

HORSES.

LAMENESS IN HORSES.

SAND-CRACK—QUARTER-CRACK.

A sand-crack or quarter consists in a fissure of greater or less extent and depth, commencing at the coronet and extending downwards. It may

of the wound gape as the tissues swell. When the patient moves, it will be noticed that the crack opens when weight is put upon the foot, and closes when the foot is lifted from the ground. When the crack has penetrated to the sensitive parts, the borders of the crack grasp some of them, causing great pain, and sometimes bleeding. Sand and dirt become insinuated into the wound, increase the irritation, and set up suppurative action.

Treatment.—The insensitive parts of the hoof have neither nerve nor blood supply, hence a crack will not unite, and the only method of cure is to grow a hoof without the crack. So long as the opening and closing of the wound noted is allowed to continue, the crack will be perpetuated, as it will be caused in the new horn as it is formed; hence, some means must be taken to stop this action. If the sensitive parts have not been reached, and no lameness is present, this should be done at once; but if the sensitive parts are involved, the inflammation must first be allayed. The horse must be given rest, and the edges of the crack pared to the very bottom to relieve pressure. All sand and dirt must be removed. A fungous growth is often noticed; this should not be cut away or destroyed by caustics. It is the result of the inflammation, depends upon it, and

will disappear upon its subsidence. Poulitices of warm linseed meal should be applied for a few days to allay the inflammation, and a transverse fissure should be cut at the top of the crack, just below the hair, in order that the new hoof may

grow without a perpetuation of the crack. Then, means must be taken to check the opening and closing of the crack when weight is put upon the foot. Many devices are used for this purpose. When it is a sand-crack, clasps may be used. The horn here is sufficiently deep to allow of this. Sometimes a horseshoe nail is driven, enclosing a portion of horn on each side of the crack and then tightly clinched. This answers well for a time, but as the foot grows down it shrinks to some extent, and then the clinch becomes loose. A better plan is to make a clasp in two sections, each of which is turned upwards, and a hole punched in it where the two meet, so that they can be attached by means of a small bolt. A hole is cut in the hoof about an inch on each side of the crack, and a section of the clasp inserted into each. They should not quite meet in the center, and should be bolted together; and, as they become loose, the bolt can be turned with a screw-driver to tighten. Another method is to shoe the horse, and have an iron band extend from each heel upwards and forwards, almost meeting over the crack, and attached with a bolt, the same as the clamps. When the crack is in the quarter, the hoof is not deep enough for clamps. In this case, it is better to shoe with a well-fit-

ting bar shoe, giving good frog pressure first rasping the wall of the quarter well away, so that it will not press upon the shoe. This relieves pressure upon the diseased part of the hoof, and prevents the movement of the crack. Growth of horn should now be encouraged by repeatedly blistering the coronet, in order to produce a healthy hoof as quickly as possible. The means to prevent spreading must be continued until a perfect new horn has been grown, which will be six months or longer. In the meantime, if necessary, the horse may be worked or driven.

"WHIP."

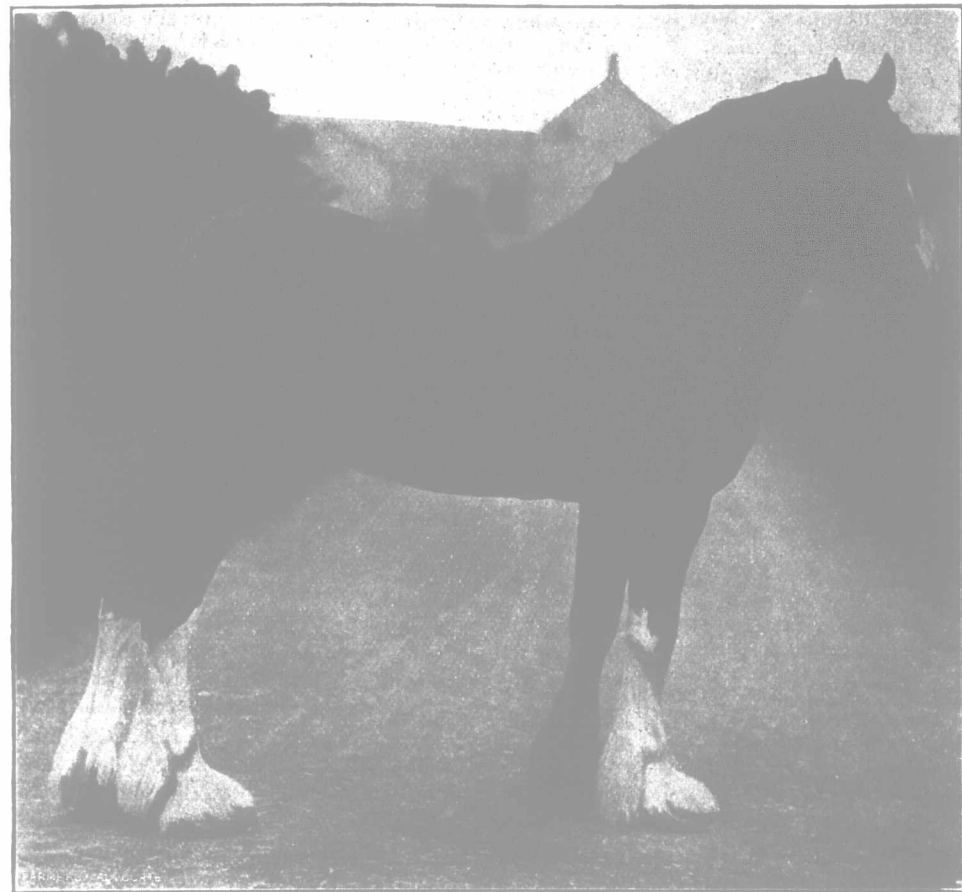
EXERCISE FOR STALLIONS.

Steady, slow work at this time of the year will give a stallion harder muscles, more stamina, a better constitution, and help him to get colts with a strong instinct for work. It is altogether contrary to the nature of a horse to keep him in idleness between seasons, besides the expense, when he might just as well be earning his keep. Breaking a stallion to work is not an impossible task either. He may be fractious at first, but with a steady mate and perseverance the job can be done. If it so happens that there is horse power enough on the farm without the stallion, give him plenty of chance to exercise and live a natural life. Nothing does the horse business so much harm as to keep over-fed stallions year in and year out for breeding purposes. The best thing for a stallion in the fall and winter is work, and the second best is all the exercise he will take and light feeding.

PREMIUM PICTURE OF BARON'S PRIDE.

A splendid photo-engraving of the celebrated Clydesdale stallion, Baron's Pride, may be obtained by any present subscriber of "The Farmer's Advocate" who will send us the name of one new yearly subscriber, accompanied by \$1.50. The engraving is 7½ x 11 inches in size, and is printed with a soft tone, combined with much clearness of detail, on a card of finest coated stock. It is a beautiful picture to frame and hang in the library or sitting-room of any horseman's home. Copies may be purchased from "The Farmer's Advocate" at 50 cents each.

To keep a line from getting under the tongue of a wagon or other implement that has a detach-

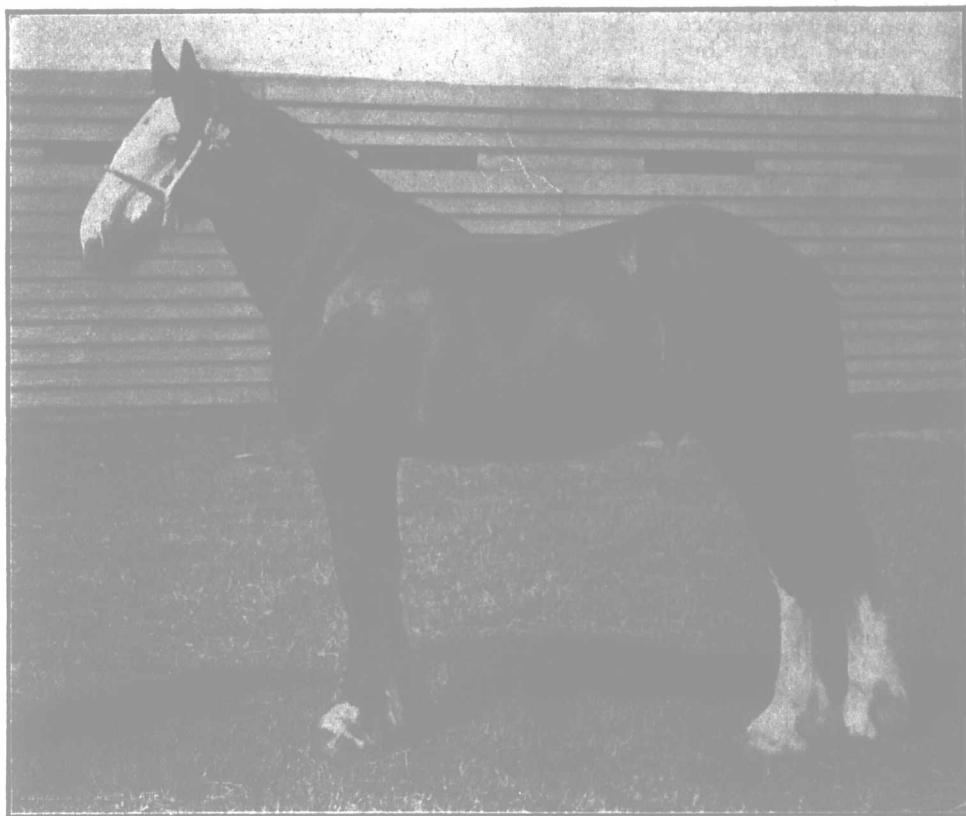


Baron o' Buchlyvie (11262).

Clydesdale stallion. Brown; foaled May, 1900. First in aged class, Highland Society's Show, 1908. Sire Baron's Pride (9122).

extend to the interior margin of the wall, or only part of the way down, and may extend right through the horny wall to the sensitive structures, or only partly through. When appearing at or near the toe of the hoof, it is called sand-crack; and when in the quarters, is called quarter-crack. The inner quarter being normally the weaker, is the usual seat, the outer quarter seldom being affected. It is claimed by some that sand or quarter crack may appear suddenly, but, while this may be possible, it is seldom seen. The process of the trouble is slow. Prior to its appearance, the horn is either imperfectly secreted, on account of a partially non-secretive condition of a part of the coronary band, or a dry, brittle condition of the hoof. Horn is built up of tubes matted together. These tubes are similar to hair, and are formed or secreted by the same kind of cells. Horn is often spoken of as being built of hairs matted together. The horn tubes are united together by an intertubular substance composed of cells. The horn of the wall of the hoof consists of horn tubes, and agglutinating intertubular substance is secreted by the coronary band, which is a modification of true skin, and is lodged in a groove on the superior border of the hoof. It is naturally tough, but breaks into fibres when it grows beyond its natural length. In order that healthy horn be secreted, it is essential that the coronary band, as well as the sensitive wall, be in a healthy condition, as there should be a continuous growth of horn from above and an equal wear from below. When horses are shod, the shoeing-smith rasps or pares away the inferior border of the wall, but in unshod horses the natural wear will, under ordinary circumstances, be equal to the growth, and thereby the foot remains the natural size.

When, from accident or disease, or congenital weakness, the coronary band, or a portion of it, becomes partially inactive, the horn immediately under the diseased or weakened portion is imperfectly secreted, is weak, becomes dry and brittle, and sand-crack or quarter-crack is liable to appear. Some horses are congenitally weak in these parts, and are very liable to these cracks; and, when a cure has apparently been effected, they (the cracks) are liable to appear, or rather, fresh cracks appear. A sand-crack commences at the thin, upper margin of the wall, is usually small and insignificant at first, but gradually extends downwards and inwards; and when it has penetrated through the horny substances, lameness appears. Inflammation is set up both in the sensitive laminae and in the skin above the fissure; it is very painful, and the lips



Yearling Clydesdale Colt.

Champion male Clydesdale, Highland Society's Show, 1908. Color, brown. Sire Baron's Pride, dam by Prince Thomas.

able neckyoke, a reader suggests fastening a piece of chain from the end of the tongue and letting it hang down about eighteen inches. Another plan is to use spreaders from the hames so that the lines will sag back of the end of the tongue. With the lines running through the hame rings the sag will come just about the end of the tongue, and besides there is more wear on the lines than if a spread is used.