

infection probably dates from the last foaling. On account of the age of the mare, treatment is not likely to be successful. However, irrigation of the womb might be tried when she is in season. For this purpose a solution made by adding 2 oz. of Lugol's solution of iodine to 5 pints of water should be used as a douche. This is to be carried out daily for two or three days. It is not advisable to irrigate before service with an antiseptic solution, but as acidity of the genital passage is frequently present in such cases it is often found beneficial to wash out with an alkaline solution; 4 oz. of baking-soda dissolved in a gallon of water, used as a douche one hour before service, answers this purpose. Improvement in the mare's condition by an extra allowance of nourishing food is essential.

OVERGROWN HOOF IN COW.

S. DENNIS, Glenroy:—

I have a cow that has a hoof which is overgrown in length and is inclined to crack more or less. This animal seems to be in pain, and has not done well for a long time. What is the best thing to do for it?

The Live-stock Division:—

The overgrowing of claws in cattle is very common where animals are grazed on soft land. The part of the claw which is overgrown may be removed, there being a special instrument for the purpose; but, failing this, a pair of strong pruning-shears may be used. The cow must be fixed in a position so that the foot affected is easily manipulated, and the leg fixed by a leg-ropes to prevent kicking. A portion of the horn is severed from the end of the claw with the shears, care being taken that the claw is not severed too far back or the sensitive tissues will be injured. Another method is to use a piece of board, a broad chisel, and a mallet. The board is placed under the claw, and the chisel where it is intended to cut off some of the horn. With a sharp blow from the mallet the claws can be severed. The only difficulties are the kicking of the cow and the possibility of cutting the claw too far back and severing the sensitive structures. The pain suffered by your cow is the result of the excessive strain, as also is the cracking, and it should ease on the removal of the growth of horn.

WEATHER RECORDS: FEBRUARY, 1925.

Dominion Meteorological Office.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

In the early part of February the weather was generally mild, warm, and fine, though showery conditions were experienced at times north of Auckland, with light east to south-east winds. On the 14th a prolonged spell of westerly weather set in and caused unsettled conditions until the 24th. During this period stormy weather was prevalent in different parts at different times. Thus on the 14th the winds rose and heavy rain followed in the North; on the night of the 16th there was a heavy thunderstorm and deluge of rain for a short time about Dunedin; on the night of the 17th and morning of the 18th hard north-west gales did considerable damage in the Wairarapa and Wellington districts; and from the 21st to the 23rd the weather was very boisterous, especially about Cook Strait and in Westland and Canterbury.

The month's total rainfall was above the average on all the western coast and in the high country of the South, 28.88 in. being recorded at Arthur's Pass. On the east coast of both Islands, however, the rainfall was below the mean; for example, at Napier 0.72 in. fell, which is 72 per cent. below the mean; and at Christchurch 0.27 in. for the month, which is 84 per cent. less than the mean of former years.

A remarkable feature in Canterbury was the heavy rain in the high back country, which caused the rivers to flood, though the weather was dry on the plains, and the Waimakariri broke through its banks on the night of the 23rd.

—D. C. Bates, Director.