

## HORSES AND CATTLE.

## PERCHERON HORSES.

*Harper's Monthly* has a lengthy and exhaustive article on this subject, from which we make the following extracts:

The Percheron horse is undoubtedly the most symmetrical and powerful for his size, and possesses the finest action and greatest endurance of all the large breeds in Europe. His general type is also the most ancient of any of which we have record or tradition, and this is the principal reason why he is more "prepotent" than others in transmitting his superior qualities to his offspring.

Tradition asserts that the first great improvement in refining the large horses of France was made by Barb stallions captured from the Moors. In 1781 thousands of these fine Barb stallions were captured (for the Moors ride such only, and never mares) and distributed among the French soldiers, who, on returning to their farms, bred them to their own large native mares. The best and most uniform of this produce were then selected and coupled among themselves, the result of which, together with other well-made crosses from time

## A FINE SHORTHORN COW.

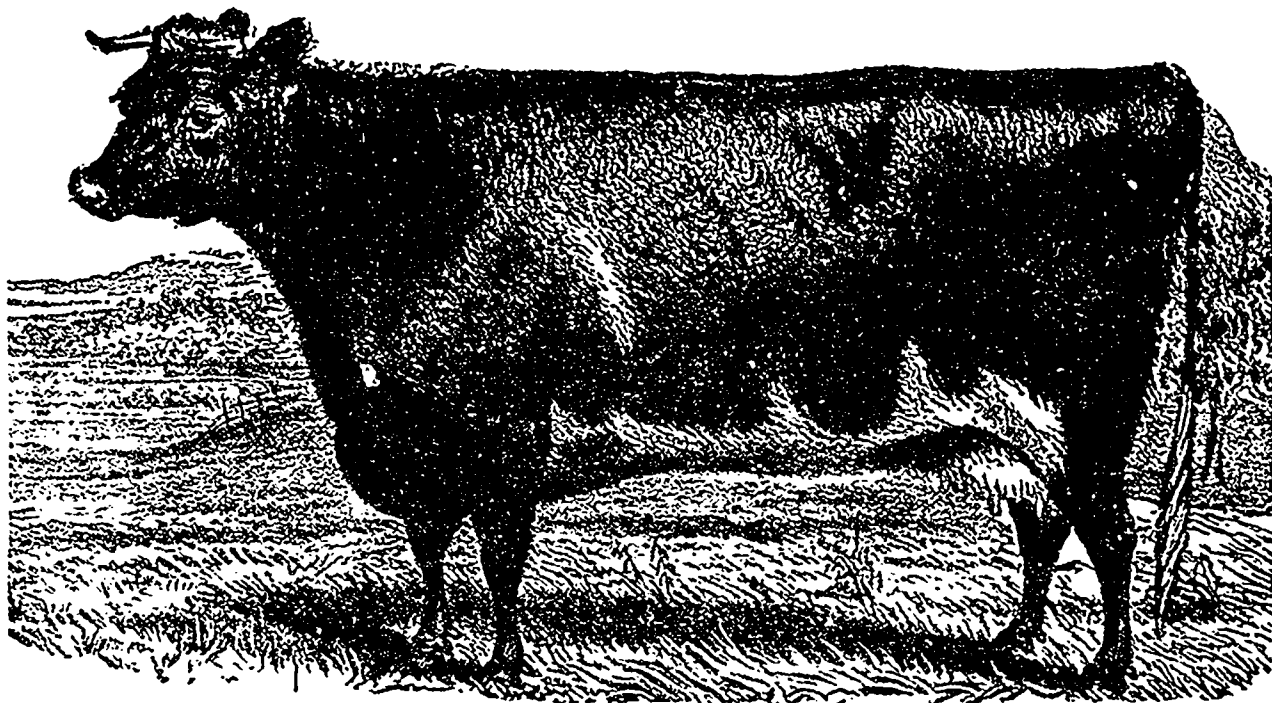
Our contemporary, the *Breeders' Gazette*, in an article on "Breeds for the Dairy," has the following on the Shorthorns: "Although the chief claim of the breed is excellence in beef production, among them are to be found many cows of great merit as milkers, and many very poor ones. We have never known better cows, all things considered, than many Shorthorns with which we have been familiar. Full-blood or grade Shorthorns can be had that will give a large flow of milk of good quality, and also be of good size and form for profitable feeding for the butcher; and their bull calves will make better steers than those of any other breeds. For the wants of the average dairy farmer, of the West certainly, we place well-selected grade Shorthorn cows as, to say the very least, the equal of those of any other class."

## CALVES DURING THE EARLY SPRING.

Young things that have done exceptionally well during the past three months, will, in the same hands, undoubtedly go on to grass as young growing stock always should, namely, with pliable

They forget that calves are usually reared artificially; that is, they are, as a rule, too early deprived of their natural sustenance, the milk of the mother. This involves the necessity of substituting as nearly an equivalent as can be found. On account of the tendency to fermentation of ground foods, when given freely to young things, and the oil-cake meal being only in a slight degree, compared to some other feeds, liable to ferment in the stomach of the calf, the latter is adopted, especially in Europe, by pretty much all who rear cattle and sheep, as the most important food at their command. Especially is this true as regards their management of young stock; nor do they restrict its use to growing things, but use it freely as a basis for foods during the entire process of fattening.

Now is a good time for observing men, with judgment well matured in such matters, to look up and buy young stock to rear, as the discerning eye will see the evidences of good strains in the breeding and good care in the wintering, where these are present. Calves that have been properly cared for till February 1st are, with proper protection, easily carried through to grass, in good shape for rapid gain. Calves should be isolated



SHORTHORN COW.

to time since that period, gives us improved Percherons of the present day, described as follows.

Head clean, bony, and small for the size of the animal, ears short, mobile, erect, and fine-pointed, eyes bright, clear, large, and prominent; forehead broad; nostrils large and open. Neck a trifle short, yet harmoniously rounding to the body, and gracefully curved. Breast broad and deep, with great muscular development; shoulders sloping; withers high; back short; body well ribbed up; rump broad, long, and moderately sloping to the tail, which is attached high; quarters wide, well let down and swelling with powerful muscles. Legs flat and wide, with hard, clean bones, and extra large, strong joints, cords, and tendons; short from the hocks and knees down; pasterns upright, hoofs full size, solid, and tough. Action bold, square, free and easy. Temper kind; disposition docile, but energetic and vigorous; hardy, enduring, and long-lived; precocious; able to be put to light work at eighteen to twenty months old, possessing immense power for his size; never balking or refusing to draw at a dead pull; stylish, elegant and attractive in appearance; easy, elastic, and graceful in motion. No tendency to disease of any sort, and especially free from diseases of the legs and feet, such as spavin, splint, ringbone, grease and founder. An easy keeper and quick feeder.

hides and oily coats—two evidences that they have not put in the whole winter without making some growth. Yet, even such as have done capitally up to February, will possibly require more attention till grass, than they have from time of grass in the fall till the present time. As winter nears its close, efforts are likely to be relaxed, in view of the near approach of the spring bite, and due attention to the bad influence of the cold rains and mud under foot, so liable to come in all except the more northerly States, be neglected.

These influences, added to a disturbed digestion, accompanied by a more or less distended abdomen, in the case of calves that have not done well during first half of winter, will call for extra care to the latter class. The coarse feed, especially straw, should be entirely ignored, no access being allowed to any other than concentrated food, except moderate allowances of fine, bright, well-cured hay. The trouble which usually comes to very young stock from feeding ground foods is indigestion, liable to overtake them through fermentation of the food given. For this reason, oil-cake meal is undoubtedly the best food in use for calves. Farmers naturally have a prejudice against buying feed for farm stock of any kind, under the belief that the grains grown upon their own farms are good enough for any animal reared thereon.

from older cattle, as their food requires to be selected and very carefully given. Even such calves as incline to play master, should be restricted in their opportunities for doing so, being fed separately.

Where shelter has not already been provided, it is not too late to attend to this important duty. As a dozen calves can find sleeping room in a covered enclosure twelve feet square, the expense of putting up an unpretending, yet warm calf-room, need be but trifling. A very serious mistake is made by many men in discontinuing the feeding of grain upon first turning to grass. There is a material loss to the strength of the calf by this practice, as the system undergoes a radical change when green grass with its abundance of water is taken into the stomach in place of the substantial dry feed to which it has been accustomed during the winter.

Under the coming system, sure to hold sway in the near future, namely, the feeding off at half the age heretofore thought proper, no owner can afford to lose time through omitting to follow up the grain and oil-cake feed on young animals. If these strong foods are required, and pay while on the dry hay, given during the absence of grass, they will pay equally as well after the latter is entered upon, and should not be discontinued till the young things have become well accustomed to this, have plenty of it, and are thriving apace.