

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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row with the hoe as with the turnip crop. Rich soil is required, and it is high time the crop was in. For pigs, provided clover is not available, rape is good. This crop may be also used for fall pasture for young cattle and sheep. It is bad for milk cows, as it gives the milk a strong turnip flavor. These are a few crops which may be made use of to good advantage during the coming summer. Remember winter is not the only time when it is necessary to feed, and remember also that grain is not always the most profitable farm crop, even though prices may be high. The summer silo, we believe, will some day solve the summer-feeding problem, but until it comes other feeds must be provided.

### Cutting Off the Military Heel.

This war is exploding some old theories. It has been held in the past that nothing but years of training could make really dependable soldiers, and yet in this fight territorials, colonials, recruits with a few months hard training have faced the finest of Germany's super-trained armed host and have routed the very flower of Prussia's guard regiments. Men of Canada have stood shoulder to shoulder with British regulars, and acquitted themselves nobly. Men of Australia, of New Zealand, of South Africa, men from the shops and the farms of Britain, France, Russia, India, and all the colonies, untrained men in many instances are now among the pick of the fighting units. Men from the colonies of Great Britain for the most part have lived all their lives in peace. They have grown up strong, healthy, true men who, while abhorring war, make brave and valorous men when the right is challenged or their country threatened. They have enjoyed

freedom and freedom once enjoyed fights autocracy with a vengeance which no army, no matter how well trained, can hold in check. This is a war of mechanisms. All the machinery which human ingenuity can muster for destroying life is in use, and yet behind it all must be the cause, the duty and the man. Canadian troops, all the troops in the Allies' lines believe they are fighting for the right, and that it is their duty to fight. The rest comes easy. They are men who have enjoyed freedom and peace, and they wish to cut off and cast away forever the military heel which has sought to crush Europe and the world under its crunching, grinding, autocratic load.

## THE HORSE.

### Retention of the Meconium or Constipation in Foals.

Retention of the meconium in foals is probably responsible for more fatalities than any other abnormal condition. During foetal life the liver of the foetus secretes a little bile. This becomes inspissated in the small intestines and formed into balls, almost black in color, of a gummy, sticky nature and of various sizes and is called meconium. At birth a considerable quantity of this material exists, most of it in the rectum and floating colon and under normal conditions its expulsion commences soon after birth and continues at intervals until it is all expelled which is usually in about 24 hours, after which the faecal matter is yellow. The passage of yellow excrement indicates that the meconium has been all voided and that now passing is the excreta from nourishment taken after birth. While retention of the meconium may occur under any and all sanitary conditions it is more frequently observed in early foals, whose dams have been fed on dry fodder and have had little exercise during the winter. The foals of mares that have had regular exercise or light work during the winter and been fed on soft, laxative, easily-digested food do not so frequently suffer, but the condition is liable to occur even under these circumstances, and is not unknown in late foals, whose dams have been on grass for a greater or less length of time before parturition. Again, the condition is very liable to occur in foals of dams from which milk has been escaping for some time before parturition. The first milk or fluid that escapes from the mammae of a female after or shortly preceding parturition is of a different character, both as to appearance and constituents, from real milk. It is of a clear, viscid nature and of an oily appearance. It contains more constituents of a laxative nature than milk does. Its function is to nourish the young animal and at the same time exert a slightly laxative action upon the bowels. It is called "colostrum" and if, from any cause the young animal is deprived of it there is a greater danger of retention of the meconium than under other conditions. At the same time it must not be considered necessary, or even desirable to substitute purgatives when the colostrum is absent. The administration of purgatives in such cases, (unless in very small doses) usually complicates matters and renders incurable a condition that in all probability could have been successfully treated. The meconium, as stated, exists in lumps of a tough gummy nature of about the consistence of putty. In the majority of cases where it is not spontaneously passed, these lumps, with which the rectum is full are so large that the little animal has not sufficient expulsive power to force them through the anus. In such cases it is obvious that purgatives are harmful, as they act upon and fluidify the contents of the anterior intestines, increase the backward action (called peristaltic action) of the same, but have no action upon the contents of the rectum. We can readily see how this, by increasing the action of the anterior intestine without removing the obstruction to the escape of faeces from the rectum will increase distress and lessen the hope of successful treatment. Hence we should be very careful about dosing the foal with purgatives or laxatives, but depend largely upon mechanical treatment.

**SYMPTOMS.**—The symptoms are plain. The foal arches his back, elevates his tail and makes ineffectual efforts to defecate. At first the distress is not great, but as time goes on these ineffectual attempts become more frequent and longer continued; he becomes restless, rolls on his back, takes little nourishment, becomes tucked up in the flanks, grinds his teeth, becomes weaker and weaker, suffers intense abdominal pain, looks around at his side and eventually dies.

**TREATMENT.**—As stated, purgatives should seldom be given. When the first symptoms are shown the attendant should trim the nail of his fore finger, oil it, get an assistant to hold the foal and then introduce the finger carefully into the rectum and remove all the lumps that he can reach. In the meantime the foal makes expulsive

efforts and as the meconium is removed from the rectum a fresh supply is forced into it and it is not unusual for the operator to remove a pint or more. This should be followed by the injection into the rectum of a liberal supply of soapy warm water or warm water and raw linseed oil or glycerine in equal quantities. In the course of two to three hours the operation should be repeated and every few hours afterwards until the faeces become yellow. So long as the meconium reaches the rectum and can be removed by the finger or by the use of a doubled wire it is not wise to give any medicines whatever by the mouth, but when this is not the case it is well to give 1 to 2oz. of castor or raw linseed oil, the former preferred, but in no case should drastic purgatives—as aloes—be given, except in very small doses, as diarrhoea is very easily excited and very quickly weakens the foal. It is good practice to remove the meconium as stated from all foals. The operation, if carefully performed, so as to not irritate or scarify the parts does not injure the foal in the least, and in all cases saves more or less exertion, and while in many cases it is not necessary, it is better to be on the safe side and anticipate trouble, rather than wait for its symptoms. The lives of many foals would be saved if this precaution were taken early. Foals should be carefully watched in this respect until the faeces passed are of a yellowish color, after which there is little danger of constipation if the mare be properly fed.

WHIP.

### The Effect of War on Breeds of Horses.

Since the days of early history accounts of horses and their services during war have come down to us. In many battles the mortality has been high, and no doubt it will be during the present conflict. However, the British Government has taken steps in advance of all previous campaigns to conserve the wounded animals, and through skillful surgery return them if possible to service. If a wounded horse is not likely to recover in time to be of any use it is dispatched at once, but the equipment and service for treating horses is so far in advance of previous operations that no doubt many horses will be spared that would otherwise have perished. Horses are a valuable adjunct of the army, and in spite of the fact that motor power has been wonderfully developed the horse is still required. Apart from the immediate service of the horse during war time it has had a wonderful influence in the making and building up of most breeds consequent to invading armies, and the breeding animals which remain after the conquest.

Most of the belligerent countries have a type of horse characteristic of their nation, and the majority of these breeds have been influenced by the horses of invading armies, or by the influences of the operations of war itself.

As early as 1522 the Turks invaded Hungary, five hundred thousand strong, which number, so history says, included three hundred thousand horsemen. The Mohammedans were defeated and driven from the country, but they left behind a great number of their horses. Since that time the Arab horse has been bred largely in Hungary. The Master of the Horse in the Army was a Bedouin of the desert, thoroughly familiar with the breed, and his duty was to select the best stallions for the Royal studs. In addition to the Royal studs Hungary boasted of one hundred and fifty private studs in which were to be found five thousand Arab mares of purest blood.

The Saracen invasion of France in the early part of the eighth century has been held accountable for a large number of Arab and Barb horses left in that country. They probably came from the East, and were no doubt crossed on the horses of La Perche and influenced to some extent the make-up and character of the modern Percheron.

The history of the Shire horse of England traces back into the days of the Roman conquest and almost prehistoric times. We have to hand no direct information about any influences of foreign horses, yet the general military spirit of England during the development of the Shire horse is responsible to a certain extent for the size and character of the great cart horse. The Shire was developing during the period when armor was worn, and it was necessary that a horse be of good size and be able easily to bear a heavy weight in the saddle. In the sixteenth century in England a man's armor weighed 99½ lbs., the horse's armor 81 lbs., and the spear 20 lbs., a total of approximately 200 lbs. These figures are according to a Tower of London official's report, and adding to them the weight of a man the horse had to support nearly 400 lbs. This no doubt had considerable influence in the development of the Shire horse.

It has been assumed that the greater part of the Roman cavalry at one time consisted of Belgian horses. Tacitus, the historian and well-known writer of the first century A. D. commented on the extensive buying of horses from Belgium and the inability of the people to furnish as many