

THE HORSE.

Persistence of the Urachus, or Leaking Navel.

A condition commonly called "Leaking Navel," technically called "Persistence of the Urachus, or Pervious Urachus," is not uncommon in foals. During several months of foetal life the kidneys of the foetus are active. The urine they secrete is conveyed in the usual manner to the bladder, from which it is conveyed by a tube or canal called the urachus. This is a tube extending from the front and lower portion of the bladder to the navel or umbilical opening, through which it passes, and then expands and forms part of the foetal membranes or afterbirth. The function of the urachus is solely a foetal one. After birth its functions are no longer required, as the urine will escape through the urethra or vagina, according to the sex of the animal, hence the canal under normal conditions become obliterated. It, however, not infrequently occurs that from accidental causes not well understood, or as a consequence of malformation, it is only partially or not at all obliterated, and urine continues to escape in drops, or in a stream from the navel opening. This condition is more frequently noticed in males than in females, and is usually more difficult to treat in the former. While foals that suffer from this abnormality are usually weakly, the condition is frequently noticed in smart, strong subjects, but if the discharge be not checked, the patient in most cases becomes weak and unthrifty, but there are exceptions even to this; that is, cases where the discharge of urine continues and the colt thrives well for a considerable length of time. The condition also is in some cases accompanied by that serious condition known as "Joint ill, or Navel ill," in which cases there are little hopes of successful treatment; at the same time the majority of cases do not become complicated.

Symptoms.—The symptoms are not difficult to recognize. The subject may or may not be weakly, but urine will be noticed escaping either in drops or a stream of greater or less volume, from the navel opening. The escape may be more or less constant, or may be noticed only when the patient is making efforts to urinate. In most cases where the discharge is somewhat constant the patient is usually weakly, and there will be a constant wetness of the parts and of course a refusal of the parts to heal. In most cases when the patient is urinating, the escape of urine can be noticed both by the normal channel and the navel, but in some cases it all escapes through the latter. This indicates that the normal passage is not pervious. In some cases there is a false membrane, or possibly obstructions of other kinds, occluding the normal channel. In all cases where the condition continues the patient sooner or later becomes weak and unthrifty and eventually dies.

Treatment.—Before efforts to check the navel discharge are resorted to, it is necessary to ascertain whether the normal passage is open, as if it be not and we prevent escape through the urachus, it cannot escape at all, and, of course, death will be the result either from inflammation of the parts and exhaustion, or rupture of the bladder. In cases where urine has been noticed escaping from the normal channel, of course, no further evidence is necessary, but when this has not been noticed a small catheter should be passed into the bladder to break down obstructions. If the umbilical or navel cord protrudes below the abdomen, it should be disinfected by a good disinfectant, as a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid or one of the coal tar disinfectants, or a solution of corrosive sublimate, twenty grains to a pint of water. When the end of the urachus can be seen and taken up by the fingers or by a pair of forceps, it should be tied with a strong silk thread that has been disinfected in the lotion. Even when the cord is broken off close to the abdomen we can sometimes secure the vessel by holding the colt on its back. When the urachus cannot be individually secured, the whole cord may be enclosed in the ligature but it is better when possible to secure the urachus alone. The parts should then be dressed three or four times daily with the antiseptic until thoroughly healed. The parts enclosed by the ligature will slough off in a few days, but the dressing should be continued until all is healed. Clams may be used instead of a ligature, but most practitioners prefer the latter. In cases where the canal cannot be secured as above, some authorities recommend the operation of cutting down upon it through the floor of the abdomen and securing it, but this is a critical and in most cases an unnecessary operation and one that requires an expert to perform and also demands careful after attention. Manufacturers of and dealers in proprietary medicines advertise specifics for the cure of this trouble without an operation of any nature. It is not our intention to discuss the value of these preparations. In most cases the application of slight caustics or strong astringents will be effective. Whatever preparation is used must be applied directly to the end of the urachus in order that it may be effective. In order that this may be done it is necessary to have the patient held on his back, and the dressing applied with a feather or a small syringe. A mixture of equal parts of butter of antimony and tincture of myrrh applied with a feather twice daily usually gives good results. Care must be taken to not apply this too freely, or to parts other than those upon which we wish its action exerted. In cases where intelligent treatment of the trouble is adopted early, a recovery usually takes place, provided there are no complications, but when treatment is deferred or neglected until the patient has become too greatly weakened it is often unsuccessful.

WHIP.

Care of Horses in Warm Weather.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I have been reading "Whip's" remarks in the issue of June 13 on "Feeding and Watering Horses in Hot Weather" and I must agree with the writer on some points. It is well to exercise care at all times in feeding and watering, whether the weather be warm or cold. In my experiences to feed a horse grain while warm is more injurious than is water. What I find to work best is to allow the horse, if very warm, about two gallons of water, then let him eat hay for fifteen minutes before giving oats, then you may give a fair drink before starting him to work. A horse that is getting six quarts of oats at a meal can eat enough in one hour to do him for the next five. In turning horses out to grass at night after working, care should be taken that they are not too warm, and that they do not go out just after having a hearty drink. The time water is dangerous to the horse is while very warm and left standing after drinking. I agree that the horse's thirst is as acute as the teamster's and a teamster will, I hope, have the good graces not to forget that the horse is tied. The horse comes next to man, both in eating, drinking and working; also in temper. If you study the horse you will find a horse has the same disposition as man.

Rainy River, Ont.

J. MCKAY.

LIVE STOCK.

For most economical gains shotes require grain when on pasture.

One shepherd reports raising 90 lambs from 62 ewes this spring. This is a good increase.

Sudden changes in feed are detrimental to all classes and ages of stock. If desirous of changing the ration, do so gradually.

If the sow and her litter are confined to a pen, feed some form of green feed. Clover, rape, pigweed, etc., are readily eaten by hogs.

The animals for the show should be selected and a start made in fitting. A poorly-fitted or untrained animal is not a good advertisement for the exhibitor.

Village Supreme, a Shorthorn bull of international fame, and a tried and proven sire, sold for \$16,500 at Bellows Bros.' sale, at which an average of \$1,709 was realized on 65 head.



A Good Spring Lamb.

Fair Beauty, a four-year-old cow with her bull calf, sired by Village Supreme, brought \$7,050 at the auction sale held by E. Ogden & Son, at Maryville, Mo. Forty head averaged \$1,744.

Dr. C. P. Fitch, of the Division of Veterinary Medicine of University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., claims that the ravages of contagious abortion of cattle causes an annual loss of \$50,000,000.

Many piggeries become infested with vermin during the warm weather. Pigs will not make maximum gains if bothered by these parasites. Crude oil applied with a brush or rag is an effective remedy.

The market for hogs appears to be weakening. This will no doubt result in a falling off in the number of sows bred this spring. If bacon is wanted the price of live hogs must remain at a remunerative figure.

The herd of milking Shorthorns on the Government Farm at Monteith, will be considerably strengthened by the addition of the milking Shorthorns from Guelph College, which are to be transferred to their new quarters at an early date. Combining the two herds will make a herd of considerable size which will give a greater opportunity for selection, breeding and feeding than would be possible with a smaller herd.

Kale is a crop that is highly prized by sheepmen. We recently heard of a single plant weighing 60 pounds. At this rate an acre of kale would give a large weight of feed. It is customary to thin the plants to three feet apart in the row.

R. Baird, a Waterloo farmer who feeds upwards of 200 hogs in a year, puts a valuation of from sixty to seventy-five cents per hundred pounds on skim-milk and buttermilk as a hog feed; the latter figure when feeding young pigs.

A Yorkshire sow at the Ontario Agricultural College farm gave birth to a litter of nineteen pigs and is raising fifteen of them. This is a good record, particularly so when the fifteen are all thrifty and uniform in size when near the weaning age.

The hog is claimed to be the most economical animal for converting grains and millfeeds into human food. It requires high-priced concentrates to satisfy his appetite, but many feeders are able to return a profit when all feed is purchased. Results in hog feeding depends a good deal on the attention given by the man in charge.

The show-ring is largely instrumental in setting type in breeds. It is unfortunate that judges at our fairs are not all agreed as to what is the best type of certain breeds. A short course for live stock judges with recognized authorities in charge should do much to avoid one type being placed first at one fair and a slightly different type winning the laurels at the adjoining County fair.

It is understood that good representatives of all the different breeds of sheep and swine are to be placed on the Guelph College Farm. This is a step in the right direction. Hitherto students and visitors to the College had no opportunity of seeing and studying the type and conformation of many of the recognized breeds. One or two breeds of each class of stock may be all that can be advisedly be specialized in, but this should not deter the College from keeping representatives of all the breeds for the benefit of visitors and for class-room work. How is the public to become acquainted with the various breeds if they are not represented at the seat of agricultural learning in Canada?

Keep the Lambs Thrifty.

The breed of sheep, condition of ewe at lambing time, and the care and feed of ewe and lamb influence the rate of gains made by the young stock. The greater the gain the more profit to the owner. The milking quality of the ewe is also an influencing factor. If the ewe is a poor milker her offspring is not sufficiently well fed. This factor might advisedly be taken into consideration to a greater extent than it is when selecting the breeding stock of the flock. For the first month the gain is largely controlled by the quantity of milk the lambs receive, but as the lambs become older the gains will depend to a certain extent upon the roughage and concentrates they receive. In far too many cases where sheep are but a side line, the lambs are not given a chance to make a good showing. They are forced to exist on the milk they secure from their dam and on the roughage they pick up. If the ewe is a good milker a fair daily gain is made, but the gain can be increased by supplementing the pasture and milk with such feeds as oats, bran, corn-meal, oil cake, etc. By constructing a creep in one corner of the pen or pasture the lambs may be fed separately from the ewes. This method will considerably increase the gains over the lambs allowed to shift entirely for themselves.

The accompanying illustration shows a lamb at forty-five days which weighed sixty pounds, which was a gain of a pound a day, as it weighed fifteen pounds at birth. This lamb had access to rolled oats and oil cake (pea size) to supplement what milk it secured from its dam. The thriftiness and size of the lamb indicate that its mother was a good milker, and that the concentrates fed met the feed requirements necessary for rapid gains. It pays to supplement the pastures for both ewes and lambs. As sheep crop the grass very closely, it is a good plan to have two fields for pasture so that one might have a chance to pick up while the sheep are on the other. Instead of turning the flock on a large pasture, more economical returns are secured by limiting it to a small acreage and turning on to fresh grass frequently. If the grass becomes scarce, clover will aid in tiding the flock over until the rape, kale, cabbage, etc., are ready for feeding. To permit the sheep and lambs to lose in flesh for lack of feed is poor management and results in reducing the returns. Many of the summer feeds for sheep are easily grown and give large yields.

Sheep appear to suffer from the noon-day heat, if they do not have access to shelter of some kind. If there are no trees in the pasture, a cheap shelter might be constructed. As a rule, the flock rests during the heat of the day when on pasture, and feeds in the morning and evening.

While sheep appear to be able to do without water better than other classes of stock, they thrive better if pure water is available at all times; at any rate they should have water at least once a day. The flock should also have access to salt. If the greatest gains and best returns are to be obtained the shepherd must cater to the wants and comfort of the flock. Neglect on his part soon shows in the appearance of the flock.