

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties,
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LONDON, CANADA.

City, Heal Thyself.

Again and again, in the press and on the plat-
form, the country is commended as being the
source of supply for infusions of new blood to re-
plenish the depleted life of the cities. The in-
dustry of the farm is suffering from this perennial
drain, and is it not about time the cities were
doing something more for the purification of their
own conditions and the regeneration of their own
life? One of these days someone will call a halt
to shutting out sunlight and air with sky-scrap-
ers, the huddling of people together in "flats" on
crowded streets, and in the mad race of bonusing
huge establishments in which thousands of hands
are employed.

HORSES.

Don't forget that the horse just in from the
pasture is in need of regular exercise; so, also,
and even more so, is the horse which has been
used to regular work during the summer and is
now enjoying the winter rest.

Get the old horse's teeth examined. He is
now forced to subsist on dry feed, which is more
difficult to masticate than the green fodder, and
unless the horse's teeth are kept filed even, there
is a likelihood that he will not thrive very well.

When horses cannot be protected from the cold,
raw winter weather, they should under no con-
sideration be clipped in the fall. It is cruel to
deprive an animal of nature's protective coat, and
not furnish him with some artificial means of
keeping up the necessary body heat.

The horse that is at hard work should get his
largest feed at night. He then has more time to
eat it, and while his body is at rest his digestive
organs are given an opportunity to do their best
work. Fill the mangers when feeding up for the
night.

The horse's stomach is small. Owing to this,
care must be taken in supplying hay, water and
grain, that they be given in the best possible
order. It has been shown by investigators that
the horse's stomach fills and empties several times
during the partaking of a large meal. The mate-
rial first taken is quickly crowded on into the in-
testines. From this, the logical order of feeding
and watering appears to be water first, roughage
next, and the concentrate material last, in order
that it be acted upon to the fullest extent by the
digestive juices of the stomach.

The use of the outdoor blanket is as important
as the use of the stable blanket. If the horse is
allowed to stand outdoors either for a short or
for a long time, he should be well blanketed. If
one is going to stop but a short time, the tem-
perature is strong not to blanket the animal. The
horse cools off rapidly and may chill, so that it is
best to blanket, if only for a moment. Again, in
the spring, when the weather is fair, one is likely
to think that no ill will result from leaving the
animal unblanketed; and yet he may chill as be-
fore. It is best, on stopping the animal, to see
that he is well protected.—[M. W. Harper, in
Manual of Farm Animals.

Abortion in Mares.

A subscriber asks for the causes and treatment
for abortion in mares. He also asks if bleeding
from the jugular vein, the injection of anti-abor-
tion serum, and the giving of a few drops of car-
bolic acid in the food will prevent the accident?

Abortion is of two kinds, viz., sporadic or ac-
cidental, and infectious or contagious. The in-
fectious form is not uncommon in cows, occasion-
ally seen in the ewes, but very rarely occurs in
mares. Hence, we will confine our remarks to
accidental abortion. Abortion, or immature
birth, may be said to occur when the fetus has
not reached that stage of development which will
enable it to live external to the parent, but when
the fetus is expelled before full term. Yet, with
all the organs sufficiently developed to enable it
to live at least for a time, it is called premature
birth. In the first case, the fetus is either dead
when born, or dies soon afterwards; while, in the
second, it may be weakly and immature, and suc-
cumb after a variable period, or it may continue
to live.

The causes of accidental abortion are many,
some evident, and some obscure. Very slight and
often unnoticed causes produce it. In a large per-
centage of the cases the causes have been un-
noticed, and it is not possible to tell exactly what
caused them. Atmospheric influences, bad weather
or irregular seasons may cause it. Cold suddenly
applied to the skin, in some cases, by causing a
contraction of both voluntary and involuntary
muscles, is by no means an unknown cause. Hence
a sudden change of weather, from hot to cold, is
sometimes followed by miscarriages in females ex-
posed of it. Food of bad quality, indigestible,
or containing injurious ingredients, is dangerous.
After unfavorable seasons for harvesting foods,
abortions are more numerous than when the
weather has been favorable. Frozen food or wa-
ter, when taken in large quantities, especially
when the organs of digestion are empty, is pro-
ductive of abortion. Food or herbage covered with
snow or frost may produce like effects. Putrid
or dirty water may be the exciting cause of the
accident. Ergotized grasses or grain have often
caused widespread losses from this trouble. Dras-
tic purgatives, as large doses of aloes, have a
tendency in the same way. Excessive muscular
exertion (especially following a period of rest), as
drawing heavy loads, plunging through deep
snow, long-continued fast driving, etc., is very
liable to produce it. Work under the saddle, es-
pecially if spurs are used, may, by causing vio-
lent contraction of the abdominal muscles, be
followed or accompanied by contraction of the
uterine walls and expulsion of its contents; so
may slipping and falling, or being cast for an
operation or other purposes, give the same re-
sults. Contusions or pressure upon the abdomen
by kicks, blows, falls, squeezing through narrow
doorways or passages; long railway or steamboat
travelling, especially if standing in constricted
stalls; blows, shocks; keeping mares standing in
stalls with inclined floors; ascending and descend-
ing tramways, etc., are all exciting causes. Ex-
citement, fear, sudden surprise, anger, etc., are
also causes. Abortion has been noticed to follow
heavy thunder. Access to the male has also been
responsible for miscarriage. Exploration per va-
gina by an expert, in order to ascertain whether
the mare was in foal, has been followed by abor-
tion; so, also, have operations of different kinds.
Obnoxious odors are said to operate. It is not
uncommon for abortion to occur after the mare
has been in the vicinity of a slaughter-house or
other places where she has come in contact with
fresh-drawn blood. In these cases, the odor of
the blood is cited as the cause. If odors cause

abortion, it must be from some influence they
have upon the sympathetic system of nerves, caus-
ing a contraction of the uterine walls. Very lean
or very fat animals are prone to abort. In some
mares, from causes not understood, there appears
to be a special tendency to abort, and in such, a
very trifling cause, often no appreciable cause,
will induce the accident; while other mares, although
exposed to the influences apparently of most power-
ful causes, will not succumb. This predisposition
cannot be recognized in an animal, and it often
disappears with age. Many diseases, as influenza,
bronchitis, pneumonia, or other diseases which in-
duce coughing or bloating, indigestion, enteritis,
or other acute diseases of the digestive organs,
are sometimes followed by abortion. It will be
seen that there are so many conditions, accidents
or diseases which may become the exciting causes
of abortion that it is not wonderful that the ac-
cident frequently occurs, when the owner or atten-
dant is at a loss to find the cause. Mares read-
ily acquire the habit of aborting, and, after hav-
ing once suffered from accidental abortion, will
abort regularly at about the same period of ges-
tation at which the first accident occurred.

Treatment.—The accident usually occurs with-
out well marked premonitory symptoms, hence
treatment cannot be adopted. In other cases, es-
pecially when pregnancy is well advanced, the
usual symptoms of approaching parturition, viz.,
the abdomen becoming more pendulous, a swelling
of the lips of the vulva and enlargement of the
mammary teats, a tendency to seek solitude,
and uneasiness, are more or less marked. When
labor pains become well marked, the water bag
may become apparent through the lips of the
vulva. If these symptoms be noticed, and the
fetus still living (which fact is often impossible
to determine), it is possible the accident may be
averted. The mare should be placed in a
partially-darkened, comfortable box stall, her ex-
citability allayed by petting, etc., by her usual
attendant. If the water-bag is apparent, but not
ruptured, it should be gently pressed back, and
she should be given a large dose of laudanum
(from two to three ounces, according to size) in
a little cold water, as a drench. Hot cloths
placed over the loins appear to soothe and quiet.
The dose of laudanum may be repeated every two
to three hours, until the symptoms disappear, or
at least until three or four doses have been given.
If the water-bag be ruptured, the accident is im-
minent; it is the duty of the attendant to assist
delivery, if necessary. If successful in averting
the accident, the mare should be kept very quiet
for a few days, and be fed lightly on easily di-
gested and laxative food. Mares that have ac-
quired the habit should be kept alone and very
quiet and lightly fed on laxative food for two or
three weeks before and after the period at which
they usually abort.

As to the treatments suggested by the inquirer,
of course, bleeding must not be practiced, as it is
an exciting cause, rather than a preventive. The
injection of anti-abortion serum and the adminis-
tration of carbolic acid are recommended in the
treatment of infective abortion, but would have
no beneficial action in the accidental form.

"WHIP."

LIVE STOCK.

The cattle-feeder has two purposes in fattening
cattle: He desires to increase the weight of the
animals, and at the same time improve their con-
dition from a butcher's viewpoint, by adding a
larger percentage of fat to the carcass.

From experiments carried on at the Nebraska
Experiment Station in growing feed and steers in
Western Nebraska, it was found that, in order
that cattle pay for their winter feed, it is neces-
sary that the price should be approximately one
dollar per hundred pounds more in the spring
than in the preceding fall.

It is necessary that the cattle be fattened as
rapidly as possible. Experiments have proven
that, the longer the feeding period, the more ex-
pensive the gains. The most profitable ration is,
therefore, that combination of feeds which will
produce the highest degree of finish in the short-
est time.

Cattle feeders realize that stall feeding can only
be successful from a financial viewpoint when the
animals are fed a very small or even a minimum
grain ration, together with some form of highly
palatable roughage which will take the place of
grass. Good corn silage, well-cured clover hay
and a few roots make very satisfactory substitutes
for grass, and in experiments carried on at the
Virginia Experiment Station in the feeding of up-
wards of four hundred cattle, silage showed a ma-
terial advantage over all other forms of roughage
used in the experiments. Only a moderate