

of the teats, at the points of which, in many cases, a small lump of inspissated colostrum, generally called "wax" appears. There is usually also an enlargement of the lips of the vulva, and often a parting of the same, with a slight discharge of a viscid substance. It must, however, be remembered that in some cases these symptoms are not well marked, and that in some cases a mare foals without showing any well-marked symptoms indicating that parturition is about to take place; and in such cases we are often surprised to find that birth has taken place in a normal manner, or else parturition is difficult, and may have reached that stage in which there is no hope of saving the foal, and the dam's life may also be in danger.

While we know that the average period of gestation in the mare is about 335 days, we are also aware that the period differs greatly in different mares, and also in the same mare in different periods. Mares have been known to produce foals at apparently full term in ten months or even less, while in others the period of gestation reaches between 12 and 13 months. Under these circumstances it will be seen that the length of time that the mare has been pregnant does not definitely indicate when parturition will take place; and, even when the ordinary symptoms of approaching parturition are absent she may foal unexpectedly. The immediate symptoms are, of course, the appearance of "labor pains." These are exhibited by uneasiness, and, especially in primipara (a mare about to produce first young) a nervous or excited state. She walks around the stall, stamps, lies down, and usually strains. This is usually followed by a period of ease, which is succeeded by another attack; the attacks gradually becoming more prolonged and severe, and the periods

of ease shorter, until the pains become almost or quite continuous. If in the field the mare usually seeks solitude, by wandering away from the other horses. In some cases parturition is completed in a few minutes after the first appearance of pain, while in others, even when everything is normal, it does not occur for hours. Again, in some cases there are false pains, and although well marked, they pass off, to reappear at an indefinite time, probably not for a few days or longer.

We claim that a close watch should be kept on a mare about to produce young. The attendant should be a reliable, intelligent man, and, of course, the more he knows about the anatomy of both dam and foetus, the phenomena of parturition, the forces that affect it, the various conditions that prevent or complicate it, etc., the better. He should be supplied with a knife, a bottle containing a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid in which a is soaking a strong, soft string. Another bottle containing a strong antiseptic as a ten per cent. solution of carbolic acid or one of the coal tar antiseptics, or a solution of corrosive sublimate 10 grains to 8 ounces of water. The writer prefers the latter. In most cases he should keep as quiet as possible, be in a position practically out of sight, but able to observe the actions of the mare, as most mares become more excited at the presence of man. At the same time there are rare cases in which the presence of her master or groom appears have a salutary effect upon the mare.

Some of the reasons why we consider it wise to watch are (1) She may lie down so close to the wall that delivery is impossible. In such cases the attendant can either shift her position or cause her to rise; (2) Birth may be very easy, and the foetus and mem-