

through life the lessons at this age are never forgotten. Experienced breeders never confine their weaning foals to bare pastures, from the danger of picking up the germs of disease with the natural food. Where breeding is carried out on a moderately extensive scale, a separate enclosure is reserved, and the strong growing grasses—cockfoot, timothy, ryegrass, the fescues, and other sorts of the same kind—are allowed to mature their seed culms and seed, which the foals eagerly consume, and on which they thrive.

The foal is a social animal, and rests and progresses best with company; these should be of the same age, and of corresponding strength. Weanlings should be removed and treated separately; a young donkey makes a suitable companion for a single foal. The field or paddock should vary with the number of the animals located; from four to six is the best. The field must have a small shelter shed and yard attached; the erection may be of an inexpensive character, covered with corrugated iron or other cheap material, and furnished with a manger; the inside of the shed and yard should be laid with concrete, with a fall to the outside. The shed should be kept clean and well littered; good peat moss is not only cheaper, but best for the purpose. The site of the field should be dry, to prevent poaching in wet weather. In severe weather the foals should be confined to the shed and yard during the night, and allowed their freedom during the day.

The food should be given in a prepared state. By employing the cheap portable furnaces now generally in use, this system is both cheaper and more convenient than that of grinding the various kinds of grain into meal. The best kinds of grain are a mixture of barley, oats, and linseed. Plenty of water is used. When the grain has been sufficiently boiled, and whilst still hot, it is added to a sufficient quantity of hay chaff to absorb the moisture, and is then fit for use; this mixture is fed twice a day. The quantity necessarily will depend on the size of the animals. The mangers must be carefully cleaned out between each meal, and the surplus (if any) fed to other kinds of stock. As a non-ruminant the horse requires little long hay, the liberal use of which is attended with considerable waste. A covered rack may be placed in the yard, where some well-cured hay may be supplied from time to time as circumstances may require.

A most important point, and one on which the success or failure of horse breeding and rearing mainly depends, is the attention devoted to the correct development of the feet during the early stages of their growth; though the limbs at birth may be perfectly formed yet in an immature and flexible state they are easily bent in an undesirable direction by neglect of the feet, which, allowed to continue, lessens the future value of the animal. All foals and young animals should be frequently submitted to the inspection of a practical veterinary surgeon, who will correct any abnormal growth of the hoof.

The next important point is a constant supply of pure drinking water. The underground water supply of most districts is charged, more or less, with the chemical constituents of the geological formations through which it flows. The purest and most wholesome water is that derived from the purring brooks and rivulets from the mountains, aerated and oxygenised by its contact with the atmospheric agencies. Next to this is the water supply derived from reservoirs, which is invaluable for supplying the stock of the farm. Where a sufficient head is obtained, a constant supply is secured. All troughs should be protected and the approach kept clean.

GILBERT MURRAY.

### A X I O M S.

The world is made up of atoms, and the success of cultivation depends upon what might be considered minor details.

Better is a well cultivated farm in a civilized country than an uncertain gold mine in the distant desert.

Contentment is the parent of delight, and delight is the child of well directed industry.

A weedy garden is as disgraceful to its cultivator as a dirty face or ragged coat.

