

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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holding out some incentive in the manner suggested, as a stimulus to the extension of the proportion of well-managed farms and well-kept surroundings of the farm home as factors in the general improvement of the conditions of rural life, rendering these more attractive and satisfying to the young people of the farm, as well as more profitable from a financial standpoint, for a cleaner farm means cleaner seed, cleaner and better crops, more money and more solid satisfaction.

Jottings.

New York Produce says: "Our butter inspectors have run against considerable moldy butter during the past week."

Philo Mills, the owner of the late Marengo, informed the British Dairy Farmers' Association that it took three Shorthorns to make a perfect one—a Bates head, Cruickshank middle, and Booth hip to tail.

The English Agriculturist's plight is tersely put by Primrose McConnell, B. Sc., the eminent farmer-author: "They might make a living selling milk, a sort of living by making cheese, but as to buttermaking—God help them!"

I think, Mr. Stratton, The Duffryn sizes up the situation pretty well, and I believe that if we are to continue the admission of British Shorthorn cattle, as no doubt we are, the change he recommends in the standard is a most advisable one.—The Agriculturist of the Canadian Experimental Farms.

The value of skim milk depends on the way you feed it. The calf should have whole milk the first week, and, if not its own mother's milk, it should be from a cow recently calved. Next week or two substitute skim milk gradually, and then give skim milk only, but replace the butter-fat removed, with flaxseed jelly or corn meal. Give whole milk and hay as soon as they will chew it. If you have a good cow, give her quarters for them, and if you have a poor one, give her a little rennet extract or rennet tablet solution with the milk.

HORSES.

Sunstroke in Horses.

Sunstroke is an affection of the brain produced by the direct rays of the sun falling upon the cranium. It is common during the hot months in large cities, and is sometimes seen in rural districts. Among the causes that co-operate in its production may be mentioned foul, poorly-ventilated stables, tight collars or girths, and overwork in hot weather. Anything that tends to vitiate the muscular and nervous force, as obesity, poor, unwholesome food, protracted illness, etc., tend to predispose to it. Horses are usually attacked during the hottest part of the day, while being worked hard and exposed to the direct and reflected rays of the sun, while shielded from any breeze by a building, in a valley, on a hillside or in the streets of a city.

Symptoms.—Sometimes, without any observed premonitory symptoms, the horse will suddenly stop in harness, droop his head, prop himself out on all four limbs, pant violently, the pulse almost or quite imperceptible at the jaw, the heart's action irregular and weak. He will endeavor to retain his feet, but, being unable to do so, will fall after some convulsive movements, become unconscious, make a peculiar noise in breathing (called stertorous breathing), and die in a state of coma. This, of course, is a very severe case, and death takes place so quickly that practically nothing effective can be done in the way of treatment. In the majority of cases, the symptoms are not so severe, the attack is slower, there are premonitory symptoms shown, the horse flags in his gait, becomes more or less stupid, responds imperfectly, if at all, to the word of his driver or to tension on the bit; when urged he hangs upon the bit, with his head depressed. In most cases, perspiration ceases, the surface of the body becomes dry and hot, notwithstanding the excessive heat of the day; while, in rare cases, perspiration is profuse. He becomes unsteady and staggering in his gait. If still urged on he falls, but if allowed to stand he will extend all four legs in order to retain his feet, his head will be held low and stretched out; nostrils dilated, and respirations labored; the superficial veins, especially of the head, will be distended; eyes protruded and red, pupils contracted; pulse weak and frequent, and the heart's action irregular and tumultuous. Prostration follows, he falls, and may become unconscious, but in many cases he makes convulsive and vain attempts to regain his feet. He is very hard to control and to keep from injuring himself and attendants. If recovery ensues, it is followed by dullness, uncertain and uncontrollable movements of the limbs, drowsiness or other symptoms of brain trouble, which continue for a variable time, but gradually pass off. An animal once affected by sunstroke is very susceptible to future attacks under slight provocation during the rest of the season, but usually has fully recovered from this susceptibility before the hot months of the next season.

Treatment.—As stated, an attack is sometimes violent, and fatal in a short time; while, under the most favorable circumstances, even when the attack has been somewhat mild and recovery has taken place, the usefulness of the horse during the remainder of the hot season is greatly impaired, by the consequent susceptibility to subsequent attacks. Hence, preventive measures are strongly indicated. Prevention consists in, if possible, allowing the horse to rest in the stable during the hottest hours of the day, and working him early in the morning and late in the evening in order to get a full day's work. Where this is impracticable, and we are forced to work him during regular hours, his cranium should be protected by a straw hat, in which holes have been cut for the ears, or some other device that prevents the rays of the sun from falling directly on the cranium. A damp sponge in the hat increases the protection. When the disease is apparent, if the attack be violent and sudden, as described, treatment will seldom avail. When the premonitory symptoms described are observed, he should be taken out of harness immediately, and, if possible, moved to a shady place where any breeze that is present may strike him. Cold water or powdered ice should be applied to the head to lessen the congestion, and the body should be clothed to encourage perspiration, a purgation of aloes should be administered, and if the pulse be very weak, stimulants, as two ounces of sweet spirits of nitre, or six to eight ounces of whiskey or brandy, should be given, but diffusible stimulants as these should not be given unless it is necessary to keep up the heart's action, as their action on the brain should, if possible, be avoided. If a veterinarian be in attendance, it is probable he will give hypodermic injections of strychnine to tone the

heart. If the patient fall, he should be loaded on a stoneboat or other low vehicle, and drawn to a shady place. Efforts should be made to prevent him from injuring himself, and he should be treated as above, and assisted to his feet as soon as he is able to stand. The action of the bowels can be encouraged by injections of soapy water into the rectum. The veterinarian will for this purpose give hypodermic injections of eserine or arecolin, but the ordinary horse-owner has neither the skill nor the instrument for this. When recovery has taken place, care must be taken for considerable time to not expose him to exciting causes, else there will probably be a recurrence of the disease. "WHIP."

Breeding Fillies.

A noticeable feature in connection with the recent importation of fillies (by Graham Bros., sold last week in Toronto, was that the two-year-olds had all been stunted before leaving Scotland. Enquiry disclosed the fact that this is a common practice in that country of good draft horses. On this side it is a very rare thing to breed a filly before she is three years old, although, with our early-maturing stock and comfortable stables, the main reason why it is not done is simply force of habit, or a vague impression that immature mares will not produce strong foals. Scotchmen raise the best of horses, and breed their fillies at two years old. Why should we not breed a year earlier and make use of one of the best years in the brood mare's life? Of course, it is redundant to say the filly should be well grown and in thriving condition, and should be kept so. Too often the two-year-old fillies are not given the advantage they deserve, because they are supposed to be big and able to forage for themselves, and are only growing anyhow, and consequently their third year is not remarkable for development. If early breeding is followed by greater care and more liberal treatment, perhaps the ill effects supposed to result from breeding at an earlier age might be entirely avoided. It is not too late to try breeding the two-year-olds this season, and some valuable experience may be gained from it.

Weak Foals.

Reasons why so many foals have come weak this year are various. Some attribute it to the long, cold winter, others to the backward spring, some to the fact that mares had but little exercise during winter, and others that mares are worked too hard in fall and spring. Last week an experienced horse breeder gave it as his candid opinion that while all these circumstances had their injurious effects or tendencies, he believed that last season the stallions were given too much to do. Horse-breeding as a business underwent a great revival the last year or two, and there may be something in the contention that stallions have been used too excessively in the stud. When it is the case that a stallion has a large demand, the season should be started earlier and continued later than in ordinary circumstances; there would then be less strain on the horse, and a possibility of securing stronger colts.

Size of Hackneys.

There is a prevailing opinion that the Hackney stallions imported to this country are, as a rule, deficient in size, and that they would but for this be more popular and more largely patronized. That this opinion is erroneous has been proven over and over again in districts where Hackney stallions have stood or travelled for service, their progeny generally having grown into carriage horses of the most desirable type, and the highest selling class. The London Live-stock Journal, in replying to a correspondent last week on this point says:

The idea that exists amongst many people that a sire must be big in order to get big stock is entirely erroneous. Not a few of the very best 16 hand or 15 hand 3 inch Hackneys have, as a matter of fact, been sired by quite small horses, which, however, have had big blood behind them. There is a vast amount of difference between the stock of a horse which has come from pony stock and one which is bred from a full-sized family; but it is generally accepted as a cardinal principle of breeding that the mare has more to do with the size of the foal than the horse has. A big rangy mare, provided she be not a chance-bred lig one, but a descendant of a large strain, may be regarded as a pretty reliable breeder of big stock. Of course, if the stallion is big-bred likewise, the probability of big foals being thrown by her becomes almost a certainty, though there are exceptions to every rule; but the cases are rare in which an undersized pony-bred mare has been known to throw foals to a big horse. She may possibly do so now and then, but the occurrence is more of a fluke than anything else. In short, the best advice that can be given to those who desire to breed big stock, is to select big mares, and big-bred ones, and not to trouble so much about the size of the sire, provided he does not inherit a pony cross, as that might be fatal to the object in view.