

Muntz for Dunsmore Regent, by Dunsmore Jameson. The male champion of the breed was found in the first-prize two-year-old colt, Tatton Dray King, sired by Drayman 23rd, and shown by Earl Egerton, the second prize in this class going to Mr. F. Farnsworth's Ratcliffe Forest King, by Lockinge Forest King, and third to Mr. L. Solomon's Newry Menestrel, by Birdsall Menestrel. For yearling stallions, Mr. F. E. Muntz's King Forest, by Lockinge Forest King, was first in a strong class of thirteen, the second place being filled by Mr. Farnsworth's Ratcliffe Consequence King, and third by Mr. Michaelis' King of Tandridge. In the class for mares with foal at foot, Lord Rothschild won with Blythwood Guelder Rose. For mare without a foal, and foaled in or before 1902, Earl Beauchamp won with Sussex Bluegown. For filly foaled in 1903, Sir P. A. Muntz was first with Dunsmore Fuchsia. For filly foaled in 1904, R. Whitehead won with Peak Dolly, by Dunsmore Jameson. Fillies foaled in 1905 were a strong class, and were led by Mr. E. Orme's Combermere Abbess, by Tatton Friar. The Shire Horse Society's champion gold medal for the best mare or filly of the breed went to Sir P. A. Muntz's Dunsmore Fuchsia, Guelder Rose being reserve.

Care of Horses' Feet.

In hot weather the feet of farm horses are very liable to become a source of pain to the animals themselves, and of inconvenience to their owners, owing to unfitness for work, and that, usually, when the demand for horseflesh is greatest.

It is, therefore, a matter of importance for farmers, says a writer in the *English Agricultural Gazette*, to see that all possible care is taken of their horses' feet at all times, and particularly during the summer months, as a lame horse, from any cause, is an undesirable asset, no matter what his value is when sound, or how well made and salable he may be in other respects. Horses, above all animals, have to get their own living, and more often than not their owners, by walking and trotting, and, in the case of race horses, galloping. Hence the absolute necessity of each animal possessing a set of sound feet which will stand the strain of constant use.

Among the best classes of heavy horses there is no doubt that the feet have received due attention and the show horses of to-day stand on better bottoms than did their ancestors of twenty, or even ten, years ago; but still there is room for improvement. The fact that a large number of horses are prepared for show, is no doubt responsible for some improvement, inasmuch as the yearling or two-year-old intended for exhibition gets the attentions of the shoeing smith early in life, and a shapely foot is the natural result, and it would be well if similar treatment were given to all young horses, so as to prevent the thin, shelly and broken hoofs which one occasionally sees on the neglected three-year-old on being put into the team.

Heredity is another point to remember in regard to horses' feet. If the parents have big, sound and shapely hoofs, the offspring will follow suit, but they will also follow just as much in the narrow, contracted order, and it is the latter which are most likely to develop ailments incidental to horses' feet.

Assuming that ordinary care has been given from weaning time upwards to the growth of the foot, and the animal is in regular work, it remains for the horsekeeper or groom to see that no horse is allowed to stand for hours in a filthy stable, that the feet are pecked out regularly, and that a simple remedy, such as common salt and tar, is applied to the clefts of the frog, if there is the least suspicion of "thrush," which is a very common ailment, and often causes a horse to go "short" when shown in the judging-ring, or before a prospective buyer.

In this connection, it may be said that the floors of many farm stables are calculated to produce "thrush" almost without fail. Rough native stone, with huge holes, into which the liquid drains and stands, to form a bath for the horses' heels, is a fair description of some stable "bottoms"—not floors—and out of such good sound feet cannot possibly come without a good deal of attention from the man in charge of the horses housed therein. The essential conditions for producing and maintaining good sound feet are: First of all, select one, and, if possible, both, parents with good feet; then, when the foal is weaned, it should be haltered, and the hoofs rasped round, and the process repeated at intervals, lowering the heels, if necessary, till the time for work comes, when light shoes should be put

on to prevent wearing away the hoofs on hard clods. Keep the stable as clean as practicable, and thus prevent, as far as possible, any derangement of this very important part of a working horse.

Clydesdale Standards of Registration.

Considering its standard of registration, a good deal of nonsense has been written on the subject of the Clydesdale standard of registration, and I lately saw a letter, written by Mr. R. B. Ogilvie, of the American Clydesdale Association, in which he said that the home society has been lowering their standard, and that there were a large number of two-cross animals in the most recently published volume of the Clydesdale Studbook. This shows that Mr. Ogilvie does not know what he is talking about. He finds some two-cross mares in the volume, entered not because they are breeding now, but in order that the back crosses in exported animals' pedigrees may have numbers. An analysis of the entries in Vol. 28 has been made. It brings out certain interesting facts. There are 451 entries of stallions in the volume. The minimum qualification is three registered crosses for animals foaled after 1890. Only 67 out of the 451 have only three crosses registered; 109 have four crosses; 132 have five crosses; 80 have six crosses; 26 have seven crosses; 12 have eight crosses, and 1 has more than eight. Besides these there are 27 horses entered as special cases, as under rules operative before the rules were consolidated now nearly ten years ago. In the case of mares there are 771 entries in the volume. Of these 47 are special cases, 2 mares have one cross each (cases of numbers being given for purely technical purposes), 37 have two crosses (again mainly old mares, numbered for technical purposes), 208 have the standard three crosses—which, of course, means that their produce have four—246 have four crosses, which means that their produce have five; 139 have five crosses, which means that their produce have six; 72 have six crosses, 16 have seven crosses, 3 have eight crosses, and one has more than eight. I think this analysis is a conclusive answer to croakers. It shows that without at all "forcing the pace" the Clydesdale Horse Society is building up a pedigree structure on a sound foundation. It has conserved all that was best in the system of breeding which Mr. Drew favored, and reared upon that a standard pedigree, which must meet with the approval of men who understand their business. It may interest some to know that there still lives a breeding mare full sister to Mr. Drew's Prince of Avondale. She is named Young June, is about sixteen years of age, and has been a most prolific breeder. She is due to foal either her tenth or twelfth foal (I forget which) and a notable illustration she is of sound constitution and health. Her owner is Mr. James Young, Peatland, Kilmarnock.

SCOTLAND YET.

Effects of Unnatural Conditions.

A writer in *Farmer and Stockbreeder*, a British agricultural journal, takes exception to the statement of another correspondent that severe fright caused a foal to assume an unnatural position and nearly caused its embryonic death. Continuing he says: "Still, it would be argumentatively unfair to fawn upon your practical correspondents any unsupported theories. I will therefore give my own views on brood mares, of which I have also had great experience."

"I have bred various kinds of horses for thirty years, the largest number of mares put to the stud in any one season being twenty-five, but I did not get anything like twenty-five foals. I do not, however, base my views upon this large number of brood mares, but rather upon a lifetime of study and observation of horses and other domesticated animals."

"In a practical journal it is not advisable to occupy much space with science, high and dry; yet practical breeders will appreciate a brief reference to such incontrovertible geological records as cannot fail to throw, at least, a lurid light upon the breeding of domesticated animals."

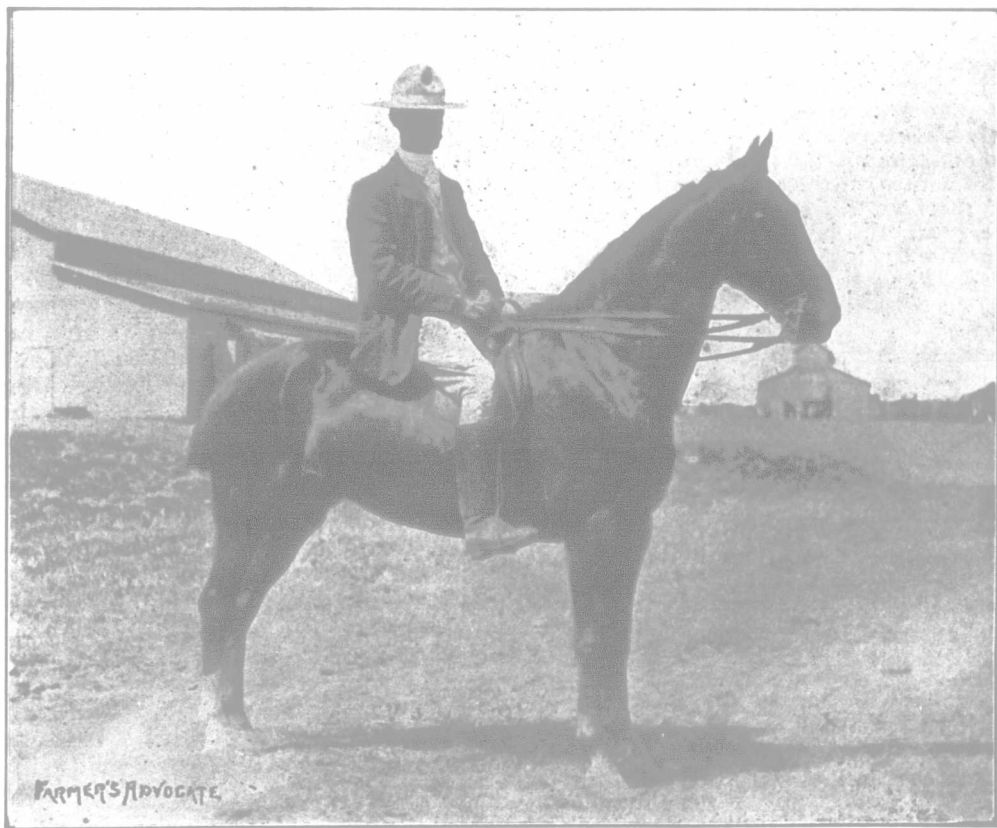
GEOLOGICAL RECORDS OF ANIMALS.

"All geological records confirm the evolution, over immense periods of time; the advance from the simple to the complex, from homogeneity to heterogeneity. In animals of the early Laurentian period we find a simple shellfish; in the latter Silurian a full-blown fish, without a shell; and indeed the entire primary period is the age of fishes and ferns, the two representing a huge aquarium in which animal and vegetable life duly balance each other."

"Then in the secondary period come reptiles of colossal form, whilst flying lizards ruled the air before the appearance of birds. At the commencement there was no such thing as male and female, and mammals, in small marsupial form, put in a feeble appearance as late as the commencement of the Tertiary period. When powerful carnivorous animals ruled the forest-like world the ancestors of such farm animals as the horse tribe, and also the "neat cattle," were constantly startled as by the fruitless attack of a lion or cat-like pounce of a tiger, and such breeds as suffered embryonically are not the tough survivors of our farmyards."

"The placenta is the substance that connects the embryo or foetus to the womb, and in surviving healthy mammals this is so securely fixed that no fright is likely to relax its hold. Breeders must therefore look for other causes of abortion and misplacement of the foetus, and, unfortunately, these other causes are easily found. In cows an abortion microbe has been developed by a reasonable, yet unnatural, effort to develop the udder, and this microbe is communicable through the medium of the bull. I have been unable to discover a microbe amongst mares, but the hardship, hard work, and unnatural life of horses are the main causes of abortions, misplacements, barrenness, and other troubles of breeding, and the fright theory named by your correspondent rarely or never, has the effect suspected by him."

"Farm foods depend in great measure on the weather, a droughty summer producing neither grass nor roots and a rainy hay-time leaving no wholesome hay. The most liberal feeder cannot possibly meet shortness of keep in any adequate manner by spirited and expensive market purchases, hence animals must live partly on their own storage of flesh, or fat, and this may be called semi-starvation. The fat is, moreover



G. E. GODDARD'S WINNER IN THE 15.2 SADDLE CLASS AT CALGARY.

Owner up.