

# HORSES.

## CARE OF COLTS AND HORSES' FEET

should the owner or groom treat him so as to minimize the danger of disease?" During damp weather, probably all that he can do is to clean the foot out well and carefully at least twice daily, to prevent any accumulation of dirt or lodgment of stones or other foreign matter in the sole or frog, and see that the shoes are removed and reset every five or six weeks at most. Now, the shoeing smith must remove with knife and rasp sufficient old horn to equal the new growth, in order to keep the feet the proper size and shape. When the horses are at pasture during the night, a sufficient amount of moisture will be gathered from dew and rain to keep the feet in good condition, but during a long-continued spell of hot, dry weather, horses that are kept in the stable must have an artificial supply of moisture to the feet, else they will become dry, brittle and hot, have a tendency to contract, and predispose to disease. Many kinds of hoof ointments and dressings are manufactured for this purpose, but it is doubtful whether any of them do much good, and many of them may be actually harmful. These dressings improve the appearance of the feet by removing the dry appearance, and, when not too plentifully applied, are not likely to be harmful. The feet require moisture, and there is no question about the fact that this can best be supplied by applying water. This can be done by poulticing, standing the horse in a tub of water for an hour or two daily, applying soaking pads or stuffing the feet with wet clay, linseed meal, etc. Probably the easiest and most satisfactory way is soaking pads, made of thick felt, which are soaked in water, and then buckled around the coronet, and allowed to cover the whole exposed



**Tormentor [516].**

Shire stallion, 3 years old. First in class, Western Fair, London, 1908. Owned by Frank Drury, Charing Cross, Ont.

surface of the wall. In addition to this, it is well to pack the sole with wet clay or other substance that will retain the moisture. As a means of lessening concussion on hard roads, which is the principal exciting cause of foot lameness, the wearing of rubber pads answers well, but these should not be worn constantly, as they, to a large extent, prevent the admission of air to the soles, and tend to cause a disintegration of frog and sole.

To sum up in a few words, we may say : Keep the feet level, and in as natural a shape as possible, shoe so as to give even pressure on the whole wall and the junction of the wall and sole, and, if possible, the frog; keep sole and frog free from foreign matters; supply moisture, and have the shoes removed at least once every five or six weeks.

**HORSE NOTES.**

Care must be taken, when weaning the colts, to see that they are well accustomed to eating grain, and to give a light feed of grain daily after taking away from the dam.

When the expense of raising a horse is incurred, the more it brings in the market, the greater will be the profits.

The colt may be used a little in harness at from two to three years old, and gradually educated for whatever purpose he is best adapted.—*[The Horse World.]*

## THE SHETLAND PONY.

Of all horses, Shetland ponies are the most diminutive, the most docile, and, for their size, possessed of the greatest strength. To trace the origin of the Shelties, one must go back beyond the dawn of written history. They were on the Shetland Islands probably before the Norseman came to settle there. For as far back as man can trace human existence on the Islands the ponies were known. How they reached the Shetlands, and where they came from, history does not disclose. Written history of the breed, in fact, does not go back very far. That they were on the Islands before the Norsemen came, is very probable, for in Edinburgh Museum there is preserved an ancient Celtic stone, discovered in the Isle of Bressay, bearing, amongst other things, the picture of a horse on which a man is mounted. The horse is a Shetland pony, judging from its diminutive size, and the man is supposed to be a Celt. But the first authentic record we have of such ponies existing in Shetland is furnished by an historian, who wrote about the Islands in 1770. Since then the Shetland pony has been better known, record books have been started for the breed, he has been taken to all quarters of the world, where his docility, intelligence and wonderful endurance have brought him much into favor for certain uses.

The Shetland Islands, in which these ponies have their home, lie north-east of Scotland, and only 360 miles from the Arctic Circle. They are rough and hillv, forage is scarce, and the climate severe. The ponies run out all seasons, chancing their existence with the few sheep which the Is-

and s keep. Scant forage and a boisterous clime account for their small size and shaggy coats. That they probably originate from a larger species, is evident in the difficulty which breeders have of keeping the ponies small enough when they are bred in a more favored climate and fed on more nutritious diet than they get in their own hilly and wind-swept isles. It is only by the most judicious selection and mating that this difficulty is overcome. Even as it is, the Shetlands are gradually becoming larger. Seventy years ago, according to Youatt, they were very diminutive, sometimes not more than seven hands and a half in height, and rarely exceeding nine and a half. The standard height now is

from 9 hands to 10.2, the latter being the limit set by the Shetland Pony Studbook. Neither are they so shaggy as they formerly were in the coat.

The first ponies exported from Shetland were used in the coal mines as pack and saddle animals. For this work, their small size, wonderful strength and easy keeping qualities seemed particularly to adapt them. They could go anywhere a man could, and keep fat on anything. Nowadays, however, they are not so much used in mines as they were. Cheaper power has been found for carrying and hauling below ground, and the principal use of the Shetland is in the amusement of children. In this latter capacity, their docility and intelligence, as well as their small size, makes them especially valuable. They have no vicious habits—at least, few of them have—and are about as apt to injure the youngsters as the family dog is.

The Shetland pony is a heavy-harness horse in miniature. He is built solid, with a paunchy body and strong, heavy legs. In color he may be anything that horses are, even piebald. He weighs from 300 to 450 pounds. He is not much in action. His gait is that of a trotter, and, while capable of doing a great amount of work and standing a good deal of abuse, the Shetland will never overwork himself. He has a lot of endurance, but he won't exhaust himself on any kind of a job, and even the vigorous use of the whip will not excite him to exertion beyond his strength.

On this continent, breeders have tried crossing