

THE HORSE.

Feed, and work the horse regularly.

Wiping and rubbing is good treatment for any horse.

A dry, comfortable stable is now better accommodation at night for horses than the open field.

Give the young horse some advantage on the eveners until he becomes hardened and accustomed to work.

Jerking horses, and shouting at them constantly, is not practiced by good teamsters, and yet, how many there are who are guilty of this very thing.

Keep the legs of the horse clean, and wipe them dry when they come into the stable. The legs of many horses go wrong at this season of the year.

The man who does up his lines before unhitching, or leaves his lines folded in the bit, or on the hames while hitching to a vehicle, or implement, has something yet to learn in horsemanship.

Stallion Hiring in Scotland.

A small, though well-compiled booklet, published by the Clydesdale Horse Society, of Great Britain and Ireland, has the following to say regarding the stallion hiring system in Scotland:

The Scottish system of hiring stallions has done more than anything else to disseminate good sires, and fix the type of the Clydesdale horse. The records of these hiring societies go back, in some cases to 1837, and the system has been greatly developed, and extended during the past twenty-five years. In the years prior to 1870, many of these societies held shows at a centre within their own area, at which stallions competed for a premium, it might be, of £50, or possibly in rare cases of £80. The owner whose horse was successful, was under obligation to travel his horse in the area covered by the Society at terms which were specified in the premium list. About the date named (1870), all of these local shows were abandoned, and it was arranged to hold one great Spring Show, and Hiring Fair at Glasgow, in the third week of February. This arrangement held in its entirety for about a dozen years, gave a decided impetus to the hiring of Clydesdale stallions. The only stipulation made by the Glasgow Agricultural Society was, that in return for the labor connected with organizing and advertising the event, a Committee of Judges appointed by that Society, should have first choice, and any prior contract made for hire of any competing horse was *ipso facto* annulled should the judges for the Glasgow show select the horse for which a contract had been made. This happened in 1892, when the contract previously made by the Aberdeen Central Society for the hire of Lord Erskine (1744) was annulled through his being awarded the £100 premium for the Glasgow district. The sequel was that the same Society engaged Lord Erskine (1744) in the autumn of 1882 for the season of 1883, on condition that he should not be exhibited at Glasgow in February, 1883. From that date onward the system of hiring well in advance steadily grew in favor, until hiring at the Glasgow Spring Show for the immediately ensuing season has almost ceased. Horses are hired far in advance, and at the date of writing, (3rd. November, 1919) the position is as follows: Stallions hired for 1920, 130; stallions hired for 1921, 35; stallions hired for 1922, 6; stallions hired for 1923, 2.

Proping up the Horse Business.

A little time spent this winter in organizing the horse-breeding industry and mapping out a program, would benefit incalculably a very important branch of agriculture. Farming depends upon power, and when the most reliable sources of power ever used on the farm is relegated to a place of obscurity, the result will be detrimental in the extreme. The horsemen of the various provinces should organize for action, get in touch with Dominion and Provincial Governments, and agree upon some enterprising, co-operative scheme that will put the horse back where it belongs, in agriculture and in industry.

Poor horses are a liability to the country; good horses are an asset and revenue producer. It, therefore, devolves upon our respective governments to guard the horse-breeding industry, and see to it that interest is not allowed to wane for want of moral and financial support. During the last ten years the horsemen, themselves, have not been as energetic and progressive as they might have been. We are not here referring to the manner in which they have conducted their own personal business, but we are criticizing horsemen for not co-operating more, and for not working more in the open along broad, progressive lines. There has been a tendency to make things right for the owners and importers of horses. We are not saying that they are not entitled to some consideration, but it would be better, we believe, if more attention were paid to the industry in general, so as to bolster up the morale of producers, and open up a market for good draft animals. This, in turn, would enhance prices, would encourage breeding, would make it possible to obtain higher service fees, and would, ultimately, redound to the benefit of everyone connected with the industry. This is the kind of work that must be undertaken before horse breeding will be put on a sound and stable basis.

There may be more than one way to attain the goal. Various schemes have been proposed, conflicting opinions have been expressed. It is in this connection that a conference should be held, something definite agreed upon; and when the field is charted everyone should throw themselves whole-heartedly behind the enterprise, and go forward to success.

In connection with any efforts made to revive horse breeding in Canada, there should be carried on a well-planned campaign of education. The present generation is being carried away with new proposals and untried ideas. They are forgetting just how serviceable an animal the horse really is. The horse-breeders' associations, the agricultural colleges, the experimental farms, and the live stock branches of the various governments might well co-operate to give us modern information about the breeding, feeding and care of horses; various hitches; how work can most economically and efficiently be executed with horse power; the cost, on a unit system, of doing work with teams of various weights and numbers, and place the horse in its true light before the users of power in the field of agriculture, transportation, construction, and manufacture.

Wounds and Their Results—V.

CONTUSED WOUNDS OR BRUISES.

A contusion is caused by some blunt object, without perforation of the skin, and the consequences are, first, a degree of concussion or numbing which may be quite severe without further trouble, as, for example, when a horse strikes his limb with the shoe of the opposite foot, goes lame for a few steps, but soon goes sound again. This is called brushing or interfering, and a frequent repetition of it will cause some structural alteration of the tissues contused. Horses that interfere should be shod so as to prevent the act, if possible; where this cannot be done a boot made for the purpose should be worn. The trouble is more frequently seen in the hind than in the fore limbs; and it is well that this is the case, as the fault is much more serious when in front. Horses that brush or cut with their fore feet (the act is known as speedy stroke) are generally those that stand with their toes turned outwards—soldier toed. Some consider that such a horse should be considered unsound, as there is danger of them stumbling to the ground at any time if the limb be

ordinary interfering, no treatment is necessary, other than the removal of the cause.

Many young horses, when first put to work, especially on the roads, will interfere, but as they gain strength by reason of work or exercise, and better feeding, the trouble ceases. In such cases, where practicable, it is well to allow the colt to go without shoes until danger of the trouble has passed, but, if necessary to shoe, boots should be worn for a time. Some horses, owing largely to conformation, continue to "strike." In some cases they can be shod to prevent it. Some shoeing-smiths have acquired the knowledge and skill to shoe many interfering horses in such a manner that the accident becomes rare. It must be understood that the shoe must be kept level. It will not do to make some of the calkins higher than others, as this causes the foot to be planted in such an abnormal position as to cause more serious trouble than that which it is intended to prevent. When careful shoeing will not prevent more or less frequent contusion, the animal must be either used without shoes or wear boots. If the bruising be very great, whether caused by the opposite foot or otherwise, there may not appear to be much pain in the early stages, and this tends to deceive or mislead the observer. He must, therefore, take into consideration the character of the accident, and the general condition of the animal. If there be rigors (shivering), debility or collapse, shortly after the accident, he may expect the reaction to be proportionately severe.

The local treatment for contusions, from whatever cause, must be directed to soothe, and prevent undue inflammatory action. For these purposes the long-continued bathing with hot water, or the application of hot poultices (which must be kept hot) should be employed.

The constitutional treatment during the stage in which collapse is indicated, must be directed to stimulate and support, as the administration of one to two ounces of sweet spirits of nitre in a little cold water as a drench every two hours for a few doses. If there be much blood or serum imprisoned, it is necessary to lance the sac to allow its escape. The animal must be given rest, and the cavity or cavities flushed out well two or three times daily with an antiseptic, as a five-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid, or one of the coal-tar antiseptics, until healed. In the meantime the patient's strength must be supported by a reasonable amount of good feed.

Whip.



A Quartette of Percheron Stallions.

From the right they stood first, second, third and fifth at the Western Fair for the Lafayette Stock Farm Company Ltd., of Canada.

LIVE STOCK.

Don't forget that all classes of stock require salt, and want it at regular intervals.

Keep the cattle full. Plenty of silage and cut straw will do this and then grain can be fed for forcing production or putting on the finishing touches.

Start feeding at regular intervals, and feed as near as possible to that time, from day to day. This is an important step in successful stock feeding.

Sales of brood sows in August are reported to have amounted to 15 per cent. of the total marketed as against an average of 3½ per cent. for the preceding month.

International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, November 27 to December 4; Ontario Fat Stock Show, Guelph, December 3 to 9. Toronto Fat Stock Show December 9 and 10.

It may pay to pick out one or two typey sows from that bunch of hogs about ready to market, and breed them for spring farrowing. It looks as if feeds were going to be cheaper.

The contented animal usually gives greater returns than the nervous one. In buying breeding stock or feeders, the disposition of the animal might advisably be taken into consideration more than it usually is.

No penalty is too heavy for the man who deliberately takes a cow that has aborted to a neighbor's bull, and does not mention the condition of the cow. In this way disease is spread and heavy financial loss incurred.

Live stock apparently relish a mixed ration just as much as a person prefers a varied diet to the same