

STOCK RAISING.

THE HORSE DISEASE.

It is claimed by the veterinary editor of the *Buffalo Live Stock Journal* that the disease which is now prevailing among the horses in all parts of the country is not the same that scourged our horses a few years ago. He says:

The disease which prevails among our horses at present seems to assume a more serious character than was at first anticipated. The first symptoms were of so mild a nature as to cause little or no apprehension of any danger from this disease in a later stage, for a great many horses in this vicinity which have had the usual symptoms (cough) are apparently in good health and performing their daily work. There is, however, a large number wholly unfit for use, it having assumed a much more dangerous form. Horses which apparently had recovered from the former symptoms are now stricken down with pleurisy. It is the belief of many horsemen that the present disease is a mild type of the epizootic of 1872. In my diagnosis of the present disease I find few symptoms which are similar to the disease of 1872. In the first place, the present disease is not wholly epidemic, as there are many horses which have not yet been affected. From the disease of 1872 none escaped. Secondly, mules are not troubled with the present disease, but were equally affected in 1872. In the third place, the first symptoms of the present disease are a hacking cough, with little or no discharge from the nostrils. In 1875 the first symptoms were a copious discharge of mucous, of a greenish hue, from both nostrils, with inflammation of the eyes, which also discharged a watery mucous, general inflammation of the head, more or less soreness of the throat and in many cases a difficulty in swallowing, with loss of appetite, etc. Fourth, in severe attacks of the present disease its last symptoms are swellings or deposits of lymph in the extremities, commencing in the feet and extending upward toward the belly; also at the nose and extending back over the face. In the former disease the swellings were dropsical and the deposits serum, commencing on the belly and extending downward toward the feet. Fifth, the present disease has no peculiar time of its appearance among our horses, nor has it shown any symptoms of abating. Horses have been brought to be treated for cough for over a month. The former disease first made its appearance in this city at Dr. Carey's stables on the 14th of October, and remained but three weeks.

In my opinion the present disease is epidemic influenza, affecting the larynx first, and when the animal is not taken care of and kept warm, the lungs and chest become the principal seats of the disease. The disease is now assuming a very serious character. Too many horses that were considered well and cured are now attacked with pleuro-pneumonia. Horses which are compelled to do so much daily, and in all kinds of weather, suffer most. The street-car horses are suffering severely from pleurisy, and so many of them are sick that the full number of cars cannot be run.

STOCK-GROWERS' MEETING.

The fifth annual meeting of the Colorado Stock-Growers' Association will be held in Denver, Colorado, on Tuesday, January 4, 1876.

It will be both a delegate and general convention, and will be attended by the leading stock-raisers from every section of the Rocky Mountains.

Reports will be made by the breeders of the various breeds of stock of all kinds introduced up to this time, giving experience and results.

Several prominent breeders and dairymen have engaged to be present from the Eastern and Middle States and Canada to present their views, and gain information respecting our advantages and the extent of our resources.

A revision of the plan of organization is contemplated providing for a charter organization for the purpose of giving exhibitions of live stock.

Provision has been made by which a premium of twenty-five dollars will be paid for the best essay on stock-raising

in Colorado, to occupy not less than five octavo pages.

The various county associations are requested to hold meetings at an early date, elect delegates and present their views on this subject and all matters of interest to the Executive Committee, as early as December 15.

A suitable hall will be provided to accommodate the convention, and a pamphlet report of the proceedings will be published for general information.—*Colorado Farmer*.

RYSDYK'S HAMBLETONIAN.

This celebrated sire of trotting horses was sired by Abdallah, a grand-son of Messenger, and was out of a mare by imported Bellfounder. This mare's great-grand-sire was Messenger. She was sold, with her colt, and bought by Mr. Rysdyk for \$125. Hambletonian was foaled in 1849. He has sired 1,325 colts, and over \$100,000 have been received as service fees. The fee has been raised and he is limited to a small number of mares. In 1864 and 1865 he served 410 mares which produced 276 foals.

He was never trained, except for a very short time. His time is not extraordinary, showing 2:48 in a trial. He is a fine and rich bay in color. He stands about two inches lower at the withers than at the hips. His mane has entirely disappeared, and his tail is growing thin. He is in good health, and apparently good for service for several years to come. This is another notable instance of a valuable horse being procured at a small fraction of his intrinsic value.

THE CATTLE DISEASE.

Prof. James Law's report on the cattle disease on the farm of James W. Wadsworth, near Avon, N. Y., shows that the herd, consisting of 277 cattle, was brought from Canada, and all did well until suddenly five died, and other cases of death followed at the rate of from three to eight a day.

The symptoms are described in detail, as well as the condition of the bodies after death. The manager of the farm and two German workmen, who opened several of the carcasses, suffered from malignant pustule. The first symptoms in all three were the eruptions on the hand of small papulæ, which increased to a vesicle, burst and dried up, while a new crop appeared around the point of desiccation. The two older men, aged from thirty to forty, had considerable erysipelatoid infiltration of the hand and arm, with high fever, nausea, great languor, and muscular pains. They ultimately did well, however. It was evident that the development of these malignant symptoms was from inoculation from the diseased cattle.

The Professor then goes on to show that the cattle suffered from organic poison, having been brought in a wretched condition to the luxuriant grass bottoms of the Genesee Valley, under which was a subsoil of impervious clay, and over which the river flowed in the spring. There was no artificial drainage, and the water escaped by evaporation only. The contrast in temperature between day and night also aggravated the disease.

He says: The most universally acknowledged causes of the malady are: Plethora, or a state of the blood highly charged with organic elements; an impervious soil or subsoil; a very rich surface soil; inundations; a period of heat and dryness calculated to foster decomposition of organic matter to a great depth in the ground, and a great contrast between the day and night temperature, and in this case all combined to produce one of the most malignant types of the disease.

It may be added, that while this affection is communicable to all animals by inoculation, it can scarcely be said to spread in any other way, and it is therefore to be looked upon as essentially an enzootic disease. We must go to such places as the inundated margins and deltas of large rivers, dried-up lakes and marshes of the rich and pestiferous Russian Steppes, to find any approximation to the disastrous outbreaks in man and beast which blacken the history of the past ages.

One hundred of the best steers were turned out on a higher pasture with a gravelly subsoil, two died, and the rest made a very rapid and permanent recovery.—*Rural New Yorker*.

HOLLOW-HORN AND MURRAIN.

These names are used to designate the symptoms of a variety of diseases. They represent no particular disease, and are as indefinite as the term "sickness." The horn of an ox is filled with a highly sensitive and vascular core, which is a prolongation of the frontal bone, and serves as a support to the horn. The horn is composed of the same materials as the skin and hair, and is not sensitive. It may be removed, leaving the core in its place, and is then hollow, as we are used to see it when separated from the head. These horn cores are well supplied with arteries, veins and nerves, and whenever from any cause the tissues of the head are inflamed or congested, the increased temperature of the parts is then felt in the horn more readily than elsewhere. When the contrary occurs, and from poverty, or excitement elsewhere, the supply of blood to the head is diminished, the loss of heat is felt first in the horns, and they are cold. This is generally the case when an animal is said to be affected by "horn-ail," or "hollow-horn." Then the quack recommends the horns to be bored with a gimlet, and pepper or turpentine to be injected, or turpentine to be burned upon the poll. This causes irritation and inflammation of the parts, restoring the heat, but it only makes the case and the suffering worse. The remedy ought to be sought in restoring the condition of the animal, by such medicine or food as the case may call for. The diseases generally known as murrain are splenic fever and carbuncular erysipelas.—*American Agriculturist*.

PRECOCITY OF SHEEP.—The question of the precocity of sheep has been for some time under discussion, in respect to the breed. M. Sauson, Professor of Zoology, at the Agricultural College at Grignon, believes it possible to develop in the pure merinos, the alleged precocity of the dishleymerino, or any variation of that type, namely, forty-six pounds of meat in fourteen months. Precocity, M. Sauson defines to be, the rapid unity of the bones, and the quick development of the permanent teeth, and that an animal is more or less precocious, in proportion as it possesses its adult teeth; the consequence follows, that there will be greater activity in the processes of nutrition, in the sense that the animal will be able to assimilate a larger quantity of aliments, thereby acquiring weight, which is the test of precocity. At Grignon the "Shropshire Downs" display greater precocity than the Southdowns, at whose side they live, and consume a larger daily ration. But weight for weight of food, there is no perceptible difference in the "pound of flesh" produced, and that production is the practical test of every animal machine.—*Rural New Yorker*.

THE COW.

The cow, like the horse, was probably brought to the shores of the Mediterranean from Central Asia at the period of the Assyrian emigration. In Egypt, as in India, the ox was a sacred animal—an object of worship, and the pictures in the monuments and Egypt point clearly to the Brahmin species, as that used in the early days of Egypt. As a work animal, the ox was the principal dependence among the Oriental nations, and even the Greeks and Romans appear to have used no other animal in the cultivation of the soil. The plow and the ox are always associated in sacred and classical history. Milk and butter were articles of diet that were indispensable, even in the pastoral age, which preceded the agricultural civilization of the human race. The flesh of these animals was always in high repute as an article of diet, and it will probably maintain its reputation as long as animal food is used by man. There are some ten species of the bovine family, nine of which belong to the Eastern Continent and one to the Western. Our cattle, both in Europe and America, are derived from a species found native in Gaul and Germany. They are both better and larger milkers than those derived from the Brahmin species, and though stronger as work animals, they are not so active. The American species, represented by the buffalo of the plains, has not, to any great extent, been domesticated. The attempts which have been made in this direction have proved that the buffalo cow is a poor milker as compared with the Dev-

on or Ayrshire, and while the beef is highly flavored, and in young animals very tender, yet the great disproportion between the fore and hind quarters will always render the buffalo unprofitable as a beef animal. The activity and endurance of the species would render them valuable as work animals.—*Dixie Rural*.

DONCASTER, THE NEW ENGLISH RACE-HORSE.

Doncaster, the winner of the Derby of last year, is reckoned the great horse of his day. After Doncaster had won the Ascot gold cup, he was purchased from Mr. Merry by his trainer, Robert Peck, for \$50,000. He is described as being a perfect specimen of the thoroughbred, having grand symmetry, great power, unimpaired soundness, a brave heart and a gentle temper. It was a fine sight to see the gallant animal striding away from his opponents in the contest for one of the most coveted trophies of the turf, with the "Prince of Jockeys," Forham, sitting on his back firm and motionless. An immense ovation greeted the victory, and horse, owner, jockey and trainer were cheered to the echo.

We think that in Doncaster Mr. Merry had one of the best horses ever foaled, for, in addition to his undoubted stamina, Doncaster has so fine a turn of speed that he could have won the Ascot cup at any portion of the race. Opponents of two-year-old racing have a rare backbone to their argument in Doncaster, for this horse never ran until he was three years old, and then, after being beaten in the Two Thousand Guineas, he came out a much improved horse at Epsom, and won the Derby in the most decisive style. His defeat in the Grand Prix de Paris was no disgrace to him, as he was palpably amiss from his journey, while of Boiard, who won, it is as impossible to speak too highly as also of Doncaster. His memorable struggle with his stable companion, Marie Stuart, in the St. Leger, redounds almost as much to his credit as victory, as there was 5 lbs. in the mare's favor, and only a head between them. Doubtless, the horse is cheap at the price given for him by his experienced and plucky trainer, as a great turf career is still before him, while as a sire there is no reason why he should not be worth as much as Blair Athol fetched, viz., 12,500 guineas.

WOOL.—At all times the secret of the reverses and losses of the woolen interests of this country has been the want of capital, and the deep inroads made into the same by the vast sum paid for interest on borrowed capital from dry goods commission houses, wool men and Wall street bankers. Mills having sufficient capital to purchase raw material for cash have always had a great advantage over those which are less fortunate, and this accounts for the fact that while some mills are always making money others are always running at a loss, or at least running on the principle of all well enough while you can secure a new dollar for an old one. It is time that this "living on hope" were changed.—*N. Y. Economist*.

LIVE-STOCK AT THE CENTENNIAL.—An elaborate circular has been issued giving particulars as to arrangements for the exhibition of live stock at the Exposition at Philadelphia next year.

Horses will be shown from September 1 to September 15. Cattle, from September 20 to October 5. Sheep, swine, goats and dogs, October 10 to October 25. Poultry, from October 28 to November 10.

Parties intending to exhibit should apply at once to Burnet Landreth, Chief of Bureau of Agriculture, at Philadelphia, for a copy of this circular.

ANGORA GOATS.—The Santa Rosa (Cal.) *Democrat*, in speaking of a flock of goats, says that in the band were five hundred Angora goats that will clip five pounds each, on an average, in February, and the proprietors, Messrs. J. W. & E. L. Reed, informed us that they had the spring clip sold in New York for \$1.30 per pound. Messrs. Reed purchased the band from E. B. Marsh, of San Francisco, and paid \$22,000. Mr. Marsh paid \$27,400 for the same band. There are five thoroughbred Asiatic bucks in the band.

Efforts are being made in England to form a Fanciers' Defence Society.