

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

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calculations in connection with farm management it would conduce to consistent estimation and to the elimination of unprofitable toil, which is often performed because a full value is not placed upon labor. We have frequently marvelled that farmers who would not leave their places to do a day's work between seasons with their teams for less than \$3.50 or \$4.00, would do many weeks of teaming on their farms, and throw it in as if it had no value at all. Count the cost. Count it all, and adjust farm economics in the light of figures thus set down in black and white. It may seem frightening at the start, but will lead to larger earnings and ampler profits in the end.

HORSES.

A horse's general appearance is a very good indication of the quality of the animal.

Now that the work horses are stabled nights, see to it that the stalls are wide and comfortable, and that they are kept well bedded, so that the short time they have to rest may be made the best use of in order to rest and refresh them for the coming day's work.

Bran is one of the most useful of feeds for horses. It acts as a very mild laxative, and if not used more freely, it can be used once or twice weekly to good advantage. It has a very beneficial effect on the entire digestive tract of the animal.

During the fall season, the plowing and other cultivation, when the land becomes moist from the autumn rains, results in considerable mud becoming incorporated with the hair on the horse's legs. It is often said that the legs are more important than the body of the horse. The legs should be blanketed, and thus much of the wet mud being is dispensed with, but not so with the legs. They should be carefully brushed on the inside after each day's work. A few minutes' brushing with a wisp of straw, followed by brushing, and a good rubbing with a dry cloth, will go a long way towards keeping the animal's legs in good condition.

The feet of the colt should never be allowed to grow badly out of shape. With very little care, they can be kept pinched down to the shape desired. If allowed to grow, they will not always wear off evenly, and thus an uneven pressure is caused on the joints just above the hoof, often resulting in ringbone, spavin and sidebone.

There is not enough of the most desirable breeding stock being raised on our farms. There are too many of these farms on which there is no pure-bred brood mare kept, and on many there is not even a good type of grade mare kept for breeding purposes. Every farm should have on it a pure-bred draft brood mare, and a good time to buy is in the autumn. Too much care cannot be exercised in selecting this foundation for your horse-breeding. Buy the best available.

The breeder is never absolutely sure of raising sound colts, yet he can be tolerably sure if nothing but sound sires and sound dams are used. Some who have been trying throughout the summer to get their mares in foal may change the sire used, and endeavor to get the mare in foal, so as to produce a colt next autumn. Very often, when this is done, the quality of the sire is not considered. It is anything to get a colt. This is a mistake. No breeder can afford to run the risk of getting a scrub foal. If you must change sires, change to a horse of better conformation, if possible, and insist upon him being sound.

Soundness is perhaps the first consideration in purchasing a horse. A sound animal is ready for work at any time, while one suffering from disease or injury which puts him in the unsound class, seldom, if ever, is able to stand a full day's work, and, besides, is a source of annoyance to his driver. It is never advisable to buy unsound horses. True, they can be obtained cheaper, but the initial outlay is not the main consideration. A horse's period of usefulness extends over several years, and this should always be taken into account in purchasing new stock. The loss due to unsoundness will, when reckoned over a period of years, usually show that the purchase of an unsound animal is poor economy.

Scratches.

1. How should heavy horses be fed and cared for in the fall of the year to prevent them from getting scratches and itchy legs?
2. Are scratches and itchy legs a disease of the blood or of the skin, or an insect in the stable?
3. What is the best method of treating these diseases to cure them in the shortest time?

J. M. S.

Some horses are particularly predisposed to cracked heels or scratches, and will break out if well fed and not regularly exercised. Cold, damp weather, and standing in mud or slush, without care being taken of the legs, usually serves to increase the trouble, which is thus worse in spring, autumn and winter. It is really an inflammation of the skin, technically called erythema, and is liable to affect any portion of the limbs. When it is confined to that portion between the hoof and the fetlock, it is called "scratches"; when it is found to a greater height on the leg, "mud fever"; when affecting the front of the hock, "sallenders," or, the back of the hock, "mallenders."

Horses with beefy legs are predisposed to the disease, but it may occur in any horse. It has been known to be due to constitutional disturbance, induced by overfeeding and want of exercise, or by a depleted system, caused by disease or lack of nourishment. It is often caused by heat and cold operating on the skin; wet, dirty and ill-ventilated stables; friction, pressure, dirt and wet. Washing horses' legs is also a common cause. It is quite common to see horses in fall and winter with mud and slush frozen on their legs, or partially dried and sticking to them. Some teamsters wash this off with warm water, and the leg is allowed to dry by itself. This is not good practice, and should be avoided. If the legs were washed one at a time, and rubbed dry with cloths or wisps of straw, and bandaged, it would be all right, but most grooms will not take the time to do this properly. The accumulation of mud and snow is usually on the ends of the hair, and does not really give the horse much discomfort. Allowing the mud to dry or the snow to melt away, and then brush the leg dry, is the best treatment. Clipping horse's legs in cold weather is also a fertile cause of the disease. The best way to prevent skin diseases of this kind in the winter is to keep the horse in a dry, comfortable stable, and in proportion to the amount of work he is doing, and, as far as possible, avoid the extremes of heat and cold, wet and dryness, dirt and mud on the skin.

Treatment is usually successful if adopted in early stages. As with many other diseases,

the first thing to do is to remove the cause, if possible. Let the animal have a few days' rest, and give a purgative of six to ten drams aloes and two drams ginger, according to size. Feed bran only until purgation ceases, then feed very little grain until the horse is again put to work. Follow with three drams of nitrate of potash twice daily for a period of about ten days. Keep the parts as clean as possible without washing. Soap and water often aggravates the trouble. Local applications consist of lotions, oils or ointments, the former being used in dry, dusty weather because they have an astringent antiseptic action, and oils and ointments are better for cold weather because they have a softening effect, and are at the same time antiseptic, and tend to prevent cracking. The use of either should be practiced freely three or four times daily. A good lotion is made of one ounce each of sulphate of zinc and acetate of lead, one-half ounce of carbolic acid, and a pint of water. One of the best ointments is oxide of zinc ointment, to which is added twenty drops of carbolic acid to the ounce. Proud flesh may be removed from chronic cases by using butter of antimony, applied with a feather once daily for a few days before the above treatment is adopted. Linseed poultices, with a little powdered charcoal added, should be applied to very bad cases, a fresh, warm poultice applied every eight hours. This should be done before the other treatment is commenced. In cases which are largely constitutional, it is well to give alteratives, as one and one-half ounces of Fowler's solution of arsenic twice daily for a week or ten days.

Origin of the Percheron Horse.

Translated from Geo. Trollet's new book, "The Percheron Horse."

"Horse of quality," the Percheron is of old nobility, and descends most probably from the Crusades. The old chroniclers of the country tell us how about thirty Percheron noblemen, at the head of which was Count Rotrou, went for the first Crusade, and brought back with them from Palestine several Oriental stallions, of which they kept the breed precious. The Lord of Mondoubleau was the most zealous propagator, and the horses of Mondoubleau were at that time the most renowned in the country. He was followed by Roger de Bellesme, who introduced the Arabian breed in his dominions. There existed, perhaps, already in the country some horses taken from Abderame when Charles Martel defeated him at Poitiers and Rotrou probably added some horses from Spain when he went to fight in Castile. The crossings were frequent, and that is how the breed we know was obtained. We do not know whether the Percheron horse of nowadays is very different from the primitive type, but there is reason to believe that they were gray, as they would be now if the tastes of the Americans and a wise choice had not changed the color of some of them. However, it is most probable that the breed was lighter, although possessing all the characters that it acquired later. If the habit of traction has imposed on the horse a different constitution from what he used to have; if he has no longer the good hip, the sloping shoulder, the Arabian neck, fine skin and feet, it must be remarked that for centuries he lived in a cold and damp climate. Still, like the Arab, he has a gray coat, an abundant and silky mane, a fine skin, large and open eye, wide forehead, open nostrils, and a wide chest. To break them in, they do not require to be gelded. In short, when one compares a Percheron horse with other breeds of draft horses, one sees that he is cleaner, more bony, and has less hair. These also reveal his origin.

CHANGES OF THE BREED.

Whether the percheron horse comes or not from the Crusades, it is certain that he is strongly impregnated with Oriental blood. The changes that he has undergone during that time are due to two reasons, viz.: Changes due to the climate and food; changes produced by the selection of the breeding horses. The frequent mists in the valleys and the dampness of the ground in the pastures enlarged his foot and thickened his coat, the keen air opened his nostrils and widened his chest. The soil, rich in phosphates, supplied grass that made bigger bone.

First of all, during the feudality, he was used in the wars between the different lords, and he kept to the end of that date a certain amount of agility. The old chroniclers talk about this; they only pay attention to the riding and tournament horses, but they must have used the Percheron for quick journeys. With the extinction of the feudality, the wars became less frequent, to finally disappear. Then the Percheron horse becomes purely agricultural, and undergoes the changes that are necessary to his new life. It is of that period, that comprises the whole of the eighteenth century, that we know the least. All that we know is that already the breeders tend to breed big horses. To strive against this fashion, in 1760 M. de Briggres, Governor of Government