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XIII.—How Animals Grow

By C. V. GREGORY.

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it prepared for them. Without plants there could be no animal life, animals are dependent upon them, either directly or indirectly, for A study of the way animals make use of this food in building up their bodies will help us to better understand the principles of feeding.

There are three main constituents of feeds-fats, carbohydrates and albuminoids, or protein. The fats are made up of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. The carbohydrates, of which starch sugar are familiar examples, are

used in animal growth. Albuminolds second stomach,

This ash is used in building up the bones, hair, horns and hoofs. The al-



FIG. XXV-GROUND FRED IS DIGESTED MORE QUICKLY AND COMPLETELY THAN WHOLE GRAIN.

buminoids also form a considerable portion of these parts of the body. Their chief use, however, is in building up the muscles, tissues and various organs. The fats and carbohydrates are used to furnish energy and heat. They are the fuel of the body. By uniting with oxygen they give off the heat and energy required to keep the body running, in much the same way that the elements of coal or wood unite with oxygen to furnish heat and power when burned in a steam engine. are burned immediately, however. its color. Some of the fats go to build up fatty tissues. Some of the carbohydrates are changed to fats and used in the same way, and some are stored in the liver in the form of glycogen to be

used when needed. Before these various food elements can be used by the animal they must go through a process called digestion, The first step in digestion consists in taking the food into the mouth. Each class of animals has a different way of doing this. Watch the cows feeding in the pasture. They reach out their long tongues and gather in a mouthful of grass, breaking it off with a peculiar twist as it comes against their lower teeth. They cannot bite it off, since they have no upper teeth in front. The horse gathers in the grass with his lips and bites it off between his teeth. For this reason horses can eat grass down much closer to the ground than cattle can.

After the food is taken into the mouth it is chewed and mixed with saliva. This saliva serves two purposes-to moisten the food and to change some of the starch to sugar. This change is brought about by the action of enzymes which the saliva contains. These work in the same way as do the enzymes in a germinating seed, whi h prepare the food for the little plant.

Sugar and starch, as we have learned, are both composed of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, the only difference being that they are put together in a little different way. The action of the enzymes changes the relation of these elements in the starch, arranging them in such a manner as to form sugar.

All the starch in the food must be changed to some form of sugar before it can be used by the animal in building up the various parts of its body. Since the food remains in the mouth only a comparatively short time, however, only a small part of the starch can be acted upon there. The rest is changed later, as we shall see. The main purpose of the saliva is to

moisten the food. This moistening, together with the chewing, reduces it to gy, it is just as important that the to be swallowed and acted upon by air as it is that they have enough the other digestive juices.

the way in which the work is carried the air becomes very deficient in oxyon varies somewhat. The horse and gen. In consequence the work of the the hog have but one stomach. As body is delayed and the general the food enters this a churning mo- health suffers. By having ventilators tion begins, which gradually forces in the roof, together with plenty of the partially digested mass along to- windows at such a height that the ward the lower end. The saliva con- draft will not blow directly upon the tinues to act on the starch, and anoth- animals, fresh air can be admitted er fluid, the gastric juice, is poured and impure air drawn off constantly.

tain none of their food from the out from the walls of the stomach. soil, air or water, but must bave The main duty of this gastric juice is to change the albuminoids into a form in which they can be absorbed and used by the animal,

Cattle and sheep have a very large stomach, which is divided into four parts. Animals of this kind are called ruminants. When the food is swallowed it passes into the first stomach, which serves the purpose of a storehouse. Here the action of the saliva continues, and the water which the animal drinks softens the food to a considerable extent. After a time the food passes into the second stomach, which forces it back to the mouth, a made up of the same elements put to- little at a time. Here it is chewed gether in different proportions. And thoroughly, You have often seen other of the carbohydrates is cellu- cows lying in the shade "chewing lose, or the woody fiber of plants. This | their cud." This cud is the food that is hard to digest, but some of it is has been sent up to the mouth by the

contain not only carbon, hydrogen and After being chewed the food is oxygen, but nitrogen also. In addition swallowed again. This time it passes to these three constituents of food it directly through the first stomach to also contains some mineral elements, the third. Here it becomes still furwhich are commonly referred to as ther softened, finally passing into the fourth or true stomach. The function of the first three compartments is simply to prepare the food to be acted upon by the true stomach.

After leaving the stomach the partially digested food passes into the small intestines. Here it is acted upon by three fluids-the bile, pancreatic juice and intestinal juice. The chief use of the bile is to digest the fats, making them into a sort of a soapy fluid, in which form they are ready to be absorbed into the blood. Both the pancreatic and intestinal juices act upon the remaining starch, completing the change into sugar. The pancreatic juice also completes the digestion of the albuminoids, in which work the intestinal juice may also take a small part. Another work of the pancreatic juice is to assist in decomposing the fats. The intestinal juice breaks cane sugar up into simpler sugars, such as glucose

After the food has been digested the usable portions are ready to be absorbed into the blood. Digestion has changed the fats, proteins and starches into a form in which they are soluble. In this fluid state they pass through the walls of the stomach and intestines and are emptied into the blood.

The blood is taken to all parts of the body by the arteries, which subdivide to form tiny capillaries. These are so small and close together that a pin prick on the skin anywhere will pierce some of them. There are two main Undertaker and Embalmer parts to the blood-the fluid of plasma Not all of the fats and carbohydrates and the red corpuscles—which give it

the blood the food materials which it needs. Thus the bones will take ash, while the muscles will take protein, to build up their wornout parts. The waste, broken down parts are burned, together with as much fats and sugars as are needed, to furnish heat and energy. All through the body there are thousands of little fires. To keep these fires going oxygen is used, and carbon dioxide is given off in the same way that a fire in a stove takes in oxygen through the lower draft and sends carbon dioxide up the chimney.

In the body the corpuscles supply the oxygen and carry away the carbon dioxide. The other waste materials, or ashes, are gathered up by a system of vessels called lymphatics, which empty into the veins. These veins carry the blood back to the heart. The change of the contents of the corpuscies from oxygen to carbon dioxide changes the color of the blood from a bright red to a much darker shade.

From the right side of the heart, to which the blood is brought by the



PIG. XXVI-SUPPER TIME. veins, it is sent to the lungs, where the corpuscles exchange their carbon dioxide for oxygen and are ready for

another trip through the body.

Since oxygen plays such an important part in keeping up the fires that supply the body with heat and enera moist, finely divided mass, ready animals be well supplied with fresh food. In the winter especially the While the essential processes of di- stables are often closed so tightly in gestion are the same for a. --- is, the attempt to keep them warm that

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