

foot when they find it needing, or rather needful, for the farrier. I use the word needful advisedly, as there have been cases in which colts have, when still in a young, tender and awkward condition, been plated too early. I think that those which are not wanted for showing might well have their feet, in the majority of cases, left alone till rising two at least, and some, unless for going on the road, would go so far as not to call in the aid of the shoeing smith till the colt is two and a half years old.

If one means to exhibit, begin shoeing for show right off, and have the feet continually attended to in this direction afterwards. Even should shoes not be affixed at all, the feet should be dressed level, so that there should be uniformity of the parts which bear the concussion. Though we do not think weak hoofs can ever be made really very strong under the farrier's hands, still they can be bettered to some little extent, and further defection in a wrong direction checked.

It may happen that a colt of more than passing merit, having pedigree and bone, may not be satisfactory in his action, i.e., he may be out-toed or come on to you with something of a dishing action. In regard to the latter, it no doubt has its origin in the natural conformation higher up, and is not likely to be corrected at the ground. As to the first, a colt carefully handled and shod may have his approach made much more even and pleasing in the eyes of show-yard judges, as his elbows may be induced to get out a little from his body and move parallel to the feet. All this is a matter for the breeding owner to determine for himself, but in far too many cases he leaves it entirely to the local blacksmith, who may be a powerful and skilled man at welding a grubber, but possess little or no knowledge of the delicate laminated structures of a horse's foot. In many cases he will entrust the first part of the operation, the use of rasp or knife, to some apprentice, whilst he knocks the shoes out of their rude form into something like shape. In this way, no doubt, are sown the seeds of sidebones, no matter whether the colt or filly has or has not a hereditary tendency in this particular direction. If one wishes to have his colt grow up sound at the ground, he should appoint a special day with the shoeing smith, and have the animal walked a few times up and down in his presence, and thereafter made to stand still and lean his weight evenly on all fours, as he ought to do in a show-ring. Some intelligent idea will then be formed as to the way the horse will or could, with some little art, be made to wear his hoofs either to showyard success or street longevity. Nowadays gentlemen in good circumstances take their children when young to be examined by a skilled dentist, and the result is lack of suffering facial expression, and good mastication never can be undervalued. Many a powerful, handsome man in the old days had to waddle through life on inturmed feet which the surgeon could have made straight for him when quite an infant. All this considered, an owner or his stud manager should be present when the first shoes are affixed, and see that the work is skillfully done. It is, unfortunately, too often the case that the shoeing shed is too close to the forge; that there is a banging and clanging and scattering of sparks, followed by an application of the rough shoe fizza at white heat to the horny matrix; this latter process repeated several times. Small wonder is it that some colts, when grown up to stallions, resent being shod.

Whilst certain defects may be arrested to a considerable extent in shoeing, it is no doubt the case that some may be created, and we have known colts that never knuckled over till they had worn hind shoes. This fault, too common in our show-yards nowadays in the young horse, is little more than a systematic resting of the body, the pasterns in such cases being somewhat weak. If a colt shows an inclination to knuckle, his hind shoeing should be specially studied, not less so in the gelding than in the stallion. Weak loins and knuckling pasterns, with weaving or twisting action, are the causes of nearly all the severe falls on our streets, condition of pavements fully considered. In regard to shoeing generally, the moment an owner has committed himself to it, he must attend to it every week, or, indeed, as often as he can. One continually comes across colts which, through checked growth of horn downwards, have the coronets thrown out and the whole hoof rendered shapeless. There is no remedy afterwards; success in the show-ring is a matter of impossibility, and in the fair a dealer will not look twice at him if he is wanted for the street.

It would be well if some simple treatise on the horse's hoof were issued for the benefit of apprentice blacksmiths—something freed from the technical professional jargon which it is impossible for them to master. A very little knowledge would prevent them committing errors which are now far too common and lead to a general increase in work-horse values, as well as the avoidance of much lameness and litigation.

Breeding Fall Colts.

There are several reasons why the practice of having mares reproduce in the fall, rather than in the spring, should be more common than it is. Of course, for show or racing purposes, when the animal is under three years old, the production of fall colts is not advisable, as the age of horses for these purposes is reckoned from January 1st of the year in which they are born, hence a foal born in the fall would have to compete with those several months older, either in the show-ring or on the track; but the reader who does not show or race his horses until they reach maturity, would probably find it more profitable to have his foals born in the fall.

There is no doubt that a large percentage of the fatalities in spring foals is due to the manner in which their dams have been fed and used during the latter months of pregnancy. Especially on farms where there are sufficient horses to perform the winter work without using pregnant mares, they are usually allowed to put in their time in perfect idleness, often not even given a box stall, but are tied in a single stall and well fed on hay and oats, and if the weather be rough,

on grass, from the fact that the microbe that causes the disease is not so liable to be present in the pasture field as in the stable. All breeders know that the production of late fall or early winter foals is not an easy matter, as mares do not usually show oestrus in cold weather, but we advocate having mares foal in the early fall, while still on pasture. The fall colt, as stated, cannot with equal chances compete in the show-ring or on the race-track during colthood, with the spring colt, but at maturity should be as good or a better animal, especially if the dam has been worked while nursing, hence we think that for the ordinary breeder fall production will give the better results. "WHIP."

LIVE STOCK.

South African Live-stock Development.

Mr. W. J. Palmer, B. S. A., the Canadian Director of Agriculture in the Orange River Colony, recently made an important speech in the Legislative Council regarding the future of the Colony from an agricultural and stock-breeding point of view. He said: "The policy of my Department is to make the Orange River Colony the greatest stock-producing Colony in the Empire, and I claim this can be done. At present there are 4,000,000 sheep and goats in the Colony, and this year the production of wool and mohair amounted to £540,000. The farmers can increase the number of sheep and goats to 8,000,000, and so improve wool and mohair that the average per animal will be 5s., instead of 2s. 7d. The total output would then reach £2,000,000. This, I repeat, can be done. The first importation of 7,000 highly-bred Australian sheep will arrive in September, and will be distributed to the farmers. These sheep have been, in fact, already over-applied for. There is no other country in the world with so little land not suitable for stock-raising as the Orange River Colony. There is hardly a square foot in the Colony on which stock cannot be raised. In the Transvaal, and also in Cape Colony, there are large stretches where stock cannot thrive; but this is not so in the Orange River Colony. As regards horses, the Orange River Colony can easily carry 100,000 breeding mares, as against 20,000 or 30,000 at present. The endurance of the Orange River Colony horse was proved during the war, against animals from all parts of the world. We can produce an animal by judiciously mating Thoroughbred and Arab sires with good mares which can stand a continuous journey in cart or with saddle of sixty miles per diem for a week, and which will be in demand all over the world. As for cattle, there are at present 500,000 head in the Colony, which can easily carry 1,000,000. The Colony would then do a large export trade in hides, and the industries springing up would use the products for various leather manufactures within its borders."

Use the Term Shorthorn, not Durham.

Even at this day and age, September, nineteen hundred and six, Arno Domini, correspondence still comes to our office in which the old-fashioned name, "Durham" is used to designate the cosmopolitan breed of cattle, now officially known everywhere as "Shorthorn," and occasionally it will be found in local show prize-lists or sale announcements. A short time ago the Cuban customs authorities got into a tangle because a United States exporters landed a consignment of Shorthorns in that island, expecting to enter them duty-free. The officials were not cognizant of any such breed, though their customs regulations provide for free entry of "Durham" breeding cattle. It required the tactful representations of diplomacy to convince them that a cow sporting the breed name of "Shorthorn" was also a Durham within the spirit and meaning of their law. It is perhaps pardonable that our brethren of the Indies should be unfamiliar with common livestock parlance, but surely it is time for Canadians to drop archaic terms and accord the breed its proper and modern appellation, Shorthorn.



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