

of draft horses has not, unless he has personally inspected our studs, a proper idea of the aims and accomplishments of English Shire breeders. We have plenty of horses and an abundance of mares and fillies of the type which the States and Canada demand, and if foreigners will only come to pay our prices, they shall in return have much the weightiest horses that can be produced, and meet a readier market for their produce. There are two suggestions in front of breeders at the present time. One is to send out a selection of really good Shires to compete at the Canadian and States fairs, and the other that foreigners and colonial visitors should be induced to pay the leading English show-yards a visit in quest of good stud horses. I have remarked that trade was not quite as good as it was three or four years ago, but at the end of last month a two-year-old filly realized 400 guineas, a yearling 260, and a three-year-old some 310 guineas, so that there are plenty of buyers yet for the very best class of stock. The ordinary commercial market has not been affected to any material extent. Prices may be a little lower, but geldings of the right sort can still realize, at five years old, in the neighborhood of three figures.

A few comments upon the leading show-yard animals of the day will be of interest, doubtless, to your readers. The accompanying illustrations may serve to convey to your readers some idea of what the modern Shire is really like. I might naturally begin with the champion stallion at last London Spring Show, "Girton Charmer," owned by Lord Rothschild. He is a remarkably handsome horse, with much substance combined with quality, and so far as weight is concerned, he typifies the modern style of Shire horse. He has had a very successful career, and, being still on the youthful side of his future, will be watched with much interest. An example which exemplifies the active type of Shire, is Mr. Chas. Bell's "Norley Advance." A point, by the way, upon which I have remarked is that the Shire horse is a very early-maturing breed. Its yearlings are, as a rule, as big as Clydesdale three-year-olds, and an animal reaches practically full growth when it is four years old.

These are a few cursory remarks which I have thrown together, and if they may add anything to colonial knowledge of what Shire horses are, or induce any colonist to give a second thought to the advantages which a Shire stallion offers, I shall feel well rewarded.

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[Mr. Gibson, who is a brother of Richard, John and William, well known in Canadian stock-breeders' circles, has been manager for the late Mr. Philo Mill's studs, flocks and herds, and last fall went to Buenos Ayres to judge the Shorthorns of the big exhibition in the Argentina. Previous to his taking charge at Ruddington, Mr. Gibson was a very successful exhibitor of Shires, Shropshires and Yorkshires.—Ed.]

The Foaling Season.

There is nothing equal to grass for the brood mare coming due to foal, or having foaled. The fresh grass is the best of tonics, and serves as a laxative and a producer of the needed supply of milk, while the exercise taken in securing her food in this way is essential to the best health of mare and foal alike. Provided the weather is favorable, the mare and her foal should be turned out during the day on pasture. It is advisable to take them in at nights for the first week or two, even though the weather may be settled and warm, as the nights are likely to be cool. Young foals should not be exposed to rain, but kept under shelter in wet weather, as they may, if exposed, get chilled, causing troublesome ailments. They should have a dry and comfortable place to lie down at night, and there need be no hurry in turning them out in the morning till the dew has dried off. It is not desirable that the foals be unduly coddled, but it pays to give them a little care for the first two or three weeks, till they get a fair start in life, as on this their future development largely depends.

Simple Remedy for Thrush.

An experienced veterinarian tells us that he has been having marked success of late in treating thrush with a solution of formalin. Clean out the cleft of the frog, and syringe or douse daily with a solution of 1 part formalin in 3 or 4 parts water. In his own expressive language, this "knocks the thrush higher than a kite." The remedy is simple, cheap and safe. Formalin is coming into wide use as a disinfectant and antiseptic, being employed for all sorts of purposes, from disinfecting houses to treating seed grain for smut, and seed potatoes for scab.

Horse-breeding for Profit.

There is perhaps as little or even less attention given to horse-breeding by the average farmer than to any other branch of his business; and yet, in the opinion of the writer, there is no other line that a farmer on a hundred-acre farm can derive more pleasure from, and which will give greater returns. Horses are and have for some time past been selling for good prices, and the indications are that all the horses our farmers can raise will be required at prices that will pay them well, provided they raise the right kind. What I mean by "the right kind" is a first-class horse of whatever breed you have a preference for, and that the market demands. It would not do if every person were engaged in breeding one class. We have a market for the heavy draft, carriage, roadster and saddle horse, and each of these can be bred with profit on our Canadian farms; but, as a farmer, I am compelled to say that the heavy-draft horse is the most likely to prove profitable for the average farmer to raise. There are several reasons why I make this statement:

1. The heavy mare is most suitable for the average work on the farm.
2. The heavy colt can be broken into work, and will earn his keep at a younger age.
3. The work on the farm is well suited to fit a heavy horse for future usefulness, when sold to go into our large towns and cities for dray purposes.
4. There are very few farmers that have time and experience to raise more than one out of ten light horses that is really first-class, and even

sacrifice size in order to secure quality; but in order to attain the best results, it is necessary to have a fair amount of both. I always select a horse with a good broad forehead, a bright, clear eye, a nicely-set ear, broad, open jaws, set well apart, and not a meaty, but a clean-cut throat, neck well arched and carried down well into the shoulders, a good depth from bottom of neck to bottom of chest, fore legs well set back under the body and well muscled, chest prominent, broad knee, hard, flinty bone, nice silky hair, moderately long; sloping pastern, good feet, withers well carried back, good spring of rib, strong back, nicely-turned quarters, well muscled down; clean, broad, strong hock; a good walker, picking up every foot squarely, and setting it down squarely.

We will take it for granted that you have a good mare and use such a sire as I have described, and that you are producing the feed on your own farm, as all Canadian farmers should.

Then a word about the care: It is a great mistake to overfeed or pamper a horse beyond a certain stage. I believe in always working the brood mare. There is no reason why a mare, if properly hitched and properly driven, should not work right up to the time of foaling; in fact, I have taken the harness off mares to allow them to foal, and have never had a loss by so doing. If the mare is to foal early, before grass time, give her a few boiled oats and a liberal supply of bran, with a little flax seed occasionally. If she is getting plenty of grass, nothing of this kind will be needed. After foaling, ordinary feed will do—good oats, bran, and well-cured hay.

Never allow the foal to follow the mare when working, but keep it in a well-built, roomy box. Never expect the foal to eat with the mare, but always provide a small box in the opposite corner to feed the foal in. Teach the foal to eat early. A few ground oats and bran, with a little milk, is a desirable ration. The foal will not take much at first, but will soon show a readiness for hearty meals. In the early part of the season it will always pay to allow the foal to suck some time during the forenoon, and also in the afternoon, giving the mare a drink and a few oats to eat while the foal is sucking. It will benefit both the mare and the foal.

Accustom the colt to being handled by leaving a halter on, and occasionally taking hold of it when feeding the mare. Never wean the foal too quickly, but by degrees. It is best for both the mare and foal to take two or three weeks to do it. Feed foal often, both during the time of and after weaning. Never allow two foals to feed out of the same box. One is sure, sooner or later, to become master and secure the lion's share. Give the foal first-class care throughout the winter. Always be careful to give mares plenty of exercise in the late fall and winter, after the work on the farm is done.—[John Gardhouse, in Ontario Farmers' Institute Report.]

Producing Polo Ponies an Unprofitable Business.

The exhibition of polo ponies at shows like the Canadian Horse Show, Toronto, may raise the question in some enquiring minds whether there should be any money in seeking to produce this type of horse in a commercial way. Seward Carey, the well-known polo-pony judge, of Buffalo, N. Y., interrogated on this point by "The Farmer's Advocate," said he had given up trying to breed them. The polo pony, like the ideal farm horse, must be regarded as somewhat of an accident of breeding. There is no known breed, grade or line of breeding that can be depended upon to produce polo ponies in any profitable number of instances. "I used to undertake," said Mr. Carey, "to superintend matings, taking, perhaps, the first foal for my trouble, but it did not pan out very satisfactorily. Now,



Miss Wilson (Imp.) [4775] (Vol. 26 S.), and Lady Sally (Imp.) [4774] (Vol. 24 S.).
Pair of pure-bred Clydesdale mares. Owned by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont. Prizewinners at the Canadian Horse Show, Toronto, 1906.

then he is not likely to get what it is worth; but some dealer is likely to reap much the greater profit.

If we are going to make a success of raising stock of any kind, we must aim at producing the best. We should first select the very best females we can possibly afford, see that they are of a first-class type of the breed to which they belong, and that they are bred from good sound, healthy ancestors on both sides, then select the very best sire that is to be had. There are three things necessary to success in breeding and raising live stock: (1) Proper breeding; (2) suitable feed; and (3), proper care and comfort. Any farmer who closely adheres to these three rules is sure to succeed with whatever line of stock he may raise, and it is certain that he cannot make much of a success with stock in any other way. You may buy the very best horse, cow, and sheep or hog that money can buy, take it home, put it in a poor stable, give it little or no care and poor food, and there will be only one result—the animal will go to pieces. On the other hand, you may grow and cure the very best feed that it is possible to produce, and have one of the best stables that is to be found, but if you have animation, you cannot make a success; on the other hand, your good feed, your fine stable, and your time and labor will give you small returns, and only disappointment will follow, as is the result with far too many of our farmers at the present time.

What is wanted in a draft horse is size and quality combined. Some of our breeders lost sight of quality in order to get size, and others