

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS FOR WHIG READERS

Skin Troubles in Animals.

Skin diseases naturally divide themselves into those arising from causes within and those produced by external influences. Some of the former are what is known as specific eruptions, such as the pox—cow pox, sheep pox, horse pox, the eruptions of glanders, etc. It would not be profitable to attempt to consider some of these specific eruptions, because they belong to and are caused by bodily illness, and are only local manifestations which, for the most part, need only to be left alone to accomplish their periods of pupation, venication, pustulation, desquamation, and resolution. These are mentioned in order to defer one from applying any medicaments, which might do harm and could not do any good.

Cow pox.—There is one of those poxes to which attention may be called, because it is of frequent occurrence and seldom recognized for what it really is, because so mild in its constitutional effects, although causing the cowkeeper much inconvenience and considerable loss. With scarcely any elevation of temperature, and hardly any influence on the milk, fat cows have an eruption of the teats which goes through those stages previously described—or would do so if it were not for the fact that the milk's hand or the calf's mouth breaks them as soon as they have passed out of the papular stage and become more of less fluid within. The waste material too often passes into the milk destined to feed infants and causes some little febrile disturbance, which mothers put down to teething.

Treatment.—Since we cannot milk without breaking these vesicles, we must do as we so often have to do in veterinary matters—namely, the next best thing. What is it? A teat bath. It has often amazed me that cowkeepers do not think of it. They get a dirty rag and some hot water, and bathe a teat, and make a wet mess, under the cow that entirely fails of the object. All one has to do is to obtain a wide-mouthed pickle-bottle or jam-jar, and mix the medicaments in it, and hold it up to the udder with the teat completely immersed, without mess and without waste. The most suitable bath for these eruptive teat troubles is one composed of alum and glycerine. Alum acts as an astringent, glycerine as an emollient; the two acting together dry this sore while keeping the skin supple. When using a lotion in which glycerine forms a part, the skin should not be mopped dry, the heat should be allowed to drain back into the bottle for some time, and then allowed to dry, by which means soft film of glycerine is left upon the healthy part. The proportion for a pint bottle is 2 drams of alum and 2 ozs. of glycerine, filling up the bottle with water—preferably rainwater.

Eczema.—This means the formation of little vesicles or bladders after a preliminary period of pupation, or merely of redness, so far as the naked eye can see. Eczema may occur at any time and in any species of animals. It is nearly always due to some disturbance in the relation or proportion of the blood elements, and indigestion caused by dietetic error accounts for most cases. Some others are caused by imperfect functions on the part of the kidneys or the liver, as the skin performs vicarious functions, or tries to do what the kidneys or other excretories have failed in. The effect upon the skin of trying to pass urea which should have gone in the urine is extremely irritating. Uriniferous sweats are well known both to medical and veterinary doctors, and are very significant. They often prelude a great change in the patient. If the urea which has been poisoning the brain and nerve centres is got rid of by the skin, there is a happy release from the severe symptoms in a short time. If, then, these vicarious functions are borne in mind, we shall not be too hasty in applying remedies outside to check the action of the skin, but rather seek for the cause elsewhere and remove it. The outward treatment, then, of eruption which come from within should be only of a simple, soothing nature to allay itching and prevent the animal from making things worse by rubbing and scratching.

Treatment of Eczema.—Change food, purge with salines, and apply the following: Acid boracic, 19 per cent.; glycerine, 10 per cent.; water, 80 per cent.—B. Clay, in "Farmer and Stock-breeder."

Tuberculosis and Good Stabling. At recent conventions the subject of tuberculosis in our herds has been frequently mentioned, and reliable authorities state that the herds of Quebec are seriously affected. It may well be that the real condition is exaggerated not from any desire to do harm to our herds, but on the general principle that the presence of tuberculosis in a herd is a serious matter, not only for the affected herd, but for the community as well.

But the real practical question is: "How are we to deal with tuberculosis in a herd?" Some are of the opinion that the dominion department of agriculture should take the matter in hand, pass laws permitting the destruction of tuberculous animals, and by every means within its power put a stop to the spread of the disease. Others on the other hand, maintain that the best means of controlling bovine tuberculosis is to educate the owners of the cattle so that they understand the nature of the disease, the importance of isolation and the value of sanitary stables. The government

should make, free of charge, the tuberculin test and should advise the owners how best to deal with a herd where some of the animals react to the test. We are of the opinion that if the dominion department of agriculture were to assume charge of the campaign, the costs, where compensation is allotted, would soon run up into an enormous sum. Moreover, the educative feature by this method would be largely eliminated, and without this feature there is every likelihood that sooner or later there would be a recurrence of the disease on account of ignorance of the fundamental facts of animal living.

Tuberculosis, it is true, is sometimes introduced into a herd where the owner is careful as to the health of his animal, but the difference between the results of this man and of the ignorant careless owner lies in the way each goes about eradication. The former isolates his tuberculous animals from the other members of the herd, and by sanitary methods builds up the affected animals to health. The latter shows conditions to continue and no attention is given to the improvement of the sanitary conditions in which the animals are kept. As a result of this line of treatment most of the herd contracted the disease.

Too little heed has hitherto been given to the stable as a place where animals live for six months in the year. Many well-known fundamental principles have been constantly violated by most farmers. A stable should be warm (about 60 degrees F.) dry, clean, well ventilated and well lighted. The greatest defect of most stables is the lack of proper ventilation and lighting. In fact, it is a wonder how animals live under the stifling conditions to which they are sometimes exposed. A writer has said: "We can live five weeks without food, for five days without water, but only five minutes without air." A ventilated stable is one in which there is a constant exchange of air (of fresh air for foul) without drafts. An open door or window does not provide sufficient ventilation. It is true there is some exchange of air, but there is not enough of it. Excellent systems of ventilation for stables have been devised, and where these are installed the health of the cattle is excellent.

There is a strong relation between tuberculosis and ventilation, and it is this fact our farmers should learn as soon as possible.—Quebec Journal of Agriculture.

Notes of Interest.

Scientists say that the compounds of nitrogen are broken up during warm weather by the rapid growth of minute germs that live in the soil, and that it is due to the pressure of these germs on the roots of clover the plant is able to secure such a large amount of nitrogen. About the only use of wild cherry trees on a farm is for their shade where other trees are not close for the same purpose. The fruit of the wild cherry is occasionally used to make a cordial, but it is seldom considered worth picking, and the ripening cherries draw insect pests. The fresh leaves, if eaten by stock, sometimes cause poisoning. The best thing to do with a wild cherry tree, if the shade is not absolutely needed, is to cut it down and let the nourishment it saps from the ground be supplied to some grass or crop that will be more beneficial.

Cull beans may be fed to swine with good results if mixed with some starchy food, like corn or barley or potatoes. This is apparent when it is understood that beans contain nearly twice as much protein as carbohydrate, starch; for good results in fattening swine there should be about seven times as much of the carbohydrate material as protein. A well-balanced ration may be made by mixing ground or cooked beans with corn or barley in the proportion of one pound of beans to three of corn or barley, or a mixture of these two grains. It is well to feed all together in the form of a thick slop, using water waste from the kitchen and skim milk. Salt should be used freely with beans.

Beans alone produce soft pork. Digestive disorders frequently result from feeding a heavy ration of beans, through fermentation and the formation of gases in the stomach and intestines. A little charcoal kept in the pen is good to absorb the gases which form in the stomach and intestines as a result of feeding the beans. Coughing does not necessarily mean tuberculosis in cattle. Cattle cough from many different causes, but a chronic cough gives a reasonable suspicion of tuberculosis where there is no other cause apparent. Tuberculosis in cattle cannot always be detected by the physical condition. A diseased animal may be very fat or very thin. The tuberculin test is the only reliable means of detecting tuberculosis, except in rare cases.

The feeding of dry cows and heifers that must build up the frames and give constitutional vigor to the young calves is the true foundation of improved dairy cows. Yet the average dairyman feeds his pregnant cows and heifers the refuse of his farm. The best hay, wheat bran and linseed oil meal is fed to the cows that are giving milk. The very elements that are needed by the cow at this period are withheld. Carbonaceous foods, which give heat and fat, are but little needed to supply nourishment to the foetus. Simply material to bring up hair, muscle and blood during the rapid growth and development is needed to spur the unborn calf.

When wooden or concrete floors are used, sufficient bedding should be supplied so that the cows may rest in comfort and that surface dampness will be absorbed. Warts on cattle or horses may be removed by applying castor oil well rubbed in twice a day for a week or two. Eating warts out with acids does not give satisfaction, and castor oil seems to destroy them root and branch. To break a horse of kicking when the line gets under its tail, wrap a cloth around the crupper until it is three to four inches thick. The horse will make up his mind if it does get under the tail, and therefore it will not kick.

Be always on your guard around even the gentlest bull. He may be like the gun that wasn't loaded. Keep your hands away from the baseline and you will not hurt the cow so much as with hard and horny ones. Dark stables are frequent causes of weak-eyed horses. Let plenty of light into the stables. A small flock of sheep on every farm will much more than pay its way.

Properly managed, a flock of sheep is always profitable. If many sheep are kept, it is best to divide them into small flocks. If an oversupply of milk is caused by lush pastures, the ewes should be returned to the pens or dry feed for a few days, or a part of each day for a time. A close watch should be had to keep the lambs growing rapidly, and this can only be done by feeding the ewes skilfully. Crop rotation alone will not maintain fertility; it is only the first essential. Legume growing and manuring form an exceedingly important part of the plan. The most profitable results depend on good crops is a waste of time and labor. According to the department of agriculture, to produce pork profitably hogs must feed and graze continuously on pastures and crops particularly planted for them. Very seldom is the growth of hogs for slaughter a source of profit unless proper grazing and feeding methods are followed. In the spring summer and fall there are many crops for pasturing hogs, but during the winter is expensive, and generally it is not profitable, for the reason that large quantities of corn are fed without products of green crops. More winter grazing is needed for which many crops are adapted. The most reliable are rape, rye wheat and barley. For grazing purposes these pasturing crops for hogs should be sown on specifically well drained and prepared land that is either rich or has received a liberal application of manure. Good winter pasturage is not obtainable except on the best drained lands.

There is such a thing as being too scientific in farming as sometimes the scientific part absorbs the profit. Producer and Prices. Kingston, Aug. 6.—The market clerk reports the following: Meat, beef, local, carcass, 11c; carcass, cuts, 10c to 22c; mutton, 12c and 13c; live hogs, \$8.75; dressed hogs, 13c; veal, 8c to 12c; lamb, by carcass, \$0; western beef, 14c to 16c, by carcass. Dairy.—Butter, creamery, 30c; prints 27c; eggs, 24c. Vegetables.—Onions, 5c bunch; parsley, 10c a bunch; lettuce, 50c doz.; cabbage, 50c per dozen; radishes, 5c a bunch; rhubarb, 50c a doz.; peas in pod, 5c quart; cucumbers, 5c to 7c each; potatoes, \$1 to \$1.10 a bush. F. H. Toy quotes fruit thus: cherries, 90c to \$1 a basket; lemons, 20c doz.; oranges, 15c to 20c doz.; tomatoes, 3 lbs for 25c; cantelopes, two for 25c; gooseberries, 10c quart; watermelons, 30c to \$1 each; California peaches, 30c to 40c a doz.; pears, 30c to 40c a doz.; harvest apples, 50c a peck; blackberries, 15c a box; thimble berries, 17c a box. J. A. McFarlane, Brook street, reports grain, flour and feed selling as follows: Oats, 55c per bush; wheat, \$1.15 per bushel; yellow feed corn, 90c per bushel; bakers' flour, \$2.75 to \$3; farmers' flour, \$2.75 to \$3. Hungarian patent, \$3.00 per 90 lbs.; cornmeal, \$2.10 cwt.; bran (ton, shorts), \$26.50 ton; baled straw, \$9 per ton; pressed straw, \$9 a ton; presses hay, \$15; ground and cracked corn, \$1.70 cwt.; molasses meal, \$1.90 cwt.; buckwheat, 90c bush. The Dominion Fish company reports the following prices: Whitefish, 15c; herring, 12c; blue fish, 15c; Chinook salmon, 30c per pound; haddock, 12c per pound; fresh cod, 12c; salmon trout, 15c per lb.; mackerel, 15c per lb.; pickered, 15c per lb.; kippers, 60c a dozen.

A subtle Compliment. "I've lent Grimpus my garden hose, my lawn mower, my phonograph and my safety razor, but I had to refuse his last request." "What did he want?" "He wanted to borrow my photograph to carry on a flirtation by mail." Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald.

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