

THE HORSE.

Itchy Legs in Horses.

Horses, especially those of the draft type, are more or less subject to an itchiness of the skin of the legs, particularly in the region of the fetlock and cannons. This is more noticeable in horses with bone and feathering of poor quality, commonly called "round bone," or bone of a fatty or beefy type. It is seldom seen in a horse with good quality of bone and feathering. In many horses there undoubtedly is a congenital predisposition inherited from sire or dam or both. While this predisposition exists to a more or less marked degree in all breeds of heavy horses, it is probably more marked in the hairy-legged classes.

The trouble is much more marked during the winter months than in other seasons, and is noticed much more frequently in horses that are practically idle than in those at regular work. As stated, the predisposition exists, and the exciting causes are idleness, lack of brushing and grooming, dirt, alternate wet and dry conditions of the legs, changes from heat to cold, high feeding without sufficient work, etc. Probably the most fertile cause in working horses is the too common habit of washing the legs to remove mud, ice, etc. Anything that has a tendency to check the circulation, even for a short time, tends to swelling of the legs, itchiness and eruptions. Whatever the cause, the legs become itchy, the horse stamps with his feet, bites the parts, rubs one leg with the shoe or foot of the opposite limb, etc. This continues until the legs become raw in places, small quantities of blood escape and adhere to the hair, collect dust, etc. If this be not removed the parts become foul and fetid and the trouble becomes aggravated. When warm water and soap are used for the cleansing of the parts, and the legs instead of being rubbed until dry are allowed to dry from the heat of the parts, the reaction causes a more or less marked stagnation of the circulation, which tends to increase the trouble. Hence, the accumulation of blood, dust, etc., should be allowed to become dry and then removed by rubbing and brushing instead of by the use of fluids, unless the attendant has the time and inclination to rub the legs until dry, and this requires so much time and labor that it is seldom properly carried out. The question then arises: "How can we prevent the trouble?" Of course, the principal point is to produce horses with clean, hard, flinty bone, with fine feathering and an absence of roundness of bone, or beefiness. This can be done only by mating mares of the desirable quality with sires of equal quality.

The next question is: "Having horses in which the predisposition exists, how can we prevent it?" This can be done only by taking care to prevent the operation of any exciting cause. Horses that are idle or partially idle should be fed on easily-digested, laxative feed. The use of drugs or medicines as preventives is not advisable. Regular exercise, ordinary feed of good quality, and in reasonable quantities, with an occasional feed of bran, and a few roots daily, combined with daily rubbing and brushing the legs in order to prevent the accumulation of dirt, etc., and the removal of scurf and dandruff, goes a long way towards preventing trouble. We are aware of the fact that it is usually considered unnecessary to groom idle horses, and also of the fact that the legs of work horses seldom receive the grooming they require. Experience teaches us that while general grooming can probably be dispensed with in idle horses, if they be of the hairy-legged classes, the legs must receive regular attention, else trouble is liable to follow. When the legs become covered with ice or mud, they should not be washed, but allowed to become dry and then well brushed. All the exciting causes already mentioned should, as far as possible, be avoided.

Curative Treatment—When the trouble under discussion appears, of course, curative treatment is necessary. In the first place the patient should be prepared for a purgative by feeding on bran alone for eighteen to twenty-four hours; then a purgative of eight to ten drams of aloes, according to the size of the patient, with two or three drams of ginger, should be given, and bran alone fed until purgation commences. After the bowels regain their normal condition, alteratives, as one to two ounces of Fowler's solution of arsenic, should be given twice daily for a week. This can be given either mixed with bran or chop, or mixed with a pint of water and given as a drench.

Local treatment consists in regular brushing and rubbing of the legs, and the daily application of some antiseptic that tends to remove and prevent itchiness. A solution of corrosive sublimate, about twenty grains to a pint of warm water, or a solution of Gillett's lye,

about a teaspoonful to a pint of warm water, gives good results. Whichever is used should be applied warm and rubbed well into the skin, which can be done only by parting the hair in many places and applying the liquid carefully and thoroughly. It is good practice to then rub with cloths until the legs are dry, but at all events, cold and drafts must be excluded. If this treatment be well carried out, it usually results in a cure, but if carelessly conducted it will not lead to satisfactory results. When the trouble has reached the eruptive stage, treatment for scratches or mud fever must be adopted.

WHIP.

LIVE STOCK.

Keep the calf pen clean.

Those loafing animals should be consigned to the butcher's block.

Don't throw away the dirt from the root-house, carry it to the pigs.

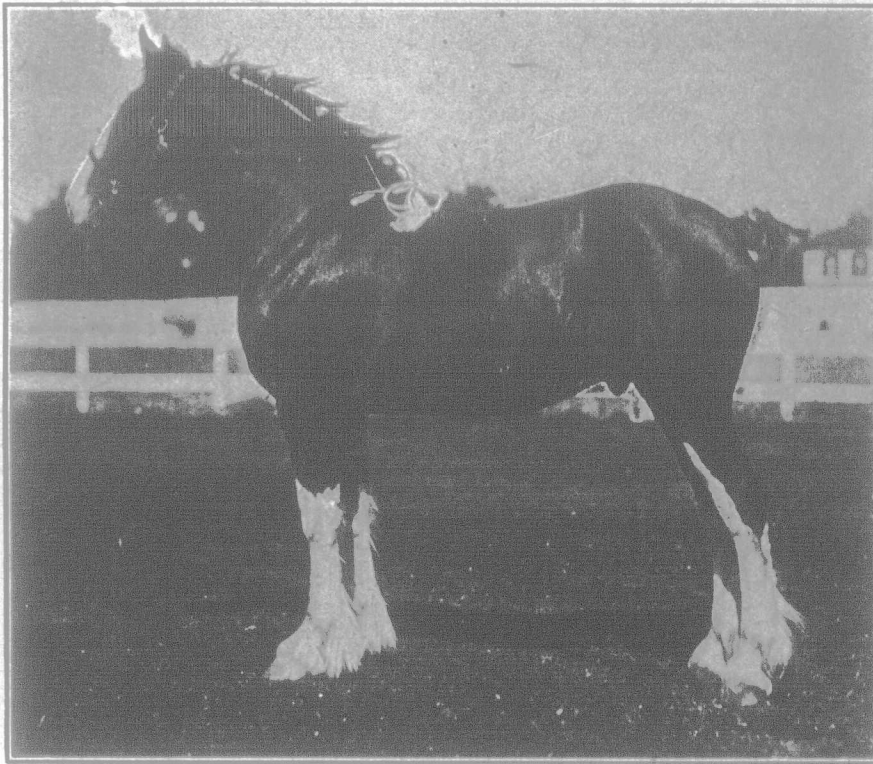
Watch both ends of the animals if you would detect ailments in their first stage.

At time of writing the price of hogs is stiffening a little. The fall litter may yet be profitable.

Brood sows require exercise. A shelter in the corner of the barnyard is an ideal place for them.

Have you a supply of remedies for common stock ailments on hand? By rendering first aid you may save some animal.

Keeping the calf pails clean helps prevent scours in the calves. Washing them isn't enough; they need scalding frequently.



Denholmhill Prince (20811).

First as a foal at London and Ottawa and second at Guelph. First yearling Clydesdale stallion and sweepstakes at London, 1919, and first at Guelph. Sire, Denholmhill David; dam, Farmer's Belle (imp.) Owned by W. W. Hogg, Thamesford, Ont.

Try and keep the chaff and clover leaves from getting on the sheep's back. It is easier to prevent dirt getting there than to clean it out.

A little silage or a few roots left in the corner of the manger soon sour and become distasteful to the animals. See that mangers are cleaned thoroughly before each feed.

Compared with price of feeds seven or eight years ago there are no cheap feeds to-day, but then, hogs, cattle, butter-fat, hay, eggs, etc., have risen as well as the price of feeds.

The sow that is very thin in flesh at time of being bred is not likely to have as large nor as strong a litter as the one in fair flesh. It is better to delay breeding a thin sow for a few weeks.

The man who started into pure-breds a few years ago by purchasing a few females of good breeding and then mated them to an outstanding bull from the standpoint of both individuality and breeding is to-day reaping his reward.

A pen six feet square and five feet high makes a very good farrowing pen. It is small and the body heat of the sow will keep it reasonably warm. If the piggery is cold a corner of a pen could be boarded up for a farrowing pen.

The Prince of Wales who has purchased a farm in our Canadian West takes a keen interest in good live stock. It is reported that he has purchased a choice selection of Shorthorns and Shropshires for use on his new farm. The Prince is President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England for 1920.

An examination of some of the cows which cannot be got in calf, may disclose the fact that the neck of the womb is closed. The veterinarian may be able to open it resulting in the cow conceiving at the first or second service. Before beefing the valuable female on account of sterility endeavor to rectify the causes of sterility.

Our English recorder tells us that English Herefords have been making high prices in Montevideo. The Royal Cardiff champion bull, Goodenough, bred by W. Griffiths, Aldersend, Tarrington, Hereford, has been sold to Senor Felipe Monteros for £6,587 10s. in English money. Goodenough is by Royal Oyster, out of Godiva. H. Weston & Sons' Bounds Ideal, by Conquest, made £3,298; Coston Shyllock realized £3,191 10s.; Abdale, £2,552; and ever so many passed the £1,550 mark.

According to our English correspondent a short-pedigree Shorthorn cow with a milk record of 11,324 lbs. realized £196 7s. at Penrith, where a much-recorded sale of non-pedigree and short-pedigree milking Shorthorns was held. A five-year-old cow with 9,857 3/4 lbs. of milk in 289 days to her credit fetched £193 4s. A cow in calf, six years old, and a yielder of 5,522 lbs. in 270 days, made £177 10s. Other prices were £126 and £157 frequently paid for certified yielders.

Wintering Pigs.

Hog raisers have their greatest difficulties during the winter months. Pigs cripple and become stunted even under the best of care. Hogs will not remain thrifty on a cold, damp pen. They will do well in the cold provided there is dryness of air and pen. Favorable conditions are not easy to obtain on all farms. Then, too, young pigs do not do well in the same piggery with a bunch of shoats or fattening hogs. There seems to be something in the air that is detrimental to the health of the youngsters. On the average farm it seems that the cattle stable is about the best place for the young litter, although there are objections to this practice. When the pen is cold plenty of bedding should be used, and the sleeping quarters raised off the cold cement. Some of the most elaborate structures built to house the pigs have proven very deficient in something essential to the health and thriftiness of the hogs.

The old log building with straw piled on top made a much more suitable piggery than the modern stone or concrete walled and floored building. However, the latter buildings are more convenient and can be made to furnish the needs of the hog. Light, ventilation and dryness are essentials. Most buildings, have not the proper ventilation, and this causes dampness. Air shafts should lead from the pens to the roof, and if straw can be stored in the loft over a slat floor it will absorb dampness and permit the foul air to diffuse through. We have seen some of the windows displaced by cotton with good results. While the pen was cool there was a freshness and dryness to the atmosphere.

Feed is important. Although it is high priced it does not pay to feed merely a maintenance ration. If keeping pigs feed them. Low-priced pork and high-priced feed are not conditions to make a feeder smile, but while the hog may cost more to produce just now than one gets for it, there was a time not long past when there was a margin of profit on feeding hogs. That time will undoubtedly return again. There is no business but has its depressed times. The solution now is to so compound the ration that maximum returns will be obtained at minimum cost. Housing conditions must be right, and the ration must supply the nutrients necessary to the growth and development of the hog.

The young pigs will commence eating mangels and drinking milk from a trough when a few weeks old. By supplementing the milk they obtain from the sow, the pigs will be more growthy and thrifter at weaning time than if these extra feeds had not been given. Have you ever thrown a box of dirt from the root-house, or ashes from the furnace into the pen and watched the young pigs work? Try them with a bunch of alfalfa hay or leafy clover and see how they pick at it. These feeds are cheaper than grain, yet, serve a purpose in the development of the body. After the pigs are weaned they should have all the mangels and clover or alfalfa they will eat. When milk is not available it will, no doubt, pay to feed tankage in order to assist in balancing the ration. Finely-ground oats and shorts are bone and muscle-forming material, and should make up the major portion of the grain part of the ration until the pigs are possibly four months old. The heavy feeds can be held for finishing. In cold weather hogs do not drink as much water as during the summer, and care should be taken that they are not forced to take too much water in order to get their grain.

The injunction decree to be issued by the United States Federal Courts against the big five in the packing industry appears comprehensive enough to prevent them ever again getting a strangle hold upon the produce business of the country. Perhaps this will point out to Canadian packers the wisdom of taking the agricultural public a little more into their confidence regarding an important aspect of the farmers own business.