

Dr. Maria Montessori

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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through such spaces; but in the rear of a storm, when the lower clouds are gone, and the high cirro-stratus sheet remains projecting backward from the storm centre, but drifting along with it, a break discloses the bright blue sky above.

A clear, fresh blue sky shows the approach or presence of an anticyclonic area, with its consequent fine weather, while a pale sky forebodes an approaching cyclone. A glaring, hazy sky often denotes southerly winds and increasingly hot weather in summer.

A clear stretch of red close along the horizon, surmounted by yellow, at sunset, denotes fair weather next day. But a lurid western sky at sunset, with the colors spread above the horizon on cirrus clouds, indicates a coming storm, and if the sunset is dull and "dirty" with clearer sky in the east, the storm is nearer.

Rainbows in the east and hence in the afternoon, foretell clearing weather, as these are usually formed on the rain of retreating shower, but if seen in the west and, therefore, in the morning, rain is approaching.

In the winter when the air sounds "hollow" it denotes a thaw. When in the winter there is a yellow-green color in the sky over the setting sun, it usually heralds colder weather.

THE HORSE.

Steady Growth for the Colts.

A writer in "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg, Man., discussing the feeding and care of the colt believes that feeding constitutes one-half, and proper stabling the other half in good care for the colt. This is what he says:

To get the greatest possible growth from each foal is not an easy matter; it is safe to say that not more than one in ten reaches the size and development desirable or even in keeping with what might be expected—considering prenatal influences.

I have found that feeding extremely high does not often result in good size, and would consider that the moderately well-fed colt had the best chance of the two if given until five years of age. High feeding hastens early maturity, but in many cases at the expense of good size. Experience has taught me not to expect beauty or symmetry of form during the first 18 months after weaning, though I try hard to keep the baby flesh on the first winter.

The best feed is good oats and bran equal parts by measure, say about one and a half quarts of each three times daily with a little linseed meal, but never more than a tablespoonful of this at each feed—(linseed can not be fed by the pint or quart). This with well-cured alfalfa hay leaves but little to be desired. I feed two or three carrots twice each week. A little oat hay or any other hay is given for a change. The most thrifty colt I ever raised received a little cow's milk in addition to the above feeds twice daily. Often worms are the cause of unthrifty foals. In this case I give six to eight ounces raw linseed oil with one teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine, but outside of this I never give medicines unless absolutely necessary. In my estimation feeding constitutes one-half, and proper stabling the other half of good care.

Foals will lie down and sleep most of the night if a reasonable place to do so is provided. The lack of this is the reason why many horses are undersized though comparatively well-fed. I have seen registered range foals spoiled in this way. I give cold water—not ice water—four times daily. My foals are halter-broken quite young and handled in every way until they are perfectly quiet, but for the long winter I prefer loose boxes where two or three are left in together, as they like company. In all reasonable weather the roughage is fed outside in sheltered yards. They need the exercise. I have them inside in the stormy and wet weather only. Cold weather does them no harm provided the barn is well-ventilated so they will not get a chill on going out in the morning, which causes colds. This system gives me good size, doubles the profits, and gives me greater satisfaction and pleasure in my work.

Inspection to Aid County Fairs.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":
By your issue of December 25th, 1913, you have left your columns open for discussion of the Stallion Licensing and Enrolment Act. I may say that I had my stallion inspected and enrolled in 1913, and he bred 146 mares last season. Of the large number of mare owners I don't think there was one man asked anything about the inspection, so I reckoned that I was \$7.00 out. If I understand the government correctly it is their aim to get nothing but good horses in this country. If this is so they must get at the breeders as well as the stallions, and I think they should proceed by doing away with

the grade stallions entirely, and having the owners of registered stallions pay a license fee of \$5.00 per horse every year to the secretary of the local agricultural society, the money to be used as pointed out by Mr. McVitty in a previous issue of this paper as prizes on foals in each county. I think if anything will start the breeders and the good horse system, that will, and it should prove a great help to the county fairs.

Oxford Co., Ont.

A. FRIED.

Keep the Bars Up.

In this issue appears an article from a horseman in York County, Ontario, in which among other things he advises that all fillies on the first cross, having, of course, a pure-bred sire, be made eligible for registration for a period of three years. He thinks that this would be a very effective means of encouraging the farmers of this country to breed more horses of a high-class character. There is no doubt, if such action were taken by the authorities, but that there would be a vast increase of business in the Record Office, but what would happen the standard of the different breeds of horses? Many good fillies result from the first cross but there are also hundreds of very inferior animals, and we would not care to see such numbered amongst the registered pure-breds of any one of the distinct breeds of horses. It requires several generations to fix the type, and we do not think that matters could be improved by relaxing the regulations now governing registration in the several distinct breeds. Pedigree could do nothing

Some Radical Legislation Advised.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As you ask for correspondence expressing opinion on the advisability of licensing stallions for the stud in the Province of Ontario, I will venture a few ideas on this very important subject. After reading the many letters which have been published in your journal by numerous breeders and importers, I am afraid it will be a difficult task to enlarge on their ideas, therefore, I will give my own opinion.

First, I believe every stallion standing for mares in the Province of Ontario should be registered and licensed, and free from hereditary diseases. But I still maintain a stallion should not receive a license for breeding purposes until he proved by his progeny that he would be a benefit to the community, by producing colts that would elevate the Canadian standard. I would also suggest, and believe, that it is absolutely necessary that mares should also be inspected, and receive licenses if they proved themselves producing dams. I know it to be a positive fact, that in a great many cases almost ninety per cent of the mares which are bred in Ontario in all classes are responsible for the majority of hereditary defects with which the colt is affected. Now after forty years' experience with stallions of all classes, I could relate many instances where the breeder was at fault for the old and simple reason, the mare which he could not sell for a good figure, because she had the heaves, broken wind, spavins or ring bones, periodic ophthalmia, etc., etc., with numerous other ailments, is kept for breeding purposes. What do you expect, apples off a thorn tree, or cranberries from a gooseberry bush?

I also think there is too much confidence placed in the stallions that win at our exhibitions and shows, first prizes and championships. Such animals are generally syndicated, for large prices, and do business on their show-yard reputations. Others do business largely on the reputation of their sires, which have sired prize winners in the Old Country. My experience in the show-ring, over a period of forty years, tells me it is like going to a circus, the same old story, the clown, ring master and the spectators, who pay their money.

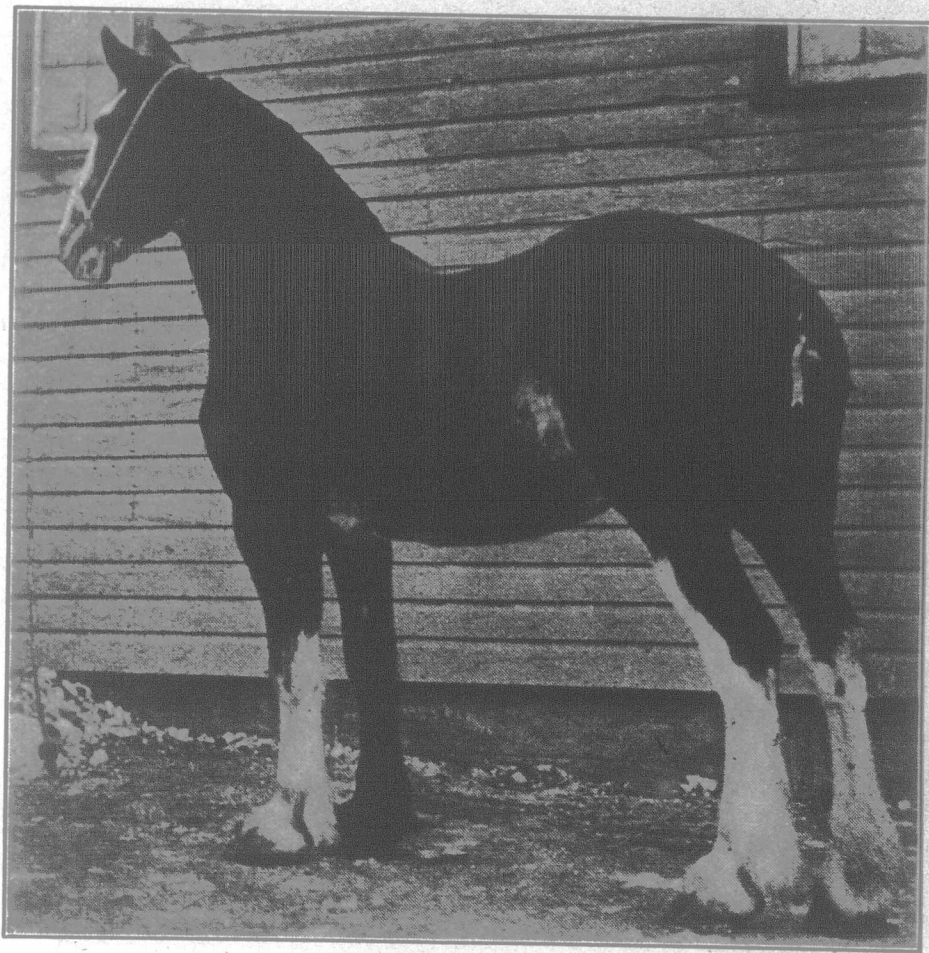
Now, as to the grading of stallions—first, sound stallions, how many could be registered in the Province of Ontario under this head? I do not think it would take much of a mathematician to figure it out, and as to second and third grades, I do not believe this is a good idea. Either first grade or nothing. Otherwise it leaves a gap open for a great deal of deception whether the inspectors appointed by the government are competent to fill this position justly and honorably. I have seen some, not speaking personally, in the show-ring award prizes in the breeding classes to unsound horses and unsound mares. This would satisfy me and should satisfy the majority of farmers that all is not gold that glitters.

What I would like to see, and as an importer, I think I'm fair in asking it, is to break up what I believe is a show-ring combine, superannuate all those old-time judges, put on young men who have a reputation to make, change the judges every year, and if our government wishes to improve our Canadian horses, let them give prizes for Canadian-bred stock, and that could easily be done by donating to the Breeders' Associations the amount which is foolishly spent by a lot of men travelling around the country at a great expense, telling a man whether his horse is fit to stand for service or not.

I firmly believe the show-ring is the best place to encourage the farmer to breed good stock, but the prize-list must be increased and Canadian-bred stock should get the preference.

I also think the registration of colts should be somewhat modified. We have been importing a great many stallions, some very good ones, but to breed those stallions to unregistered mares, no matter how good the progeny may be, it is almost an utter impossibility to have them registered.

In fact I had a yearling filly at our last In-



Nell of Aikton.

Clydesdale filly, champion at the Guelph Winter Fair, 1913. Owned and exhibited by Dr. T. H. Hassard, Markham, Ont.

ing for a scrub animal. True, there are several grade or cross-bred fillies foaled each year which are in many respects superior to some for which a pedigree may be obtained, but would such fillies be any more valuable by the fact that they had a very short pedigree, showing no registered dams? The real value of a pedigree is the showing it makes of the various blood lines which have been famous in bringing the various breeds up to their present high state, and fillies with a pedigree showing dams of no particular breeding would be just as valuable if no attempt were made to get them registered. The stricter our officials are in the matter of the regulations governing live-stock registration the better our standing is going to be, and the higher the standard of each of the breeds in this country. If a grade animal, by the simple fact that a pedigree has been obtained, is placed on the same footing as the pure-bred with a valuable pedigree, then the latter is reduced to the level of the inferior class of animal. It would be a poor and ineffective method of getting rid of the scrub horses to in any way let down the bars which now separate the animals eligible for registration and the grade or cross-bred individuals.