

THE HORSE.

Take time to let the air circulate under the collar of the horse. There is more than sentiment behind this practice.

It is better to coax than drag a young colt when teaching it to lead. A little cajolery is more effective than much force.

Regular and ample grooming are necessary this time of year to keep a horse in the best condition, but an occasional wash will help to keep the pores open and the skin clean.

The feet are an important part of a horse, but they are only a means to an end. Washy animals with insufficient substance and poor quality are undesirable no matter how good their feet may be.

If you intend showing a young horse at the coming year, make its training a part of the preparation. Uneducated young horses shown on the halter are almost always a disappointment to the exhibitor, judge and onlookers.

Classifying Horses for Sale or Show-ring

Horses as found the country over are capable of considerable classification, not only in regard to breed characteristics, but according to their qualifications to meet the numerous market demands. Showing standards are based to a large extent on market requirements so as to encourage the breeding of more commercial horses to supply the various needs of the country.

The one important class is undoubtedly the draft horse, which group in Canada is made up principally of Clydesdales, Percherons and Shires. The classifying in this category is simple compared with the many uses to which light horses are put and the grouping of the same. A good draft horse should not be less than 1,600 pounds. The city takes horses and wants them up to 1,800 pounds or a ton, but perhaps a lighter draft horse is better suited to agricultural purposes. Some markets classify heavy drafts as between 1,500 to 1,700 pounds, and light drafts as weighing from 1,400 to 1,500 pounds. There is frequently no minimum stipulated in exhibition prize lists, but the exhibitor who goes into the ring with a team of horses weighing less than 1,600 pounds each must expect to compete with those weighing considerably more, and consequently his chances for success are minimized.

When a horse drops very much below 1,600 pounds, it is frequently termed an agricultural horse, the weights for which vary around 1,400 to 1,600 pounds. The agricultural horse is a small draft horse, and with sufficient flesh added, might qualify for the latter class. Small horses of draft type, but lacking in weight and substance, are sometimes erroneously designated as general-purpose, but this is a mistake. Such a horse would be called a farm chunk, or a misfit.

Small agricultural horses are not general-purpose horses. No one would ever think of hitching a compactly built horse, typical of the real draft horse, only smaller, to a buggy, nor would one think of putting a saddle on him preparatory to riding horseback five or ten miles. The real general purpose horse is such that one can hitch an extra horse to the reaper, can be used on the wagon, or other farm implements, carriage, buggy, or, in extreme cases, be ridden. Obviously one would never attempt to breed general-purpose horses. The requirements to be met are too numerous, and one's efforts would likely result in continuous failures.

Many disappointments in the show-ring are due to horses not being properly classified and entered where they belong. We have seen horses entered in classes for which they were manifestly unfitted on account of the owner feeling that entries in that section were very light and he would have little competition. Exhibitions are supposed to be educational, and a horse entered in the wrong section simply to win a prize should be ruled out.

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

The calendar reminds me that it is time I was writing something for the "Farmer's Advocate." The weather during the last three weeks of May has been of the kind which poets credit to that month, but experience has not often therein confirmed the poets. The May of 1919 will long be remembered as a month of most remarkable sunshine and warmth. We do not say that we have never seen a May to equal it, but we do say that

such spells of genial warmth have been rare in a month which, despite the poets, is proverbially fickle. One drawback to a warm and genial May without much moisture is a small hay crop. It is an ancient saying that a "dripping May makes hay," and that will be about right. Meantime, writing on June 2, the hay crop on heavy, deep land promises well enough, but on light soil it is otherwise. The fickleness of the Scottish climate is well illustrated by the experience of the closing week of April compared with the period just commented on. Throughout the most of Scotland a snow storm of unusual severity was experienced only five weeks ago. It boded ill for the hill lambing season, and undoubtedly where lambing had begun a heavy death-rate in both ewes and lambs fell to be recorded. On the later hillside lambing season has been favorable to a degree, and flockmasters are smiling broadly. The foaling season in the Clydesdale world had been favorable, although one does hear ominous rumors about joint-ill. This disease is now being grappled with in a vigorous fashion both North and South. One very notable champion mare has this year brought her foal all right. This is especially gratifying, as during the past three years her foal was lost from this disease. It appears in studs in which the utmost care is taken, and cleanliness, one would say, is reduced to almost a fine art. On the other hand, it is seldom seen among foals dropped outside, with only their dam's eye upon them. A nobleman who breeds Thoroughbreds, Shires and Highland Ponies has never known the disease to appear among his Highland ponies, while he has had heavy losses through it in both his Thoroughbred and Shire studs. The Highland ponies are reared under natural conditions in the north-west of Ross-shire. There is a lesson in this surely. Nature makes her own provision for the perpetuation of species, and when left to herself she proves a careful and successful mother.

Shows have again been resumed. So far all held in Scotland have been remarkably well attended and conspicuously successful. Apparently the people want some such relaxation after the strenuousness of the years of war. It has been a dreadful experience, and



Two Welland-County Farmers who are still loyal to the Horse.

there is something relaxing and pleasant in the show-yard and the inspection of horses and cattle. It must, however, be acknowledged that the attendance of the public has been a much more conspicuous feature of the shows than the numbers of the exhibits. Clydesdales have been well represented at all events, but cattle exhibits have been relatively few and sheep have been shown in units.

Pig breeding is extending in Scotland and record prices are being made for all breeds, but the show-yard type is not taking up much attention. The truth is that there is no labor to spare for the preparation of stock for the show-ring. Clydesdales have to be kept in good shape in any case, hence both at Glasgow and at Belfast the displays of the breed have been fully as good as ever they were. The extent to which the breeding of Clydesdales goes forward in Ireland is a significant feature in modern agriculture. The recently-published report of the Department of Agriculture contains some arresting figures. They almost suggest that the breeding of light horses is on the move in the Emerald Isle, and that the breeding of heavy horses is to be an important feature of Irish agriculture in days to come. On the Department's Register in 1914 there were 83 Clydesdale stallions; in 1915, 90; in 1916, 131; in 1917, 141, and in 1918, 135. The relative figures for Shires were 22, 22, 29, 28, and 25. Nominations for Clydesdales under the Irish Department's premium scheme in 1918 numbered 2,696; for Irish draft and half-bred stallions, 2,092, and for Shire stallions, 299. In proof of the decrease in light-horse breeding the nomination for Thoroughbred stallions may be quoted. In 1914 there numbered 2,313; in 1915, 1,966; in 1916, 1,457, and in 1918, 795. A praiseworthy effort is being made by the Irish Department of Agriculture to preserve or resuscitate the Irish draft horse. This is a very useful, hardy type of horse. His build and conformation suggests a dash of Thoroughbred in his breeding, but there is also something highly distinctive about the type. In Scotland he is usually spoken of as an Irish "gyp" horse. How that name came to be given to him we do not know. He is usually a dark colored brown horse

with black legs, also with sound blue hoofs, as one would expect from his being reared on the limestone. He stands about 17.2 hands high and is perhaps inclined to be "leggy." He has a fine outlook and high withers. Altogether he is a strong, wiry, tough specimen with no end of grit and vim, and with his clean legs and eager spirit has long been a favorite for what is called here, heavy van work, or, on your side of the Atlantic, express work. The resuscitation of a breed is always a matter of difficulty; still, it can be done, and the Irish Department of Agriculture is a live institution with a reputation for doing things and doing them well. It is largely manned by Scotsmen.

We have been having great times recently with our overseas men. Classes for their training in agriculture have been held in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and in connection therewith there have been excursions and tours of visitation to great breeding herds, studs, and flocks in different parts of Scotland. Notable addresses on the breeds have been delivered by specialists in each, and judging competitions have also been inaugurated. At Aberdeen the College authorities were fortunate in being able to enlist three notable Shorthorn breeders: William Duthie, Larves, William Anderson, Saphock; and James Dunno, Rothiebrishane, Exvie. All three delivered addresses to the men. These addresses were full of sound, practical commonsense experience. The speakers gave their views as to the type of Shorthorn bull and cow to aim at in founding a herd, and were especially successful in handling the knotty question of the right use of pedigree. Aberdeen breeders in the front rank are rigid disciples of Amos Cruickshank. However others who come to buy at the Aberdeen sales may act, the native breeders absolutely refuse to allow pedigree to become a master. They insist on pedigree being made a servant; they believe strongly that no combination can excel a good pedigree and a good animal, but they steadfastly refuse to believe that a fashionable pedigree can atone for lack of individual merit. The three great Aberdeen Shorthorn breeders of a past generation were undoubtedly Amos Cruickshank, of Strixton; W. Smith Murr, of Uppermill, Larves; and James Bruce, of Invergummersy. Of the three, the last was the most scientific. He could best tell why he did things, and how cause and effect operated. His great achievement as a breeder was the formation of the celebrated Augusta family. A real Augusta must have three special crosses in its pedigree, and lacking either he or she is not perfect as an Augusta. The three are Waverley, Clear the Way, and Banadullae. Amos Cruickshank and W. S. Murr could not so ably expound the principles upon which they proceeded as James Bruce, but each possessed the peculiar instinct of the born breeder and could convey to listeners, if not scientific reasons, reasons in sound practice which justified all their doings.

The Aberdeen Angus lecture was delivered by J. R. Barclay, the capable Secretary to the Breed Society, whose headquarters have now been removed to Aberdeen. That granite city of the North Sea is now the home of two breed societies—the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society and the Shetland Pony Society. Mr. Barclay has a thorough mastery of the history of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, and is fully informed concerning the prominent successes of the "Blacks" at the block and in the car-load and carcass competitions. His lecture to the overseas men was capped by a splendid practical discourse by James Booth, Downmills, Peterhead, a gentleman who began life as a butcher, in Peterhead, and knows the first and last thing about breeding, feeding, slaughtering and selling beef. He is a strong advocate of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, and in a very vigorous speech gave the men from overseas abundant proof of the supreme excellence of the beef produced by the breed to which McCombie gave world wide fame. Mr. Booth insists on giving the breed its ancient name of the Buchan Humble. 'Tis a good homely Scottish name and none will grudge a worthy son of Buchan the right to claim that the local name be not forgotten. He told the men that Buchan was famed for flesh, fish and bonnie lassies. He also credited Strathspey with being the home of "fechtars," fat cattle, and whiskey. An overseas man who followed Mr. Booth said he preferred the Buchan products. Following the academic lectures came visits to noted herds. On the Saturday following the Shorthorn lecture, the men visited the Larves district and saw the herds at Collynie, Tillycarn and Uppermill, and on the Saturday following the Aberdeen-Angus lecture they were at Kenmure and Abertown, in Strathspey. The writer gave a Clydesdale lecture with sixty slides showing great sires and mares of the breed, and on the Saturday following a visit was paid to James Gray's stud at Birkenwood, Gargunnoch, and Stephen Mitchell's fine herd of Shorthorn cattle and stud of Clydesdales at Boquhan, Kippen, in Stirlingshire. A splendid service is being done by these classes for training overseas men. At the same time the various breeds are securing a great advertisement among the very best class of rising young farmers from overseas. We are delighted to see them and to know and meet with them. SCOTLAND YET.

We wish to correct a typographical error which occurred in our report of Fred Wade Toole's testimony before the Committee on Living Conditions, and which was published in the issue of June 19. Prof. Toole declared that it would cost \$21.25 for food to make the 170 pounds of gain in a hog between the time it was weaned and when it was ready for market. The report read "70 pounds," which would make the cost of raising only high.