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using inferior bulls, and are thus hurting themselves and the pure-bred cattle industry, by setting a bad example to beginners at the business, and also to the farmer seeking to improve his grade stock; and by flooding the pure-bred market with a lot of inferior stock, they lower the prices all round.

HORSES.

The Cosmopolitan Hackney.

"One great merit possessed by the Hackney horse," says a writer in the London Live-stock Journal, "is that he appears able to flourish under almost any climate, and upon almost any soil; and not only to flourish, but to be capable of transmitting his leading characteristics to mares of every breed. This faculty was rendered obvious by what was to be seen at the recent London Show, where first-rate specimens of the breed were forthcoming from all parts and districts of the United Kingdom; and if a proof of the toughness of the Hackney were required, it is seen in the instance of the champion stallion, which left this country for America at a very early age, and, having worked his way to the top there, returned home to carry off the highest honors at the Society's show.

"We all learn, too, at least all of us do who do not permit our better judgment to be blinded by unreasonable prejudice against the horse, what the Hackney has accomplished on the Continent, and also the great value that is placed upon his services by some great breeders of South America, whilst his recent triumph in the United States, after many years of vicissitudes, must have convinced every unbiased mind that the Hackney belongs to a variety which cannot be put down.

"The prepotency of the Hackney stallion is another point in his favor, for even his greatest enemies admit this fact. Indeed, one of the favorite charges that I have heard brought against him is that, once you get his blood into a strain, you can never get it out again. This being the case, the question may be asked, 'How can horse-breeders do better by their studs than by raising the best type of Hackney?' The breed flourishes wherever it is given a fair chance, and it breeds true; than this, can there be a better recommendation for any horse? No doubt the cause of the Hackney has been injured, and he has gained enemies in consequence of the injudicious attempts which have been made to have him accepted as a riding horse. In the old pre-railway days the Hackney was certainly used for riding purposes, but that is ancient history, and much water has run beneath the bridges since the bygone race of British yeomen used to ride to market on their Hackneys, with their wives behind them on pillion. The exigencies of modern tastes require something different from the ordinary Hackney; and even if it is conceded, for the sake of argument, that there are two types of the breed, it is unfortunate for the horse that so many of the harness variety are to be seen in the classes made for Hackneys in saddle.

"The greatest of all the Hackney characteristics—action—is all in the direction of work in leather, for there is no horse in the world that can move like he does, and hence the possibilities which lie before the man who forms a stud with the object of breeding for the market. Of one thing he can be certain, provided that he selects his stock with judgment, and this is that he will get fewer misfits than the raiser of most breeds of horses. In spite, too, of the increasing popularity of the motor-car, there is a strong probability of this objectionable invention sharing the fate of the bicycle before long, and thereby assuming a definite position more as a vehicle of commerce than that of a rich man's toy. When this day comes, the demand for high-class movers, great as it is at present, will be increased, and then Hackney breeders who have declined to lose faith in their horses will reap their due reward.

"The Hackney is the horse of all others for the amateur horse-breeder to exercise his talents upon, for this variety flourishes in every district, is long-lived, good constitutioned, kindly in disposition, a reliable breeder if properly mated, and, above all, invariably salable if a good one. Can any breed of horse claim more than this?"

Saved the Colt.

Enclosed please find the sum of \$1.50 for my renewal. We find every department of the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" extremely interesting and helpful. I recall one instance in many of its usefulness during this last year, when an article by "Whip" enabled us to treat successfully a sick colt. We wish the "Farmer's Advocate" continued success.
Oxford Co., Ont. G. A. HOGG.

The Live-stock World is firmly of the opinion that not in the time of men now living will horses ever sell so low as they did during the great depression some seven or eight years ago.

The "Own Brother" Question.

One of the things which puzzle those who make a study of breeding is the difference in the breeding-on capacity shown by brothers. Why are horse should be a really great sire, and an own brother with equal opportunities should never get beyond the ordinary, is something for which no rule seems to afford a reasonable solution. Yet there are many instances in which just that state of affairs is found. Probably no greater difference is to be found in two sires, both of which attained greatness in a degree, than those two sons of George Wilkes and Alma Mater, Alcyone and Alcantara. Alcyone died when he was ten years old, while Alcantara lived to be nearly three times that age. Alcantara was foaled the year previous to Alcyone's foaling, was given a faster record, and was, if anything, placed ahead of his brother by the breeding public. Alcantara certainly had as good opportunities as Alcyone was accorded while the latter horse was alive, and after the death of Alcyone the older brother had vastly better opportunities than Alcyone ever had. The 2.10 list, however, shows that as a progenitor of extreme speed Alcyone far outranks his older and longer-lived brother. No less than thirty-seven trotters and pacers with records of 2.10 or better stand to the credit of Alcyone and his descendants in the direct male line, while sixteen represent Alcantara in the same way. Further, the sons and daughters of Alcyone have produced 483 standard performers, as against 345 produced by the sons and daughters of Alcantara, in spite of the latter horse's long life and extended opportunities. Just why one of these pair of great brothers should have been so much greater than the other, is difficult to say.—[Horse World.



C. D. McGilvray, V. S., M. D. V.,
Binscarth, Man.

A Good Appointment.

In the Hansard report of March 10, the Minister of Agriculture, in answer to a question by W. J. Roche, M. P., stated that the Veterinary Branch has practically taken charge of all the work in regard to "health of animals" in Manitoba. The newly-appointed veterinarian in charge, the chief veterinary inspector for Manitoba, is C. D. McGilvray, of Binscarth, Man., well known to readers of the "Farmer's Advocate" by his articles dealing with horses. Dr. McGilvray is a native of Scotland, a country from which come many good horsemen and veterinarians, and graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, some years ago, winning the gold medal and otherwise distinguishing himself. Later he spent a winter at the McKillop College, and took the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (M. D. V.). He has practiced successfully for years in his own locality, and has served as judge of horses, and as a lecturer for the Territorial Department of Agriculture, besides lecturing and demonstrating at the Live-stock Conventions in Winnipeg. The salary attached is not a large one, being \$1,500 a year.

Fitting Stallions for the Season.

A subscriber asks information on the proper food for a draft stallion while fitting him for the season, what stock food we would recommend, if any, and whether during the breeding season a horse should be washed out every day. The question was referred to an experienced stallion man, who stated his recipe for conditioning stallions to be oats and bran three times a day, with a small evening feed of boiled oats or barley; good hay, consisting, preferably, of one-third or one-half clover; five or six miles exercise a day, and an intelligent groom. If the horse seems to be out of condition, dissolve in the mash twice a

week a handful of Glauber's salts. Sulphur should be used judiciously, if at all, as it opens the pores of the skin. He stated that he had been feeding six draft stallions for a week on 300 pounds bran and 300 pounds oats, with hay. During the season he advises washing the horse out occasionally, say about once a week, with warm water and castile soap. He had no faith in stock foods or condiments, which, though they might add bloom, affected injuriously the procreative faculty. A teaspoonful of flaxseed, boiled, could often be fed to advantage during the breeding season. The grain ration he considered better fed with a couple handfuls of chaffed hay.

Breeding Trotting Horses.

The first principle of breeding is to use as well-bred and shapely mares as possible, and mate these mares with the best bred and most successful sires within reach. It will not always be possible to produce sound and speedy colts, but the percentage of soundness and speed will be greater than where scrub sires and scrub mares are used. It does not pay to use inferior animals for breeding purposes, and no breeder can hope to succeed who uses this class of animals. There is always a demand for trotting-bred horses, and right now there is a buyer for every sound, useful light-harness horse, and I do not suppose that there is a reader who does not know that buyers are scouring every township, willing and anxious to buy every horse of marketable age.

The trouble with many breeders is that they attempt to breed horses on too large a scale, and the expense of development becomes burdensome. No farmer or small breeder should keep over a half dozen mares, and these mares should be made to earn their keep, at least, by being used for the ordinary work of the farm. I was at one of the largest breeding farms in Indiana a few days ago, and saw some thirty-five brood mares in idleness which could just as well have been doing the work of a score or more of work horses used in the farm work. Because a mare has a good pedigree is no reason why she should be kept in idleness, and the sooner the farmers learn this fact, the better it will be.—[J. M. McCartney, before the Ohio Horse-breeders' Association.

Over-fat Stallions.

An exchange, commenting upon the tendency of many stock breeders to overload their animals with fat, at the expense of the development of muscular force, says:

"It should become apparent at a glance that the modern methods of feeding and fitting many mares and stallions may justly be regarded as highly detrimental. Work, the product of constitutional vigor, is the ultimate object in the production of the draft horse. Through selection, continued breeding in a right line, in a suitable environment furnishing adequate nutrition, size and weight have been developed and made transmissible characteristics or tendencies. Excess of fat in such animals is a positive disadvantage, for which not a sensible argument can be advanced. Feeding for the intentional production of fat is, therefore to be denounced. The art of the feeder should be devoted to the development of bone and muscle, that added ability for heavy work, not to the rounding out of the body with fat, which means, inevitably, fatty degeneration of the vital organs. The forcing process by which many draft stallions are made to attain great weights, is injuring the breeding business seriously. It is the reason for so many stallions proving wholly or partially impotent, for so many foals coming into the world crooked and weak, for so many grade colts from suitable mares failing to attain draft horse proportions. Deprive many a draft stallion of his surplus fat and he proves to be deficient in the width and depth of body, and development of muscle and bone that are the true attributes of the ideal drafter. Fat does not impart strength for labor. Its presence indicates weakness rather than strength. The fat stallion is a burden unto himself, and a disappointment to his buyer. Besides this he proves a failure on the stand, and his colts, few as they usually are, fail to develop draft horse size and character.

"The crying need of our draft-horse industry is for sires that are great in development of bone and muscle, and possessed of constitutional vigor—the product of natural feeding and management. In their place we are often offered stallions that have been fed on sloppy food, doped with drugs, made to seem powerful and ponderous, but rendered actually weak by such methods. Set one of these pampered beasts to work and he speedily loses three or four hundred pounds of fat, and thus depleted he is not a draft horse, and such stallions cannot beget real draft horses. There are others, and they are doing good service, but are scarce. When found they are prepotent and worth the high figures now being coaxed out of farm companies for fattened draft stallions such as we have described. Taken from the plow-harness, the draft stallion begets a full complement of lusty, robust colts from his mares. He is in a natural condition, and it is natural for