

The Foal

CARE AT BIRTH.

The colt experiences its first difficulty in life in getting its first breath. If respiration does not seem to begin as soon as the navel cord is broken, the body should be briskly rubbed and the attendant should blow into the nostrils and mouth. A little cold water dashed on the nose and face in such a way that it will not run down the nostrils will help. If breathing seems slow and irregular during the first few minutes of life some stimulant such as several teaspoonfuls of brandy or whisky mixed in water and placed back into the mouth will help to invigorate respiration.

COMMON TROUBLES.

Nine-tenths of the deaths of colts at an early age result from one or other of the following three troubles: navel ill, constipation, and scours.

Navel Ill.—The time to begin the prevention of navel ill, for prevention is the only safe cure, is before the colt is dropped. Give the stall in which the mare is kept a thorough cleaning, disinfect it with a solution of carbolic acid or some coal tar dip, and keep the floor well bedded with clean straw.

As to the nature of this disease nothing more need be said than that it seems to be caused by filth germs that get into the body through the open navel cord at birth. These germs set up inflammation and puss forms, which is quickly absorbed into the general circulation, and abscesses form in various parts of the body. These abscesses appear first as swellings in the joints of the limbs. The disease is frequently deceptive at first because if only one joint swells and the colt seems to go lame on it (apt to think the trouble is due to a slight