

invariably unsound, in the one instance developing ringbone or fetterbone, the other sire's stock developing spavin. Probably ninety per cent. of the colts from each of these stallions were unsound at seven years old; the remaining ten per cent. were exceptionally good.

I would like to know the views of some others upon the Thoroughbred cross, as I am considering making a trial this season of a Thoroughbred stallion, yet would not like to take the responsibility of spoiling the horse stock of a locality if the Thoroughbred is inclined to breed unsoundness.

Concerning heavy horses, we have had experience with Percheron and Clydesdale, and, while the Percheron stallion that I owned was the kindest individual horse, yet his colts do not seem to have the snap or the constitution of the Clydesdale.

The colts of a good, clean-limbed Clydesdale, if he is active, will, in my humble opinion, be the best and most useful and salable horse a farmer can raise. There will always be a demand for such horses in the development of new farms and the increased delivery demand in cities.

Antigonishe Co., N. S.

F. R. TROTTER.

Prospects for Shire Horses.

As far as I can judge from all the varied information which comes under my notice, writes Sir P. Albert Muntz, in the London Live-stock Journal, the Shire-horse trade has never possessed more vitality or had better prospects in the future than it has at the present moment. I base my opinion, firstly, upon the public sales that have recently taken place, where the average prices have been higher than they have been in previous years. These are, of course, practically confined to animals for breeding purposes. Secondly, I turn my attention to working animals, and I find that good sound working animals have never been scarcer or commanded better prices than they do at present. Thirdly, the foreign demand was brisker last year than it has been for many years past, and at the present moment is decidedly active, and looks as if several great countries, in which the demand might be almost unlimited, have woken up to the undoubted superiority of the Shire over any other draft horse, and might create a boom that would tax the resources of Shire-horse breeders to the uttermost. As I have so often stated, by speech and writing, the real foundation upon which Shire-horse breeding must be durably built is the supply of good sound, weighty working animals that will compare favorably with any other breed, either at home or abroad. All that Shire horse-breeders have to do is to keep that object steadily in view, and by that means, there is no reason why they should not, with intelligence and perseverance, secure a practical monopoly for the Shire breed of the principal draft-horse work of the world.

I attach little or no importance to motor-power as a substitute for Shires, and, in confirmation of my view upon this subject, I find that large brewers and others, who had adopted motor-power on trial, are discarding it in favor of the poor old Shire, as more economical and more efficient.

Clipping Promotes Comfort and Thrift.

The clipping of horses in spring is a practice to which a large number of people have been obliged to reconcile their judgment. Irrational though it seems to deprive a horse suddenly of this natural protection at a season when human beings are most susceptible to weather vicissitudes, and when expert medical authorities warn unanimously against discontinuance of winter clothing, the fact stands out that clipped horses are less subject to colds and such affections, thrive better, and, if properly blanketed, appear to suffer less discomfort than their unclipped mates. A clipped horse dries out rapidly after a hard day's work, and will rest comfortably and be refreshed for the work the following day. An unclipped horse is liable to catch the heaves, pneumonia and all sorts of colds, rheumatism, etc. More especially is this so in the early spring, when the hair is long and he is "soft." If worked hard he will perspire freely, and the moisture will be held by his long hair, and the food that should go to nourish him will be used to replenish the heat that is being constantly taken from his body by the mass of cold, wet hair. If clipped, the perspiration will evaporate almost as soon as secreted, and, when put in the stable, he rests comfortably, and his food does him good.

Some years ago the Buffalo Street Car Company tested the value of clipping in the following manner: They owned 500 horses, and 250 of these were clipped early in the spring, and 250 were not clipped. A careful record was kept of the results, and it was found that of the 250 unclipped horses 153 were afflicted with coughs and pneumonia, while of the 250 clipped, not one case of sickness was reported.

Blind Staggers.

The Florida Experiment Station is responsible for the following bulletin, by C. F. Dawson, State Veterinarian:

Forage poisoning, otherwise known under the names cerebro-spinal meningitis, grass staggers, or blind staggers, is a disease, as the name indicates, caused by poisonous plants, or, more strictly speaking, by diseased forage, such as fermenting grains and hay, or by grasses which have matted together near the ground and become mouldy. Sour or mouldy silage has also produced the disease, as has also stagnant pond water in which vegetation is decomposing. Mouldy or worm-eaten corn has also come in for its share of blame as a cause. It affects horses and mules of all ages alike.

The symptoms are as variable as the cause, and, according to their nature, we recognize three types of disease. In the first type—the most rapidly fatal—there occurs a weak, staggering gait, partial or complete paralysis of the throat, blindness, twitching of the muscles, and no fever, as a rule. The animal soon goes down, becomes delirious, and goes through the movements of walking, trotting or running while on its side. This stage is soon succeeded by deep coma, and the animal quietly expires in a few hours from the onset of the disease. The second type is first manifested by slowness in chewing, partial inability to swallow, and weakness in the tail. There is no pain or fever. The breathing and pulse are about normal, and a slight constipation exists. In two or three days the animal recovers, or all the foregoing symptoms are increased in severity. The throat paralysis is complete, the gait uncertain, coma or sleepiness appears, the pulse is weak and slow, the breathing



A Good Type of the English Shire Horse.

is labored. Delirium now develops, the animal goes down, the spine becomes rigid, and there is cramping of the neck and jaws. Death occurs in about a week or ten days in these cases.

In the third, or mild, type, the control of the limbs and tail is only slightly affected, and the ability to swallow is not lost. There is no fever, pain, or unconscious movements, and the animal shows improvement in four or five days, ultimately recovering.

In some cases of the disease, spinal paralysis is the most prominent symptom, while in others it may be difficult in swallowing that attracts most attention. In all cases, if sleepiness or coma remain absent for a week, the animal will likely recover; but some form of paralysis may show for a while.

According to the symptom do we find departures from the normal condition in the brain and spinal cord. In mild cases there are no notable changes in the nervous system. In others we note considerable liquid in the brain and spinal cord cavities, and distention of the blood vessels. In the severest cases the brain and spinal cord will appear softened, and even abscesses may be found.

The object of this article is only to call attention to the causes of this disease, so that owners will be more careful to provide their animals with pure food and drinking water.

[Note.—No treatment is given, presumably for the reason that it should be attempted only by a most expert veterinarian.—Editor.]

Likes It Better Every Week.

I like "The Farmer's Advocate" better every week, and believe it to be the best agricultural paper in Canada. Success.

Prince Co., P. E. I.

COLIN C. CRAIG.

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

Since I last wrote there has been a further evidence of the extraordinary boom in Shorthorn cattle. At the Birmingham sale, the South Americans were again active, and prices ruled high: 850 gs., or \$4,462, was the highest figure, but others were 750 gs., 450 gs., 400 gs., 380 gs., and 200 gs. The Scots type was again the favorite, the highest-priced bull having been bred by Mr. James Durno. It is said that one Aberdeenshire tenant-farmer has this year got as much for his bull calves as would enable him to purchase his farm outright. Unfortunately, our land laws do not enable a farmer to do anything of this kind, but perhaps before long this may be altered, and the man who is able to buy may be put into a position to negotiate for purchase with the man who is meantime very anxious to sell, but cannot, as the law stands, do so.

Connected with the breeding of cattle, we are having rather lively times over the proposal to amend the Cattle Diseases Act of 1896, in favor of Canada. Mr. Cairns, one of the members for Newcastle-on-Tyne, has put down a bill for second reading on Friday, April 6th, the contents of which are calculated to embarrass the Government, some of the members of which rather trifled with the subject when in opposition. Meantime, Lord Carrington has been inundated with petitions and deputations, and has given a very broad hint to all and sundry that the Government is to be guided by its veterinary experts, and will decide the question solely from the standpoint of what may be necessary for the protection of herds and flocks in this country from disease. The deputation in favor of the maintenance of the status quo was one of the largest ever seen within the precincts of Westminster, and it was wholly agricultural. Meantime, representative meetings in favor of maintaining the status quo have been held in Perth, Aberdeen, Stirling and other centers in Scotland. The English farmers, with the exception of a section in Norfolk, are unanimous in their opposition to Mr. Cairns' bill. It receives some support in Scotland from farmers in Fife, Forfar, Aberdeen, Kincardine, Perth and East Lothian. Otherwise, Scotland is as solid against the bill as England. Mr. Duthie, Mr. Gordon of Newton, and the other leaders in the Shorthorn world, are active in opposition to any alteration of the existing law. The attitude is, "We know where we are; we do not know where we might be if the law were changed."

The impression here is that the Board of Agriculture is firm in its resolution to maintain the status quo, but that Lord Carrington has some difficulty in finding a way out for a few of his colleagues who committed themselves somewhat to another course when seeking the suffrages of the electors.

The present Government, or rather Parliament, is proving itself very active in the fathoming of legislative proposals of a radical nature, as affecting land. A Land Tenure Bill has passed the second reading, containing somewhat drastic proposals for the protection of the interest of the tenant-farmer in the soil. It contains proposals so drastic in their nature, that even gentlemen who are not usually easily alarmed, have their doubts about their propriety. One proposal is that a tenant may convert his holding into a market garden without the consent of his landlord, and, at the end of his occupancy, claim compensation because what he has done is an improvement, enhancing the value of the holding to a successor. There are also proposals guaranteeing the tenant against disturbance, and entitling him to compensation should he be put out of his holding before he has reaped the reward of his labors. It is also proposed that the tenant should be allowed to kill down ground game without restriction, and should be compensated for damage done to crop by game which he is not allowed to kill. All this is new, and its assertion indicates health and vigor in the new Parliament. Whether this legislation will come to fruition, is quite another matter.

Sir Edward Strachey, who represents the Board of Agriculture in the House of Commons, has introduced a bill to repeal, and re-enact in a better and much more workable form, the Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1893. This Act was well designed, and it is ten thousand pities that it was not drafted with a better regard to the penalties attaching to breach of warranty in the sale of either fertilizers or feeding stuffs in the law is put in motion is slow and cumbersome, with the result that prosecutions under the Act have been practically nil. In the new bill, it is proposed that officers of samples be appointed, whose province it will be to take samples anywhere, just as at present officers take samples of milk and other articles of food, in the most uncircumstances. The price of goods is to be regarded as a warranty, so that when any man certifies in the invoice that he has sent one thing,