPHTHALMIA.

Colt's eye got dull and sore last winter, and has been so at times ever since, sometimes appearing all right. Lately, a thin scum has formed over the eye, and the other eye is affected also. What treatment would you recommend.

T. S.

Ans.—Keep in a partially-darkened stall, excluded from sunlight and drafts. Bathe the eyes well, three times daily, with warm water, and, after bathing, put into the eyes a few drops of the following lotion: Sulphate of zinc, 10 grains; fluid extract of belladonna, 20 drops; distilled water, 2 ounces.

OPHTHALMIA.

I have a mare that had a milky scum come on her eye about a year ago. I used a mild wash, got from a vet., and it went away. It came back a couple of times in the summer, but went away, and now it is on again. I think the eye is getting smaller, and the sight looks dull.

- 1. Is she likely to go blind in the other eye?
2. Are other horses in same stable likely to take the same from her?
3. Is it infectious or contagious?
4. Is this what is called moon blindness?

W. D.

Ans.—1. This is a constitutional disease called periodic ophthalmia. The attacks cannot be prevented, and all that can be done is to treat them when affected. It is probable that, after a few attacks, cataracts will form, which will cause blindness. When affected, keep in a partially-darkened stall. Bathe eyes well, three times daily, with warm water, and, after bathing, put a few drops of following lotion into each eye: Sulphate of zinc, 15 grains; fluid extract of belladonna, 20 drops; distilled water, 2 ounces.

- 2. Not necessarily.
3. No.
4. Yes.

ALFALFA—PASTURE ON NEW LAND.

1. Is alfalfa good to pasture? It has never been grown around here; some people say it is not to be pastured. I sowed some last spring; it came up well. I intended to pasture it, but thought I had better find out before from others more experienced.

2. Would it do to sow in front of a bush where the most of the timber is taken off fresh? Would it have to be harrowed, or would it catch without? What time of the spring would it be best to sow it?

3. Would it be best sown alone, or with a mixture of seeds, and what mixture?

H. B.

Dufferin Co., Ont.
Ans.—1. Alfalfa may be pastured, but grazing is liable to injure the stand, often leading to its complete killing out. Grazing with sheep is worst, and late autumn pasturing is especially bad. Ruminants pastured on alfalfa alone, without access to grass, are in more or less danger from bloating, especially when the alfalfa is pastured with rain or dew on it. It is, perhaps, rather more liable to cause bloating than is clover.

2. This might do if the land were clean and well drained. We would certainly advise harrowing. On ordinary land, the seed is best covered pretty well. Some disk it in. Sow as soon as the land is in good condition to work, and before weed seeds get a start.

3. If you want hay, sow it alone, at the rate of 15 pounds of good seed per acre, on rich soil, in fine condition, or 20 pounds on ordinary soil. If it is a permanent pasture you want, we can recommend no seed mixture more likely to give good results than the one recommended by Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O. A. C., Guelph. It is orchard grass, 4 pounds; meadow fescue, 4 pounds; tall oat grass, 3 pounds; timothy, 2 pounds; meadow foxtail, 2 pounds; alfalfa, 5 pounds; alsike clover, 2 pounds; white clover, 2 pounds; making a total of 24 pounds of seed per acre. On new land, we think you might safely reduce this amount by a quarter, or perhaps a third.

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