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HORSES.

Exercise and Good Horses.

The Arabs, who, as a people, raise horses of the best quality (the cleanest, hardest bone, and with the largest proportion of muscle), have a saying that "rest and fat are the greatest enemies of the horse." There is also a natural law of atrophy, or withering up, which acts on any organ or system of the body that is not kept in constant use. The horse is essentially an animal of activities. We value him in proportion to the development of his powers of speed or draft. With winter necessitating stall feeding, comes the dangerous period of the horse's (especially the young horse's) life, for it is then that feed and exercise are most out of balance. With a feeling of kindness, or for reasons of convenience, many of our colts are kept in comfortable quarters, and well fed from one week to another, without more than an hour or two for exercise in the open air each day. This condition is not conducive to the best development of horseflesh. A rule laid down by Prof. Henry, who made a life study of methods of feeding all classes of stock, is that a mature horse should be in the open air not less than four or five hours a day, and should travel from ten to fifteen miles daily to maintain health; and a well-fed colt should be out of doors from eight to ten hours a day, and should move several miles, either in a yard or on a track. No one questions the soundness of such teaching, but many, from neglect or other reasons, omit to act upon such knowledge. One generation of horses may not show ill effects from "too kindly" treatment, but in years to come flabbiness of muscle, softness of bone, weakness of feet, and a generally impaired constitution will be the price of laxity in the matter of giving healthful exercise, not neglecting good food, to young horses or to other breeding stock.

The alumni and students of the Division of Agriculture of the Iowa State College, during the week of the International Live-stock Exposition, presented to the Saddle and Sirkoin Club of Chicago an excellent life-size oil portrait of Charles F. Curtiss, Dean of the Division of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station of the Iowa State College.

Diseases of the Digestive Organs of Horses.

(Continued.)

IMPACTION OF THE COLON.—Horses overabundantly fed, or kept upon food containing large quantities of indigestible or woody fiber, such as over-ripe hay, etc., are liable to suffer from the accumulation of such matter in any part of the large intestine, especially the large colon. This condition frequently occurs in horses that have been worked and fed on hay and oats for some months, who, after the weather turns cold in the fall, and there is little or no work for them, have their ration suddenly changed from hay to straw, which change is made when hay is scarce or high-priced. It may also be due to weakness of the digestive organs, or partial inactivity of their glands; want of exercise; sudden changes of food, etc. In other cases, like many diseases of the bowels, it may result from irregularities of the teeth, disease of the liver, or, in fact, to an inactive condition of the glands in any part of the digestive tract. As previously stated in discussing these diseases, the same causes operate in exciting the various diseases of the digestive organs, and it may not be out of order to again state that when horses are intelligently fed and exercised, care being taken that the quality of the food is good, and that the quantity be in accordance with the size of the animal and the amount of work or exercise performed, and any change in diet be gradually made, it is seldom that digestive diseases appear, unless it be in an animal with abnormally weak digestive powers, or one whose teeth require dressing. It may also be wise to remark that all horses over five years old, and often those even younger, would be the better if they had their teeth dressed by a competent man once every year. This statement will probably be considered by many as extravagant, but it is a fact, nevertheless, and the horseowner who attends to this matter regularly is amply repaid for his outlay, in the fact that his horses can masticate their food more thoroughly and without irritation, and as a consequence thrive better, look better, and are less liable to the diseases under discussion. Many will say, "My horses' teeth are all right, they eat well and keep in good condition." This may all be the case; it does not follow that because a horse consumes his food without apparent difficulty and without quidding, that his teeth are in first-class condition. If examined, in most cases there will be seen or felt sharp corners on the inner margin of the lower and the outer margin of the upper molars. These projections, while probably not materially interfering with mastication, cause more or less irritation to the tongue and cheeks, and hence, to say the least, cause sufficient irritation to make mastication more or less unpleasant.

SYMPTOMS.—The symptoms of impaction of the colon are not as violent as those of some of the diseases already noticed. The condition may be present for some time without any serious symptoms being shown. It may be noticed for a day or two that the animal has not voided his usual quantity of feces, and his appetite has not been quite normal. He will then show more or less well-marked colicky pains, become restless, paw, lie down, get up again, etc., and show more or less general uneasiness. The pulse will be slightly increased in frequency and force, and gradually become more frequent, and in most cases lose strength as the frequency increases. The mucous membranes are usually injected and inflamed. A peculiarity in the symptoms usually noticed is a desire to sit on his haunches, or when standing, to press his rump against any solid object. He resists the introduction of the hand or injections into the rectum, and if the ear be placed against the abdomen, an absence of the normal intestinal murmur will be noticed, and there will be either an absence of sound or a sort of a metallic murmur. There will be little or no feces voided, and a fullness of the abdomen, better marked on the right side, will be noticed. Where relief is not afforded, the symptoms increase in intensity, gases form, when the fullness of the abdomen will be more prominent; the pulse becomes almost imperceptible; he either walks aimlessly about, or throws himself down violently, rolls and struggles. Rupture of the intestine may now take place, which causes death in a few hours, or inflammation of the bowels results, which is equally fatal, though often not so soon.

TREATMENT.—As there is always partial or complete paralysis of the coats of the intestine, the administration of large doses of purgative medicines must be avoided until the paralysis is overcome. It is good practice to give a small purgative, say six drams aloes and two drams ginger, to an ordinary-sized horse. Follow up with two drams nux vomica about every eight hours. Combat pain by giving 1½ ozs. chloral

hydrate, 2 drs. solid extract of belladonna, or the hypodermic injection of 5 grs. morphine and ½ gr. atropia every two hours, or as the symptoms demand. Do not give opium, as it increases the constipation. Remove the contents of the rectum by hand, and give injections of warm water and a little soap per rectum every three or four hours. Some recommend the injection of a solution of aloes (about 1 oz. to a gallon of warm water) into the rectum, and when the horse will retain the injection this may give fair results. If gases form, give 2 ozs. oil of turpentine in a pint of raw linseed oil, or if practicable the hypodermic injection of 1½ grs. eserine. The latter should not be given when the pulse is very weak.

"WHIP."

Heavy Horses for British Markets.

This is a subject that never fails to draw a crowd to the lecture-room of the Winter Fair. This year, at Guelph, Mr. W. S. Sparks, of Canterbury, England, who intends settling in Canada to engage in the production of horses, and who has been conferring with his Excellency Lord Minto of late, on the practicability of encouraging horse-breeding in Canada, was the chief speaker. He said that for climatic and soil conditions Canada, and especially Ontario, was unsurpassed as a horse-raising country, and if all farmers and breeders would grasp the significance of producing horses of the marketable types, this country would very soon be the greatest horse center in the world. Britain wants draft horses in practically unlimited numbers, and good saddle and hunters in large consignments. The drafters should weigh over a ton, but if the quality is exceptionally good, a horse at sixteen or seventeen hundredweight will be taken. In Mr. Sparks' mind the best draft horse is produced by blending the blood of the Clyde and the Shire. The former imparts quality, good action and sloping pasterns, and the latter massiveness to the offspring. When an Old Countryman speaks of quality he means bone of a consistency approaching ivory, as compared with that of the consistency of soft bone. In the opinion of the speaker, Canadian breeders do not sufficiently emphasize the importance of soundness in the breeding stock. What should be done is to encourage stallioners to carry certificates of soundness as inducements to farmers to patronize sound stallions. Unsoundness can not successfully be legislated against, but the public should have some means of knowing accurately what horses are sound, and the choice of sires left to common sense. Ever since last year, when Mr. MacNeilage and Dr. Reed so amiably discussed the relative characteristics of the Clyde and Shire, the public has been waiting for some high authority to point out clearly the differences between the two breeds. This Mr. Spark succeeded in doing to Dr. Reed's satisfaction. The difference does not lie in the ancestry of the two breeds, for if their histories be traced out it will be found that both have descended from a common head, but the Scotch breeders have paid particular attention to the development of quality, sloping pasterns and action, while the Englishmen have endeavored to develop massiveness. At the present time, Mr. Spark contends, the ideal horse of each breed is not exactly the same, for the Scots overlook the importance of substance, and the English the importance of quality. The unbiased Canadian, however, he said, should blend the two, and so secure a perfect draft horse. Mr. Spark used limelight views to illustrate his address, and to show the class of horse required by the British market.

A Good Stallion for Ontario.

At a large sale of trotting horses, held in New York recently, Jos. Wetherill, Galt, Ont., purchased the stallion Oro Wilkes 2.11, by Sable Wilkes 2.18, dam Ellen Mayhew 2.22, by Director.

Concerning this sale the American Horseman says: "The sale of Oro Wilkes 2.11, to a Canadian breeder, again directs attention to the steady headway the trotter is making in the breeding circles of that country. A score of years ago the breeders of Canada who were interested in the trotter were an exceedingly small number as compared with those who were breeding Thoroughbreds. Since then, year by year, the trotter has assumed more importance, until now Canada boasts of some trotting-horse breeding establishments that compare favorably with the best breeding establishments of this country, and each season Canada sends into the Grand Circuit some trotters and pacers that are able to hold their own in the company they meet. The addition of Oro Wilkes to the list of Canadian sires will certainly have more than a passing effect on the breeding interests of that country."

Four thousand and fifty dollars was the price paid for this trotting stallion.

What profession to-day is more deserving of having a weekly publication issued in its interest than agriculture?