

SIR.—Will you be kind enough to tell me, in next issue of your valuable paper, what is the best feed for milk cows, and if it should be fed boiled or raw. C. L. NEWMARKET.

[If you are feeding for butter, give chiefly rich concentrated foods; but if quantity of milk is your object, make succulent foods the chief portion of the ration. With regard to cooked vs. raw foods, all depends upon the authorities which we accept. Thousands of practical farmers have used cooked food all their lives and assert that they would have no other; while others have silently abandoned the practice in disgust. Many rough experiments have resulted in a pecuniary gain in the cooking of foods; but the most extensive and reliable experiments have been conducted at the Maine Agricultural Station, the trials covering nine years, and the average result showed that the feeding value of cooked to raw meal was as 83.3 to 100. There are principles involved in the question which indicate the superiority of raw foods, but the explanation would probably be rather too technical for you. The boom at present is in favor of cooked foods; and if you regard the testimony of a majority of practical farmers as more reliable than that of science, then cook your foods by all means. The common-sense view of it is that cooked foods are not natural, and therefore impractical and deleterious. The question is still in the hands of investigators, and will probably soon be settled.]

SIR.—I see in the March ADVOCATE that J. G. asks if smut will grow from smutty wheat. I can tell him it will; I have seen it proved. I will give you my experience in preventing smut; I never knew it to fail: Wash the wheat with chamber lye and dry it with lime. Don't put it in a bag; if you do, and let it stand for half an hour when it is damp or wet; it will never grow. You will have to sow it immediately. If you want to keep the wheat after it is washed and limed, spread it thin on a barn floor and let it dry; then it will keep as long as you like. MUNSTER, Ont.

SIR.—I use a plan to stop cows from kicking whilst being milked, which may be of some use to your subscribers. Take a small rope plow line, pass it around the cow's head, the same as for leading, then put a half hitch on her ear; let an assistant hold this rope, and every time the cow attempts to kick, jerk the rope sharply so that it will pinch her ear. I use the same thing to lead cows. C. A. D. L.

SIR.—I was glad to see an account of wheat-chess men being cornered, as they always will be on close observation, for I think it is the want of close observation that makes wheat appear to turn to chess. I am 57 years old; my father was over 83 when he died, and was born on the same farm. Neither of us ever raised more chess than we could account for in the seed sown or in the hay that was fed to the cattle. It is for want of close observation that chess is sown. I have seen neighbors sowing seed wheat which I have no doubt they called clean. Two of them borrowed my drill; fall before last I counted several handfuls of the wheat left in the drill, and none of them had less than 12 grains of chess in them, and some of them 30. You could not believe farmers would sow such seed if you did not see it; then they will say if the wheat gets drowned out and the chess all grows well that the wheat turned to chess. Chess grows best on wet land; it can stand water equal to timothy. There is no use arguing with wheat-chess men; they are as strong as their opinions as I am in mine. I have heard the most plausible stories imaginable about clean seed and clean new fallow raising nearly all chess, but I did not see it. I send you my opinion so that you will not think we all believe in wheat turning to chess. I believe every seed grows after its own kind. J. L. HOMER, Ont.

SIR.—I noticed in the Chicago Live Stock Journal that some one from this section has been asking for the pedigrees of certain stallions brought into this county the last few years, and, as many of us farmers look to you as a protector from the many schemes instituted to secure rather more than a fair deal. I would like to know what you would advise if a credulous farmer used one of these horses on the presumption that he was registered, and which afterwards proved not to be the case. Could the owner of such a horse collect for service? Where should the burden of proof rest in case a dispute arose as to the correctness of the representations made? Our farmers seem anxious about the pedigrees of the draught horses they use, partly in consequence of a lesson taught them a few years ago by the importation of a very fine looking English horse weighing about 2000 lbs., and taking prizes at many of our shows as a draught, but from which no one raised a draught colt. Many raised fair general purpose, and many more raised weeds of roadsters. AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

BOND HEAD, Ont.

[If the owner of the stallion falsely represented that the animal was thoroughbred or registered, your best plan is to let him sue you for his fee for service, and you can enter an offset (in the Division Court) for damages to the extent of \$50. However, should you consider the damages greater than this sum, or should he not sue you, you may enter an action for damages against him in

the County Court up to \$200, and in the High Court for more than this sum. In this case you should engage a lawyer and give him all the facts of your case. The register book will decide whether the representations are true or not. The burden of proof of the misrepresentations will fall upon you. If you accepted the service of the stallion without any representations being made as to his purity of blood, you have no case against the owner. We are always willing and anxious to protect the farmer from fraud in every form, but we must be cautious about what we publish, else action for damages may be brought against us. In cases of doubt farmers should first ask our opinion, and so prevent the occurrence of the fraud.]

SIR.—In looking over the ADVOCATE I see the wheat-chess question often discussed. Now, sir, I want you to allow me a short space in your valuable paper for what I know on the subject, not of wheat, but of barley turning to chess. In the fall of 1883, as you will remember, the snow fell without any frost, and grain that was left on the stubble field after harvest, grew, and consequently was not killed. In the spring of 1884, in passing over the fields that were not plowed, my brother called my attention to the barley growing, I, through curiosity, thinking it might in this way be turned to fall barley. We dug up several bunches of the barley and replanted it, and, Mr. Editor, to our surprise, when it headed out it was as beautiful chess as you ever saw grow. J. W. CLAUDE, Ont.

SIR.—1. Would you tell me through the ADVOCATE the cheapest and best way I can erect a telephone from my house to my man's house, a distance of about 75 yards. 2. I have a piece of low ground, black muck; would you give me some information about what grass, or grasses would be most suitable for sowing it with? 3. Will the grasses of permanent pastures cut much for hay? ANCASTER, Ont.

[1.—A tin tube is best. A tinsmith will furnish it for 3 or 4 cents a foot. 2.—Rye grasses, timothy, clovers (red, white, alsike and lucerne), meadow fescue, blue grass, red top, and orchard grass, if sown in the proportions, will do well for permanent pastures on low lands. Write to all seedsmen advertised in the ADVOCATE, giving full particulars as to land, drainage, etc., and then make your choice. 3. Permanent pastures are not adapted for hay crops, as the various grasses ripen at widely different intervals; but they do for soiling crops.]

SIR.—I write to know if there is anything that will kill warbles in cattle without injury to the animal? My cattle are unusually full of them this spring. Would also like to know if situation of pasture land or condition of be at has anything to do in the matter. W. A. C. MUSKOGA, Ont.

[Read our Entomology article on the bot fly. Low lands are worst for the attacks of flies. All sorts of vermin thrive best on animals that are not in a healthy condition, either by too high or too low feeding, or any other cause.]

SIR.—We had a splendid winter with steady cold, no severe storms and not much snow. The snow has nearly all disappeared, and what is left is going very fast. A few farmers have commenced seeding. Farmers are more particular this spring, as many have been unable to sell their wheat on account of smut, and the price has been very low. Nearly every farmer will pickle his wheat with blue stone (sulphate of copper), applying about one pound to seven bushels of seed. There will be a good deal of late seeding, as very little land was plowed last fall. Many teams will be employed in transporting supplies, which will affect the area sown. Stock has wintered in fine condition. I feed cracked wheat to my cattle and hogs, on which they do well. I have some pigs, young and old, which lose the power of their legs and are hardly able to get around, although they eat heartily and nothing else appears to be the matter with them. Can you give me cause and remedy? J. W. V. BRANDON, MAN., April 4th.

[This condition of your hogs is usually caused by not changing the feeding ration often enough, especially when too much fatty or concentrated foods are given and too little succulent foods, with a deficiency of exercise. The cure is to remove the cause.]

SIR.—1. My yearling calves have spots around their eyes, with a hard crust on. They are in good condition and have a good appetite. Could you give me a cure? 2. What would you consider the best food for laying hens? 3. Could you also give advice for my pigs which snort so when they breathe; do you think coals would be good? WOOLWICH.

[1.—Scrape the crust off with a knife; then apply a solution of corrosive sublimate, 1 drachm; alcohol, 2 ounces. Dress with a feather or small brush every two or three days. 2.—Middings, oats, milk and egg-shells (scorched and pulverized) are an excellent ration. 3.—

Your hogs likely have catarrh. Give sulphur in feed, about one tablespoonful per day to each pig. Coals would be of no use.]

SIR.—1. We had 8 young pigs, 6 weeks old, that seem to have got a cold. When they breathe they can be heard all over the pen. They swell at the throat and die. The pen is very warm. Please send the cause and remedy. 2. What are the best works on handling and judging pigs? J. W. CORWHIN, Ont.

[1.—Lack of ventilation and exercise is a fruitful cause of the symptoms you mention. Turn the pigs out for exercise and fresh air, and give sulphur in feed. 2.—"Harris on the Pig" is the best work. By consulting our book list in our advertising columns, you will see that it can be procured from us for \$1.50.]

SIR.—Will you oblige us in next number with information as to best method of helping cows to clean after calving. A number of our cows failed to do so, although in good condition, having been fed previously with turnips and mangels. Cows had been in warm stable, and had plenty of exercise during day time. H. B. BRACHVILLE, Ont.

[Give one pint raw linseed oil every second day for three days. This usually proves effective; but should it fail you should call a veterinary and have the cleaning skillfully removed.]

SIR.—A year and a half ago I left here for Taylor County, Iowa, for the purpose of looking after some land which had been a drag on my hands for many years. As I could not sell at the time, I worked it myself last year. Ontario farmers think they have many causes for complaint over the hard times and other grievances, but if they went there in a body, they would raise a rebellion. You complain, Mr. Editor, that the farmers here don't organize, but if you were there a few months, you would see many more causes for organization. Iowa farmers are compelled to organize, or be devoured by monopolists and speculators. Freight on corn to Chicago (400 miles) was 16¢ cents per bushel until lately, and when the farmers began to show fight, the railway company gallantly and generously reduced the rates to 15¢ cents, and the difference went into the farmers' pockets. The yield of oats ranges from 16 to 25 bushels per acre, and brings 14 to 20 cents; corn 30 to 40 bushels, and brings 15 to 20 cents, but in an extra good year the yield is 70 to 80 bushels per acre; wheat 12 to 15 bushels per acre, and brings about 40 cents, but in many years the yield is not more than 6 to 7 bushels per acre. Hay sells at \$2.50 to \$5 per ton, and first-class fat cattle bring \$5 per wt. on foot. Most every farmer raises a patch of sorghum to keep the family in molasses, which is considered the staff of life there. A farmer here who sells his farm to go there had better loan his money, for it brings 15 to 18 per cent, and he will run the risk of its bringing one per cent if invested in farming. Large farmers make money in stock speculations, but four-fifths of the farmers have only 40 to 160 acres, and many of them are ruining themselves by persisting in grain growing. The land is worth \$20 to \$40 per acre, but I would not give \$25 per acre for land there so readily as I would give \$75 here. There are scarcely any barns or cattle stables, and many cattle and hogs are constantly dying by excessive cold, heat or other grievances. Thousands of hogs are dying of cholera, but farmers who keep their hog premises clean and feed other foods with the corn, are not troubled with losses. Many hogs are fed on cattle droppings, two hogs being put after each cattle beast. There are many Canadian farmers in Iowa, but they are discontented and do not seem to thrive well. They are longing to return. Their motto is, "Go east, young man." W. G. WINGHAM, Ont.

SIR.—What is the cure for catarrh in a horse? STRATFORD, Ont. A SUBSCRIBER. [Dress the throat night and morning with a sharp, stimulating liniment. Give nights and mornings in food, nitrate of potash in drachm doses. Continue these remedies until you find an improvement. Feed chiefly soft and easily digested food.]

SIR.—Ploughing April 17th, land in good order. Fall wheat first class order, grass is looking well at late and sowing generally begun, will mostly be finished this week; cattle of all kinds came through winter in good condition; sheep raising mostly abandoned; old rags and shoddy are king. T. B. GLENCOE, Ont.

SIR.—Should mangels be spelled m-a-n-g-e-l-s or m-a-n-g-o-l-d-s? A. R. S. [The word is derived from the German language, *mangel wurtzel*, meaning *without roots*, and therefore your former spelling is correct, although the mistake is made in many standard books and journals.]

Those of our correspondents who do not find answers to their letters in our correspondence columns, will please read the articles in the departments of this issue which comprehend subjects corresponding to their questions. By doing so they will find their questions answered. When overwhelmed with communications we are obliged to resort to this method of answering.