

Indigestion in Horses—VII.

Diarrhoea.—This term is applied to all cases of simple purging in which the faeces are loose, liquid or semi-liquid, and frequently discharged without coexistent inflammation. Diarrhoea is sometimes a spontaneous effort to discharge from the intestines something which is irritant or obnoxious to them or to the system generally. It is also induced by a variety of causes, such as indigestible food; food imperfectly masticated; sudden changes in diet, particularly from a dry to a moist one; medicinal substances; parasites in stomach or intestines; derangement of the liver; copious draughts of cold water when the animal is overheated; stagnant or impure water, etc.

Some animals are particularly predisposed to attacks of diarrhoea from trival causes: short-ribbed, flat-sided, narrow-loined horses, and those of a very nervous temperament are apt to purge without apparent cause. They are commonly called "washy" horses. They will start upon a journey in apparently the best of health, but before having been driven far will commence to purge more or less freely, passing liquid or semi-liquid faeces (often accompanied by flatus) in small quantities and frequently. In some cases feeding exclusively upon dry food will prevent the trouble, but in others it will not. Such horses are hard to keep in condition, require the best of food and very careful feeding and they are very disagreeable to drive. If used for slow work they usually give good satisfaction. Some horses become "washy" as the result of swallowing imperfectly masticated food due to faulty teeth. Such can be successfully treated by having their teeth attended to, others may be "washy" only when fed some particular food or watered under certain conditions, and of course these, after the cause has been ascertained can be successfully treated by removing or avoiding the cause, others will purge when driven under any system, and such will give good service only at slow work.

Acute diarrhoea is that condition in which an animal (not naturally washy) purges freely without suffering acute pain. The faeces are voided freely in liquid form, often of a dirty brown color and without offensive odor. In other cases the excretions are foul-smelling and often of a dirty clay color. In some cases, a spontaneous cure results in a few hours, indicating that the diarrhoea was caused by some irritant in the intestines, which was expelled with the excreta and a rapid recovery took place. In other cases the trouble continues, the animal loses appetite, but thirst is usually excessive, he drinks large quantities of water regardless of its quality; he fails rapidly in strength, and if the trouble be not checked he will become unable to stand and death will soon take place.

TREATMENT.—If possible, ascertain the cause and remove it. If this can be done in the early stages it is often all that is required. If it be suspected that the disease is due to some irritant in the intestines and the patient is not showing weakness and a decided loss of appetite a laxative of 1 to 1½ pints raw linseed oil should be given. This of course temporarily increases purgation, and is given with the hopes that this increase will cause the removal from the intestines of the irritant that is responsible for the trouble. In fact it is good practice in all cases of acute diarrhoea in which the patient still retains a reasonable appetite and reasonable strength, to give a laxative. After giving laxative nothing should be given to check the diarrhoea for at least 24 hours, as it requires that length of time for the laxative to establish and complete its action, and if astringents be given earlier they will counteract the laxation and there will be practically a negative result from each and no good will have resulted. If after this length of time the diarrhoea still continues, means should be taken to check it. Also if the patient has lost appetite and is becoming dull and weak, even in the early stages, he is not in condition to withstand the still further weakening effects of a laxative hence prompt means of checking the diarrhoea should be taken, even though we suspect some removable irritant in the intestines. While upon general principles we say that diarrhoea should not be too quickly checked, experience teaches us that in cases of acute diarrhoea presenting the symptoms noted prompt measures to check it are necessary. For this purpose in a horse of ordinary size we recommend 2 oz. tincture of opium and ½ oz. each of powdered catechu and prepared chalk in a pint of cold water and given as a drench every four hours until diarrhoea ceases. The dose for smaller or larger animals should, of course, be in proportion. If any appetite remain, dry food, as oats and hay should be given. If appetite be entirely lost and weakness be well marked, the patient should be drenched every few hours with raw eggs and ½ pint of whisky or 2 oz. sweet spirits of nitre, or with oat meal gruel to which has been added the stimulant. If the excretions have an offensive odor the administration of ½ oz. hyposulphite of soda every few hours usually gives good results. As already stated, the patient is usually very

thirsty, and if allowed to will drink excessive quantities of water. It is not wise to allow large quantities to be taken at once, but the patient's thirst should be satisfied by allowing small quantities, say a gallon at a time, and given often, every half hour or even oftener if necessary, and to the water given should be added one-quarter of its bulk of lime water. That is 4 parts water and 1 part lime water. This in most cases gives splendid results. We are often impressed with the idea that the lime water gives more marked results than the drugs. Lime water is made by slacking a small lump of lime, then adding considerable water, stirring well and allowing to settle. The undissolved lime settles to the bottom and the clear water on top is "lime water." It cannot be made too strong as the water will dissolve and hold in solution only a certain quantity of lime and the remainder precipitates. In other words, lime water is a saturated solution of lime in water. That is the water contains all the lime it will hold in solution.

WHIP.

Two Good Colts.

Readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" will remember a photograph of two colts which appeared in this paper a little over two years ago. These colts at the time had been recently weaned and where photographed standing looking over a set of bars. The same two colts are illustrated in this week's paper and from the illustration they have done very well and have grown into a very satisfactory team. They weighed when the photograph was taken exactly 1,370 pounds each, a very fair weight for three-year-old farm horses. These colts have very good Clydesdale breeding behind them which point we wish to emphasize. It pays to breed the right class if good horses are wanted, and nothing but the best should satisfy the breeder on either a small or large scale.

The Progress of Stallion Enrolment in Ontario.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The second year of Stallion Enrolment in Ontario is drawing to a close, and, as was to be expected, the enrolment is much more complete than in 1913.

Last year at the close of the season, July 31st, there had been enrolled 2,760 stallions. Up to June 18th this year 2,224 of these had renewed their Certificates, and 780 which were not

future of the horse-breeding industry. There are, no doubt, a few horse owners who have not renewed their certificates, thinking that enrolment like registration in the stud-book, was for life. As it is only good for one year the renewal should be made at once.

What is needed at this time more than anything else is an appreciation of the benefits of the Act by the owners of mares throughout the province. In the past many stallions have been represented as pure-bred by owners and grooms when it was impossible to have them recorded in the stud-book of the breed to which they were said to belong. To satisfy himself as to whether such representations are correct or not, all that is necessary for the mare owner to do is to ask the stallion owner to produce his Certificate of Enrolment. If his horse is really a pure-bred it will be stated on the Certificate in plain type, if he cannot be recorded as a pure-bred it will be stated on the Certificate that he is a grade, in prominent type. This information will not be of great value to the owner of pure-bred mares, as he is acquainted with matters connected with registration. The man who will receive the real benefit from this is the one who is endeavoring to have his horses registered by the grading-up process which is permitted with several breeds, as he can in this way assure himself that every cross he makes will count.

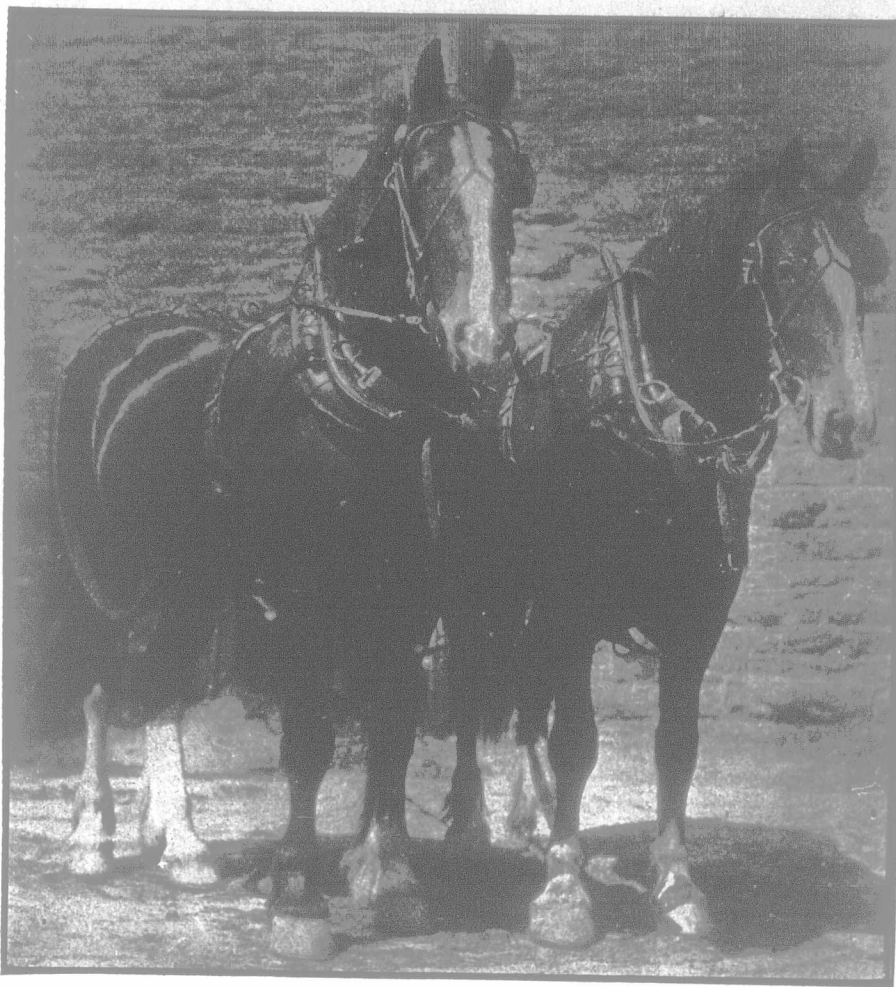
The man who is starting in the business of breeding will also find it to his advantage to note whether the horse he intends breeding to has been inspected or not, and breed only to those horses which have been inspected and approved, as those who did not have their horses inspected were in many cases afraid that if they had submitted them for inspection that they would have been rejected for some of the diseases or malformations mentioned in the Act. It would, therefore, be wisdom on his part to insist on a stallion having a form 1 Certificate before deciding to breed to him.

R. W. WADE.

LIVE STOCK.

Commence Soiling Early.

We have had complaints from many quarters in Ontario that the hay crop is light and the pasture poor. A protracted spell of dry weather through June was largely responsible for the condition. The drouth set in very early in some localities. Conditions like these must be met by the stock farmer if he wishes to keep his stock in the best condition, and where milking cows are kept, desires to sustain a high milk flow, he must provide some feed other than that got from the pasture fields. When the pastures become cropped off as early in the season as the month of June it is more than likely that before the end of August is reached they will be exceedingly bare and very dry. Many of our best stockmen are now practicing feeding some soiling crops or providing summer silage, and some of the best dairymen give also a little grain. This practice is not generally started until later on in the summer, as it is not deemed necessary, or at least very profitable, to feed any considerable quantity of other feed when pasture is abundant. Those feeders who have the foresight to commence this feeding of soilage crops or other feed as a supplement to the pastures a little earlier in the season this year will doubtless get the best results. Nothing injures the pastures to such an extent as allowing them to become too closely cropped off, giving the sun a chance to dry the land of every bit of moisture and causing the remaining grass to become dry and woody. If a part of this pasture grass can be saved by feeding other feeds it will be found that it will continue to give a great deal more feed throughout the remainder of the summer. We would advise, where at all possible, that silage



Three-year-olds.

A good team of 1,370-lb. Clydesdale colts, on the Brockville Asylum Farm.

enrolled last year had received Certificates, making total enrolled to date of 3,004. From this it will be seen that 536 horses which were enrolled last year either are not doing business in the province this year or are breaking the law. The greater number of these have been sold to leave the province, while a smaller number have died, and a number of owners of grades have reported that business was so poor that they had taken their horses off the road and castrated them, which is a very good sign for the