

been known to perform most extraordinary feats of strength and agility, but only of course under great pressure.

Naturally, the matrons are inclined to be a little cross at this time. They do not wish to be bothered, and consequently it is better that only two should be let out together in any sort of small enclosure. When food or water is to be considered special care should be taken to prevent any kicking being done, for it is at such times that the mares are crossset to each other. For feed, to commence the day the mares should get, say at six o'clock, bran, chopped hay and bruised oats moistened with hot water. At 10 o'clock another ration of of the same. At 2 in the afternoon they should get a feed of dry oats and raw carrots, and at six at night a ration the same as in the morning, with a liberal allowance of boiled turnips or beets. If troubled with a cold let the mare have half a pound of treacle mixed with her bucketful of feed. Fed in this manner, each mare's portion being gauged according to her needs, the old ladies will fare splendidly, and come through their trials all right. Above all things avoid having the mares at all constipated, or "dry in the inside," as an old Scotchman would put it. That condition is foreign to every law of nature. Avoid the other extreme as well, but of the two scouring is to be preferred to constipation in mares about to foal.

There is no necessity for either condition, carelessness is responsible for either. When the mare is about to foal, don't bother her by eternally looking at her, nothing bothers her so much, or makes her so uncomfortable as being closely watched when close to foaling. If she could do as nature dictates she would slip quietly away to some secluded spot, and stay all alone until she could return with her foal: but she cannot slip away so she should be left unmolested. Certainly an attendant should be on the spot where he can see, without being seen, for he must watch her in the act of foaling, for perchance she may need a little help, though most mares will get through alone all right. Supposing that the youngster is ushered into this vale of tears in a healthy manner, the attendant should see to it that he does not smother. The mare should be treated gently and given a drink of thin gruel warmed to about blood heat, and she will after her drink go to work to clean up her foal briskly.

Meanwhile do not hurry the little fellow. He will, if strong and healthy, go through all sorts of evolutions with his legs, striving to get up, which after a while he will, his object being to get his first independent meal on this earth. It is bad policy to hurry a foal too much, there is no great hurry to get him round to his mother's udder; give him a little time.

Foals have as soon as born a most extraordinary amount of strength, and also a habit of getting into the strangest predicaments, and no man can tell how they manage to wobble into them.

It is always best to give a newly born foal an injection of castile soap suds, not too much nor too soapy, but just enough so for the purpose it is used for. Some breeders still stick to the giving of a tablespoonful of castor oil the very first thing, but there is no need to resort to that nauseous stuff. The mechanical application is far better. If the foal is at all weak, a little stimulant should be given, but it is better to get along without putting anything unnatural into his stomach if possible. Assist the little fellow to get his first drink, if the mare is a bit ticklish, by holding up her near front foot, so that the ordeal may be got over speedily. After the first drink has been successfully swallowed, offer the mare another ration of gruel, put some hay in front of her, and leave the two alone together for three or four hours, keeping watch though to see nothing goes wrong. With this sort of care very little bad luck will be experienced. It is always well to remember that the more nearly natural the birth may be the less trouble will be experienced. After foaling the mare should be liberally fed. Give her plenty to eat both of grain and roughage, and let her pick as much hay as she will. Do not stint her in this. Turn both mare and foal out into the sunshine as soon as possible. Do not let them get to grass too suddenly, or you will have a case of scours on your hands, which is a very bad malady for foals, carrying off many annually, and should therefore be carefully guarded against. Of course it is only natural that when turned out to grass mares should scour a little, but that should not bother