

tent, and the horse rendered of some service for slow work, but he will never be valuable or serviceable for any considerable amount of work on hard roads. Treatment should be directed to allaying the inflammation and increasing the growth of hoof. The patient must be given a long rest, the shoes removed, and the heels lowered, and soles pared well down. Poultices, either hot or cold, should be applied to the feet, or the patient forced to stand in a tub of water several hours daily for a week or ten days. Then a blister should be applied to the coronet, all around the foot. Nothing is equal to a blister to encourage the growth of horn. The blister should be repeated every four weeks, and the patient given a long rest. When again put to work, rubber pads should be worn under the shoes, or bar shoes, to lessen concussion, worn; but the rubber pads give the best results. Even where there is alteration of structure, this treatment will usually alleviate the symptoms by increasing the growth of horn, and thereby relieving the pressure that is caused by contraction of the foot. In regard to contracted feet, we must always remember that this is not a disease of itself, but the result of disease. When a horse becomes so lame from navicular disease as to be practically useless, and treatment will not give relief, all that can be done is to get a veterinarian to perform neurotomy. This consists in removing the nerve supply to the feet, and, while it removes the lameness, it does not cure the disease. It is not advisable to operate unless, as stated, the horse is practically useless, as the freedom of action after operation often causes a fracture of the weakened navicular bone or a rupture of the weakened tendon, or both, which, of course, necessitates the destruction of the animal; but in some cases the animal lasts for years after the operation. The feet of horses that have been operated upon should be examined regularly, as, though sensation has been removed, the processes of repair and decay continue as in a healthy foot, hence the animal may pick up a nail, etc., and will not show lameness, but the ordinary results of such an accident, viz., the formation of puss and sloughing of the tissues, will occur, and may not be noticed until past treatment. "WHIP."

DRAFT HORSES IN AMERICA.

In a recent communication to the London (England) Times, a correspondent writes upon the above subject as follows:

The Percheron is the most widely-distributed draft horse in the United States of America, and Percheron grades, at various kinds of city and country work, are said to far outnumber all other horses. They were introduced from the Department of Perche, in Central France, beginning as far back as 1816, and they are distinct from the slower and generally heavier type of Norman horse in Northern France. The Percheron is believed to have been formed by blending the blood of the local representatives of the "old black" war-horse of Western Europe, including England, with that of the Arab. It is a black or gray breed, for, although in an important section of it the foals are born black or dark brown, they gradually become dappled gray, and, with age, ultimately white. In France, it is represented by animals of all sizes, varying from a stout pony to a heavy draft horse. The existence of small varieties has given origin to the mistaken belief that the breed, even the heavier types of it, is inferior in size and substance to the English Shire or Scotch Clydesdale. There is a skeleton in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, of a Percheron stallion which measured 19 hands at the withers, or 6 ft. 4 in. in height. Stud horses are to be seen at agricultural college farms which stand between 17 and 18 hands, and weigh up to 2,000 lbs. The tendency has been, during the last quarter of a century, to breed for greater size, but in the larger type the activity of the smaller horse is difficult to maintain.

In many respects the Clydesdale is a more perfect draft horse than the Percheron. He has better feet, flatter and harder bone, and tighter legs, freer action, greater activity, and altogether a gayer and more stylish appearance. The round bone and want of long, hairy feathering on the legs, characteristic of the Shire and Clydesdale, and the short, though strong, pasterns before and behind, are the most conspicuous differences between the Percheron and our two principal British breeds.

Many reasons have been adduced why the Percheron is generally preferred in America, while the Clydesdale, among pure-bred draft horses, is the favorite in Canada, there being only a few Percherons in Ontario and in the Northwest Provinces. So-called "Canadian horses" are light cobs of mixed breed, and widely distributed, as well as numerous represented. The Clydesdale and Shire are said to have too much long hair on their legs for American taste; but this is an objection which speedily disappears, for in America, as in Australia, the long hair behind on

all four limbs tends to fall out, and ceases to grow abundantly. For this, among other reasons, in such an important agricultural State as Iowa, the Belgian horse, although far behind the Percheron, takes precedence of the Clydesdale. It is said that the Shire is more liable to throw sidebones than the Percheron. This is not now the fact. The statement is only a reminiscence, like the memory of a bad dream. It is a penalty we are still paying for the evil practices of the past, which permitted unsound horses to gain prizes at our leading shows. White limbs and white feet—which are almost invariably in evidence among Clydesdales, and are accepted as a characteristic point in Shires—are sources of weakness, especially in a hot country, being more susceptible of injury in certain trying circumstances. It is also asserted that the Clydesdale is more nervous and more spirited, and therefore more liable to take fright and run away at city work than the Percheron; but this is merely a matter of training and attention, which presents no serious difficulty. Probably the best reason of all why the Percheron is in favor is that he is best known, for he is a good all-round horse, capable of giving a high degree of satisfaction to people who are acquainted with no other better breed. Introduced by the French, who many years ago possessed nearly the whole of the Central States, he has been long before the American public, and his presence and his qualities are constantly advertised in every agricultural journal. There is, however, no reason why the long-haired British work-horse—for it is now freely admitted by the leading authorities, and written in history, that the Shire and the Clydesdale are no more than strains of the same, the national breed of this country—should not become

and the remedy is simplicity itself. The Shire studbook and the Clydesdale studbook should be opened for the entry of all animals that are eligible for either. This would at once remove the only difficulty of the foreign purchaser, as he would not only get a horse with the necessary studbook record, but a horse that would breed true and throw better produce than one bred on the old plan, produce that could be sold by the breeder at remunerative prices to his neighbors. Shire breeders and Clydesdale breeders would both gain, and that enormously, by the new order of things. By adhering to the present plan, all would lose by retrogression or by the check given to progress—the Clydesdale breeders by comparison to a greater degree than the Shire breeders; for, while the Clydesdale is losing in favor for lack of size, the Shire section of the breed is improving in quality and retaining its size. Progress among Shires would be much slower along existing lines than by the use of the Clydesdale stallion.

Leading American breeders and teachers have grasped the situation, and already substantial progress has been made in a scheme to establish a "national American heavy-draft horse," by mating selected specimens of Shires and Clydesdales. It would be much better from every point of view for this country to take the lead in regenerating its own breed of draft horses than be forced, in the end, to follow a formidable rival in breeding after he has taken the field and obtained a substantial footing in the world's markets for a superior product of his own creation.

KILLING A HORSE.

Theoretically, the most effective way of shooting a horse is to aim so that the bullet will shoot

through the brain and enter the spinal cord. This condition, which is difficult to obtain, can be best fulfilled by standing directly in front of the horse, raising its head slightly with one hand on the halter, and shooting him with a pistol held in the other hand. The entrance of the bullet through the brain is almost certain death, even though the spinal cord is not touched. A good and easy way of killing a horse, with either pistol or gun, is to shoot him in the middle line of the forehead, about four or five inches above the level of the eyes. The weapon should be held close to the forehead, and the shooting can best be done while the animal is standing directly in front of you with its nose to the ground. If this be done, the animal will drop down without a struggle on the spot upon which he was standing. Knocking disabled or useless horses in the head, or some other of the rough-and-ready means employed for extinguishing life, cannot be too strongly condemned.

DR. M. HORACE HAYS.

A GRAND SUCCESS.

Please find enclosed postal note for \$1.50, renewal for the year 1908. Your Christmas number was a grand success, as well as all the other numbers of the past years. I have been a subscriber for at least 23 years. Wishing you further success in the years to come.

Carleton Co., Ont.

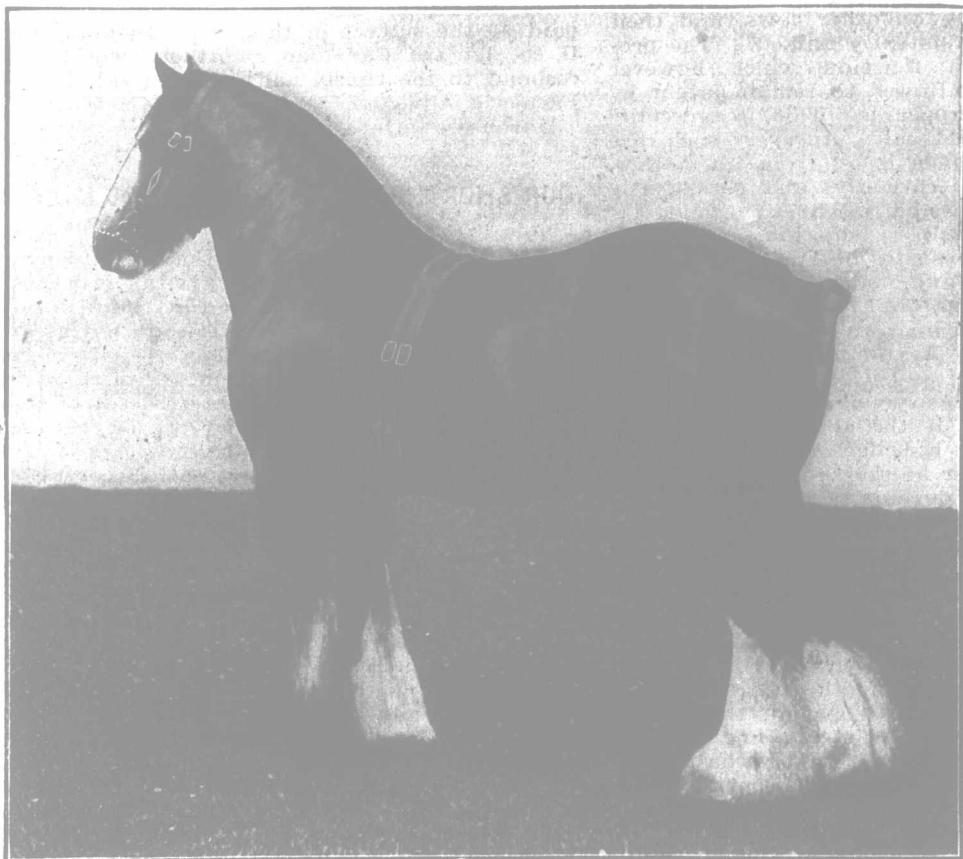
S. L. CRAWFORD.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Enclosed please find P. O. order for \$1.50, my renewal subscription for another year. Have now been a subscriber for four years, and do not see how any farmer can keep up to date without it. I have a farm of my own this year, and intend trying the split-log drag next summer.

Brome Co., Que.

ARTHUR T. WOODLEY.



Tatton Dray King (23777).

Shire stallion. First and champion, Royal Show, Derby, 1906; first and reserve champion, London Shire Show, 1907. Foaled 1904. Sire Drayman.