

Answers to Correspondents

Worm Parasites in Calves

H.B. (WAIHI):—

Some time ago I asked you for a remedy for a disease you diagnosed as "black pock." You recommended a 3 per cent. solution of salicylic acid in glycerine. I am pleased to say it was 100 per cent. efficient. After a cow had had it for five months it was cured in about five weeks.

Now I would like your opinion on my calves. They were all turned out in good condition, but one was slightly dirty round the tail as if it suffered from indigestion, yet not one of my calves had what we call scours from milk. It was a bit thin, but not really poor. It is still a bit that way, but now a couple more have got bad. One will almost certainly die. It is dirty round the tail and does not walk very straight, but is not staggering. It is just weak.

In our district some farms are—supposedly—infested with "lung worms." I don't know anything about them, but calves are liable to die up to, say, 18 months old. During the latter stages they seem to suffer from maggot getting inside them from behind. I lost one last year, and have seen one or two more die like that. I have 12 calves, and it seems about four are not too healthy. The worst I have was apparently healthy three weeks ago. They are now in hilly country, but have access to swamps in gullies. They were reared in a flat between ridges and hills, but have been on fairly low land. If you advise from above I will be very pleased.

LIVESTOCK DIVISION:—

The trouble described affecting your calves is known as parasitic gastro enteritis, a condition caused by worm parasites in the stomach and bowel. These parasites, in addition to their injurious effects on the calves, produce an enormous quantity of eggs which, passing out with the bowel contents, infect the paddocks and the animals feeding on them. Where the animals are heavily infected and their

health severely undermined another class of worm, the lung worm, is frequently found in the wind pipe and smaller air tubes of the lung, producing a condition known as "hoose" or "husk."

Where a likelihood of infection exists, preventive treatment by drenching the calves monthly before any symptoms develop is much more effective than later, when the animal's system has received a check which is difficult to overcome.

The bluestone drench is the one most commonly used. Starving is not necessary before drenching, although yarding for a couple of hours after is advised. Unless medicinal treatment is used in conjunction with the feeding of concentrates, such as 1 to 2 lb. daily of a mixture of crushed oats and linseed nuts, beneficial results will not be obtained.

In addition to drenching and feeding, the calves should be moved to fresh, clean, hill pasture, and drinking water should be from troughs only. The calves should not have access to any swamp areas.

When the foregoing treatment is carried out, the general improvement in the health of the calves will enable them to overcome the lung worms. Because of the location of these worms no simple method of treatment is

available. Sometimes a volatile agent, such as ether or chloroform, is used by pouring half a teaspoonful into each nostril and holding the calf so that the preparation is inhaled. An alternative method is the injection into the wind-pipe itself of various mixtures; this is not easily carried out by the average farmer, as a special syringe, medicinal agents, and experience are necessary.

Feeding Value of Swedes And Turnips

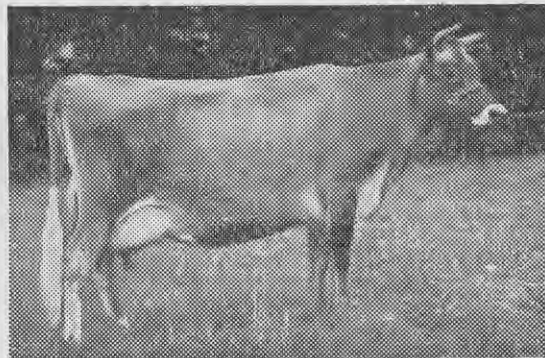
SUBSCRIBER (MATAMATA):—

Will you kindly inform me through the "Journal" the relative feeding value between swede and soft turnip varieties, say, green and purple top, also Vilmorrin? Also, is there any risk in running in-lamb ewes on swedes? I have been putting them on in the morning and turning them off in the evening.

ANIMAL RESEARCH DIVISION:—

Swede turnips have a somewhat higher feeding value than soft turnip varieties, the difference, according to most authorities, being of the order of 10 to 20 per cent. in favour of the swedes. Vilmorrin is a variety of swede which possesses essentially the same feeding value as other varieties. In

Combat infection with



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Read this Stock Breeder's Report:

A calf which had been dead for four days was removed from a cow. The removal was successful, but the smell was very offensive. He used undiluted Dettol on his instruments, and also syringed the cow with undiluted Dettol. The result was excellent, which was far more than expected, and the cow was able to walk a little distance next day, and soon got perfectly well.

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