

Speedy Stroke.

Hackney mare strikes each of her knees with the opposite foot. Her knees are both enlarged. How can the thickenings be reduced, and how can the striking be prevented? Would it be advisable to whip her for it? C. G.

This is called speedy stroke or speedy cut, but at the same time it does not indicate that the animal is speedy. Whipping will do no good; in fact, by the excitement and fear it would cause it would have a tendency to make matters worse. The trouble is due to faulty conformation. Horses which stand with their knees quite close, knock-kneed horses, are predisposed to speedy stroke, even though they may stand with their feet straight. The usual cause is an ill conformation that causes a horse to turn his toes outwards when standing. In these cases the feet roll inwards during progression, and the shoe is liable to strike the opposite fetlock, cannon, knee, or above the knee, according to the height of action. In many cases the conformation is all right down to the pastern joint, but in others a faulty conformation is noticed from the fetlock joint, the pastern deviating slightly outwards, and the foot planted with a decided out-turning. In other cases this deviation can be noticed from the knee. In all cases the animal stands with toes turned outwards, "soldier toed."

Various manners of shoeing have been tried without marked success in remedying the faulty action. Placing the toe calk about the length of itself inwards on the shoe will sometimes check it. Some recommend a shoe, the internal half of which is much heavier than the outer half, on the principle that when the foot is elevated the weight of the inner half will have a tendency to lower the inner part of the foot, hence prevent striking. Others claim that the opposite method, viz., making the shoe heavy on the outside, gives better results, but neither method, so far as I have observed, has given satisfaction. Shoeing with light shoes has a tendency to keep the feet below the knees, while the use of quite heavy shoes has that of carrying the feet above the knees, either of which removes the tendency to strike, but as the height of action with either light or heavy shoes varies according to the speed at which the animal is driven, either method may prove ineffective. Different methods of shoeing have different actions upon different horses, according to the peculiarity of conformation and action, hence each animal's peculiarities must be studied, and the horse be shod accordingly. In many cases the most careful and intelligent shoeing will not correct the fault, and all that can be done to prevent the repetition of the injury is to wear knee boots. The enlargements already existing cannot be reduced so long as the cause continues. If the striking can be checked the daily application of a little of the following liniment will reduce them, viz., 4 drams each of iodine and iodide of potassium, and 4 ozs. each of glycerine and alcohol. Apply a little once daily, with smart friction. "WHIP."

Fitting the Shoe.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As this is the time of the year when many will be getting their horses shod to do their hauling, I think it would be well to utter a word of warning to them. You have, no doubt, seen the blacksmith fitting the shoes to horses' feet, when he would first heat the shoe to a red heat, and then place it to the foot and burn a bed.

A wise farmer will forbid this if he wishes to save his horses' feet, for of what use is a horse whose feet are gone?

Did you ever heat the stove hook and just touch it to the top of the thumb nail for an instant? No! Well, just try it once, and then think how nice it must be for the horse to have that hot shoe burned on to the foot. So much for the feelings. Some blacksmiths will tell you that is the proper way to get a smooth bearing for the shoe. So it is for a lazy man, but if you take my advice you will make that man use the rasp, instead. Just watch the thumb nail where you touched it with the hot stove hook and see the effects after a day or two, and see how hard it is. Just so with the hoof, which is of very much the same nature.

I expect this letter will raise a discussion. I shall be glad if it does, and I should especially like the opinion of "Whip."

Sask.

HORSESHOER.

No Toy Watch.

The premium watch arrived O. K. It is no toy watch, but a satisfactory time keeper in every way. It puzzles me how you can afford to give so valuable a premium for the small matter of three new subscribers. Of "The Farmer's Advocate," I may say it requires no recommendation; it speaks for itself. A. E. PELTON.

Oxford Co., Ont.

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

Time is on the wing, sure enough. The great fat-stock shows both in Great Britain and the Western Continent are over for another year, and Christmas is in sight at time of present writing. Six years ago, the writer visited the Chicago, Guelph and Amherst meetings, and nothing would give him greater pleasure than to renew the experience. There must be many changes in the six years, and improvement surely will be marked. Reports have not come to hand while we write, and, therefore, we know nothing of the results at either of the three great shows. Our own Canadian visitors returned some months ago, and are exuberant in their praises of your great Dominion. One of them, who possesses the gift of a sententious wit, remarks, regarding the younger generation of Ontario farmers, that he would like to see them "cut less dash and more thistles." Apparently, he was not impressed with the condition of the land and pastures in your Province. He thought they might have been what we call "cleaner." Never having seen Canada during autumn, I can express no opinion on the subject. My experiences were confined to the winter months, and then Canada proved her title to be the "Lady of Snows." But there was nothing unpleasant about the snows, and Canada must be a fine place in which to live.

At the Farmers' Club great banquet in London, on Tuesday evening, Dec. 8th, I saw the Hon. Sydney Fisher, your Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. Rutherford, your Veterinary Director-General. I do not know the object of their present visit, and possibly may never learn, but, no doubt, it may be connected with the present foot-

are high than he does when other conditions prevail. If he buys his stores 9 cwt. of 112 lbs., at 25s. per cwt., and sells them at 12 cwt., at 30s. per cwt., he makes £6 15s. of a gross profit; but if he buys his stores at 9 cwt. each, at 35s. per cwt., and sells them fat, 12 cwt., at 40s. per cwt., he makes £8 5s. of gross profit. It follows that, in cattle-feeding, as in everything else, there is greater profit when prices are moderately high than when they are too low. The cheapness which beggars my neighbor rarely profits me. It is best for both him and me when prices are reasonably high.

BRITISH FAT-STOCK SHOWS.

The great Fat-stock Shows in this country are held at Norwich, Inverness, Birmingham, Edinburgh and London. The most successful animals this year are Aberdeen-Angus cattle and their crosses. The champion animal of both London and Birmingham is the Aberdeen-Angus heifer, Her Majesty V. of Cullen House, the property of the Countess-Dowager of Seafield, whose extremely competent manager is Mr. Lewis Beaton. Her Majesty V. is a typical specimen of the breed, being wonderfully rounded, standing on very small bone, and having no superfluous loose fat about her whatsoever. She was champion of the feeding classes at the Highland Society's Show at Aberdeen, in July, and when the Smithfield Show opened she weighed 1,680 pounds, at 973 days. The reserve champion at London was Danesfield Fortune, the Norwich champion, an Aberdeen-Angus-Shorthorn cross, and weighing 1,696 pounds at 1,086 days. She is a wonderful heifer, also. The third reserve was a Shorthorn named Daisy V., from Garbity, Fochabers, an exceptionally bonnie animal, and champion of the Shorthorn breed at London. The best steer at London was another cross-bred named Jack, like Danesfield Fortune, bred by Mr. John Ross, Mill-



Yorkshire Sow.

Winner at Smithfield, 1908, of first prize in class, and grand championship as best single pig in show. Exhibited by the Earl of Ellesmere.

and-mouth scare. The condition of things here is rather critical. The Board of Agriculture have only scheduled the States south of the lakes in which disease has been scheduled. I notice that your authorities regard the situation as extremely serious, and are sparing no pains to keep Canada clean. I have no doubt you will succeed. Where there's a will there's a way, and Canada is undoubtedly more than willing to keep its record clean. At the dinner, and in answer to an agricultural deputation on the following day, Lord Carrington made it abundantly evident that his Department will not schedule more than is absolutely necessary. He is not going to schedule the whole United States, and he will not further the proposal to make the whole foreign meat trade a trade in dead meat.

OLD COUNTRY FEEDERS' ARGUMENT.

This plea for dead-meat imports only, is a favorite one with many in this country. It has sound logic behind it. The feeder here has to buy his stores in a restricted market, but he has to sell his beeves in competition with the world. He, therefore, pleads: "Give me a fair chance. If I am to buy in a market from which stores from overseas are excluded, let me sell in a market from which beeves imported alive are excluded. I do not object to the importation of dead meat, chilled beef or mutton, or beef or mutton carried in cold-storage I am prepared to face, but the live animal fat is unfair competition, when I am prevented getting the live animal lean."

Lord Carrington is not impressed with this argument, and in his blunt, straightforward way says he will have nothing to do with the end aimed at. The home feeder must, therefore, work away as best he may. With beef at current prices, he has little cause for complaint, and it is a curious fact that a feeder makes better profits when prices of stores are high and prices of fat

and the cattle of these breeds are always among the first to be sold in London.

Interesting as the classes for animals on hoof are in respect of educational value, the best section of the show is the carcass competitions. The animals are stalled on the Saturday evening, and are open to public inspection on the Monday of the show. They are removed at five o'clock that evening, and slaughtered during the night. The carcasses are thrown open for inspection on the Wednesday afternoon, after they have been judged as carcasses, and those who saw and marked them alive on the Monday can then test their judgment by the results. The carcass competition is for cattle, sheep and pigs. The champion beef carcass this year is an Aberdeen-Angus-Dexter cross from Ireland. Its live weight was 1,166 pounds, and its dressed-carcass weight 753 pounds. It made a bonnie carcass of meat. The reserve champion carcass was a cross-bred steer, got by a Galloway bull, out of a cow half Ayrshire, half Galloway. This steer was placed first at the Edinburgh show in the previous week in a class for butchers' cattle, and on hoof on the Monday of the Smithfield show was placed second by his judges. His live weight was 1,325 pounds, and his dressed-carcass weight 861 pounds. He was nearly one year older than the champion carcass, which was less than two years old, and, therefore, a model of early maturity and quality of flesh. It may be worth recording the breeds or crosses which proved successful in the carcass competitions. For steers not exceeding two years old, the order of merit was: (1) Aberdeen-Angus-Dexter, (2) Aberdeen-Angus bull-Shorthorn-Aberdeen-Angus cow, (3) Shorthorn-Aberdeen-Angus, (4) Aberdeen-Angus, (5) Aberdeen-Angus, (6) Shorthorn-Aberdeen-Angus, (7) Aberdeen-Angus-Dexter. Steer over two and not over three years old: (1) Galloway bull-Ayrshire-Galloway cow, (2) Welsh, (3) Shorthorn bull-