

Good Temper in Stallions.

In a recent discussion on horse-breeding, a Scotch breeder of carriage horses with large experience said: "During a lengthy and varied experience in the breaking of young horses, one thing has been most forcibly brought home to me, viz., that there is nothing relating to horseflesh which has a stronger tendency to prove hereditary than what may be termed inherent vice. In maintaining this theory, I do not mean to say that a mare that kicks or jibs in harness will throw all her produce with a like vice; still, if they neither kick nor jib, it is in every way likely that they will display vice in some other way. Therefore, I would say to all breeders of any type of horses, do not breed from either mares or sires which have displayed inherent vice in any form. In addition to that, I am a strong advocate for all stallions that are to be used for the getting of harness horses being themselves exhibited in harness after they are over three years old."

LIVE STOCK.

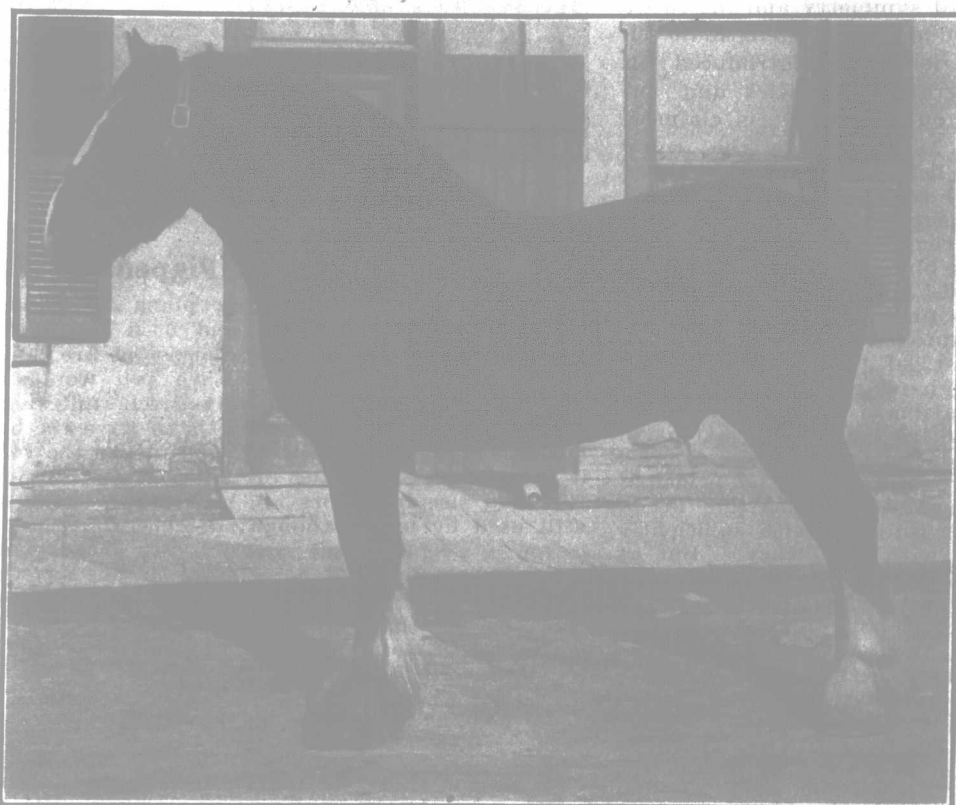
Feeding Sows.

In the course of a bulletin prepared by Professor W. J. Kennedy for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, on the subject of pig-feeding in Europe, he gives the following notes of his observations in England: On the best farm the sows are often twelve months old before being bred. Two litters per year is the prevailing custom, and a good breeder is never discarded so long as she continues to rear good litters. The period of usefulness varies from three to eight years. The sows get exercise during the summer, and feed from pasture or a forage crop. Clover and alfalfa are both largely used, and many farmers use vetches and oats, or peas and oats. In the milder parts of the country sows have exercise during winter on pasture, and in the colder districts special exercising pens are provided under cover. Raw or steamed mangels, beets or turnips are fed in winter. Previous to farrowing brood sows are fed moderately. Any fattening or heating feed is eliminated entirely from the ration, or fed in very small quantities, and then in conjunction with cooling feeds, such as skim milk and bran. Within a week or so of farrowing time the principal part of the ration is decreased and the bran increased. Sometimes from four to eight ounces of Epsom salts, according to the size of the animal, are given each sow about two days before farrowing. During the suckling period, which varies from five to seven weeks, the sows are very liberally fed. Rations of equal parts bran, shorts and barley meal, scalded and fed with skim milk, or two parts bran, two parts middlings, one part barley meal, and one part maize meal, soaked or steamed, and fed with or without skim milk, are in general use. The sows are always fed three times per day, and in some instances four times per day. Skim milk and buttermilk are used whenever they can be had.

The Sow at Farrowing.

Profit to the farmer in pig-raising depends largely on saving a good percentage of the litters born this spring, and the prospect for high prices this year should be an incentive to giving the best of care to the sows, in order that they may produce strong litters and raise them well. The winter, owing to the light snowfall, has been uncommonly favorable to sows getting exercise and access to the ground, which is essential to the production of strong litters, hence the crop this spring should be better than usual. But in the case of sows farrowing in March, care should be observed that the farrowing pen should be warm and free from drafts. The sow should be used to her pen a week or two before her time is due, though she should be let out for exercise a while each fine day, and should have food of a relaxing nature, as bran, oil meal, roots, scraps of meat, and greasy swill. Her pen should be dry and well bedded with clean straw from which she may prepare her nest as instinct teaches her. The theory that has been advocated of giving the sow only chaff, cut straw, or scant bedding at this period, to avoid overlying of the pigs, has not grown in favor, for the reason that the piglings, when born, are more liable to stray away from the mother and become chilled. Given her own way, the sow will heap the bedding on all sides of her, so that the little ones cannot get away, but will roll close to her body and be kept warm, and if she is in a healthy condition she will save a larger proportion of her pigs in this way than with scant bedding. We have known a sow to farrow in a straw stack, and bring out a round dozen of thrifty youngsters. The sow should not be disturbed by feeding for at least twelve hours

after farrowing, and it may be better to leave her alone for twenty-four hours, if all is well, when she should be given only a light drink of swill with a little bran in it, for the first day or two, and very little strong or rich food for a week, when her rations may be gradually increased. In case the sow, from injudicious feeding and lack of exercise previous to farrowing, is constipated, restless and excitable at this period, experiencing difficulty in parturition, it may be necessary to give her extra attention, as by frequently rising she may trample her pigs to death. In such case it is well to take the pigs from her as they are born, placing them in a basket covered with a blanket, until all are born and the sow becomes quieted, when the pigs may be returned to her. Prevention is better than cure, and when the treatment during pregnancy has been such as to ensure a healthy condition of the dam at farrowing time, there is seldom any serious difficulty in parturition, but we have known instances where the contrary has been the case—when the pigs were large, flabby and weak, when great difficulty was experienced by the sow in giving them birth, and instruments had to be used in order to save the life of the mother. For this reason, it would be well to be prepared for such contingency by keeping on hand a pair of farrowing forceps, which we have often seen advertised in American papers, but are not aware whether they are on sale in Canada or not. If any of our readers know of such being available in this country, we shall be glad to hear from them.



Mascot, Imp., [4554] (12243).

Three-year-old Clydesdale stallion, sire Baron's Pride, dam by Macgregor. First in his class and champion, Canadian Clydesdale and Shire Show, 1906. Imported and exhibited by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont.

A Good Prospect for Young Stock.

The present winter, owing to the unusually light snowfall in most parts of the Dominion, should prove exceptionally favorable to the coming crop of young stock of all classes, provided advantage has been taken of the weather conditions to give freedom of outdoor exercise to the pregnant females. It is agreed on all hands that the strength and vigor of the young things at birth, especially in the case of foals, lambs and pigs, depend largely upon this factor, and there will be little ground for excuse if owners fail to realize a benefit this spring from the favorable conditions of the winter in this respect. If any have neglected taking advantage of these circumstances, they will find it the part of wisdom yet, in the case of progeny due to come in the later spring months, to see that the mothers get out for exercise for an hour or more on all suitable days, and in case they are not disposed to stay, it may be well to scatter some tempting food on clean ground to induce them to do so. Mares will be the better for light work, being driven steadily and not required to do much backing; a few whole turnips scattered on the ground will keep the ewes interested, and some corn or peas distributed in the same will serve to keep the sows on their feet, to the benefit of all. We anticipate a more than usually healthy production of young things this spring, and in view of the scarcity and the active demand, present and in prospect, for lambs and pigs especially, breeders should give close attention to the youngsters when due, in order that as large a proportion as possible may be safely started in life and kept growing steadily into profit for their owners.

Care of Ewes and Lambs.

Now that the lambing season is approaching, the ewes require to be a little more liberally fed than may have been considered necessary earlier in the winter, in order to give them strength to meet the demands of motherhood, and to provide a sufficient supply of milk for their young when they come. To this end, the ration of roots should be somewhat increased. A quart each daily of oats and bran will answer well for this purpose, in addition to good clover hay, as much as they will eat up clean. If it is known which of the ewes are to lamb late, and it is practicable to divide the flock, these need not be so liberally fed as those due to lamb early, but perhaps a more necessary division is that the ewes that have lambed be separated from the others in order that they may receive more generous feeding, although in the case of small flocks this may not be necessary if good judgment be used to make sure that all are getting sufficient nourishment to keep up their strength. When lambs are expected to arrive and the weather is cold, the doors should be closed at night, as well as any other openings that would cause cold drafts. And the careful shepherd will not retire for the night without taking a look in by lamp light to see if there is a prospect of a new arrival, in which case he will not mind losing a few hours sleep, but will wait up till the youngster has got upon its feet and received nourishment, after which, if strong, it will be able to take care of itself.

To provide for twins or any weak lambs that may come, it is a good plan to have a few short hurdles ready, say 6 feet long and 2½ feet high, two of which may readily be tied together in a corner of the pen in which to place the ewe and her lambs for a day or two until they get acquainted and will keep together. In this case, care should be observed not to overfeed the ewe with grain, but give her a light feed of bran or oats, or both, and a drink of water with the chill taken off, or a bran mash made thin, from which she may drink. In the case of a weak lamb which cannot stand within an hour after its birth, the ewe may be gently laid on her side, and while the shepherd places his right leg over her neck to

keep her quiet, he has his hands free to handle the lamb, milking a little into its mouth, when, as a rule, it will take to sucking. Do not be over anxious to have it take much at first—nature's way is a little and often, and that is best. If the ewe neglects her lamb, or refuses to nurse it, she should be tied by the neck in a corner of one of the little hurdle pens above mentioned until she takes to her duty. In case a ewe loses her lamb by death, she may be made to adopt one of twins, by tying her in this way, rubbing some of her milk on the lamb; or she may more quickly be brought to take to it by stripping the skin off her own lamb while yet warm, and tying it on the lamb given to her.

In a case of unduly protracted parturition, an examination should be made to ascertain whether the presentation is normal or not, and if not the oiled hand should be introduced, and the parts brought into proper position, when time should be again given for nature to work out its own deliverance. It is better generally to have patience than to hurry matters unduly. In the case of the presentation of the hind feet first, it is wiser to take the lamb away in that position than to attempt to turn it. In a case of undue difficulty in parturition, it is good practice after delivery to pour into the vagina from a bottle about a pint of warm water in which is mixed about 30 drops of carbolic acid. This will tend to prevent inflammation, and possibly eversion of the uterus. Docking and castration should be attended to when the lambs are about two weeks old. The latter operation should be performed first, the usual practice being to cut off the end of the scrotum, and draw the testicles, casings and all, singly, with forceps, or as the Old Country shep-