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EXTRACTS

A Coincidence or What? This year I was asked to remove a growth from the upper eyelid of an Ayrshire cow. The growth, which was the size of a cricket ball, was removed and the surface cauterised and dressed with an ordinary wound lotion; but after a time the growth recurred, and also the lower lid became affected. The cow being very old and nearly due to calve, the owner did not have the growth removed a second time, but said that as soon as she had calved he would have her destroyed. A good heifer calf was born, but here comes the coincidence—the calf had only one eye. There is no doubt but that the growth was malignant. (*The Veterinary Journal*, Vol. 93, No. 9, September 1937.)

A Treatment for Swallowed Needles. A Mastiff puppy, six months old, when playing with its mistress, was seen to swallow a needle and cotton at 10–30 p. m. The treatment consisted in taking a large handful of cotton wool, teasing it out and mixing with butter into pills the size of a large walnut. The puppy was fed with these and swallowed about sixteen or eighteen of them. This was followed two hours later with two ounces of liquid paraffin, being repeated every two hours, until the bowels acted. At 6 a. m. the next day the puppy had a large evacuation which contained the needle and thread entangled in large ball of the cotton wool. I have also found this very satisfactory for safety-pins and jagged pieces of bone. It is always better to use long-fibre cotton wool. (*The Veterinary Journal*, Vol. 93, No. 9, September 1937.)

ABSTRACTS

Feeding Experiments with Canned Food Packed in Aluminium Containers by Gulbrand Lunde, Valborg Aschehoug, and Hans Kringstad. (*Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry*, September 1937).

When sardines and other foods are canned in aluminium containers, small quantities of the metal will be dissolved by the food during storage. When storage continues over a period of several years, the metal content of the food may rise to about 100 mg. per kg, i. e., not more than may be dissolved by certain foods during domestic cooking in aluminium utensils.

Experiments with mice fed on canned food containing about 0·05 mg. of aluminium per animal per day were carried out during the most rapid period of the growth of the animals; the animals developed normally and showed no abnormal signs to indicate that aluminium in canned food has any injurious effect. No accumulation of aluminium in the animals could be found.

A similar test was made with rats, each animal being fed daily on canned food containing about 0·4 mg. of aluminium. The aluminium consumed by the animals was quantitatively eliminated with the excreta. Growth was normal. In another test rats were fed up to the fifth generation on four year old canned food containing aluminium. No injurious effect was demonstrable. Growth was just as good in the first as in the last generation, and equalled the growth of the control groups fed on ordinary stock diet and on food canned in other material. Determination of the aluminium content of the rats' lungs, heart, spleen, kidneys, liver, and muscle-tissue showed that no accumulation or retention of aluminium had taken place. (Author's abstract).

Gleanings.

Preserving Eggs. A new chemical preserving process, invented by a Chinese scientist in California, is said to prolong the freshness of eggs, possibly for years. The Chinese are known to have a secret process by which eggs retain their edibility for a hundred years, but this is declared to be something different. By the new process, the porous egg shells of natural calcium carbonate are coated with more of the same material thereby excluding all air and moisture, adding strength against breakage in handling and retarding deterioration. (*Industry*, Calcutta, October 1937).

Conditioning of Silk in Bengal. A conditioning house for raw silk, it is understood, is shortly to be established by the Government of Bengal for developing the silk industry of the Province.

The conditioning house which will be perhaps the only one of its kind in India will be equipped with testing and conditioning appliances and will be entrusted with the function of testing the standard of not only raw silk but of silk fabrics as well produced in the country and certifying as to their quality. The fixation of a standard or grade of quality by the house will, it is expected, go a long way in checking frauds and malpractices and inspiring the confidence of the prospective buyers. (*Industry*, Calcutta, October 1937)

Utilisation of molasses. During the past five years, the Biochemistry Department of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, has been engaged on the study of technical problems relating to the utilisation of cane molasses, the chief by-product of modern sugar Industry. A number of interesting results of practical value have been obtained and were recently reported to the Indian Sugar Tariff Board. One of the most important findings is the development of a process for the conversion of molasses into a dry, solid product which will not absorb moisture and can stand transport over long distances.

The product is a good fertiliser and is much more efficient in its action than the original molasses. Its nitrogen fixing capacity is also very high. It can easily be applied to land.

The manufacture of the dry powder is a very simple process. The chemicals required for this purpose are cheap and abundantly vigorous and is accompained by considerable evolution of heat, so that the entire mass boils spontaneously within a few minutes. On cooling the product dries rapidly and can be easily powdered.

It is estimated that the new product will be worth at least Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per ton as fertiliser (as compared with other known fertilisers on the market). (*Industry*, Calcutta, October 1937.)

Permanganate in Fertilizer. Addition of potassium permanganate in small amounts to fertilizers has been found in England to increase the yield of radishes,