

HORSES AND CATTLE.**CARE OF CALVES.**

A celebrated Irish farmer gives this advice to one young in the business:—As a breeder, you must be careful not to lose the calf flesh. If you do so by starving the animal at any time of his growth, you lose the cream—the covering of flesh so much prized by our retail butcher. Where do all the scraggy, bad-fleshed beasts come from that we see in our markets? and what is the cause of their scragginess? It is because they have been stinted and starved at some period of their growth. If the calf-flesh is once lost it can never be regained. A great deal of tallow may be got internally by high feeding, but the animal can never be made one that will be prized by the great retail butcher.

LIQUID MANURE TANKS UNDER CATTLE.

The Hon. Geo. Geddes, in a recent communication to the *N. Y. Tribune*, objects to the plan of saving liquid manure described in a recent number of this journal, and quotes from an intelligent German labourer who thinks "the way they did it in Germany" better. This is described as follows:—

"Dig a pit outside in the open yard, lay across it poles, throw on a little straw, and then pile on liquids and solids, and let the rain soak through it all." Mr. Geddes says: "The German's, by all odds, is the better way. Under no conceivable circumstances is a farmer who keeps twenty-five cows justified in stabling them over a manure pit to breathe the exhalations that must arise from decaying, fermenting, unfrozen urine, and such solids as will mix with it in the drops behind the cows."

But Mr. Geddes thinks there is another way which is best of all. It is to secure the liquids as they fall into the drops, and keep them with the solid parts of the manure. This he would do by cutting corn-stalks into lengths of an inch and a half or less, and feeding them to the cows in boxes or mangers. They will eat the finest parts, and the coarser leavings can be thrown into the drops to absorb the liquid manure. This he would spread at once on the land, believing that manure is never better than when first made.

The objection to liquid manure tanks under cattle is, no doubt, well taken. But a tank is no worse than ground saturated with urine, and this there will be even if cut corn-stalks are used as absorbents. For the urine will drain through cracks in the floor, and out of the drops, faster than it can be absorbed by the corn-stalks. The German plan of a pit outside the stables would be excellent provided the floors and drops were light, and pipes were laid from them to the pit. The cost of the pipes and the difficulty of keeping them open are objections to this method. What is wanted is a plan by which all the liquid manure will be saved, and pure air secured for the stabled animals. Mr. Geddes' method will only save a small percentage of the urine, while it leaves the ground underneath the stable floors reeking with filth. We have seen somewhere an account of a farmer, whose practice was to keep his cattle unfastened in a building without floor, in which the ma-

nure was left to accumulate all winter, fresh bedding being freely supplied, and the whole trodden into a compact mass. This might do for young stock, but cows and beef animals that are necessarily kept in stalls would require another system of management.

The subject is one of the greatest importance, and deserves the best attention of stockmen and farmers. It is generally conceded that the chief profit in connection with feeding beef animals is in the manure obtained. To allow any of it to go to waste, is to narrow the margin of profit. At the same time, whatever method of saving liquid manure is adopted, an eye should be kept to the necessity of preserving the atmosphere of the stable as free as possible from foul gases. The free use of gypsum and other deodorizers will be a help in this direction, whatever system of manure-saving may be adopted.

PROPOSED SCALE OF POINTS FOR CLYDESDALES.

Mr. E. A. Powell, an Illinois breeder of Clydes, submits the following scale of points for judging Clydes:—

ONE HUNDRED POINTS IN CLYDESDALES.

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| 1. Pedigree—No horse being desirable as a sire unless well bred | 8 |
| 2. Sizes—Medium and blocky most desirable | 3 |
| 3. Symmetry—Perfection and form | 7 |
| 4. Style and carriage | 5 |
| 5. Action—Lofly, free, bold, square-gaited, and a rapid, elastic walker | 7 |
| 6. Colour—Dark bay or brown, without objectionable marks | 4 |
| 7. Head—Broad between the eyes, good brain, clear cut, not too large or too Roman | 4 |
| 8. Eyes—Large, full, clear, bright, cheerful, spirited | 5 |
| 9. Ears—Medium size, thin, clear cut, and shapely | 3 |
| 10. Neck—Light and round near the head, good throat, tapering, arching, and well set on the shoulders | 8 |
| 11. Chest—Broad, deep, full, denoting good lung power | 5 |
| 12. Girth—Large and full about the heart | 2 |
| 13. Barrel—Round, good length, and full at flank | 5 |
| 14. Back and Loin—Short, broad, well coupled | 7 |
| 15. Hip—Broad, long, with proper shape; tail well set | 3 |
| 16. Stifle—Broad, deep, muscular | 2 |
| 17. Gambrel—Broad, clean, cordy, not too straight | 6 |
| 18. Limbs—Hard, smooth, clean, flat; broad bone, of fine quality, and fringed with silky hair on back, side to knee, and gambrel; broad knee, proper slope and elasticity to ankle | 10 |
| 19. Feet—Solid, good depth, tough, solid shell, good frog, not flat | 6 |
| 20. Temper—Docile, kind, cheerful, but spirited and resolute | 5 |
| | 100 |

SIX FORMS OF BLIND STAGGERS.

The name "blind staggers" is due to several different disorders, some of which are in no sense hereditary, while others are liable to be transmitted from parent to offspring. One form occurring in horses fed on ripe but uncured rye grass, or on the seeds of millet-Hungarian grass and several of the grains and vetches, is a mere congestion of the brain, due to the introduction of a poison, and is not at all likely to prove hereditary. Another occurring in rich bottom lands, or other damp localities, or in animals fed on musty fodder, appears to be essentially connected with poisoning of the nerve centres and dropsical effusion around them. This is a much more persistent affection than the first, but is not usually hereditary further than that an impaired constitution is liable to be conferred on the progeny, and there is less power of resistance to the same or to other causes of disease. A third form is due to the formation of tumours within the hemispheres of the brain. These are usually composed of a

peculiar fat, known as cholesterine, which is found in connection with the nervous tissue, and is thrown out of the system in the bile. A system, therefore, which is predisposed to liver disease, or to sluggish action of the liver, is more liable to the retention of such matter in the system, and even to the formation of tumours of the same. In this case there is a stronger probability of hereditary transmission, for the peculiarities and habits of the animal economy are unquestionably conferred upon the offspring, and when the parent is structurally and constitutionally liable to such a disease of nutrition, the progeny are likely to inherit a similar bias. The difference, it will be observed, is between a disease caused by a disturbing element introduced into the system from without, and one determined by faults inherent in the system-like structure and function, and constantly operating with greater or less force. A fourth form of so-called staggers occurs in young, vigorous horses in spring, and is manifestly connected with plethora and the general irritability connected with the sudden return of warm weather. This is not likely to prove permanent or hereditary, and may easily be corrected by quiet, darkness, and cold water to the head, with a dose of physic, and when the attack is past by a run at grass or a course of laxative diet. A fifth form is due to venous congestion of the head and brain, usually the result of a tight or badly-fitting collar, which presses on the jugular vein. This will occur, especially in ascending a hill, until the fault is corrected. A sixth form is due to a similar disturbance of the circulation in the brain, as the result of some structural disease in the heart. This will usually be manifested, not only by giddiness and blindness, but by the coldness and swelling of the limbs, and by an irregular or intermittent pulse. It is likely to be aggravated by active exertion or fatigue, and does not improve when the animal gets into better condition. The first, fourth, and fifth forms named are quite amenable to treatment, and the second somewhat less so, while the third and sixth are essentially incurable. —Prof. James Law, in *N. Y. Tribune*.

THE BALKY HORSE.

The London *Live Stock Journal* gives two methods of starting a balky horse: 1. Tire your steed out by remaining perfectly quiet until he starts of his own accord. 2. When a horse refuses to draw at all, put him in a cart in a shed, and keep him there until he walks out. In one instance the obstinate one was thirty-six hours in the shafts before he gave in.

WISER, of Prescott, is starting a \$100,000 acre cattle ranch near Fort McLeod. His son Harlow is going out to manage. 10,000 cattle go on at the start.

PROF. JOHNSTON, ex-Principal of Guelph Agricultural College, delivered an excellent and interesting address before the Dominion Grange, which met recently in Toronto. He made the statement that there are 720,000 heads of families engaged in farming in the Dominion, and the production of these workers is twelve times as much as that by all the others.