

be a case of joint-ill, but it may occur even under the most careful preventive treatment, and we are not justified in assuming that the theory and practice are at fault because they occasionally fail in results.

Curative treatment is often ineffective even when given early. The use of serums and antitoxins especially prepared for the purpose and which can be administered only by a veterinarian have been successful in a reasonable percentage of cases, hence it is wise for a breeder to employ this veterinarian as soon as possible after the first symptoms are noticed. Even amateur treatment may occasionally be successful. It consists in bathing the joints long and often with hot water, and after bathing rubbing well with camphorated liniment, as one made of  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. tincture of iodine, 2 drams gum camphor, 4 oz. extract of witch hazel, 1 pint alcohol and water to make a quart. The foal should be given 5 to 10 grains (according to size and breed) of iodide of potassium in a little of the mother's milk three times daily, and it should be helped to nurse at least every hour if it be not able to help itself. The mare should be well fed on milk-producing food, as bran, crushed oats and raw roots or preferably grass if in season, and should be given 1 to 14 drams iodide of potassium three times daily. Such treatment may be successful in arresting the ravages of the germ and destroying those present. When the disease has reached that stage where the articular cartilages are destroyed it is wise to destroy the patient, as even though careful nursing may preserve life the animal will always be a cripple. WHIP.

### Many Percherons Change Hands.

We have heard a good deal of late about the slackening of the horse demand. The trade on the market is said to be a good deal duller than it was a while ago. Horses seem to have been selling rather freely in the United States, if we may judge from a report which the Secretary of the Percheron Society of America has compiled. Between November first, 1913, and April first, 1914, 4,935 transfer certificates were entered on the Percheron records, 1,836 of these were for animals sold before November first, and of the 3,099 remaining, which were for animals actually sold in the time mentioned, 1,653 were for stallions, and 1,446 for mares. This actual record (which is not complete) of sales made during the five months named shows that the Percheron trade has been active across the border. It is stated on good authority that more sales have been made by small farmers and the smaller breeders than was formerly the case. Personal reports from a great many of these farmer-breeders justify the conclusion that prices obtained for American-bred horses have been more satisfactory than in the past.

In the sales, Illinois leads with 315 stallions and 399 mares, closely followed by Iowa with 225 stallions and 165 mares, Indiana stands third, while the sales reported to the American Association to Canada were 88 stallions and 44 mares, a total of 132 in the five months. It is reported that Indiana has been especially active in the purchase of stallions, while Illinois, Ohio and Iowa, the oldest breeding States have been heavy purchasers of mares. This is in accordance with practical experience for well-informed horsemen. This is due to the fact that when the heavy horse has once demonstrated his advantages over the light animal for farm work, females of the heavy breeds find more ready sale.

### Sore Shoulders.

Horses that are regularly worked with properly fitting collars that are kept clean, seldom suffer from sore shoulders, but it is different with young horses just starting to work and with those of any age that have had a few months' idleness. Even with the latter classes sore shoulders are not common when the collar fits properly, the draught properly adjusted and collar and shoulders regularly cleaned. We speak of "ill-fitting" collars. This naturally suggests the question "what constitutes a proper fit". The collar should be so long that the teamster can easily pass his fingers between the bottom of the neck and the collar. If there be not this extra room there is a danger of the horse choking from pressure of the collar on the windpipe. When under certain conditions there is an expansion or increase of the depth of the neck, it should fit neatly on top of the neck; if too wide it causes trouble on account of the unevenness of pressure. While if it be too narrow it pinches. It should also fit neatly all along the shoulder. If too wide there is more or less of a rolling motion and if too narrow it pinches, either of which conditions must cause trouble. There is much similarity in the conformation of the shoulders of most horses. Most shoulders are somewhat prominent from the point upwards for a certain distance, then somewhat hollow for a certain distance, then again prominent to the crest, which varies greatly in width according to the class and condition of the animal. On this

account, collars made to a standard pattern will fit most horses, provided they are of the proper size. At the same time some horses have peculiarities of conformation of shoulders and in such cases a standard collar will not fit properly, hence its use will be followed by shoulder trouble. On general principals each horse should be fitted with a collar and he alone should wear that collar. With the exception of the collar the same harness may with satisfaction be worn by different horses, but a horse's collar should be his alone.

If the owner or the teamster has not an intelligent idea of how a collar should fit, he should get a harness maker to attend to it for him. All harness makers are not collar makers. In fact the latter is properly a trade by itself, but any harness maker should be a good judge of how a collar should fit. If a horse have any peculiarity of the conformation of shoulder, he should be especially fitted, and if necessary a special collar made for him. The fitting of a collar should not depend upon the adjustment of the harness and the tightness of their buckling. The collar should fit properly and the harness should be adjusted to it.

A horse that has been idle for a few months and then put to work in a properly fitting collar should do well for a time, but in most cases it will soon be noticed that the collar is too large, both in depth and width. This is due to the fact that the muscles have become less in bulk, but probably harder in consistence by reason of pressure, and he may also have lost flesh, which decreases volume in shoulder as well as in other muscles. If this be not attended to, either by supplying a fresh collar or the wearing of a sweat pad, there will surely be trouble. When the collar fits properly, the hames are properly adjusted and the teamster keeps the collar clean, takes care that the mane is not allowed to get between neck or shoulder and collar, removes the collar at noon and brushes or rubs the shoulder clean before putting it on again, sore shoulders are not likely to occur. At the same time, trouble is sometimes seen, even in cases where apparently all preventive measures have been observed.

Shoulder troubles are of various kinds. The most common is soreness unaccompanied by swelling, the skin becomes wrinkled and dry, followed by a falling out of the hair and afterwards by rawness of the skin. In such cases an astringent and antiseptic dressing should be applied frequently. Probably the best lotion for this purpose is one made of one ounce each of acetate of lead and sulphate of zinc in a pint of cold water, of course in all shoulder soreness a rest should be given if possible as it is very hard to treat while the cause is kept up.

In other cases enlargements are noticed. These are caused by the collar bruising the tissues and are of different natures. In some cases the swelling appears suddenly, is of considerable size, soft and fluctuant to the touch, and not very sore. These are called "serous abscesses" they contain a thin bloody-looking fluid called "serum". A free opening should be made through the skin into the abscess at the lowest part to allow free drainage and the cavity flushed out three times daily until healed with a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid or some other good antiseptic.

In other cases the horse shows tenderness and an examination reveals, a slight swelling quite sensitive to the touch or pressure of the collar. This increases in volume and soreness but is more or less unyielding to pressure. Most of these after a time become somewhat soft in the centre, they contain pus and are called "purulent abscesses". Treatment is the same as for serous abscesses. In other cases the soreness and enlargement continue but no indications of softness in any place is noticeable. In these cases the tumor should be punctured and probed to search for pus. If even a very small quantity of pus be found the opening should be enlarged to allow free drainage and treatment as above followed when the swelling of the tissues will gradually disappear as the wound heals. If no pus be present, the enlargement is a fibrous tumor and dissection the only successful treatment. The tumor must be carefully dissected out, the wound stitched with the exception of the lowest part, which must be left open for drainage and the wound treated as an abscess. If necessary to work a horse following any of these operations a breast collar must be used.

What are called "sit fasts" are those cases where the shoulder becomes sore, the skin becomes detached in a circle, but a portion in the centre remains healthy and attached, preventing a falling off of the deadened skin. Treatment consists in dissecting the attached piece of skin and treating as ordinary sore shoulder. It is not uncommon to notice various little hard lumps the size of marbles or smaller just under the skin. In many cases there is no rawness, but more or less soreness. The surrounding tissues may swell but after a few days rest the swelling disappears, but the little lump remains. These are little fibrous tumors and the only successful treatment

(when they do not form pus) is dissection. Sore necks are usually harder to treat than sore shoulders and are often more painful. In many cases there appear little fibrous growths which cause recurrent appearance of little boils. In such cases they should be freely cut open, the fibrous tissue dissected out and the wounds treated as above. WHIP.

### Summer Care of the Mare and Foal.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It is often annoying to have a little colt get mixed up with the lines and harness of the team working in the field, but the little fellow is a valuable growing animal and we must exercise patience with it. Some always allow their foals to run with the mares at work, while others never allow it. It is better to allow the foal to run with its dam all the time if the foal is not inclined to give trouble and if the driver of the team is careful and considerate. One main reason why it is better for the foal to run with its dam all the time is that it can take nourishment which is best for the real young animal of any kind. It is not good for either the foal or the mare to shut the youngster in the stable and keep it away from its mother for more than three or four hours. The colt will become hungry and suffer while the mare's udder will become distended and painful, causing her to suffer and worry. Some mares are such heavy milkers that their udders get painfully full within three or four hours.

By all means the foal should have a chance to suck at the noon hour and in no case should the mare be driven to a distant field or to town when the colt will be compelled to go without its noon meal. For an all-day drive to town or when being all day away from home in some distant field with the mare allow the foal to go along. Under no circumstances should the foal be allowed to follow the mare when she is working to a binder or mower. Only last year we had a fine Percheron colt cut badly in one foot in this way. We were careful to watch the little fellow when it came close to the mower but suddenly it got frightened at something and came running up from the rear when we were not watching. It jumped over the bar but was caught by the knife in one hind foot, severing the skin at the hock. It is a wonder its tender little foot was not cut entirely off. In all cases of this kind the driver is a factor to consider. If a hired hand must use the mare, or your own boy, be sure that he is quick, observing and careful with horses.

The colt may be easily taught to remain away from its dam without worrying. If the mare is not kept away for too long a time, it is better to keep the foal in the stable than to allow it to follow. If in the rush of work on particular days the mare must be kept in the field overtime, then the mare should be unhitched and taken to the stable for the colt to suck in mid-forenoon and mid-afternoon.

As the colt grows older it can stay away from its dam better than when young. When it is six weeks to two months old if some fine hay is given to it to eat it will not suffer hunger during the day. When it learns to eat the desire to drink water begins and after that period it should be offered water every day. The mare suckling a foal and doing regular work at the same time has a double burden to perform hence she should be worked, fed and cared for accordingly. When she is brought home at noon hot she should always be unharnessed and allowed to cool off before the foal is allowed to suck. The milk is not good for the colt when the mare is exceedingly hot. She can rest better, she will be cooler and the foal will be in less danger with the harness off in the stall. The two should have a roomy stall alone.

With hogs it is said that feeding the sow is equivalent to feeding the pigs. With brood mares it means more. Not only must the mare suckling a foal be nourished with a variety of the best feeds but she must have feeds that go to form milk, and some that furnish energy for doing work. The brood mare is more than a sow or cow giving milk; she works besides, which they do not, hence she must have better nourishment. If she is poorly nourished it means she will become weak and poor and the foal insufficiently nourished and likely to become poor and checked in growth. In addition to hay and corn to furnish energy for work the mare with a foal in summer should be fed with some oats, wheat, bran and shorts to better balance her ration. She cannot work hard and furnish milk on timothy hay and corn alone. If possible feed her some clover or alfalfa hay as they are rich in mineral and protein for furnishing milk.

For the good of the colt at least, if the youngster is confined in the stable during the day, turn the mare and colt out to the pasture every night and Sunday. The developing foal must have more exercise than it can possibly secure in a roomy stall. When it grows older and will eat it will obtain extra feed in the pasture.