

before, get a tongue truck for that wide binder, and mark the difference in this particular.

The breeding season is now practically over. What is to become of the stallion? Is he to be placed in a stall, there to remain in darkness and seclusion until time to commence another year's service? Far better would it be to put him to work and make him earn his keep, at the same time keeping him in excellent condition for breeding sound, healthy foals. At least give him daily exercise in a paddock or on a line.

If the rush of work cultivating corn and hoed crops, harvesting the season's crop, and commencing the early autumn cultivation, necessitates that the mare with colt at side must work, it will be found profitable to give her a little extra feed, and at the same time provide the colt with a separate box from which he may get a liberal ration of oats and bran to make up for the loss he sustains in the falling off in milk supplied by his dam, due to the extra work.

Rope Horseshoes.

A writer in The Country Gentleman describes, from German reports, rope horseshoes, which have been in common use in Germany since the rapid increase of asphalt and wood-block pavements. They are made from both forged and cast iron, with a deep groove on the under side; into this a section of tarred rope is fitted, which, when once forced in, remains there without further fastening. The rope is about three-fourths of an inch thick, and sometimes has a steel wire running through the center. In Munich, about 90 per cent. of the hind feet and seventy per cent. of the fore feet of horses are shod with these shoes. Their average life is about six or eight weeks.

They are light and comfortable, prevent slipping, break the concussion, and deaden the sound of the hoof. On the other hand, the driving of the nails requires more care, a larger quantity of shoes of various sizes and shapes must be kept in stock, and in making them great care must be taken not to overheat the iron or hammer it when it is too cold; otherwise, it will crack on the anvil. The shoes are sold in bundles of 20 for \$9.16, a hundred kilos—220.46 pounds.

Draft Horse Judging.

A. S. Alexander says the judging of horses is an art to be acquired by careful observation, practice and experience. Not every man has the naturally keen observing powers and love of the subject peculiar to some men who become notable experts, yet all may acquire a practical, useful knowledge of the exterior of the horse by methodical and conscientious study. To become a proficient judge of horses is worth striving after. The attainment gives its possessor personal satisfaction, the necessary information for use in breeding, buying, selling and managing horses, and enables him to help his fellow men by counsel in horse matters or the selection of prizewinners in the show-ring. Masters of the art wield a mighty influence on the horse-breeding operations of the country.

The student should get into the habit of "sizing up" every horse he sees. By comparing one horse with another, he will gain experience and be able to estimate correctly the value of component parts, and to judge of beauty, symmetry, correlation of members, and adaptability for breeding purposes or work. After learning the names of the various parts of the horse's exterior, the student is equipped to analyze the value of each, and at length will be able to judge quickly and intelligently of the value of the entire combination of points constituting the individual horse.

A great number of horses must be examined. Then several must be considered together, and one compared with the other until each can be placed in its proper position as regards merit and utility. Horses of varying breed, age, type, quality, soundness and serviceability should be used as material for study. Where possible, the student of horses should visit horse-breeding establishments, sale stables and shows to continue his studies and round out his experience, as soon as a practical knowledge of the work of judging has been acquired.

HOW TO EXAMINE A HORSE.

Have the animal led out "to halter," and stood at ease in an open, well-lighted place. View the horse from all directions. In this way, an impression of the conformation, style, character and "general appearance" of the animal and peculiarities or excellencies of the various members is obtained. The horse may be moved around first at a walk and then at a trot, to afford the judge a broadside view. This should be followed by a careful study of the animal as he walks from and to the observer, and is then led away and

back at a trot. The examination may then follow in detail. The student should learn to use his eyes, rather than his hands in judging. The eye is master of the situation. The hand should only be used as an assistant to the eye. It may be used when the eye cannot, unaided, determine a question of quality, size, condition or soundness. For example, the eye sees plumpness of flesh, but the hand must be used to decide its depth on the ribs or other parts; or the eye detects what appears to be a bone spavin, and the hand, by feeling, corroborates or disproves the

tween August 1st, 1910, and May 1st, 1912, has recently been completed. This covers most of the colts foaled in 1909 and 1910, some over-age animals, and a few 1911 colts.

While it does not represent two full years' registrations, it does give a very definite line on the distribution of Percheron mares, and the location and relative importance of various breeding districts. Volume 14, containing registrations from 62,000 to 74,000, inclusive, is in the hands of the printers, and Volume 15, containing registrations from 74,000 to 86,000, has just been closed. Illinois and Iowa contributed 50 per cent. of the Percherons recorded. Ohio, Kansas, Nebraska and Indiana are the States next in line, and together breed 22.8 per cent. of the animals recorded in the time mentioned. Minnesota and Wisconsin follow closely, and Missouri takes an unexpectedly high rank, standing 9th. This is due to the rapid development of draft-horse breeding in the north half of the State, where conditions are very similar to those prevailing in the big six, or the corn-belt States.

The judgment of the most experienced buyers of draft horses for market purposes is to the effect that more good draft horses can be purchased in Iowa and Illinois than anywhere else in the United States. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that these States are older in draft-horse breeding than any others, save Ohio. All experienced horsemen conceded that the distribution of a number of pure-



Lady Gartsherri and Lynndhurst Belle.

Clydesdales; mother and daughter, owned by Geo. Potts & Son, Norfolk County, Ont.

suspicion. As a general rule, much handling is to be avoided by the student. Excessive handling suggests lack of confidence, experience and mature judgment. It betokens the amateur.

Percheron Breeding in the United States.

Slowly but surely the Percheron breeders in the United States are following the trail laid out by American cattle-breeders. Comparatively little progress was made in cattle-breeding until the number bred in this country made selection possible; and the most rapid progress came after the breeds were well distributed and pure-bred animals had become fairly easy to locate in the

bred mares of any draft breed in a locality results in hastening the introduction of better sires, for the owners of pure-bred mares insist upon a first-class sire of the breed they are using. In numerous instances where stallion owners have declined to purchase better horses, they have of their own accord gone out and purchased good stallions, thereby forcing the local stallioners into the purchase of better sires.

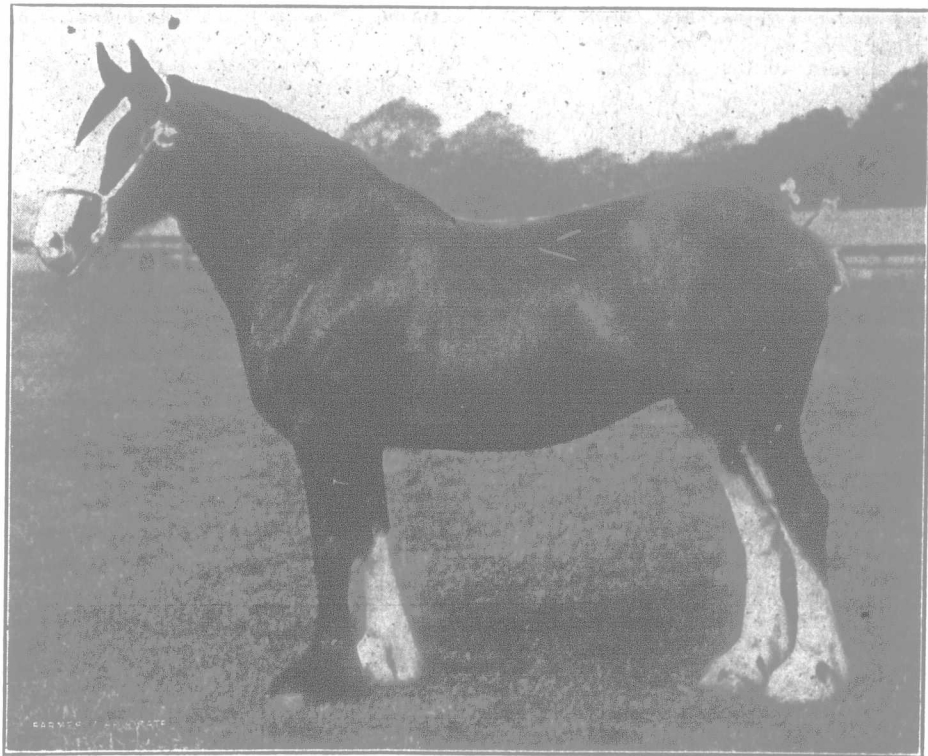
The three leading States are those oldest in draft-horse breeding. Ohio was earliest with Percheron importations in 1851, but Illinois breeders purchased the greatest of the early sires, Louis Napoleon, in 1856, and between that time and 1880 imported many times more Percherons than Ohio. Iowa breeders started with the breed almost as soon as their co-laborers in Illinois, and,

like Illinois, established a greater number of breeding centers than Ohio, prior to 1880. From these three States, pioneers in draft-horse breeding, the spread has been gradual into adjoining States. It is a matter of surprise that Indiana, lying midway between Illinois and Ohio, should have made less progress in recent years than Kansas and Nebraska.

Within the leading States, the breeding is centered chiefly in 10 or 12 counties. Illinois is breeding Percherons in 80 out of a total of 102 counties; Iowa, in 96 out of 99; Ohio, in 70 out of 87; Kansas in 72 out of 105; Nebraska, in

53 out of 92; Indiana, in 67 out of 92.

Illinois and Iowa, the leading States, stand in marked contrast in one particular. Most of the Percherons in Illinois are bunched in relatively few counties, while in Iowa they are distributed over practically the entire State. No country contributed over 7.2 per cent. of those bred in Iowa, while in Illinois, the leading county, McLean, furnished 15.8 per cent. of all those bred in the State in the time considered. The first six counties in Illinois furnished 45 per cent. of all bred in the State; the first six counties in Iowa but 35 per cent.



Harviestoun Baroness.

First and champion Clydesdale mare, Highland Show, 1912.

chief breeding districts. In the past, writes Wayne Dinsmore, secretary of the Percheron Society of America, the breeding of Percherons of the best possible type has been retarded, because of the limited number of breeding animals from which selection could be made. The fact that the available animals were widely scattered over a vast area of territory still further handicapped the work of constructive breeders. Selection and assembling of the best females was impossible. These conditions still prevail in some degree, but much less than formerly. An analysis of the registrations of American-bred animals, made be-