

evil was enhanced by the stallion getting too many mares. The mare, if not working, should be kept mostly in the stable for a month before service.

W. A. MACDONALD—In my eye the chief difference between the Shire and the Clyde is that the former has a more compact body, comparing those which are seen at our leading exhibitions, so that the Shire may appear lighter than he really is. Upon the evidence of able authorities, the Shire or cart-horse has the soundest foot, which now-a-days appears to be the best half of the horse. For all practical purposes, however, both may be classified as one breed. Both are traceable to the black horse of Flanders, imported into England about the year 1715, and the native horses of England and Scotland at that date were of uniform character. Any difference that now exists between these breeds is more attributable to soil and climate than to breeding. The breeders of Clydesdales have pushed their business with great vigor, which means that they have weakened the constitutions of their horses. Fortunately, however, the whole breed has not suffered in this manner. There is thus more uniformity amongst the Shires, and more caution is required in selecting Clydes.

With all respect to the Percheron, I would not advise any farmer to take up this breed without having a thorough knowledge of his business. The breed of ancient La Perche, south-west of Paris, was, and still is, remarkable for its combination of endurance, strength and action. It is a lighter draft than the Clyde or the Shire, and is the best general purpose horse in the world; but we run a great risk in getting this breed pure. Judging from the weights of the Percherons found in this Province, they must have hailed mainly from northwestern France, where the ancient breed has been mixed with the heavy coarse Flemish breeds. After the introduction of railroads into France, a heavier class of horses was in demand, the coach system of traveling having been greatly reduced, and the heavy Boulonnais mares, north of the river Seine, were used to enlarge the Percheron. There is no doubt that there is Flemish blood in the large Percherons, so that they have the same origin on the sire's side as the Shire and the Clyde. To these circumstances add the fact that unscrupulous horse dealers in France have been buying up all classes of horses and selling them to Americans as Percherons, Normans, Norman-Percherons and Percheron-Normans, and it will scarcely be wondered at that the Percheron has been blamed for producing unreliable stock.

With regard to the weights of draft horses there is a great deal of humbug. Some breeders, in order to give weight and consequence to the stallion, put them on in the shape of fat. In many cases 200 pounds may be easily added in this way, whereas it would be about as reasonable to subtract this amount from the natural weight of the horse in order to ascertain his true weight. By this treatment another disadvantage is gained, viz., it enhances the stallion's chances for getting a prize. Every farmer knows the best working condition of a horse. Why should not this standard be adopted in the show ring, the animal then also being in the best breeding condition? Fat

is inconsistent with action, strength and endurance; these qualities can only be improved by feeding and breeding for bone and muscle.

Farmers who take no special fancy to horse-breeding should, as a rule, breed heavy drafts, as they can be sold younger than coach or general purpose horses, and their price is not so much deteriorated by blemishes. It has been often said that farmers who have light soils should breed the lighter class of horses, but there is an inconsistency here. It is true that coach horses are heavy enough to work light soils, but it must not be forgotten that the most nutritious grasses grow on heavy soils, and this is the kind of feed that gives strength and action. No farmer should breed coach horses unless he takes a special fancy to this line of business.

I wish to say a word with reference to fall colts. It must not be forgotten that the air, light and food obtained in the field are much superior to those in the stable, and there is nothing more conducive to the thrift of a young colt than plenty of freedom and sunshine. It requires special skill to compound a winter ration equal to grass in wholesome qualities. However, if you want to make forced sales, or raise colts for exhibition purposes, getting the advantage of several months' growth, then have your colts dropped in the fall by all means.

Many farmers are as much to blame as our exhibition authorities for the deterioration of certain breeds. I know farmers who begrudge the time lost in unhitching a common mare from the plow in order to let her drop her foal, and yet they are afraid to put a high-priced mare to any sort of work for fear of injuring her constitution. If they have a high pedigreed stallion, he is pampered to destruction, and in order to make enough money out of him to lift the mortgage off the farm, they make him serve twice as many mares as he ought. The very best of breeds will greatly deteriorate in a few generations when so many deleterious influences are combined against them.

#### New Remedy for Milk Fever.

A new and simple remedy discovered by a German veterinary surgeon is published in a recent issue of the *Milch Zeitung*. It consists simply in covering the back of the cow with a woolen cloth and then rubbing the spine with a hot iron—the iron used for ironing clothes. The remedy was tested on a valuable cow, with the following results:—After the cow had lain under a woolen blanket for 10 hours, having been ironed on the back and loin, she stood up for several minutes; after continuous ironing for 24 hours, she could stand for 10 to 15 minutes, when the ironing ceased. After two days she began to eat. It is important in cases of milk fever that the patients' bowels be kept in good order, and in severe cases it is also well to administer aconite.

Ranchmen in the west are complaining that their herds are deteriorating, and they attribute the cause to the infusion of too much high blood. The stock, they say, are impaired in hardiness and fecundity, and the owners propose as a remedy to infuse "inferior blood." In the west, hardiness is a chief essential, and even in Canada this quality is under-rated.

The Bohemian oats swindle, says the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, is nearly as respectable as the Government seed business.

#### Feeding Stallions During the Season.

During the season stallions should be well and substantially dieted, nor should their condition be too much reduced in other months of the year. At the same time, every tendency to obesity must be checked by restriction in the quantity, and especially in the quality of the food supply, combined with the exaction of severe exercise, or, still better, by the imposition of a fair amount of labor. No uniform ration can be assigned for a stallion; each will require in this respect especial treatment, to correspond with the amount of work, individual robustness, age, and tendency to accumulate fat. The quality of the articles of diet should be the best procurable. As to kind, oats and hay form by far the best provender. Many persons have a particular inclination for physicking their stallions with all sorts of glandular excitants—a most reprehensible practice, which sooner or later must result in producing debility of the organs repeatedly stimulated. Healthy animals require no medicine; condition in them may be established and maintained by intelligently-applied alterations in the quantity and quality of their food and labor. To check a tendency to plethora, an occasional dose of cathartic medicine is beneficial, but its action must be rationally supplemented by dietetic and hygienic adjuncts.—[Reynolds on Draft Horses.]

The origin of the so-called native cattle on this continent is credited to a small herd brought by Columbus on his second voyage. Other Spanish navigators brought small herds from time to time, while in 1553 the Portuguese landed both cattle and hogs in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Cattle are said to have been introduced into Canada in 1608, and Virginia was reported to have 500 head of cattle in 1620. At that time stringent laws prohibited the killing of any domestic animals. Cattle were introduced into New England in 1624. It is said that in those days the red color depreciated the price of cattle, a red calf being more likely to be mistaken for a deer by the wolves and killed, than a black one.

Scratches, grease heel and all similar complications come directly from not taking proper care of the horse's feet and limbs. Farm horses most especially are allowed to stand too long after usage with the mud adhering to them. This, though, is no more prevalent than allowing horses to stand in unclean stables, where the manure is perhaps not thrown out more than once a week. The ammonia arising from the fermenting manure is not only injurious to the general health of the animals, but it is one of the most prolific causes of grease heel, cracked quarters, etc. The stable should be cleaned at least night and morning, and the horses should not be allowed to stand in their dirt after being used any longer than necessary for the mud to sweat and dry.

Sheep are becoming better stock every day, and it may be that next shearing time almost any farmer would be glad to own a few, says the National Stockman and Farmer. It will pay those having good young sheep to hold them until spring without making any effort to dispose of them. In fact the man who has feed and attempts to sell his sheep now is unwise, and more than likely will regret having done it before he is much older.