

## HORSES AND CATTLE.

## BREEDING FOR SEX.

A correspondent of the *National Live Stock Journal* says:—

Six years ago, I had, as now, a large breeding herd of Jersey cattle, and, as the most profit was derived from heifer calves, I naturally read with interest everything that came to my notice upon the subject of controlling sex, having, as an additional cause to stimulate me to action, a large preponderance of bull calves constantly arriving. My attention was called to the Stuyvesant theory, which claims that service on alternate heats will produce alternate sex. I was using at the time two breeding bulls. One of them had sired more heifer calves, by a small number (up to that time),

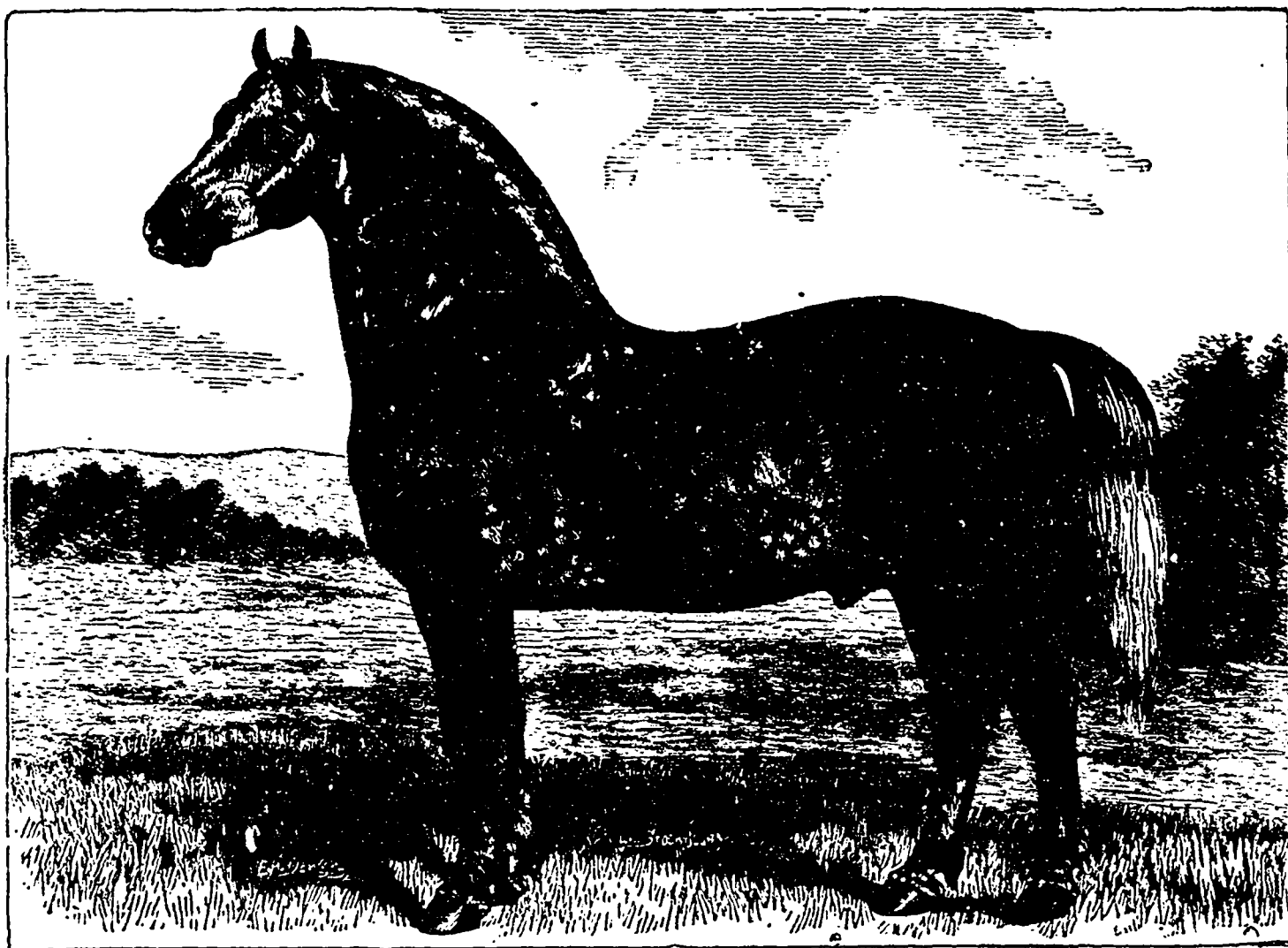
the first, after dropping the calf, made a record of the particular heat in which impregnation occurred. Occasionally, conception would take place by the first service, but by far the greater number of cases would extend over two or three heats and sometimes more. I have a table of forty-nine of these cases, resulting in twenty-nine bulls and twenty heifers; in other words, of forty-nine cows that were treated by the Stuyvesant theory to produce heifer calves, considerably more than 50 per cent. bore bulls, thus entirely exploding the idea that sex can be controlled by this sort of management.

I have tried other plans to gain this end, among them giving service in the beginning of the heat, and during the latter part. Both of these theories have their advocates, and men will declare that, in their own experience, if a cow is served the

## THE DRAUGHT HORSE.

Capt. W. H. Jordan, at the meeting of the Iowa Stock Breeder's Association, had this to say of draught horses:

"The draught horse is the average farmer's best chance for an investment. It is for the reason that he is as staple in the market as wheat or bacon; he is a production upon which money can be realized at any period of his life, from the hour of his birth till the last day of his service. He is always in demand and will ever be while business is done. His record is not of minutes and seconds, but it is most emphatically that of prosperity. He will thrive and grow on coarse, cheap food, and mature for his work earlier in life than any other race of horses. The sphere of his labour is the very basis of personal pros-



PLUVIOSE 3755 (683).

[Recorded with Pedigree in the Percheron Stud Books of France and America.]

Dark gray; 15½ hands; weight, 1,690 lbs.; foaled 1882; imported 1884; got by Narbonne 1334 (777), he by Brilliant 1839 (756), he by Coco II. (714); dam Paquerette by Superior 454 (730), he by Favori I. (711). A compact yet stylish and very active horse, full of vigour and energy. In general form his harmony of proportion is rarely equalled, being unusually good in almost every point, is an extra good walker, and trots a very rapid gait for such a heavy horse. Property of Savage & Farnum, Island Home Stock Farm, Grosse Isle, Wayne County, Michigan.

than bulls; the other, just the reverse, in about the same proportion.

The trial was begun in the spring of 1878, with thirty breeding cows, all having had calves previous to that time. A very careful record of service was kept during the whole year, and if, in any case, a cow had dropped a heifer calf, and I desired her impregnated for another, she was not served the first succeeding heat, but was held over to the second. This course, it was maintained, would invariably produce the end sought. All of the thirty cows were thus treated, and were successfully put in calf by the two bulls named.

The result was that twenty-three of the calves were bulls and only seven were heifers. This satisfied me very conclusively that no reliance could be placed upon this theory. However, I did not entirely abandon the experiment, but took no special care to hold the cow back for the proper heat before serving; but, beginning with

first hour of heat, and impregnation takes place from that service, the invariable result is a heifer calf; others, equally enthusiastic, say the conception must be accomplished during the latter stages of the heat to insure heifer calves.

Many breeders claim that the sex of the calf is determined by the condition of the animals at the time of impregnation—if the male is sluggish and dull, and the cow the reverse with desires high and full of excitement, a bull calf will be the issue. Adherents of this theory aim to produce the proper state of things by a stimulating diet to the bull and adverse course with the cow.

But by a careful course of testing, and closely watching all these various theories and many more, with about the same measure of success as stated, I have arrived at the conclusion that Nature has reserved for herself the entire control of this matter, and that any attempt to interfere with it, or to produce certain results at will, can end in nothing but disappointment.

perity and national greatness. He may be possessed of scars and blemishes, and an uncouth form that would render valueless his brother of the road or track, without lessening his value a dollar, so that he can tip the scales well up in the teens. He can be grown to an age of usefulness as cheaply as a steer, and find a ready market at three times his price; and last but not least, he will not be likely to corrupt the morals of his owner by tempting him to take to the road or track, or to spend his evenings far from the home of his family or his business."

The Arabs are said to feed horses from the ground in order to maintain the curve in the neck. Without doubt the Arabian horses are among the finest in the world, and if feeding on or near the ground is one reason for their superiority, it is an argument for low mangers that should not be overlooked.