

Dr. Maria Montessori

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## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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general thing, be advisable to purchase a Clydesdale stallion where the mares were all of the Percheron breed and it would be equally bad practice to buy a Percheron for mares of the Clydesdale or Shire breed. Cross breeding is not, under average conditions, to be recommended. Having decided upon a breed, it becomes necessary to make the purchase. A representative or representatives from the club of men which are to be joint owners of the horse should be sent out early in the season to make the selection. It is generally advisable that one man or a committee of not more than three select the horse. If a larger number are sent differences of opinion generally arise and the outcome is dissatisfaction before the horse is purchased, whereas if a smaller number go a good horse is selected and he comes into the district and is backed up by every man belonging to the club. Choose the best horseman to select the horse. Of course, some agreement should be reached before he is sent out, as to the amount of money at his disposal. This he usually knows, because under most conditions each man subscribes a certain amount to be used in the purchase of the horse.

We must emphasize the fact that it is advisable to buy early. While stallions are fairly plentiful this year, very high-class sires are not too numerous and the earlier the selection is made the better the chances of getting the kind of horse the district needs. This would apply where an individual is buying a horse for his own use or to the company plan of procedure. If the buyer waits until spring or until the approach of the breeding season it is more than likely that all the good horses will have been picked up and those in the stables will be big, fat, soft, impotent, flabby individuals, not sure foal getters and not good breeding individuals. Such horses must be avoided. Go and see the horses. Look through the stables; select your individual carefully; get one which shows vim and intelligence; size him up from the ground to the tips of his ears; look over his joints; examine his muscling; get the right slope of shoulder and pastern; insist upon size, combined with quality, and avoid the horse with the very light middle. Get the good quality of foundation and after that get all the weight you can. When the horse is bought, take him to the home of the member of the company who is to look after him throughout the season. Feed him well, but do not overload him with fat and see that he gets exercise every day. It means work, but this work means a good deal to the breeders in the number and class of colts which they get next season.

We cannot urge too strongly this system for many sections of the country. Of course, there are other sections where individual horsemen make a business of keeping stallions for service and keep first-class individual animals. In such districts, the need for neighbors getting together and owning their own horses is not so urgent, but not all districts are so fortunate and it becomes necessary to either breed to the scrub horse which happens to travel the road or to combine forces and drive him out by getting in a top-notch destined to revive and strengthen horse breeding, which has in some instances been almost ruined by the use of indifferent culls. It is necessary in operating the horse business on this basis that the men interested in the stallion stand together. No "knockers" should be admitted to the little ring which is to own the horse. All must agree to stand by the animal which those appointed see fit to select and regardless of opinion of outsiders give him a chance to do for the horse-breeding industry of the community what it is intended that he should do and what undoubtedly he will do, if the right judgment has been used in his selection and he turns out as most good horses do.

The farmers of this country need a little more of the community spirit and the sooner they get to doing things for themselves the better; such practice would not in any way injure the big horse breeders of the country. It would help them. The big breeders and large importers are only too glad to sell to such companies, because they know that once suited such men are sure to come back for another horse when the one previously purchased has served his day in their community. They know well that such a system practiced in the districts where horse breeding is rather backward and in some districts where it is gradually forging to the front would drive the grade and inferior animals off the road. The trouble has been that individuals have hesitated upon placing a large sum of money in a horse, fearing loss, whereas if a number of individuals clubbed together and jointly bore the expense of buying and maintaining the stallion losses, if they should occur, would not be so severely felt, and a good horse would be at their service, in the place of the two-hundred-dollar individual which some poor horseman thrusts upon the mare owners, who have no other means of keeping up the horse supply of their district.

Get in the game early. Hold a meeting of the men who own good mares in the district, and at once decide upon the kind of horse you want; select your buying representatives and get the stallion in your stalls at as early a date as possible. It will pay and pay well and once established and properly managed the system is sure to grow in favor. No one should apply for membership in this little horse circle but those who are honest and straightforward enough to do as the agreement calls for. Too many so-called syndicates have ended disastrously because of the fact that some of the members have not lived up to their agreement, or that purchasing agents have been "handled" by the horse breeders and importers and in many cases inferior animals are unloaded upon them. This has meant death to the system in some localities. It is not the system that is at fault, however, but the methods of operation very often due to one or two crooked individuals which have gained access to the syndicate with little purpose other than to wreck it. Choose the men carefully and if everything that is done is done right success must eventually follow.

### The Brood Mare.

During the winter there is a strong tendency to do one of two things in the management of the brood mare on the farm. The one tendency is to give her extra care and feed and keep her more comfortable than is for her good or is destined to produce strong, healthy foals. The other is to go to the opposite extreme with the idea that to produce healthy foals it is necessary for the mare to get out and rough it with the rest of the horses.

These ideas are based upon sound logic to a certain extent. The one idea is based upon the fact that the mare requires extra care, the other, that she requires exercise, and plenty of it. The one feature that is not given enough consideration is that these two requisites should be combined.

There is no particular way in which brood mares must be handled to ensure strong, healthy foals. A score of methods of management and feeding on as many different farms will be found to result in strong, healthy youngsters, but on all these farms these three factors, comfort, feed and exercise, are invariably given consideration.

About this season of the year, mares in foal will develop a crabbed nature, and will kick or chase any horses about the yard that they happen to be turned out with, particularly is this

outside scattered around in the yard. A little may be lost, but it will be worth while if it ensures the mare taking exercise. However, it is taking rather heroic measures to turn the mare out to get her entire feed on the prairie or on the stubble, and around the straw stacks to obtain this exercise.

When it is possible a box stall is an ideal place for the brood mare, but as this can not always be given the ordinary stall with plenty of straw for bedding will serve the purpose. She should, however, during reasonably fine weather spend only the nights in the stable, spending the entire day outside in shelter of straw stacks or buildings, and with plenty of roughage to pick over.

In feeds, absolutely nothing should be fed that is not clean and free from mustiness or plant diseases. Dirty or diseased fodder is another of the sources of abortion for which the owner can not account afterwards. As to what constitutes good feed, clean, whole oats in moderation, not exceeding two gallons a day unless the mare is doing light work, and all the hay the mare will eat will make a satisfactory ration. Keep salt where she can take a portion at will. If oat sheaves are fed instead of hay, reduce the oats fed very materially, unless the oats were cut before any grain whatever had formed.

One further point, sanitation of the stable should be maintained. The stable should be disinfected from time to time, and it would be well to wash the stalls of any brood mares with a two per cent. solution of creolin or carbolic acid frequently. See that any strange mares or horses put in the stable are not put close to the brood mares. These strange mares may have aborted recently, or both the mares and horses may be carriers of contagious abortion bacteria.

When one has taken the trouble to breed a mare, pay the service fee and get the mare well along in the gestation period, it is worth while to spend a little extra time and exert a little extra care to ensure the mare carrying the foal to the end of the gestation period and delivering a strong, normal foal. *Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal, Winnipeg, Man.*

## LIVE STOCK.

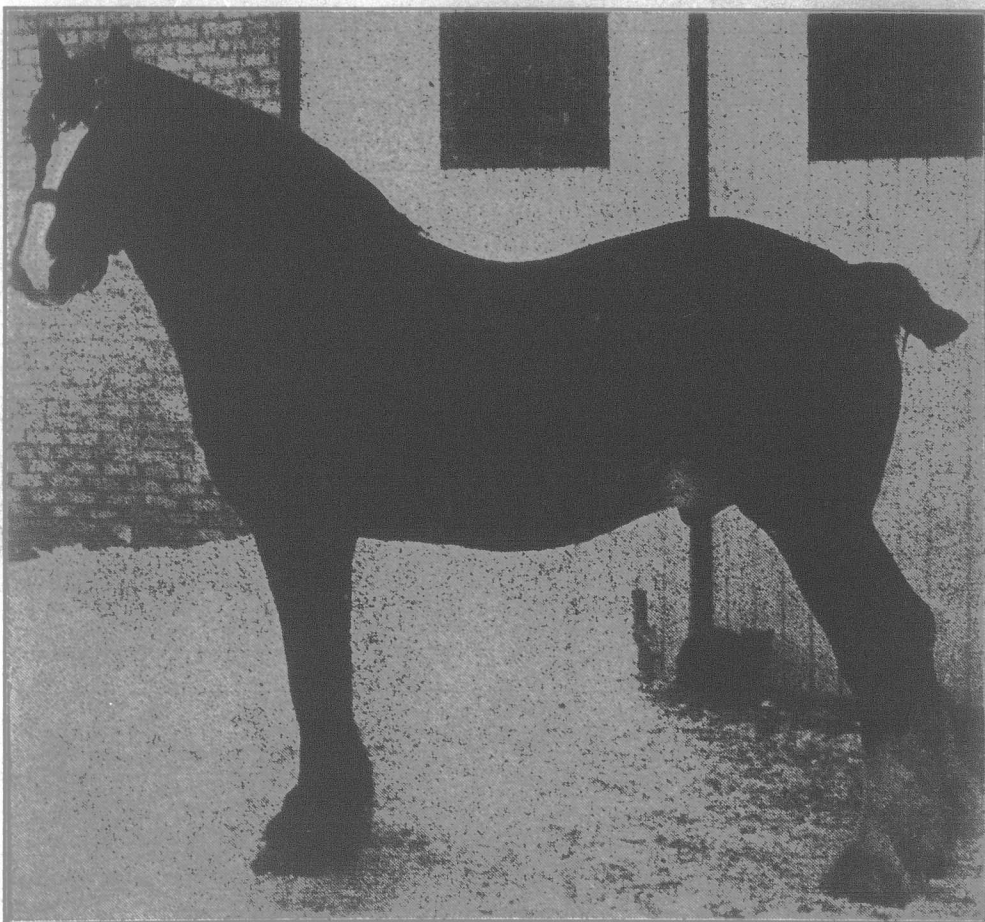
### Management of Breeding Bulls.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In order to produce the most desirable results, breeding bulls must receive intelligent treatment and a plentiful supply of nourishing food. The poorly conditioned, worn-out sire cannot beget healthy and vigorous calves. To be at his best he must have plenty of suitable food given him at the proper intervals. There should be plenty of bulky and succulent food, such as clover, alfalfa or mixed hay and roots or silage, with the addition of just enough wholesome grain foods to keep him in a vigorous, gaining condition. His water supply should be of the cleanest and given regularly, at least twice a day.

A large and comfortable box stall gives the bull more freedom and is more safe and convenient for the attendant in feeding and handling the animal. Such a bull pen should be well ventilated and arranged so that plenty of light will be admitted, and it is also well to have it so arranged that it may be darkened in summer to keep out the flies. He should be kept clean and provided with sufficient bedding material to prevent injury when getting up and down, as large animals, whose immense weight resting on their knees on a hard floor, such as concrete or plank, are very apt to bruise them and cause enlarged joints.

The care of the animal's feet is another important matter that should be given careful attention. The constant standing in the stable has



True Movement.

This Clydesdale stallion weighs over 2,000 pounds. He is a good sire, and for sale, at the stables of T. J. Berry, Hensall, Ont.

so of horses with which they are not familiar. While they may not be directly injured through kicking, a slip or the sudden jump at another mare or horse will often result in abortion, for which there is no apparent cause. Mares turned out for exercise should be put in a yard by themselves with their stable mates only, or with one or two colts.

A good many mares if fed in the stable will, when turned out, stand at the yard gate or stable doors for hours. To ensure exercise when possible feed all roughage, hay or oat sheaves