

The present cost of oil at the wells in the United States is 90 cents per barrel. At that rate the oil for a mile of road would cost about \$47.50, not including freight. If the plan proves successful it will be the cheapest yet found for meeting the crying need of the country for good roads.—*Farming.*

The grade of eggs required for the British market is one that will weigh a pound and a half to the dozen, and for every half-pound which eggs weigh less than fifteen pounds to each ten dozen, the value is lessened by about one cent per dozen. It is believed by those engaged in the import trade that in large eggs the albumen is thicker than in small ones, and that ninety per cent. of the stale or bad eggs are small eggs with white shells. Shells of a brown color are preferred, and must be clean without having been cleaned.—*Farming.*

The Horse.

RAISING THE COLT

By Alex. Galbraith, Secretary American Clydesdale Association.

The old adage that an article properly bought is as good as half sold may by a slight alteration or paraphrase be made to read that a colt properly bred is half raised or at any rate more easily raised on that account. That "blood will tell" has been so conclusively proved to every man of experience or observation as to leave no room for dispute at this time of day. Farmers should see, therefore, that their colts are bred only from worthy ancestors and that they do not inherit any serious blemishes, weaknesses or malformations which will naturally mar the colt's usefulness nor lessen or destroy its value.

Before speaking of the colt, however, I would say a few words regarding the treatment of the mare during pregnancy. Experience proves that the more natural and less artificial the conditions the better. Fat and idleness are to be deprecated especially. There is no breeder of any extent but who will confirm the statement that better results will almost invariably be obtained by keeping the mares in medium flesh and working constantly, but not of course excessively, up till time of foaling. If work cannot be provided for all the

brood mares they should at any rate have abundant exercise daily and on no account be confined to the barn closely. Corn should not be fed at that time. It is too fattening in its tendency and does not contain sufficient nitrogen and ash to build up the frame of the unborn foal. Let oats and bran be the staple ration with a few roots daily—carrots preferably. As the time for foaling approaches see that the mare's bowels and digestive organs are in good, healthy condition and if necessary increase the proportion of bran, giving it in the form of a mash every evening. Clean out carefully a good roomy box stall, have it thoroughly bedded with clean straw and turn the mare into the stall every evening. See that it is scrupulously clean, however, as the chief danger to colts comes from septicæmia or blood poisoning, by the absorption of filth of disease germs through the navel cord at time of birth.

There has frequently been a great mortality among foals throughout the country from that cause. The symptoms are a swelling of the young colt's joints, first one, then another, a loss of appetite and vitality, resulting usually in death from one to two weeks from time of birth. In addition to absolute cleanliness in the stall and on the part of the attendant, an excellent preventive is an application of carbolic acid—say ten per cent. strength—to the navel cord at time of birth and twice daily thereafter for about four days. Some other preparations are excellent, notably one called Umbilicure, which can be had from Prof. A. S. Alexander, Evanston, Illinois, by the use of which all danger from blood-poisoning can easily be obviated.

Now, assuming that the foal is safely born and has learned to suck—which is the first operation—it is well to see that the youngster is neither suffering from constipation nor diarrhœa, either of which, if allowed to continue many days, will prove fatal. A tablespoonful of castor oil and an injection of soap and tepid water may be administered with good results during the first few days of the colt's life in case the bowels are in any way unnatural; indeed, many successful breeders make an inviolable practice of giving a small dose of castor oil as a lubricant to every young foal. The practice is a safe one, and frequently very efficacious. Weather permitting, the mare and foal may be allowed to run out during the day as soon as the colt is a day or two old, good judgment, of course, being used in not allowing them to stand long in