

HORSES.

IMPROVING THE HORSE-BREEDING INDUSTRY IN WISCONSIN.

Wisconsin is making some strenuous efforts to improve her horse-breeding industry. A stallion law was enacted three years ago, which has since been amended in various particulars, until the inspecting and licensing of stallions used for public service in this State is about as thoroughly carried out as any similar inspecting and licensing work is in any State that boasts of a stallion law. Wisconsin was driven to adopt the present stallion-licensing measures because of the predominance in the State of unregistered stallions of no breeding whatever, and unsound sires, both pure-bred and grade, that stood for public service. Farmers, so long as grade stallions could be procured for one-quarter, or less, the cost of pure-breds, or used on their mares for half or one-third the pure-bred sires' fee, purchased and used these nondescript stallions. The result was that, while Wisconsin, in climate, soil and grasses, is almost ideally situated for exploiting the horse industry, she was far behind some of her neighbors in the quality and value of the stock she was producing. It became evident to those directing the agricultural and live-stock affairs of the Badger State that something would have to be done to save horse-breeders from the effects of their own carelessness and indifference; that measures would have to be enacted rendering it difficult, if not impossible, for nondescript stallions of all kinds to travel up and down the back concessions of every country, stamping their own inferiority upon the stock they produced, and lowering the quality of the horses of the entire State. So the Stallion Law of 1905 was passed by the Legislature.

This law simply provided that all stallions standing for public service should be inspected by a qualified veterinarian, passed upon as to soundness, and a certificate granted the owner, if the horse passed the requirements of the Act. Subsequently, amendments have been made to the Act stipulating the diseases that shall be considered hereditary, contagious or transmissible, and therefore subjecting a stallion to rejection from public service; and providing a special license certificate for non-standard-bred stallions, and instructions as to what shall constitute a legal stallion poster. Veterinarians are also required to make affidavit to the soundness certificates they sign, a provision to insure greater care in the examination of the stallions.

The disqualifying diseases are: Cataract amurosis, periodic ophthalmia, laryngeal hemiplegia, pulmonary emphysema (heaves), chorea, bone spavin, ringbone, sidebone, navicular disease, bog spavin, curb, glanders, farcy, maladie du coit, urethral gleet, mange, and milanosia.

In the advertising of public-service stallions, provision is also made for insuring that the truth, largely, shall be told in describing the characteristics and breeding of the animal which the advertisement refers to. It is illegal for stallion owners to print upon posters, statements that are not strictly honest, or use a picture in a dishonest manner. Every stallion advertised must have printed on the poster in front of the name the word "grade" or "pure-bred," "cross-bred," or "non-standard-bred," as the case requires. This information shall be printed in bold-face type, not less in size than "long primer." Stallion owners have not the privilege of referring to their horse on the poster as "grand," "great," "fine," or "celebrated," and then down in a corner of the poster print an insignificant copy of a horse's license certificate testifying that the animal is a grade. It is illegal to use the picture of a pure-bred stallion to advertise a grade, and the picture of the horse on the poster must be of the breed which the stallion advertised represents. The law also provides that no judging will be possible, by means of which the public may be led to suppose that a grade stallion possesses a pedigree. It is necessary to show on the poster the truth as to the sire, and the truth as to the dam, not publishing the facts in such a way as to lead the casual reader to suppose that the sire's dam was in reality the dam of the grade advertised, a trick often resorted to.

In Wisconsin, at present, according to Dr. A. S. Alexander, there is a total of 1,286 pure-bred stallions of all breeds, and 1,974 grades. Of these, both pure and grade Percherons and trotters predominate, pure-bred Clydesdales numbering only 66, and grades 119. Prof. Alexander, in a bulletin issued for the guidance of Wisconsin horsemen, makes a powerful plea for horse-breeders and farmers to use pure-bred sires to improve the industry. It contains many illustrations of grade stallions standing for service that in conformation are cow-boys, and the general use of which is degrading the quality and value of the horses of the State.

RETENTION OF THE MECONIUM IN FOALS.

Many foals are lost every year from what is generally supposed to be constipation, but in reality is retention of the contents of the intestines at birth, called the meconium. During the last few months of foetal development, the liver of the foetus is active, and secretes bile, which is conveyed by the bile duct into the small intestines. The mucous or lining membrane of the intestines is also active, and secretes a quantity of mucus, which, of course, remains in the intestines and becomes mixed with the bile. This mixture becomes inspissated or thickened, and forms into lumps or balls of a dark, almost black, color, and of about the consistence of putty. This is called the meconium, and at birth the whole intestinal tract, from the commencement of the small intestines to the anus, is, to a greater or less extent, filled. Under normal conditions, the foal, shortly after birth, will be noticed evacuating a quantity of these little black lumps, and the evacuation will be repeated at intervals for about twenty-four hours, after which the color and character of the faeces change from blackish lumps to a yellowish mass of a somewhat sticky character. This change indicates that the meconium has all been passed, and that the faeces now being evacuated are those formed from the milk the foal has taken after birth. Unfortunately, this normal evacuation does not always take place, and we notice what is known as retention of the meconium. This is more frequently noticed in foals that are born during the time that mares are kept in the stable, and especially if they have been fed principally on dry food. Feeding pregnant mares on considerable soft food, as scalded bran and oat chop, with a raw root or two daily, tends to prevent the trouble, but it is not unfrequently seen in the foals of mares that have been very carefully fed and attended to during pregnancy, and is not at all unknown in the foals of mares that have been on grass for weeks, or even months.

Symptoms.—A few hours after birth the foal will be noticed to make ineffectual attempts to defecate. He seeks the corner of the stall, or, if outside, leaves his dam, elevates the tail, humps his back and strains, but nothing is evacuated. These attempts are repeated at intervals, and if relief is not given he begins to show colicky pains, lies down, rolls, looks to his side, gets up, lies down again, etc. The pulse becomes frequent and wiry, the expression anxious, mucous membranes injected, and he refuses to nurse. The symptoms increase in severity. After a while the pulse becomes imperceptible, the lips cold; in some cases the abdomen becomes bloated, inflammation of the bowels results, and this is soon followed by death.

Treatment.—The common practice of giving purgative medicines in cases of this kind cannot be too highly condemned. I might just here say that the somewhat common practice of giving purgative medicines, as castor or linseed oil, melted butter, honey, etc., to the foals as soon as born, with the idea of preventing constipation, is irrational and dangerous. The first milk of the dam, called the "colostrum," is a somewhat oily-looking material, different in appearance and also in character to milk, and has a slight laxative effect. In some cases this colostrum has escaped before parturition, and especially in these cases it is commonly considered necessary to administer purgatives to the foal. Even in these cases, laxatives or purgatives should be given in very small doses, else serious complications are liable to result.

A little careful consideration and observation will convince any thoughtful man that the attempt to cause expulsion of the meconium by the administration of purgative medicines is theoretically and practically wrong. The meconium, as stated, exists in lumps of various sizes. Owing to the action of the bowels during foetal life, these lumps have passed backwards in the bowels, and the rectum has become filled, but their escape is prevented by the sphincter muscles of the anus. Where these lumps are quite large, and somewhat hard, the foal has not sufficient expulsive power to overcome the contractive power of these muscles and allow escape of the lumps. This condition is noticed not only in weakly foals, but often in strong, vigorous ones. It is a well-known fact that medicines given by the mouth have little or no action upon the contents of the rectum; hence, when such are given in these cases, they cause a fluidity of the contents of the anterior intestines and increase peristaltic action, but have practically no action upon the seat of trouble, viz., the rectum. Such treatment must, of necessity, cause more or less serious complications, and often, when by other means the meconium is removed, the medicines given cause purgation or diarrhea, which in many cases proves fatal. But in most cases treated this way the meconium is not removed, and the colt dies, apparently from constipation. A post-mortem will reveal the contents of the anterior intestines fluid or semi-fluid, but the floating colon and rectum full of meconium. Hence, we say, do not give purgatives, at all events in the early stages. The

trouble exists in the rectum and floating colon, hence treatment should be directed to these parts. The nails of the forefinger should be cut, in order to avoid scarification; it should then be well oiled and carefully inserted into the rectum, and all the lumps that can be reached removed. It will surprise a person how much he can remove in this way, as the foal makes expulsive efforts, and as the lumps are removed from the rectum a fresh supply is forced into it, as in most cases the whole trouble is that the foal has not sufficient expulsive power to force the lumps through the anus. An injection of a few ounces of warm water and linseed oil, and warm water and soap or glycerine and warm water, should then be given. This operation should be repeated every few hours, until the faeces become yellow, when, of course, the meconium has all passed. If, during this time, it is noticed that the rectum remains empty, and that there are some lumps which probably the finger can touch, but not remove, firmly implanted in the intestine, they can generally be removed by the use of a tolerably stout piece of wire, doubled, and the blunt end inserted into the rectum, and carefully manipulated. In rare cases even this practice will not succeed, and then the prospects of recovery are slight, but we are justified then in administering a laxative of, say, one to two ounces castor oil, and keeping up the injections and our efforts to remove the meconium by finger or wire. It is good practice to mechanically remove the meconium in all foals, without waiting for symptoms of retention. This practice, if carefully done, can do no harm, and in all cases saves the foal more or less expulsive efforts and distress.

"WHIP."

LIVE STOCK.

WHY DO WE KEEP COWS?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Since I have been a reader of your valuable paper, I have never seen so many letters as there have been upholding the Shorthorn cow. Mr. Editor, how is it? Are they losing ground, or are their fanciers afraid the dairy cow will put them out of existence, or do they require so much praise to keep them abreast with the times, or what can be the matter?

Mr. John Campbell and others have been writing long letters strongly upholding the Shorthorn cow. I do not know whether Mr. Campbell has had any experience in dairying or not, but I would imagine, from the tone of his letter, that he has not, and if he has, he has not made it a success, as he appears to have no use for milk, butter and cheese, but talks all beef, when he says it is a pleasant and profitable occupation to stand to one side and see the calf take it all. But the energetic, up-to-date farmer (dairyman) of to-day would think that a thing of the past, and would not stand to one side and see the calf take all the milk, butter and cheese, and punch its gentle mother in order to try to make her give it more, but would take his pail, and, if she was a good dairy cow, would in a few minutes have a pailful of the most nourishing food for man or beast, old or young, to be found on the top of the earth. He speaks of milking as being hard work, but the dairyman does not think it hard work, as he thinks it a half hour of the easiest choring he has to perform.

Well, now, I have had a little experience in beef and dairying, and not very much of either, but I feel safe in saying I was the owner and feeder of the largest calf, for its age, to my knowledge, that was raised in the County of Victoria. When it was six and a half months old it weighed 790 pounds. If any of your readers have had a larger one, I would be pleased to hear from them. I fed a bunch of cattle that averaged me \$91 each, yet I came to the conclusion it did not pay, as the calves had to be allowed to suck their dams six or seven months, and fed meal on good pasture, in order to make them bring that price at two and a half or three years old.

We will take the average of pure-breds. Mr. Campbell's names I could mention, sell their young bulls from nine to thirteen months old, at anywhere from \$35 to \$66, and in some cases, where they failed to get a buyer, they have sent them to the block for even less. Where is the profit, after taking all the dam's milk, keeping them in the stable, and feeding them meal? We know that Mr. John Campbell would not sell for these prices, but every Shorthorn breeder is not a John Campbell, nor every dairyman a Gen. Rice, but he must act according to his means.

Now, it is not so with dairying. When a cow freshens, she feeds the calf five or six weeks, and it is sold to the butcher for \$8 to \$12, and I have been told by a dairyman who keeps a large herd of cattle that his cows have averaged him \$70 for the year, sending the cream to the creamery, leaving the skim milk at home to feed hogs, which is the cheapest and best feed they could have. I think it would figure close to \$100 per