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White Scours In Calves

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White scours is one of the most serious ailments of calves. It does not yield readily to treatment, and, indeed, if a calf has had a severe attack and has become much emaciated it is doubtful if treatment is desirable. As a rule the patient might better be destroyed, for even though its life should be saved, it has received such a setback as to render it improbable that it will ever become a well grown, vigorous animal.

The first symptoms noticed are usually a dirty condition of the tail and hind quarters. Diarrhoea increases rapidly. The discharge is very fluid and sometimes mixed with mucus; it has a sour or foetid odor and is generally of a yellowish tint, often turning to a grayish or white color as the disease advances. The patient loses strength rapidly, remains in a lying position most of the time, eyes become sunken, saliva flows from the mouth and the hair becomes dry and harsh. These are symptoms of the most advanced stage of the disease, but a modified form will be found in any animal suffering from an attack.

THE CAUSE.

The cause of the disease may generally be looked for in the food. Sometimes it is produced by the feeding of over stimulating food such as milk that is too rich in the way of fatty matter. There is no doubt, however, that it is oftener produced by food of the opposite kind, which is deficient in the elements of nutrition, and oftener still by using food that is in bad condition, such as sour, dirty or germ laden milk. Filthy, unsanitary stables always predispose to an attack, and calves that are fed only twice a day and are allowed to engorge the stomach with food enough to make two ordinary meals are thereby rendered quite liable to an attack.

Young calves should be fed at least twice a day, care being taken not to allow the animal to drink enough to overtax the digestive system and thus superinduce diarrhoea. The use of dirty pails or troughs often produces the disease; calves should be fed clean, warm, sweet milk out of a clean, sweet pail and get three meals a day. They should be kept in clean, comfortable pens. The man who follows out these simple rules is not at all likely to have any trouble with this most serious disease.

TREATMENT.

As already intimated prevention is far more important than curative treatment in regard to this form of diarrhoea in young animals. When only isolated cases occur in a herd of calves they are usually of a mild and tractable form and due possibly to cold, or unsuitability of the dam's milk, or sometimes to a somewhat weakly digestive system of the young creature. In such cases it is often useful to reduce the amount of milk and supplement with a couple of raw eggs with a teaspoonful of baking soda. If the diarrhoea does not yield to this treatment the milk supply might be cut out altogether. Instead of it substitute well boiled gruel made of wheat flour; or eggs and beef tea may be administered with advantage.

Don't Hurry the Commission

Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, has appointed the farmers who are to act on the commission that will investigate the wane industry in Denmark and Ireland. Their names are given in a despatch from Ottawa that is published on page two of this issue. Having due regard to the different provinces of Canada the commission, on the whole, may be considered a capable one.

An editor of Farm and Dairy while in Ottawa last week called at the Department of Agriculture and was informed that the members of the commission, except the representative of the Maritime Provinces, were to meet in Ottawa on Wednesday of this week and that they were to sail on Friday of this week. Farm and Dairy believes that such action will prove a lamentable blunder.

If the commission is to prove a success it is absolutely necessary that its members shall be afforded every facility for investigating conditions at home thoroughly before they proceed to Europe. Only by having a clear conception of all the different phases of the situation in Canada will they be competent to examine conditions abroad.

It is commonly charged that there are drovers in Canada, especially in portions of Western Ontario, who dominate the situation in their respective localities and who at times, have both the packers and the farmers largely at their mercy. A little enquiry among the packers and leading hog raisers would bring out important information on this point.

We are informed that the co-operative packing of hog products has proved a success in Denmark and Ireland. We know that it proved a failure in Canada. The fact that the members of the Commission should be given an opportunity to consult with the officers of some of the defunct co-operative pork packing companies in Canada. They thus would obtain information of great value.

There is not a pork packer on the commission. It is composed entirely of farmers. Canadian pork packers should be given an opportunity to make suggestions and to lay their views before the members of the commission.

The foregoing are some of the principal points about the home situation that require investigation. Unless the public knows about the situation the commission fully understand these matters, confidence in the final report of the commission will be lacking and it will be open to serious criticism from farmers, drovers and packers alike.

The task the commissioners have to perform is one of far reaching importance. Every step must be taken with care and deliberation. The least evidence of haste may do the work of the commission. If the members of the commission are wise they will do well to ask for time to examine the home situation and to refuse to be hurried. They had better resign their appointments than do that which may stultify their efforts from the start.

Farm and Dairy believes that if the matter is laid before Hon. Sydney Fisher in the proper light, the Minister of Agriculture will be willing to do whatever is likely to be in the best interests of the work in hand. In the meantime the members of the commission have the best wishes of our Canadian farmers for the successful completion of their important task.

However, in the early stage of diarrhoea nothing seems to act as well as the administration of about one fourth of lime water to each meal of milk. Any person can make lime-water suitable for veterinary practise by simply throwing into a clean bucket of water a couple of hands full of fresh lime, stirring up the mixture till the lime is dissolved and laying the pail aside till the lime settles to the bottom; then pour off the clean liquid and you have the lime water fit for use.

If those simple preventive measures fail to overcome the conditions there seems to be very little use resorting to the more powerful and drastic drugs, which seem too strong for the young and enfeebled system and often do more harm than good.

Watering and Feeding Horses

J. A. Macdonald, Kings Co., P.E.I.

There is no disproving the statement that it is best to furnish a horse with an unlimited supply of water, which he can take at will. An animal under these conditions will not take too much. But we must take into consideration that few stables are so fitted as to allow this being carried out, and that horses are out on long journeys or employed at work, and come to the stable thirsty, hungry and tired. Seventy-five per cent. of the animal body is composed of water, and it is essential to bodily health that this proportion of fluid and solid constituents be maintained.

The secretions and fluid excretions are constantly tending to reduce the fluid parts below normal, and at no time is this more apparent than after long and active work; the loss resulting from increased perspiration and respiration.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL COOLED DOWN.

At such times many would withhold water till the animal cools down. Contrary to the usual practice, I have always made it a practice to permit the horse to take what water he requires at this time. When the animal is warm in all its parts, with an active circulation, it is best able to resist the chilling effects of a draught of cool water. The stomach being empty, the fluid passes into the bowels and is rapidly absorbed, thus supplying the necessary fluid to the blood, without which the various secretions requisite to digestion could not be maintained. "The most dangerous time to give a horse a full draught of water," says Dr. Dunlop, M.R.C.V.S., Great Britain, "is after he has cooled down from fatiguing work and has partaken of a meal. The comparatively small stomach of the animal is replete with energy, the circulation weak, the whole system languid, and not in a state calculated to resist the chill. The water mechanically washes the undigested food from the stomach to the bowels, where it undergoes decomposition, evolving irritating and poisonous gases, finally causing flatulent and spasmodic colic or fatal enteritis."

WATER BEFORE FEEDING.

It has been the practice of the writer for several years to allow the horse a full draught of wa-