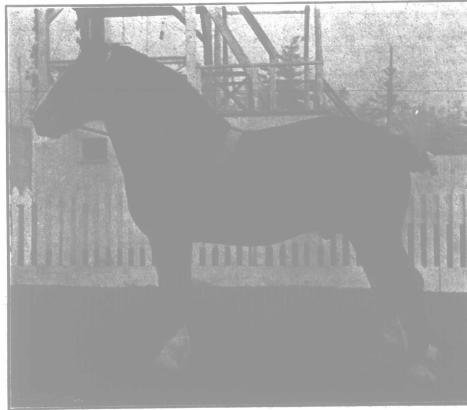
HORSES

CARE OF COLTS AND HORSES' FEET.

The principal points to be observed in the care of either colts' or horses' feet are to keep feet in as near a natural shape as possible, and, in hot, dry weather to provide moisture. The first few months of most colts' lives are spent on pasture, and under such circumstances the feet require no attention. There is a constant growth of horn or hoof. The coronary band, which is a highly-sensitive and vascular substance, situated in a groove in the upper border of the hoof, forms the horny wall. This band is constantly depositing hoof substance on the upper margin, which forces downwards the hoof already formed. In order that the hoof may maintain a normal shape and size, the hoof must be worn off or cut, or rasped off the lower border of the sole in proportion to its growth from the top. Of course, during young life, when the foot should increase in size in all directions as the animal grows, the waste is not equal to the repair; but when the joot has reached full growth, the one must equal the other, else the foot will become abnormal. When colts or unshod horses are on grass, the natural wear is sufficient, but as soon as the weather becomes cold and colts are kept in the stable most of the time, the danger commences. The growth of horn continues, but the wear practically ceases, hence the foot becomes deep at the heel and long at the toe. The walls of the heel, after having grown downwards below the frog, have a tendency to bend or curl inwards, the bars not being sufficiently strong to prevent it. There is also a tendency to decay of the frog, especially when the stalls are not regularly cleaned, but the colt allowed to stand upon an accumulation of its own manure, both solid and liquid. This causes the colt to stand in an unnatural position, in many cases standing and walking too much upon its heels. The heels continue to curl inwards, and lessen space in which the bones and the sensitive parts are situated, and even at this age predispose to disease, and in some cases actually cause it by undue pressure. position of the whole limb is altered; undue tension forced upon the flexor tendons, and upon certain ligaments of the joint, which tend to weaken, and in some cases actually stretch them by continued tension, when the pasterns descend and the fetlock pad almost touches the ground. It is not uncommon to notice a colt practically ruined for life for want of intelligent attention to the feet during its first winter. The careful caretaker will examine his colts' feet regularly, and, with a hoofhook or other instrument, will clean the sole well out in order to prevent an accumulation of manure or other dirt, and also to enable him to observe any disease of either sole or frog. So soon as he notices the hoof becoming abnormal in shape, he will trim it with a blacksmith's knife and rasp to its proper form. He should be careful to keep the heels well rasped down, and the toe well cut off; also, of course, cutting or rasping the lower border of the wall in proportion. This trimming should be done once monthly during the time the colt is stabled. Just so soon as the colt can be allowed to run the greater part of the time on bare ground, the wear will equal the growth; hence the rasping and cutting will cease, only to be necessary again the next winter. When the colt has reached that age at which he is required for work, ear shoes, the conditions change. our roads were such that it were not necess for our horses to wear shoes, there would be much less lameness. The wearing of shoes undoubtedly predisposes to diseases of the feet. At the same time, it is not possible to drive horses on our hard roads during mild weather, or on our slippery or frozen roads during the winter, without shoes. Careless or ignorant shoeing particularly predispose to, and in some cases actually cause, disease. Probably one of the greatest mistakes noticed' in shoeing is the use of high calkins. This is principally noticed in heavy horses. High calkins cipally noticed in heavy horses. serve no good purpose; they do not remain sharp any longer than low ones, neither do they make the horse more sure-footed on slippery roads. They elevate a horse too much, and increase the danger of altering the proper level of the feet, thereby causing undue tension on certain tendons and ligaments, and predisposing to strain. When a horse is to be shod, the foot should be dressed with knife and rasp to as near the normal shape as possible. The shoe should then be made to fit the foot, with as little burning as possible, and, when necessary to add calkins, they should not be made any longer or higher than necessary. When calkins are not necessary, as for a light horse in mild weather, a flat shoe, which will allow the frog of the foot to reach the ground and bear its share of pressure, gives the best results. Fortunately, our country is fairly well supplied with intelligent shoeing smiths, who understand their business, often better than the men who own the horses they shoe. Taking it for granted that the horse is well shod, the question arises. "How

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. 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, dressings improve the appearance of the feet by plentifully applied, are not likely to be harmful. The feet require moisture, and there is no quesby applying water. This can be done by poultic-

and many of them may be actually harmful. These removing the dry appearance, and, when not too tion about the fact that this can best be supplied for certain uses ing, 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 sonking pads, made of thick felt, which are severe. 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 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 WHIP." six weeks.

HORSE NOTES.

('are 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

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 hi'ly, forage is scarce, and the climate The ponies run out all seasons, chancing their existence with the few sheep which the Is-

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

The Shetland pony is a heavy-harness horse in He is built solid, with a paunchy miniature. body and strong, heavy legs. In color he may be anything that horses are, even piebald. 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-