

## THE HORSE.

### Forage or Mold Poisoning.

Forage poisoning, mold poisoning, silage poisoning, incorrectly called "cerebrospinal meningitis," is a disease which causes derangement of the central nervous system. It affects herbivorous animals that consume feed infected with certain bacteria or fungi. It occurs principally in horses; cattle and sheep are seldom affected.

**Causes.**—It is caused by molds, smuts, rusts and yeasts which infect forage, grain or water, the toxic effects of which produce in the animal derangement of the nervous or digestive organs or both. In most cases the nervous symptoms predominate, in others the digestive, depending probably upon the kind of fungus consumed, the quantity of toxins produced, and the resistance of the individual.

The trouble is common in horses which have eaten corn silage, shredded fodder, corn stalks or corn cobs of poor quality; such feeds, if of good quality, may be fed to horses in reasonable quantities with impunity, but if not of first-class quality are very dangerous. Cattle are not nearly so liable to this affection, hence it is not so dangerous to feed silage or other feed of poor quality to them. The disorder may occur in horses on pasture and which have not been fed corn. During hot, showery seasons the rank growth of grass, which mats together, forms an ideal medium for the development of various molds that are dangerous. Water that contains decaying animal or vegetable matter, such as may be found in stagnant pools, wells into which seepage from stables, barn yards, etc., empty, or that contain carcasses of dead animals, are very liable to cause trouble in stock, especially horses. Low, flat-lying land that is periodically flooded are also dangerous. It is said that cattle pasturing in orchards and eating quantities of wind-fall apples are liable to infection. Partially-decayed roots are very dangerous.

**Symptoms.**—As stated "the nervous or digestive system, or both, may become deranged." The writer has not met with any well-marked derangement of the digestive tract, the nervous system being solely involved in most cases. The first symptoms generally noticed is inability to swallow, due to paralysis of tongue and muscles of deglutition or swallowing. If the patient be allowed access to water in a pail, he will manifest thirst, make the ordinary apparent motions and sounds of a horse drinking, and will continue doing this, but the observer will notice that the amount of water is not becoming less. He is hungry, and will probably be able to masticate properly, but cannot swallow the masticated bolus, which will be either quitted or packed between the molar teeth and the cheeks. This process may continue until the mass is so great that well-marked enlargement of the cheek can be seen. If this mass be removed, it will be found to be quite solid, and after removal the animal will repeat the operation.

There is more or less well-marked inco-ordination of movement, staggering, shambling gait, weakness of the hind parts, generally paralysis of the tail, twitching of the face, lips, neck or shoulder, mental excitement or mental depression. The eye sight becomes affected, the pupils becoming dilated and partial or complete blindness occurs. Sooner or later the patient lies or falls down and is generally unable to rise. The pulse is usually normal until the last stages, when it becomes frequent, weak and irregular. The temperature is usually considerably increased, probably reaching 104° or 105° Fahr. in the early stages, but soon drops to normal or sub-normal, where it generally continues until death.

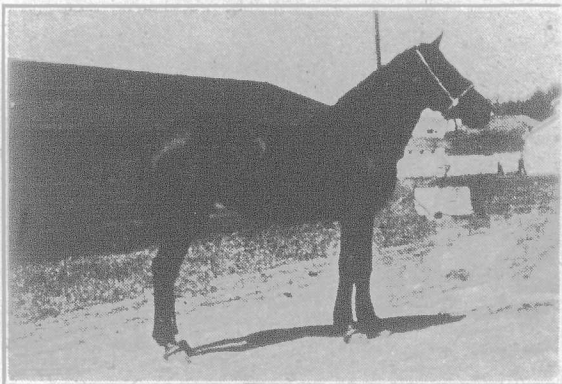
In cases where the digestive organs are the sole or main seat of trouble the symptoms of colic are said to be well marked, the animal shows general cholicky pains, is constipated, but this is sometimes followed by diarrhoea, the faeces sometimes being blood stained and foul smelling. Slight bloating is sometimes noticed.

**Course.**—The course is usually rapid. Some cases die before any well-marked symptoms of illness are noticed, but this is very rare. Others die in a few hours, but a large percentage of the cases live for a few days or even a week or longer after the symptoms are noticed. While recovery of well-marked cases is very rare, it may occur. In such cases recovery is slow, and often such sequels as a wabbling gait, paralysis and shrinking away of the muscles of one side of the body, partial or complete blindness, etc., are noticed and persist for a variable time, or a relapse may occur during convalescence.

**Treatment.**—The cause must be determined and removed. All feed and water given must be of first-class quality. In cases where pure water cannot be procured, that given must be well boiled. While the disease is not considered infectious, it is well, if practicable, to remove the non-infected to non-infected quarters. The patient should be given a purgative of

8 to 10 drams aloes, 1 dram calomel and 2 drams ginger, if a horse, if an ox 1 to 3 lbs. Epsom salt and 1 oz. ginger. Large doses are usually necessary to cause purgation. On account of the inability to swallow, drenching must not be attempted, but must be given as balls or a rubber tube passed to stomach and the drugs in liquid form poured down it. This should be followed by 1 to 1½ drams of iodide of potassium 3 times daily. The patients should be well fed on laxative feed.

In cases where improvement is noticed and when recovering control of his limbs, it is good practice to raise him with slings and help him to stand, but so soon as he throws his whole weight into the slings he must be let down again. This may be repeated daily, until he can rise and stand without aid.



Peggy.

First prize Percheron filly at Edmonton. Owned by Hamilton Bros., Alta.

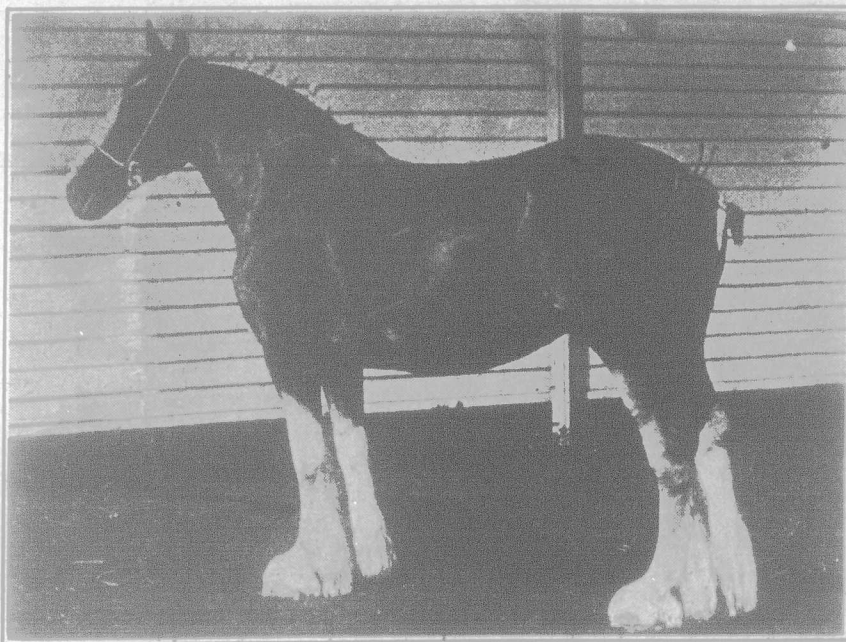
The writer's experience has been that recovery of well-marked cases is very rare, but in cases where a number of animals are under the same conditions and one or more show symptoms of the disease, a change of feed or water, or both, the administration of a purgative to each, and iodide of potassium as noted, will usually result in preventing an attack in those not showing symptoms. The susceptibility of animals vary, and if preventive measures be adopted before symptoms are shown, they are usually effective, even where the patient has been exposed to the conditions that caused an attack in others.

## LIVE STOCK.

Inferior bulls are expensive at any price.

If there are no trees in the pig paddock, provide some temporary shelter.

Some salt the mature cattle regularly but neglect to give it to the calves. The youngsters need salt quite as much as the older stuff.



Rosa of Killalan.

Champion Clydesdale mare at Edmonton. Shown by N. A. Weir, of Alberta.

Do not let the cattle-pick the pastures too close if feed is available in another field. Changing from one field to another is a practice to be recommended.

It pays to keep the flesh on the calves in the fall. Some provision should be made to provide for a liberal supply of good pasture or green feed during September and October.

The young man intending to purchase a farm might advisedly consider the quality of live stock kept in the neighborhood. If well-bred stuff is kept it will be of assistance to him in many ways.

Entries of live stock should be made early. Exhibition secretaries cannot get a catalogue out if entries drag along to the last minute. A catalogue of all

entries of live stock giving record of breeding, age, etc. is important to both exhibitor and visiting public. Help the fair boards by making entries early.

The demand for young pigs is comparatively light, consequently prices are low. A heavy grain yield moderating the feed costs would, no doubt, give a stronger tone to the market for young pigs.

It is important that the herd sire and young stuff confined to the stable get green feed. Some second-growth clover may be cut and, in many fields, corn has attained a considerable size. It pays to take time to properly feed and care for the growing stock.

Some drovers report that cattle have made very satisfactory gains on grass this year. They are not being marketed very extensively as yet. The wet weather early in July put the pastures in good condition, and grass is plentiful in most pasture fields.

Too many people are over ready to try some breed of stock different to their neighbors. If all farmers in a community kept the same breed of stock it would form a centre which would appeal to prospective purchasers. Community breeding is a good policy for any neighborhood. By clubbing together a superior bull can be secured than most individuals would care to invest in.

Whether the stock is to be kept for breeding purposes or for fattening, it should be given an opportunity to develop to the maximum. A stunted steer is a losing proposition. The faster one can be grown and finished for market the greater the profit. Some feeders have their yearlings weighing more than their neighbor's two-year-olds. They would undoubtedly feed heavier but not enough to make up for a year on light rations. Even wintering cattle on straw is expensive in these times.

### Flushing Breeding Ewes.

It is generally recommended by good shepherds that breeding ewes be flushed in the fall before mating them with the ram. Having the ewe in a gaining condition at the time she is bred has resulted in a larger percentage increase in the flock than where this practice was not followed. As midsummer pastures become dry and the ewes are often low in flesh from feeding a lousy pair of lambs, consequently, unless some provision is made to give them fresh feeding ground and extra care they are in poor condition when the breeding season approaches. Flushing is simply stimulating the genital organs by extra feeding. Rape makes excellent feed for ewes during September and October. If this crop has not been sown a field of second-growth clover should be saved for the sheep. If neither is available results may be obtained by feeding oats and bran previous to and during the breeding season.

When turning sheep on rape precautions should be taken against bloating. Rape not only is good for ewes but lambs make satisfactory gains on it. The flock should be turned on when the plant is dry. Sudden changed from comparatively dry feed to succulent, damp rape may cause scours and bloating, but by getting them used to this feed gradually, the danger from loss will be reduced to a minimum. Having a grass pasture joining the rape is a good plan, and helps overcome the danger of sheep or cattle over-doing it on rape. If a sheep or lamb should bloat, administering a strong salt solution has given results. One ounce of oil of turpentine in one-half pint of raw linseed oil given as a drench is an excellent remedy. Plan on seeing the flock on rape every day. If rape is in rows it is not an uncommon occurrence to find a lamb on its back between the row and unable to get up without assistance.

### Saskatoon Live Stock Exhibition.

Visitors to the Saskatoon Exhibition were well rewarded for any effort made in attending this annual event. The classes of live stock presented keen competition and offered instructive education to all who saw the placing of the awards. In the Shorthorn classes were many worthy individuals. Carpenter & Ross, of Mansfield, Ohio, secured both male championships on Maxwalton Monarch and Maxwalton Evolution, while the senior and grand champion female was awarded to A. L. Bowes, of Calgary, on Collynie Best. The junior female championship went to J. G. Barron, on Rosa Hope 20th. In the aged-bull class Lancaster Lord gave the American entry a stiff struggle for first place.

Entries from Glencarnock Stock Farms increased the competition in Aberdeen-Angus classes. It was the first time this herd had appeared on the Western circuit this year, and the placings of the two previous shows were considerably changed. The Glencarnock herd captured the majority of the premium honors. Grand champion male was Blackcap McGregor. In females Blackbird of Glencarnock 5th, a senior calf, proved the sensation of the day by winning the junior and grand championship honors. There was a wonderful showing of Herefords. In the aged-bull class, herd sires that have made history competed for first place. In the final analysis the highest honors went to Brae Real 8th, owned by Halbert Floen. This bull has a wealth of fleshing and great uniformity of conformation. Perfection Lass 5th, from L. O. Clifford's herd, was forced into second place by Miss Joy, shown by A. B. Cooke. The championship went to Lady Joy 2nd, a two-year-old heifer from Cooke's graded herd. Clifford has a