

THE HORSE.

The Brood Mare Thin But Useful.

A few days ago we paid a visit to one of the leading stock farms in Wellington county, and on our way to the pasture field, wherein grazes daily some of the cream of the Shorthorn blood of Canada, we passed a small paddock in which a big Clydesdale brood mare was pasturing just previous to foaling. The owner remarked that she was a very good mare but in low condition. We stopped to take a look. The mare had, one of the best sets of feet and legs seen for some time, but she was thin and would appear to the average man rather plain. The plainness was all due to low condition, but, as her owner pointed out, she is a brood mare and is kept on the place for the work she will do and the colts she will raise. She has proven a very useful mare and a successful breeder largely because she is not kept fat and is made to do the ordinary farm work along with other work horses. She is raising some excellent colts and is yearly proving valuable to her owner, who made the statement that the only way he could get strong, living colts was by keeping the mare down in flesh and making her do her share of the farm work. There should be a point in this for the man who has had what he is always ready to call "bad luck" with mares kept in too high condition and bled up too much during their period of pregnancy. It is very often the case that a grade mare, commonly called a scrub on the farm, which gets very little care and is forced to work most of the time has far better success with her colts than has the registered or perhaps imported mare which does no work to speak of, and is fed heavily on grain year in and year out. If more of the real good mares of the country were made to do some work and were not fed so many oats and so much stronger grain, there would be less trouble with mares failing to conceive, and also mares losing colts at time of parturition or producing very weak foals which give trouble to raise. Every mare should do light work, preferably up very close to the time of foaling. After foaling she should have rest for at least two or three weeks, generally longer. Some who have plenty of horses to do the summer work prefer to turn the mare with her foal away to grass for the entire summer. This gives the colt a good chance to get a start. No mare should be called upon to do much heavy work while nursing a foal. The main thing is to give work enough during the winter and spring up to foaling time to insure plenty of exercise, and a mare a little thin in flesh is more likely to produce a strong, living foal than one over-loaded with fat.

Another point brought out in this instance was the use of a small field or grass plot near the building. This particular mare was expected to foal any day when we saw her. The grass plot right beside the barn made it an easy matter for the stockman to watch her, and, after the colt is foaled, during the period in which it is not safe to allow the youngster to get wet, the paddock is very handy, being situated so that the mare and foal may be quickly run into the stable when a passing shower comes up.

Horse Sense.

While riding in an automobile a few days ago, the writer met a democrat wagon drawn by a team of young, lively, light horses. As the machine neared the team, the driver of the latter lifted his hand signalling the car to stop, which was done immediately. Alongside the car one of the men in the wagon said that they only wished to get the colts accustomed to automobiles. The team was driven very close to the machine. No whip was necessary and no great excitement was evidenced on the part of the driver or any one of the six or seven occupants of the rig. Quietly speaking subdued words of confidence to his fine young team the driver drew them up close to the car and they sniffed and pricked up their pointed ears in wonder, but not in fright. They passed safely and we went on our way. But what a difference in methods of sending horses past objects strange to them! Another man yells, curses and whips and gets into endless trouble. He rattles his horses; puts them on edge and blames them and the object of which they are scared for everything that happens, when in reality he is often to blame for most of the trouble himself. We admired the quiet manner in which this particular driver handled a spirited team, which, under this treatment, will soon become quiet and dependable, though lively. There are more horses ruined by bad management than by all other means combined. Be quiet and sensible with the horses, and they will be quiet and sensible with you.

Horses Shy; Why?

The other day there came under our notice a young horse which foolishly became very frightened at a shining milk can sitting at the side of the road. The driver, either bad tempered or a poor horseman, feverishly yanked out the whip and standing up in the front of his democrat slashed and lashed the poor frightened colt, making a far sorer exhibition of his lack of common sense than the horse had done of his lack of horse sense the result of bad handling and poor horsemanship.

Picking up "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal" of Winnipeg, Man., we found that "Dell Grattan" had given some causes and cures for horses shying. We hope that the man who abused the colt reads this and also that every other man who does not know how to handle a colt which is inclined to shy takes a lesson therefrom.

Shying is probably the most frequent of the driver's bad habits or vices that are met with in horses. Certainly it is amongst the most common forms of vice, and it also ranks as one of the worst, being extremely troublesome to contend with, and when once it has become ingrained in a horse it is generally found to be incurable. In bad cases of shying, moreover, a distant element of danger is involved; nasty, and sometimes fatal, accidents have been caused through it. It is therefore, not surprising that shyers should be held in such bad repute, and that no one will willingly buy one if he can help it, or that the fact of a horse being addicted to this propensity should much depreciate its value in the market. There are various causes which give rise to the habit, the principle one undoubtedly being nervousness or fear, although confirmed shyers will in many cases shy more from sheer force of habit when meeting an unfamiliar object than for any other more tangible reason. Very often the vice is acquired solely as the result of bad management on the part of the driver or through incompetent breaking, or if not actually originated in this way, these particular causes are in a great many cases operative in developing, intensifying and confirming the trouble, this being the case a good deal more often than is commonly suspected.

It is manifestly quite wrong to punish a colt for shying at unfamiliar sights, yet how generally

kindness. If possible, it should be allowed to have a good look at the object at close quarters, or even to smell it, so that it may convince itself of its harmlessness. This may seem slow process and try one's patience, but it is the quickest in the end, for it will save much future trouble, and is most effective in quickly obliterating the natural inclination to shy at strange sights, inherent in most young horses.

Among the reasons commonly assigned why horses shy is defective vision, but this cause probably does not give rise to the evil nearly as frequently as is generally imagined, if indeed it operates as an inducing cause at all, except in quite isolated cases. Minor defects of the eyesight, which merely cause distortion, but do not actually impede the sight, are most unlikely to engender shying, and it is only in cases where the vision is so defective that the horse cannot really see properly, or is partially blinded, that this disability might conceivably induce the habit, although even here the probability of this contingency is much discounted, if not entirely refuted, by the fact that the wearing of blinkers, which greatly impairs a horse's field of vision, does not lead to shying, but that on the contrary the use of blinkers is specially resorted to with the object of obviating or reducing the tendency to shy in harness horses. It is also a well-known fact that horses generally are much less liable to shy when driven or ridden in the dark than during the day time, and frequently even confirmed shiers are found not to shy at all when it is dark. All these facts indubitably point to the conclusion that in most cases where defective eyesight is alleged to be at the bottom of the habit, the real explanation of the trouble is to be sought in nervousness or timidity or in some other cause of obscure nature.

LIVE STOCK.

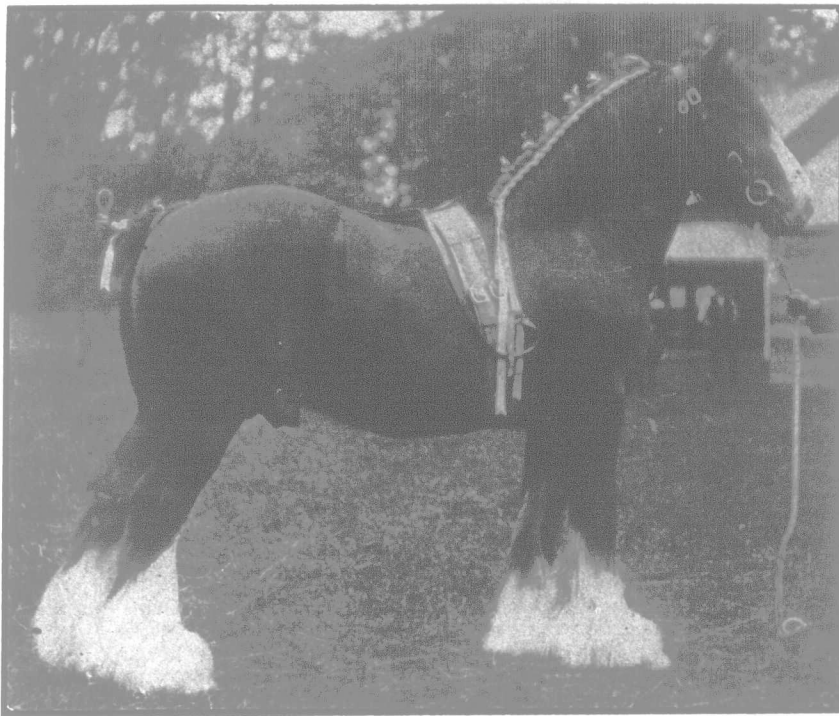
A Costly Mistake.

In connection with the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States it is generally admitted that "somebody blundered." Upon its first appearance it was considered an inconsequential trouble affecting only the mouth of the animal, but it has since cost the United States approximately ten million dollars; it caused the Dairy-Show Cattle of 1914, numbering 750 and among which was one Canadian herd, to be quarantined for about three-quarters of a year; it precluded the possibility of holding the International Fat Stock Show last fall; it has tied up States and stock yards; it has postponed sales; it has disturbed the market for beef and breeding cattle; in fact the foot-and-mouth disease demoralized the greatest industry of the United States in such a way that it can only regain its previous stability through time.

Reports are current which, if proved true, will tend to make the veterinary profession rather unpopular in the State of Michigan where violent outbreaks got beyond the limits of a really inconsequential disease. Its introduction to the Chicago Stock Yards was also sadly regretted, and

it appears from press discussions that stockmen are not slow to lay considerable blame at the door of the administration of the live-stock industry. Serum, it is understood, has been used successfully in Germany for a number of years in the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease. When the breeders inquired why such a serum was not used in the United States some veterinarians replied that it was "too expensive for stockmen to use." The cost would be \$7.50 per animal, and the breeders thought it should have been left with them to decide whether they could or could not afford to protect their pure-bred stock at that expense. Animal products come into the United States from foreign countries where foot-and-mouth disease is admittedly beyond control. This breeders declared should be guarded against, but at present they are more particularly concerned with the scourge at home and what they consider its unwarranted spread.

When the whole matter is cleared up it may result in the vesting of more authority with the breeders of live stock, and awakening the veterinary profession to a realization of the importance of the industry and their relation to it.



Blaisdon Draughtsman.

Two-year-old Shire stallion. First at the Bath and West.

is punishment meted out when this occurs, the animal being pulled about with the bit, roughly spoken to, and forced to pass the object of which it is afraid at the point of the whip, probably receiving a further dose of unmerited punishment after it has passed it. The results following on this wrong-headed procedure are correspondingly unfortunate, for its effect simply is to upset the young horse still further and to accentuate its nervousness, so rendering it more troublesome and intractable. It also quickly learns to associate the infliction of punishment with the act of shying, and thus is caused to shy in worse fashion on future occasions, because of its fear of being punished, while often that fear leads to its trying to bolt after shying, which is a very dangerous trick.

The kind of mismanagement alluded to is just the thing that is likely to develop the so-to-speak innocent form of shying to which young colts are addicted into a permanent, incurable and dangerous habit, and in many cases it does so. The proper way to deal with a young horse that shies from inexperience, nervousness or diffidence is to eschew all violent methods and to resort to