

## THE HORSE.

### Care of Mare and Foal When the Dam Has to Work.

A brood mare that is not required to perform the functions of a work-horse during the nursing season should, other things being equal, rear a better foal than the one that has to work. It is claimed that it is not profitable to keep a mare for the sole purposes of raising foals; and, unless she be a high-class mare there is doubtless considerable force in the assertion. Be that as it may, the fact remains that many farmers who breed one or more mares depend upon them for the performance of a great portion of the ordinary farm work, hence the discussion of our ideas as to the better manner of treating such mares and foals is the object of this article.

Some claim that a mare should have at least a few days' rest before parturition, but it often occurs that she shows no definite symptoms to indicate that parturition will take place in a few days, and is worked right along until she shows symptoms of immediate parturition. We do not think it unwise to ask her to perform light labor up to this time, but of course a mare during the last few weeks of gestation should not be asked to perform very heavy labor, but is much better performing light work than spending her time in idleness, unless it be at a season when she can spend her time on pasture, or taking regular exercise in some way. Under any condition a mare should be allowed at least 10 days to 2 weeks idleness after the birth of the foal. The nursing of a foal is probably as great a strain on the physical abilities of a mare as the performance of farm work is upon her non-breeding sister. Hence, we can readily understand that when the double functions are exercised the mare should be given extra care and an extra supply of feed of first-class quality. She should be given a liberal supply of easily-digested feed that will produce bone and muscle, and at the same time stimulate the secretion of milk. Rolled oats and bran along with good hay, or grass when in season, has proved to be the best ration for these purposes.

Provided she is doing regular work her allowance of grain should be greater than for an animal that is not breeding. When practicable it is good practice to feed grain four times daily, rather than increase the amount given each meal. The colt can, and should be taught to eat grain when quite young. The dam will, in most cases, allow her foal to eat out of her box, but it is better to feed it out of a separate box that is arranged at the proper height. It is better to have the dam tied so that she cannot rob the foal after she has consumed her own ration. Chopped oats is probably the better feed for the quite young foal, but rolled oats give good results; and of either it is, in most cases, safe to allow it all it will eat.

When the mare is at work it is generally considered better to have the foal shut up in the stable in a comfortable box stall with the door so high that he will not attempt to jump out, and with no mangers, feed boxes, etc., into which he can rear or get into trouble in any way. If he be allowed to follow the dam he will take more exercise than is desirable, consequently will not thrive so well, will be a greater or less nuisance to the driver, and there will be danger of him becoming tangled in the traces or the implement to which the dam is hitched, thereby probably injuring himself. The box in which he is kept should be such that there is no danger of him getting into trouble in his attempts to follow his dam. The walls and doors should be so high that he cannot get his fore feet over them, and there should be no openings through which he can get his head. After a few days he will remain quite contented in the stall, and if supplied with a little chop and grass will not suffer from hunger between meals. In fly time the stall should be partially darkened. If the mare be a good milker, it is wise, for a time after this kind of management is adopted, for the driver to milk her a little occasionally to ease the congestion of the mammary gland, but it will not be necessary to continue this long, as the lacteal apparatus soon forms the habit of adapting itself to existing conditions. If the weather be cool, and the mare performing only ordinary work and not perspiring freely when taken to the stable, it is quite safe to allow the colt to nurse at once, but should the weather be warm, or the mare performing very hard work, or from any cause be quite warm, it is dangerous to allow the colt to nurse at once. In cases of this kind the milk becomes over-heated and is very liable to cause diarrhoea in the young animal. When the milk is in this state the attendant should draw little off and allow a few minutes, say 15 to 20, to

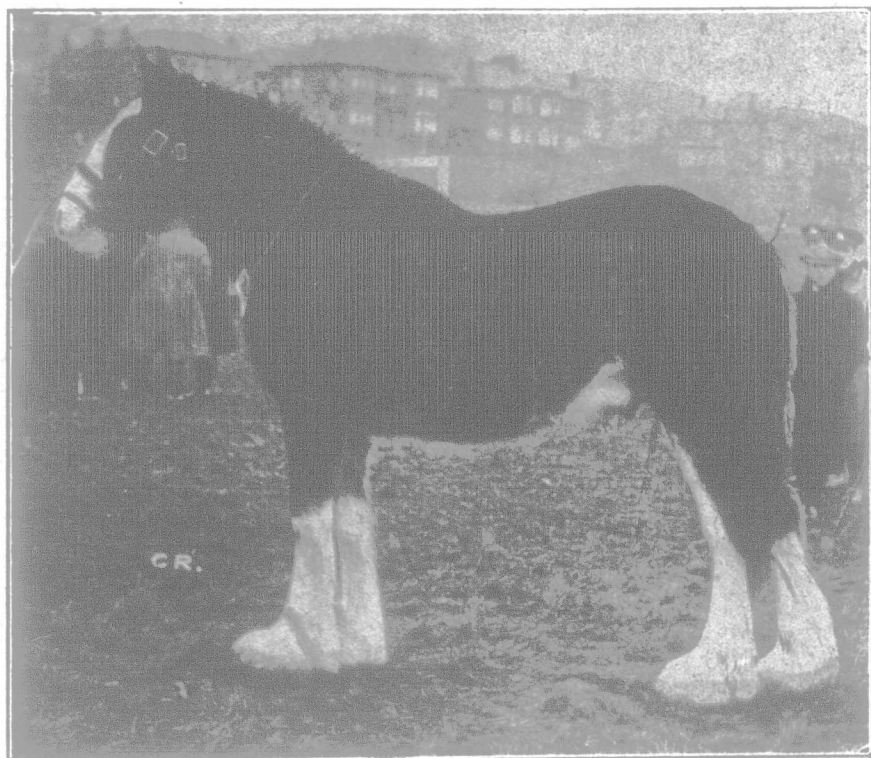
elapse before turning her into the stall with her foal. After a time there will not be so much danger in allowing the foal to take milk under such circumstances, as he will be getting stronger and his digestive organs will have gradually acquired the ability to perform their functions under such conditions. At the same time reasonable precautions must be continued in order to avoid digestive derangements.

WHIP.

### In Defence of the Hackney.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In a recent issue you published a photograph of a heavy harness horse, (a Hackney), with the statement that this is "A type of horse which the auto is displacing." Allow me to correct this very erroneous and unwarranted opinion. In a recent issue of the Westminster Gazette appears the following: "It is interesting to know that the motor car has not driven the horse out, for transport purposes. Plainly the authorities believe it will hold its own in civilian work, but if it did not, it would be necessary to give state encouragement to horse breeding." The Breeders Gazette, The Scottish Farmer, The Farmer and Stockbreeder and other leading papers, devoted to live stock breeding are all of the same opinion. The Prince of Wales, gave, at the recent Annual Hackney Show, held in Newmarket, a Cup, for the best horse suitable to get remounts and artillery horses, which was won by Mousons Lovat Shales by Walpole Shales. A reference to the Annual Report of the National Live Stock Records, would have shown you that the Hackney was more than holding his own and had a better year than either of the other light breeds. All the breeds suffered more or less during the past trying times. There have been more Hackney stallions change hands this year so far than in a number of years. There is a good reason for this; the breed is so well established and known for its superb conformation,



Rising Star.

First two-year-old Clydesdale stallion, Glasgow, 1919.

good disposition, action and freedom from unsoundness. There is a waiting market for superior heavy harness horses, 15.1 hands, over and under; also for those that do not come up to this high standard, which are being sought for by the express companies and light delivery companies in large towns and cities.

There is no doubt that history is repeating itself. When the stage coach was taken off the road for commercial purposes, I have no doubt just such pessimistic remarks were made by those who had little knowledge of the subject and less interest. The Hackney is the real general utility horse, and with the revival of horse shows you will see them again champions in the carriage, heavy express, light delivery, saddle and jumper classes, and the champion high jumper of the world.

H. M. ROBINSON.

### Work Horses Command High Figures in Britain.

Since the signing of the Armistice up to the middle of March 62,520 horses have been sold in the United Kingdom for a total sum of £2,075,858, or an average of £33 4s. Prices have steadily risen since selling commenced, probably because only sound, hard and useful working horses have been brought from France. Heavy draft horses for agriculture and heavy haulage purposes in cities and towns have been and still are in great demand. Their average price ranges around £55, but extra good ones bring over £100. The record is 250 guineas for an American Percheron-bred gelding sold at Tattersalls. This information was forwarded by the Deputy Director of Remounts, who also says that the demand for high-class riding horses and polo ponies is far from satisfied and may remain so after the demobilization is completed.

We understand that it is not now possible to ship horses to Britain on account of transportation difficulties. However, those in authority are looking for an early remedy to this situation.

### The Calgary Horse Show.

Beginning on March 25 the Calgary Horse Show held sway for three days and a good exhibition was staged. The Clydesdale exhibitors were forward in numbers with their horses in good fit particularly the older ones. A dozen horses came out in the aged-stallion class. It would be misleading to say that better classes have not been seen at Calgary, but that fact does not prohibit the statement that some right-good horses were out in the aged class this year. Baron Rozelle, shown by McKay Bros., Carmangay, finally won. He is a great big worthy horse, with magnificent character and scale, and he moves nicely on a set of sound, likeable feet and legs. S. Haggerty, Belle Plains, Sask., ran him a close race with Magic Stamp, a slashing horse of most attractive style with a little more scale, this good sire would have headed this class. Scottish Crown came next in order. He was shown by Percy Harradence, Shepard, and is a likeable horse of good balance and underpinning. He beat Jno. Laing's Scotland Major, a sturdy, clean limbed horse.

The two-year-olds were a good class. Thirteen horses were entered, and scarcely a tail-ender could be pointed out in the aggregation. Andrew Dollar, High River, won with comparative ease on Scotland's Cross, by Hamlet. In the championship duel the honors went to Baron Rozelle and reserve to Scotland's Cross. The mare championship was won by A. Webster, Lacombe, on Nettie of Penkiln, which won the aged-mare class.

Unlike the Clydesdale classes, the younger Percherons drew the plaudits of the ringside onlookers. The two-year-old stallion class in particular, in which no less than twenty-five horses were entered was an exciting one and featured several remarkably good colts. The aged stallions were just a fair lot. Contact, shown by Vanstone & Rogers, North Battleford, headed the class. He is a big handsome fellow but could travel a bit closer. Layzell & Parr captured second honors with Casey. He is a big horse, rangier in type than the one that stood above him. R. F. Dygert, Edmonton, had a good horse at the head of the three-year-olds in Star. Layzell and Parr of Calgary, were second with Goldet and Vanstone and Rogers were third with Pickadill. The two-year-old class was the outstanding feature of the Percheron exhibit. Six horses out of the twenty-five shown were exceptionally good ones, and about ten more were worthy of close scrutiny. Finally Jno. Grant's Private stood ahead. He is a handsome horse in nearly every particular, but his strong point was his great scale and style. Next to him stood Geo. Lane's Ontario. This horse is thick, lowset, and balanced, and while not as big as the horse placed above him, he is fully better underneath, with a stronger bone and a little wider foot.

The championship in the stallion classes was won by Private, shown by Grant, reserve going to Ontario, shown by Lane.

The champion female was Crescent, shown by Layzell & Parr.

### Our Scottish Letter.

BY SCOTLAND YET.

It is three weeks to-day since I last wrote. In the interval we have had our great draft horse carnival, and should Clydesdales almost monopolize this letter I hope for once that this may not be displeasing to many readers. In the first week of the month we had the Scottish Stallion Show, the annual meeting of the Clydesdale Horse Society, a visit from many overseas men serving in the forces and interested in horses, with provision for their education and entertainment, and (although it is always invidious for one to refer to himself) an almost unique presentation to the gentleman who has for fully forty-one years been associated with the Clydesdale Horse Society, its Secretary for thirty-eight years, and Editor and Manager of The Scottish Farmer for fully twenty-six years. I would like to dismiss this last affair, here and now, by thanking most sincerely all who contributed to that unique recognition of secretarial and journalistic work mainly by one's "ain folk." Anything like the form which the testimonial assumed was never once dreamed of by me. The man would be cold indeed who did not feel touched by a tribute from over four thousand donors in all parts of the world, which took the form of silver plate and a cheque for £2,000 (\$10,000). To all Canadian friends and contributors I say most sincerely, "Thank you, from the bottom of my heart!"

### The Glasgow Stallion Show.

The Glasgow Stallion Show was the fifty-ninth of a long series, and of these fifty-nine I have been present without a break at forty-one. The first Stallion Show at which I was present was held in the Glasgow cattle market on the third Tuesday of February, 1879. How many aged horses may have been shown I do not remember, but the number of three-year-olds was fully one hundred and twenty. There were only the two classes, and the winner in the aged class was Mr. Riddell's Bonnie Breastknot 108, his stiffest opponent being Peter Crawford's Strathclyde 1538. I cannot profess to have any definite recollection of the appearance of the former, but the latter I saw not at the Show only or chiefly so as to remember him but at his owner's stables. He was a clumsy, "wooden" sort of horse,