

mony of observing and practical men, that trees will thrive and bear large crops of fruit, almost free from knots and worms, when sheep are allowed to run among them until the fruit begins to ripen—while other orchards that have been mowed will make only a small growth, and produce only second or third-rate fruit.

1. Grass and vegetation of all kinds (except the trees) should be kept down as short as possible.

2. All that grows in an orchard, except fruit, should be returned to the soil.

3. Trees should be allowed to branch low in order to shade the ground under them and keep grass from growing.

I find that apple trees with branches just high enough for sheep to go under, do much better than those trimmed up four or five feet.

The above remarks refer to bearing orchards—of course, young trees demand and receive cultivation, or else die.—*Ed.*

INJURIES TO SHEEP AND CATTLE BY DOGS. The following is a copy of a bill, to render owners of dogs in England and Wales liable for injuries to cattle and sheep, which has been prepared and brought in by Mr. H. Fenwick, Mr. Shafto, and Sir H. Williamson:

Whereas, it is expedient to amend the law as to the liability of the owners of dogs for injuries done to cattle and sheep by such dogs; be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. *Owner of dog to be liable in damages for any injury committed by his dog—Recovery of damages.* The owner of every dog shall be liable in damages for injury done to any cattle or sheep by his dog; and it shall not be necessary for the party seeking such damages to show a previous mischievous propensity in such dog, or the owner's knowledge of such previous propensity, or that the injury was attributable to neglect on the part of such owner. Such damages shall be recoverable by the owner of such cattle or sheep killed or injured in any court of competent jurisdiction. Where the amount of the damages claimed shall not exceed five pounds, the same shall be recoverable in a summary way before any justice or justices sitting in petty sessions under the provisions of the Act eleven and twelve Victoria, chapter forty-three.

2. *Who shall be deemed the owner of the dog.*—The occupier of any house or premises where any dog was kept or permitted to live, or remain at the time of such injury, shall be deemed to be the owner of such dog, and shall be liable as such, unless the said occupier can prove that he was not the owner of such dog at the time the injury complained of was committed, and that such dog was kept or permitted to live or remain in the said house or premises without his sanction or knowledge; provided always, that where there are more occupiers than one in any house or premises let in separate apartments, or lodgings, or otherwise, the occupier of that particular part of the premises in which such dog shall have been kept or permitted to live or remain at the time of such injury, shall be deemed to be the owner of such dog.

Veterinary Department.

Dropsy of the Belly or Ascites.

AMONGST groomers, cowmen, and shepherds, and even amongst indifferently educated farmers, and cow-leeches "the water," in some of its varieties, is believed to be of frequent occurrence. In many of the rural districts of England half the mortality amongst the domesticated animals is thus ignorantly ascribed to the much dreaded water. Any beast, whose disorder is not very distinctly made out, is tolerably certain to be set down as suffering from the water; whilst to say that a patient has died of this popular complaint is usually regarded as proof sufficient that all remedies were perfectly fruitless. The vulgar notion regarding the very general prevalence of "the water" doubtless gains credence from the fact that in all the cavities of the body—in the brain, in the pleura, around the heart itself, and within the cavity of the belly—there invariably occurs in all healthy animals a considerable quantity of thin serous fluid, which serves to lubricate and prevent friction. This natural secretion is sometimes mistaken for a diseased accumulation, and has occasionally been wittingly pointed out as such by those who wished to establish their own foregone conclusions, or to conceal their ignorance of the true cause of death.

Although by no means so common as the old books or the equally old-fashioned rural authorities would teach us, "the water," technically known as dropsy, does occasionally occur amongst the lower animals. Aged and pampered dogs suffer more frequently than any other veterinary patients, and exhibit most of the several forms of the disorder. Oedema of the limbs or swelled legs is the variety most frequent amongst horses. Dropsy of the belly (ascites) and watery infiltration of the subcutaneous areolar textures (anasarca) are tolerably common alike in sheep and cattle. Dropsy sometimes comes on suddenly, probably like a flood of tears, or a smart attack of diarrhoea; more usually, however, the fluid accumulates slowly. True dropsy rarely results directly from inflammation, in which the outpoured fluid is limpy, and apt to coagulate, contains creamy pus, or is sometimes stained with blood, as was explained in our article on this subject, published three weeks ago, dropsy generally depends upon some obstruction to the circulation—some disease of the heart, liver, kidneys, or other internal organ, which retards the healthy current of the blood, and thus leads to distension of the weakened vessels, and oozing away of their more fluid contents. Sometimes the fluid is confined in a sack as in dropsy of the ovaries, uterus, or liver; more commonly, however, it floats unconfinned in one of the internal cavities, as in dropsy of the chest or belly. *North British Agriculturist.*

Milk Fever, Garget, &c.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I have a little "dearly-bought" experience to communicate to your numerous readers relative to the above often fatal and always troublesome diseases, which, I hope, may save some of them from purchasing their experience as expensively as I did. What I now communicate. Puerperal, or Milk Fever, is prone to attack only cows that are deep milkers and in good condition, and always either the first, second, third or fourth day after calving. The early symptoms of the disease are—loss of appetite, restlessness, wild, staring look, and a gradual, sometimes total, stoppage of milk: then the cow will show tremor and weakness over the loins, lose the power of her hind quarters, and soon after she will stagger, and eventually "drop." These several stages of the fever will sometimes occur within a few hours, and few cows, once down, ever get up again! I have, however, even then saved cows, but there must be sharp practice with the phlegms and physis, blisters, and so on. It is not my intention, however, to write at present of curative treatment, but *prevention*, as I believe an ounce of the latter worth a pound of the former any day! And where the treatment as follows is adopted there will be few cases of Milk Fever. Well, then, about a week before the cow's time is up I take four or five quarts of blood, more or less, according to condition and repeat this when there is sufficient external evidence that her time is near. Immediately after calving, a hot bran and linseed mash, and a few hours afterwards, 1½ lbs. of Epsom salts, with a tablespoonful of ginger, and if the physis does not operate in six hours, then another dose. Once the bowels are opened the cow is safe. Feed sparingly, and principally mashes, which I do not consider right without two or three pounds of ground oil-cake in each pailful. Such is my practice in cases when I fully anticipate an attack, and I have never yet seen a case of fever follow it. Heifers are not subject to the disease, but with them and cows in medium condition a dose of salts before and after calving will be found very far from bad practice. I have been often laughed at for proposing to bleed a cow before calving, told it was sure to dry her up, and many other sure things; but the only sure thing that followed was, she did not take milk fever, and did splendidly at the pail and otherwise. My neighbours at one time would say—give a sick cow ½ lb. of salts! I find homoeopathic doses of simple medicines given to horses or cattle a nuisance, and act on the principle of plenty or none. I have given 4 lbs. of salts and 60 drops of croton oil in four hours, to a cow down with Milk Fever, and then only found any good effect.

Garget, or caked bag, is common to cows, young and old, and often spoils a cow in appearance and in reality—a dumb teat or two, and a tendency for ever after, from this loss, to a similar affection of the udder. My treatment for garget is simple and effective.

(*Aq. Ammonia*) spirit of hartshorn one part, with two parts oil, well rubbed on the parts affected, and all over the bag. I suppose doctors would call this *trying to produce counter inflammation*. Well, I had some crude notion of that sort; but however that may be, rub well, and three times daily; milk clean and often, and the trouble is soon over. I have been led to write to THE FARMER just now, because I have been busy these few days attending one of my cows that was, in my opinion, a very fit subject for both diseases to fasten on. She is all O. K., however, and her bag reduced from the size of a bushel basket to its proper dimensions, the cow is giving twenty four quarts of milk daily. It is such cows that are most liable to suffer, but I do not now look to premonitory symptoms of Milk Fever with that alarm which I felt years ago, after losing three as good thorough-bred Ayrshire cows as ever stood over a milk-pail.

Cobourg.

PATRICK R. WRIGHT.

EPIDEMIC AMONG HORSES IN PARIS.—The horses of the cavalry regiments forming part of the garrison of Paris are at present, it is said, suffering from a disease resembling jaundice, and which the veterinary surgeons call *inappetence*, because it deprives them of all appetite. The animal attacked with this disease generally dies after a few days' illness. This epidemic has been chiefly fatal among the horses of the Cuirassiers and Chasseurs of the Imperial Guard. The disease has likewise appeared in the stables of some large establishments where a great number of horses are kept. The epidemic has not appeared outside Paris.

LICE ON STOCK.—Caleb Canfield of Livingston Co., Mich., writes the *Rural* that he has no such thing about him as lice on cattle, horses, hogs, hens, geese, neither ticks on sheep. His remedy is sulphur. To an ox, or cow, or hen, he gives a *tablespoonful* in their feed; to sheep less. He puts it in the coops of the fowls in small lumps. Feeds it once a month in winter, but not in summer, except to hogs. He gives his horned cattle and horses a spoonful of pulverized saltpetre in the month of March or April, and again, without fail, when he turns them out to grass. He also feeds his cattle and horses about a pint of flaxseed each once a month in winter.

TREATMENT OF HORSES' FEET.—Mr. Gangee, Sen., in the *Edinburgh Veterinary Review* for August, says, "The day will, I believe, soon come when the people will not allow cutting instruments to touch the soles of their horses' feet. I have said in former papers that the wall, sole and frog are so constructed that they mutually co-operate, and that the intermediate horn, which I have shown, is secreted between the wall and sole of their union, is also required to be left entire; but, by the prevailing custom of cutting the hoof, these substances which in their nature are rebounding springs, are destroyed or greatly impaired. The custom of thinning the sole, and likewise of keeping that part always in cow dung, or other wet softening material, under the name of 'stoppings,' was brought into vogue after the establishment of our first veterinary schools."

Poultry Yard.

Shall we Dose the Hens with Lime?

"SEE to it that they have a plentiful supply of powdered oyster-shells, bone, old mortar, or lime in some form, always accessible." Who ever read an essay on poultry-keeping that did not give, in substance, the above directions? Yet I maintain that the assumption on which this direction rests is false. The popular argument runs about thus:—Poultry have lime in the shells of their eggs; hence they need lime for the shells of their eggs; and as oyster-shells, lime, and mortar contain lime, they need oyster-shells, lime, and mortar. I utterly reject the conclusion. The minor premise, however, is true; but the major, in part, is false. Suppose we consider an albumen, hence poultry retain a large quantity of a very inconsistent advocate of the lime theory will exclaim, "ad thus on we may of feeding them with albumen, and enters into the com-argue with every substance that enters into the composition of the egg. Then a hundred observers start the question, "But hens eat the lime; and, if they don't eat it, why does their instinct teach them to seek and I reply—"But hens also eat fragments of old pottery, how do you dispose of this fact?" "O, 'tis the answer is, "they eat these to use in the grinding and digestion of their food." Well, I reply again, can a