

Our Scottish Letter.

THE GLASGOW STALLION SHOW.

The season of horse shows has opened, and the Scottish Stallion Show of 1902, the first of the year, has just taken place. It has been a very good show in the main, and especially amongst the older horses the quality was high. The show for the third time was held in the Scotstown Show Grounds, about four miles west of the center of Glasgow. The Clydesdale stallion trade has undergone great changes during the past twelve years. At the beginning of that period, or perhaps earlier, very few horses were hired for service in districts until this stallion show, which then, indeed, was more a hiring fair than a show. In the year 1879 as many as 120 three-year-old stallions were shown in the Glasgow market on this day, and an almost equal number of aged horses. This year there were not more than 80 horses of two, three and four years old on the ground. Prior to the show, no fewer than 78 horses had been hired for service during the season, and of these 36 were owned by Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Netherhall & Banks, Kirkcudbright, and 21 were sons of their noted stud horse, Baron's Pride 9122. The other horse-owners in Scotland who had horses hired before the show were: Mr. James Kilpatrick, Craigie Mains, Kilmarnock; Mr. Matthew Marshall, Straman; Mr. Wm. Dunlop, Dunure Mains, Ayr; Mr. Andrew Dewar, Arnprior, Kippen; Mr. Peter Crawford, Dargavel, Dumfries; Mr. Wm. Clark, Netherlee, Cathcart; Mr. John Findlay, Springhill, Baillieston; Mr. John Crawford, Maurahead, Beith; Messrs. Mieklem, Begg, Kirkcaldy; Mr. D. L. Picken, Milton, Kirkcudbright; Mr. Herbert Webster, Morton House, Fence Houses; Mr. A. B. Matthews, Newton-Stewart; Mr. James Argo, Crannabog, Rothie-Norman; Mr. Ceur, Merrylee, Cathcart; Mr. William Park, Brunstane, Portobello; Mr. Ewen, Indrewer, Banff; Mr. William Taylor, Park Mains, Renfrew; Mr. W. S. Park, Hatton, Bishopton; Mr. W. R. Trotter, So. Acomb, Stocksfield-on-Tyne; Mr. St. Clair Cunningham, Hedderwickhill, Dunbar; the Seaham Harbour Stud Co. (Ltd.); Mr. Alexander Scott, Greenock; Mr. David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley; Mr. Malcolm Currie, Stubble Broomhill, Kirkintilloch; and Mr. Alex. Simpson, Whitecross, East Kilbride.

The impression on anyone who viewed the show must have been entirely favorable to the modern Clydesdale as an animal of weight and substance with plenty of action. The thirty aged horses—that is, four years old and upwards—were great, handsome animals, well colored, and, in general, well fitted to produce heavy draft horses. Most of them had exceptionally good action and stood well on their limbs. The champion of the show for the fourth time in succession was the great horse, Hiawatha 10067. He is now ten years old, and is owned by Mr. John Pollock, Papermill, Langside. His breeder was Mr. Hunter, Garthland Mains, Stranraer, and his sire, Prince Robert 7135, was second at the Royal, Windsor, in 1889, as a two-year-old, and in 1892 was first in the aged class at the Glasgow Stallion Show. He has bred good stock, and still survives as one of the best horses of his years. The chief trophy of the Clydesdale world is the 50-gs. Cawdor Challenge Cup, presented by the Clydesdale Horse Society. It was won by Hiawatha in 1898, 1899, 1901, and now, for a fourth time, in 1902. An owner only needs to win it three times before it becomes his property. Hiawatha, when first he won it, in 1898, was owned by Mr. Matthew Marshall, Stranraer, but in 1899, 1901 and 1902 he was owned by Mr. Pollock. He is a horse which has come slowly to maturity. He was narrow and "shelly" to begin with, but he has gone on thickening every year, and certainly never was such a horse as he is now in his tenth year. Two of his sons, Marcellus (11110) and Labori (10791), competed with him for the cup. They did not meet in the class competition, as Labori was only entered for the cup, and their respective merits were not compared by the judges. Marcellus is owned by Mr. Matthew Wanhall, and was last year generally regarded as the better horse of the two. This year few would be prepared to take up such a position. Labori is owned by Mr. A. B. Matthews, and is a marvelously improved horse. He moves well and stands on capital legs and feet. He was brought out in the best of bloom and would have made a strong second to his sire. Marcellus stood second in the class competition to his sire. He was hired in July last, on very high terms, to travel in Strathmore; in fact, he is the highest-priced horse of the season. Labori has been hired by the Gervain & Ballantrae Society in Ayrshire, and doubtless the members there congratulate themselves on their bargain. The third-prize horse in the open class was Mr. Wm. Taylor's Sir Simon 10465, bred by Mr. Cross, of Knockdon, and a very notable show horse. He is a dark brown son of the famous Sir Everard 5353, and

was bred at Knockdon, by Mr. Cross. He is nearly six years old, and in competition with all the other aged horses in the show, except Hiawatha, Labori, and Marcellus, he was awarded the £80 premium to travel the breeding district around Glasgow. Mr. Walter S. Park's Lothian's Bert 10374, a very thick horse of great weight, followed in fourth place. The fifth was Mr. Peter Crawford's Carabineer 10522, an upstanding, lofty son of Baron's Pride; the sixth, Mr. A. B. Matthew's very big powerful horse, Enigma 10739, whose sire was the American-bred stallion, Prince Cedric 10253; and the seventh, Mr. Peter Crawford's Hillhead Chief 10774, a strong, useful, clean-boned horse.

The three-year-old horses were about equal in numbers to the older ones, but they were not at all equal to them in merit. The winner in the open class, which also competed for the Cawdor Cup, was Mr. William Park's Marmion 11429, a horse with extraordinary action and up to plenty of substance. The hair on his legs is rather curly, and although he has a good hind leg, the horse which stood next to him has a better. This is Mr. Matthew Manhall's Manorama, to which the Glasgow junior premium of £80 had been awarded earlier in the day. Manorama is a bay horse, with a faultless hind leg. He was bred by Mr. Thomas Crawford, Dowhill, Girvan, and is strongly inbred to Prince of Wales and Darnley. His sire was the Cawdor Cup champion horse, Prince Alexander 8899, and his dam was by another Cawdor Cup champion, Prince of Kyle 7155. Both these horses were got by Prince of Wales 673, out of mares by Darnley 222, so that the quality of Manorama may be easily understood. If he had as good a fore foot as he has a hind leg, he would be an out-and-out champion. After Manorama came Baronson 10981, a horse of choice quality, with excellent feet and legs, but very moderate hind action. He is also owned by Mr. Marshall. The fourth horse was Mr. Cunningham's Alexander Everard 11242, the biggest horse in the class and the Dalkeith premium horse of this year. Mr. Jas. A. Wallace had fifth, with a promising colt named Nick o' Time 11411, and Mr. Taylor was sixth with Sir Edward (11193), a colt which ran Manorama close for the Glasgow premium. The last horse ticketed was Carnegie 11296, owned by Mr. Currie.

In the two-year-old class there were some promising young horses, but the leader was easily found in Mr. W. S. Park's thick colt, Ardlethen 11246, a son of Gold Mine 9540, and bred in Aberdeenshire by Mr. Robert Copland.

A shipment of nine useful, well-bred horses was this week made by Messrs. Dalgety Bros., London, Ont., to Canada. Amongst them are sons of William the Conqueror 9093, the champion Prince of Carruchan 8157, the good breeding horse, Prince of Galloway 8919, all sons of Prince of Wales 673; the champion Hiawatha 10067; the good big horse, Prince Cedric, sire of Enigma; the big, flat-boned stallion, Ethiopia 5750, for many years stud horse at Keir; and Gallant Potteath and The Gallant, both sons of Top Gallant 1850, a great horse twenty years ago, and the former first at the H. & A. S. Show at Inverness in 1892. These horses should prove profitable in Canada as breeding animals.

"SCOTLAND YET."

Judging Ring for Horses.

We are pleased to note that at the annual meeting of the Western Fair (London, Ont.) the subject of providing a separate ring for the judging of heavy and other classes of horses not included in the speeding events was introduced and very favorably considered. Heretofore, all those important classes have been judged in the space within the race track, and from which the public are excluded, so that one of the most valuable educational features of this exhibition is practically lost entirely. Without a field glass the placing of the awards in these classes could not be witnessed from the grand stand, and even then imperfectly. Large numbers of our young horsemen are intensely interested in the judging, and it is one of the very best ways in which knowledge of horsemanship can be picked up. As "Whip" suggests in another column, every facility should be afforded for seeing the awards made and requiring judges, if need be, to state publicly to the onlookers the reasons for their decisions. The Western Fair Board have ample space for such a ring, and we hope to see it provided for the approaching show. Other fairs should do likewise, making provision so that the horse stock can be viewed with comfort. Proper announcement should be made in advance when the different classes are to be judged, and we desire to see the catalogue idea more generally adopted. Our horse industry is reviving, and the plan suggested above is one of the best means of promoting an intelligent interest in the subject.

Mr. J. Q. Dixon, of Missouri, U. S. A., writes: "The copies of the *Farmers' Advocate* received are the finest journals of the kind I have ever seen, and I have seen many in every corner from Suez to San Francisco."

An Item of Interest to Stallioners and Horse Breeders.

WHY DO MARES BREAK SERVICE?

The pure-bred brood female is usually looked upon as a good investment by most stockmen. There are, however, many instances to be found of big sums of money being invested, with practically no return. Especially has this been the case with some mares, the writer having known instances of registered mares for which their owners paid from \$400 to \$600 each, and from which, owing to bad management or misfortune during the period of pregnancy, never a live foal was obtained. While many causes may be advanced for such results, the question asked above, "Why do mares break service?" will draw the attention of horsemen to an occurrence which to many has been a serious annoyance, and which has been considered by many a horse breeder as something entirely beyond his control.

Most breeders will understand what is meant by breaking service, but for those who do not, we explain: Mares are often known to settle after service as if safe with foal, only to come in season again during the third month.

This fact has caused the lengthening of the season by the stallioner from eight weeks to ten, or even twelve weeks, which, of course, means added expense to the stallion owner and an additional draft on the procreative powers of the stallion, usually, too, at the hottest time of the year.

Prof. Cossar Ewart, whose investigations into the problem of telegony (influence of a previous impregnation on subsequent pregnancies) have interested the scientific and stock-breeding world, made, some time ago, investigations looking to the cause of the trouble under discussion. From examinations made of horse embryos in various stages of development, and the tracing of the processes of evolution in the history of the horse, some valuable deductions were drawn, one of which was that at a certain period, a critical one, the young equine may be thrust into the world, only to perish; that period past, natural development can go along and the foal be born in due course. From the beginning to the end of pregnancy in the mare, the connections between the embryo and the womb are easily broken down; hence, if the mare's womb is in an unhealthy condition or contractions of that organ are set up, the horse embryo is easily loosened from its uterine attachments, and is lost.

From examinations made of embryos of various ages, it has been found that about the 7th week is the period at which the connection between the mare and embryo is the weakest, because just at that time a change is taking place, namely, the embryo is ceasing to be sustained from the yolk-sac of the ovum, and is beginning to get its sustenance from the blood vessels developing in the fetal and maternal membranes.

At the end of the 6th week, as at the end of the 3rd week, the reproductive system is in a more or less excitable condition. The physiological changes occurring during oestrus (the period of heat) are likely to appear in a more or less pronounced form at the end of both the 3rd and 6th weeks; in other words, the habit which the nervous and other systems have of becoming periodically excited is not apparently quite thrown off for some weeks after a fruitful service. In mares, the eggs (ova) which have started to develop in the ovary may be matured and discharged some weeks after the mares, if bred, have settled to the service. Such cases have been known to stockmen. There is a case on record of a mare bearing twins, a foal and a mule, the service of the jackass having been given 15 days after the service by the horse. The escape of the eggs is accompanied by an extra supply of blood to the ovaries and the womb (uterus), accompanying which phenomena will be increased nervous excitement of these organs, increased secretion of the glands, and contractions, more or less powerful, of the muscular fibers of the embryo-carrying and nourishing organ, the womb or uterus. This periodic disturbance is likely to be greater in mares not previously bred. On the other hand, owing to the development of the blood vessels in mares who have born foals or recently foaled, the congestion is not as marked in the uterine or ovarian blood vessels, consequently there is less likelihood of the disturbance of the sexual organs being so great. From what has been already mentioned, there are two causes for the breaking of service: First, the periodic disturbance occurring at the 3rd and 6th weeks; and, second, at the end of 7th week, owing to the weak connection existing at that time between the embryo and the dam.

THE CASE FOR THE STALLIONER.

From the recital of the above studies, the following deductions may be made:

1. Mares which have been indoors during the winter, and which are to run at grass during the