

FAIRM AND HOUSEHOLD.

Milk Fever in Cows. The following, by Prof. Law, of Cornell University, New York, upon the prevention and cure of milk fever in cows, will be read with interest:

This disease is essentially connected with plethora, or excessive formation and highness of blood. Its victims are mainly the cows that lay on flesh rapidly, or those that give an abundance of rich milk. A strong, vigorous digestion and great powers of assimilation, therefore, properties which render their possession so valuable for feeding or dairy purposes, are precisely those which predispose them to this destructive complaint. Let a cow of this stamp calve early in June, on our pastures of rich and juicy clover, exposed to the great heat of an American summer and with little less of blood in the process, and she is but too likely to prove a doomed animal. The supply of blood to the womb necessary to support the embryo calf is suddenly arrested and thrown back on the system at large; it has not yet become diverted to the udder so as to establish a vicarious secretion of milk; the richness and plasticity of the blood supplied to the nervous centers are incompatible with the due exercises of their functions, and the nervous system already exhausted by the strain made upon it by parturition, is sympathetically depressed by the local condition of the digestive and circulatory systems, is suddenly prostrated, and too often beyond recovery.

Prevention.—Then, the main cause of the disease can be, to a great extent, obviated. It is not desirable to seek to change the tendency of the animal to the production of beef or milk. But with no prejudice to these properties, we can check the production of blood at the time of calving and even reduce the already existing state of plethora. We can keep calving cows in the yard for a week or fortnight before the expiring of gestation; we can restrict their diet to a half or a fourth of what they would consume if left in the pasture; we can see that the bowels are always kept acting freely, either by reason of the nature of the food or by giving two or three ounces of sulphate of soda daily in the food; we can induce a considerable depletion from the circulatory system by giving a dose of physic (one pound to two pounds of salt according to the size of the animal) to act at the time of parturition or immediately afterward; we can rub the udder and draw the teats so as to insure an early and free secretion of milk; and we can keep her on a very restrictive and laxative diet for the first week after calving. With sufficient care the disease may be almost entirely prevented.

Cure.—This is so uncertain in its results that it is folly to neglect any measures of prevention. Strong purgative, stimulants, ice-bags to the head, rubbing the udder, drawing the teats, cupiously warm injections, and damp sheets laid over the body and covered by dry ones or tepid sponging over the surface, may be all employed, and in slight cases will prove successful. In the earliest stages, while the animal is still able to stand and the pulse is full and strong, bleeding from the jugular may ward off the severity of the attack; later it will only increase it. In cases attended by little fever, half-dram doses of nuxvomica morning and evening are of great value.

Suggestions to Fruit Growers.—Sometimes, from well-known causes, trees will split at the junction of their limbs down centrally, or limbs will commence to split off from the trunk. In such cases, make a hole with a bit, or augur through the severed parts for an iron bolt of the size required to secure all needful strength to the parts and hold them in position; and taking care to counter sink the head and nut of the bolt in the wood, so as to allow the wood to grow over the same, to prevent evaporation of sap and consequent loss of vitality in the tree. To destroy worms use strong soap suds, and apply with a "swab." To keep worms from ascending the tree take wool finely carded into thin bats; if the tree is old with rough bark, scrape the bark a little, or if there are scions in the tree apply the bats tied with woolen yarn about two thirds the distance from the top of the scion, leaving the bat to double down. I first tried the wool bats in 1833, and they proved a success, multitudes of the pests perished under them on the tree trunks. Last year I raised over 200 barrels of apples, and not more than one two hundredth part of the fruit was worm-eaten or "stung," as was the case in former orchards.—N. E. Hometield.

REMEDY FOR CROUP.—A lady correspondent of the Maine Farmer says the following is an effective remedy for croup: Half a teaspoonful of pulverized alum in a little molasses. It is a simple remedy, one almost always at hand, and one seldom fails to give relief. If it does, repeat it after one hour.

TAPIoca PUDDING.—One cup of tapioca; one quart of sweet milk; three tablespoonfuls of sugar; a little salt; flavor as you like. PEOPLE who are always wanting something new, should see our medicine. Plan your work for 1874.

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