Weaning Colts.

We often, when travelling through the country in the fall, see colts with a rough, staring coat; eyes nearly closed, and a watery matter exuding therefrom, with a body shaped like a squash seed, which, but a few weeks before, while running with the mare, were possessed of a sleek, shining coat, eyes bright, and body as round as a barrel. Now the question arises, what is the cause of this? I answer, in nine cases out of ten, it is improper weaning. Nearly every colt in a farming community is allowed to run with its mother until about four or five months old, when, to suit the convenience of the owner, it is turned into some distant field out of sight, and if possible, out of hearing of its mother, there to run and whinney and worry, until it brings upon itself a fever, which weakens the constitution, closes the pores of its skin, and in brief, the whole organs of digestion become more or less diseased. All of this can be avoided by a little care in weaning.

My way of weaning is this—When my colt is four and a half months old, I put a strong leather halter upon him and place him in a stall, and put his mother in an adjoining stall, with a partition between, so arranged that they can see each other, and if possible get their heads together. The first day I let the colt nurse twice—the next day once. I feed the mare upon dry hay and dry feed, and about half milk her two or three times a day until dry. The colt I feed upon new-mown grass or fine clover hay, and give him a pint of oats twice per day, and in about two weeks I have my colt weaned and my mare dry, with my colt looking as well as ever. When he is one year old, he has as much growth and development of muscle, as one two years old weaned in the first described manner. When the mare becomes dry, colt and mare may be turned out together again in pasture.—*Cor. Rural New Yorker.*

Cross-breeds and Grades.

The distinction between cross-bred animals and grades is so seldom insisted upon that we are inclined to define the terms when used in connection. "Grades" among neat stock, sheep, and swine, are animals which have thoroughbred sires, with more or less, or altogether common blood on the side of the dam, while a cross-bred animal has both sire and dam thoroughbred, but of different breeds. Thus, if a common cow has a heifer calf by a Short-horn bull, the calf is a half-grade Short-horn, and her calf, by a bull of the same pure breed, would be a three-quarter grade Short-horn. The next grade would be seven-eighths, the next fifteen sixteenths, &c. Any pure-blood cow, crossed with a pure blood of another breed, produces a cross-breed, which, crossed with a full-blood or another cross-breed, would represent no gradation of blood, but be a cross-breed still, combining and exhibiting with considerable distinctness the characters of its different parent breeds, or the predominating ones.

In the case of grade animals, the common or native characteristics are often almost lost in the half or three-quarter grades, except perhaps some long-cultivated points, like the milking qualities of good, old, native cows, which are often intensified in their grade offspring. This is supposed to show the vital power of the breed, which has, as it were, accumulated through many generations. By the use, then, of thoroughbred sires, we are enabled to reproduce their valuable characteristics in their grade stock with great certainty. Inferior specimens always occur among herds of pure stock. These must be sold at low prices, or sent to the shambles. They may, however, if females, be used to great advantage often in breeding cross-breeds. As a rule, none but excellent animals should be used as sires of either thoroughbreds, grades or cross-breeds. —*American Agriculturist.*

The sale of thorough-bred stock at Bow Park on the 20th October, went off successfully. A great crowd of persons attended the sale, and all the animals on the catalogue were disposed of at good prices, with the exception of a few lots of sheep that were not reached when night approached.

Three valuable horses imported by Mr. Teasel, of Belleville, were lost on the *Atlas* in her recent voyage from England by sickness caused by bad weather. One animal was insured for £400 sterling, but from the reading of the policy it is doubtful if the loss can be recovered, notwithstanding all due care was used during the voyage by those who had charge.

Over 600 head of cattle were on the grounds of the Arkona cattle fair on the 12th inst. Three hundred had changed hands at prices ranging from thirty to forty dollars for steers; one hundred to one hundred and twenty dollars a yoke for oxen; and twenty-five to forty dollars for milch cows. Altogether, the fair was one of the best held in that section.

Considerable alarm has been excited in England by reports of the appearance of rinderpest near Berlin. The exigencies of the war, it is supposed, have caused some relaxation of the stringent regulations respecting the admission of cattle from Russia into Germany, and hence this fatal disease has once more passed from the Russian steppes, where it is mostly confined, into Western and Southern Europe.

J. H. Wallace gives the *Country Gentleman* some interesting facts as to the results of breeding from stallions at various ages. These show that some celebrated horses have been raised by stallions from 20 to 27 years old, and again that equally good ones have been raised by stallions of only two, three, or four years. He concludes that the question of age is not so important as that of condition.

Veterinary Department.

Chronic Nephritis.

Inflammation of the kidneys in the chronic form is more frequently met with than the acute disorder in the lower animals, and aged horses are frequently found affected with this disease, especially such as are exposed to sudden changes of temperature and other debilitating influences, and that have been often dosed with large quantities of medicines possessing diuretic properties. The symptoms resulting from chronic nephritis are a gradual loss of flesh, pain in the region of the loins, and impaired action of the hind extremities. The urine is also occasionally very high coloured.

In treating this affection, the horse should be allowed perfect rest, and have a generous diet of easily digested food; also plenty of mucilaginous drinks. The loins may be rubbed every third or fourth day with mustard; and one drachm of tartar-emetic given every night. This medicine can be conveniently administered mixed with the food.

Enlargement or hypertrophy of the kidney also occurs, and cases have been met with where the kidney was enormously enlarged, and found to weigh upwards of fifty pounds. In cases of hypertrophy of the kidney very little can be done to afford relief.

Urinary Calculi.

A frequent cause of irritation in the urinary organs, either of the horse or ox, is calculi, which are found throughout the whole of the organs, and are classified according to their situation. When found in the kidneys, they are known as renal calculi; in the ureters, as uretral; whilst in the bladder, they are designated cystic or vesical.

In certain diseased conditions of the kidneys they are frequently found in great numbers. The general symptoms of urinary calculi, are a difficulty in urinating, and the urine presents a difference in its colour, sometimes being very light, in other cases very dark, and apparently mixed with blood. The patient occasionally shows colicky pains, by lying down and rolling, and gradually falls off in condition. When the calcareous deposits are situated within the bladder, they frequently attain considerable size, and cases are noticed where the calculus has weighed several ounces. Vesical calculi are also found to differ in their character; some specimens are very hard, whilst others are of a soft pasty nature. In all cases they are found to be composed largely of some of the combinations of lime, and particularly the carbonate. It has also been noticed that these concretions are oftenest met with in horses pasturing on limestone districts, or when the drinking water contains lime in large quantities. Cystic calculi can gener-