

one type, I now consider absolutely essential and the greatest factor in horse breeding."

The best way to gain knowledge of the horse or any other business is from practical experience. If your neighbor has exceptionally good success with horses, visit him frequently, encourage him to talk "horse", and thus draw him out until you have learned his methods. Select from them the best, improve upon them where possible, and make success the goal.

It pays to take a pride in a good team. We recently read of a man who was asking a certain price for a span of good drafters. His neighbors thought it too much and made light of such a price, but through keeping the horses in extra fine fit, weighing and measuring them from time to time, and letting dray firms in the neighboring cities know what the horses were doing, he succeeded in getting his own price in a very short time. It paid.

Navel-ill takes some colts, even though great care has been taken to keep antiseptic on the umbilical cord for a few days after the colt is foaled and stables are kept very clean, but the man who knows that an antiseptic such as carbolic acid in ten per cent solution is generally effective in preventing the disease if promptly and regularly applied until the cord dries up, has himself to blame if he neglects to prepare a little of the solution and the colt falls a victim to the most dreaded foal ailment.

### Percentage of Foals.

Grooms and stallions are sometimes wont to brag a little about the large numbers of mares which are served by their stallions. It is remarkable how much stock is placed in this. Of course it may have some little value, because if a large number of good horsemen think him a good enough horse to be the sire of their season's foals, he must have some good points about him. But the fact that he breeds 200 or 250 mares each year, is not the main indication of his value. "How many colts does he leave each year, and what kind of colts are they?" This is the true measure of his breeding value. What is a good percentage of foals from mares bred? This is a question in which all horsemen are interested. If you have authentic figures to show what a horse has done, we would be pleased to get them.

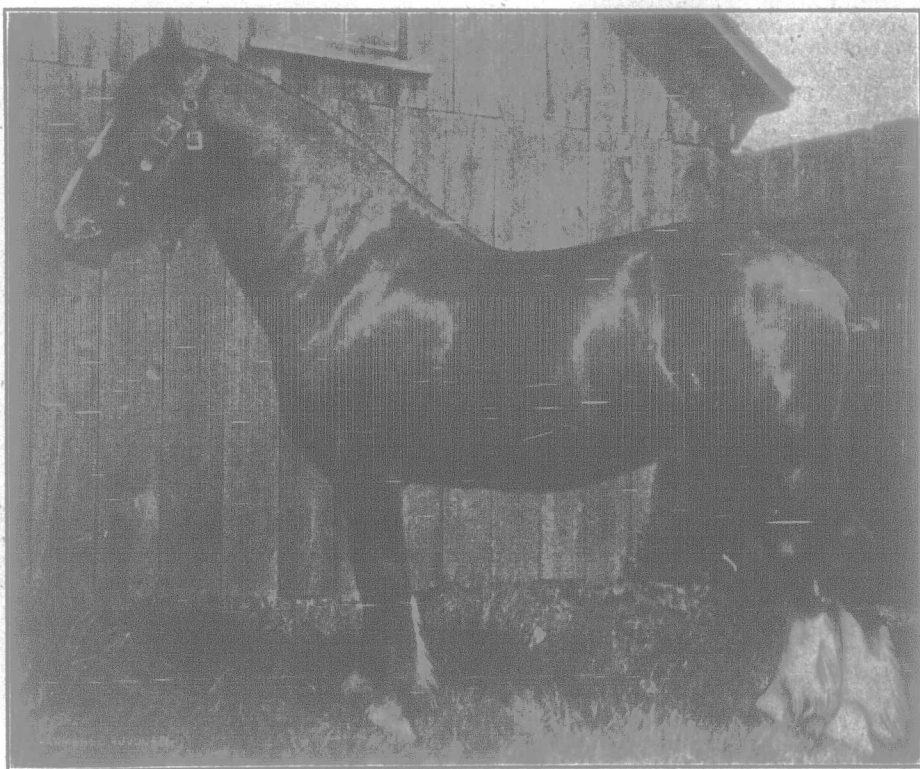
In this issue is illustrated a three-year-old Clydesdale which, last year in his two-year-old form, covered fifteen mares, and got fourteen with foal or 93.3 per cent. This is a good record even on so small a number, but it is away above the average, and it can hardly be expected that the horse will keep up this high percentage when bred to a large number, say 150 mares annually. His success looks like a point in favor of limiting the number of daily services. There is little doubt but that many horses are injured by over-crowding in this respect.

An example of what an older horse in the heaviest seasons has done may be noted. The late McQueen, a one-time very famous Clydesdale stallion in this country, served, from the years 1899 to 1906 inclusive (eight seasons) beginning at fourteen years of age and ending at twenty-one years, over 1,700 mares, and foaled 1,079 of them or a percentage foaled for the eight seasons of 62.8. Now this horse was well managed, but very heavily worked during the breeding season. Possibly he would have got a little higher percentage of his mares in foal had he not had quite so many, but, of course, of this we cannot tell. However, the fact remains that, sure as this great old horse was, over 37 per cent of the mares bred to him in the eight years failed to conceive, possibly through no fault of the horse. We understand that between thirty and forty per cent of the draft mares bred in Great Britain each year do not conceive, no doubt partly due to the horses and partly due to the mares themselves. It would seem that if a stallion gets from 60 per cent to two-thirds of his mares with foal, he may be reckoned fairly sure. Many get less than fifty per cent. It is McQueen's record proved one old horse is not generally heard said that an old horse is not generally as sure as a younger, more active animal. This is true where the older horse's usefulness has been injured by improper care, but with the best of care and an abundance of exercise McQueen was as sure at twenty-one years of age, and even older than that, as he ever was. There is no reason why an old horse should not prove a sure foal getter if he has been handled as he should have been. This question of percentage of foals is interesting, and worthy of the thought of both stallion and mare owners. Both should endeavor by the judicious care of their animals to keep them in the best condition to fulfil the requirements of reproduction.

### Watch the Mare.

Although it is getting late in the season there are still many mares which have not foaled. Most horsemen of experience realize the importance of being on hand ready to render assistance if necessary when the critical time arrives, but every year we hear of several colts having been lost through their inability to rupture the foetal membranes and get the supply of air so essential to life. As soon as the foetus is expelled and the umbilical cord is severed, the colt's supply of oxygen, which has hitherto been obtained from the circulation of the dam's blood through its vascular system, is cut off, and it is absolutely necessary, if life is to be retained in the body of the newly-born foal, that the oxygenation of the blood be commenced immediately through the natural sources, the openings leading directly to the lungs. In short, the colt must be able to breathe pure air or life is extinct in a very few minutes. If an attendant is at hand when foaling commences he can see to it that all danger of loss from this cause is promptly removed by rupturing the membrane himself.

Again, the colt may have been foaled all right, the enveloping membranes may have broken easily, and yet it may not have had sufficient strength and vitality to gain its feet and obtain a little of the colostrum of the dam so necessary to maintain and increase its vigor. Colts have very often been lost from this cause, when, if an attendant had been on hand, the young life might easily have been saved.



Lord Gray (Imp.)

This fine three-year-old colt, by Iron Duke, is the property of T. E. & H. C. Robson, Ilderton, Ont.

There are scores of little things which may happen. The mare may have a case of difficult parturition or a mal-presentation may occur, and in either case an obstetricist is required. It is not always necessary that he be a professional, but he should have sufficient knowledge of what is required to do the work in hand to the best interests of mare and foal.

It may seem rather late in the season to make this hint, but it has been repeated year after year early and late, and just the other day a correspondent wrote to this paper saying his mare had foaled when no one was with her, and an apparently mature and normal colt when found was dead. Who knows but what the colt might have been saved had prompt attention been given? The loss of a foal is a serious matter in the year's business. Enough will die after getting the best of care. There is little excuse for neglect. Unless it is intended to take good care of the mare and to give the best attention at foaling, the risk of breeding is too great. The difference between care and carelessness is not so great that the average mare owner cannot, in all cases, put himself in the careful class. Very little extra effort is necessary, and the little sleep lost and the few hours of leisure time taken up in "watching" the mare is time almost always profitably spent.

### The Importance of the Walk.

With the great majority of horses the gait most valuable and of greatest use is the walk. In fact this is true of all horses. If the horse walks right he is far more likely to trot or canter well, than if he is defective at the walk. The walk is the most neglected gait in the training or "breaking", as it is more commonly called, of our horses. The colt is hitched and allowed to slouch along for a little while at a walking speed, and then is "whipped up" to a trot, and kept at it for nearly the entire time that he is hitched. The greater part of the work done, especially by a heavy drafter, is accomplished at a walking gait, and this applies even more particularly to the farm work horses which very seldom, after they have gone through a meagre training or breaking, are required to go faster than a walk. It is very essential that they turn out to be good fast walkers, and that they go straight and true, for they must often move heavy loads.

A good deal of this good virtue may be instilled into the animal during his early training. Never should the colt be allowed to slouch. From the time the harness is buckled on and the lines are drawn over his back and he is commanded to start, he should be made walk as fast as he can. It is not wise to ask him to trot in the beginning, but do not hesitate to urge him to his best walking gait and keep him at it. Very often a fast-walking, older horse is available, and where such is the case it is a good training for the green youngster to place him beside the fast walker, that what is expected of him may be the more clearly shown him. As a rule more care is taken in "breaking" the light horses, roadsters, coachers, or saddlers,

than is given on the early training of the big, often clumsy-looking draft colt. This may, to some extent, be required, but the draft horse has much hard, heavy, grueling labor to do in his short career, and it is important that he, by his early training, is best fitted to accomplish it with greatest ease to himself and to the best satisfaction of his owner. Teach him to take a fast walking gait in the beginning. Practice in this will cause it to become a habit not easily forgotten. As the horse becomes older in training he soon learns the slower gait required for such work as plowing, but even at this work a fairly smart gait is to be preferred to the very slow one which causes the plow or implement to run "dead." Teach him to walk right up on the bit, and in this way many "slouchy" habits are prevented.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Bleeding for Cattle Disease.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate,":

In your issue of May 29th I noticed that Mr. Young, a Middlesex county farmer, had three head of cattle die very suddenly from a disease of which I have seen several cases, as many as five in one month. We tried several things, and the only treatment that proved effective was as soon as the animals show the disease to shut them up in a dry box stall and bleed them from the neck, taking one gallon of blood, and feed bran.

We have never lost one after bleeding.  
Huron Co., Ont. W. N. AUSTIN.

A very good case for lamb fattening can be made out from a comparison of the price of feeder lambs last fall and the finished product this spring. There is an opportunity in this branch of farming which should not be altogether overlooked.