

way from all foals. The operation, if carefully performed, so as to not irritate or scarify the parts (the nail of the finger used should be cut close), does not injure the foal in the least, and in all cases saves more or less exertion, and, while in many cases it is not needed, it is better to be on the safe side, and anticipate trouble, rather than wait for its symptoms. The lives of many foals would be saved if this little precaution were taken. Foals should be carefully watched in this respect until the faeces passed are of a yellowish color, after which there is little danger of constipation if the mare be properly fed.

"WHIP."

Look to the Bit.

"If owners would only lay out a little money in the purchase of bits," says the English Livestock Journal, there would be fewer bad mouths and more comfort amongst their horses. As it is, most people appear to be weeded to one pattern of bit, and if so, are extremely disinclined to adopt any other. The result is that the manners and mouths of their horses are permanently injured, and accidents occur which might otherwise have been avoided. If horse owners, breakers, and stud grooms would only remember that there is a vast difference in mouths, and many a horse is driven half mad by an unnecessarily severe bit, a good deal of money could be saved and many an equine reputation would be spared. It by no means follows that a horse which pulls will lose the habit if he is driven in a severe bit—very often it is just the reverse; and therefore the study of their horses' mouths should be the care of every owner."

The Origin of the Thoroughbred.

The scientists who delve and dig with a view to tracing the ancestry of man and subservient species, have recently announced that, as a result of their investigations, the conclusion has been arrived at that the Thoroughbred and Arab have not a common origin with the British and Continental horses. Recently a letter appeared in the Times, dated at the British Museum, written by a Mr. R. Lydekker, asking that the skulls of pedigreed horses be sent to the museum. He says that it was "recently discovered that a horse skull from India, in the museum, showed a slight depression in front of the eyes, evidently representing the pit for the face gland (like that of a deer), which existed in the extinct three-toed hipparion or primitive horse," and a similar depression has been noticed in the skulls of the racers Stockwell and Ben d'Or, and an Arab horse, and Mr. Lydekker and Professor Lankester had, on the day the letter was written, ascertained that it exists in the skulls of Eclipse, Orlando, and Hermit, and knew that it existed in a less rudimentary condition in the fossil true horses of India.

They had, however, failed to find it in the skulls of any of the ordinary English or Continental horses, and it appears to be lacking in horses' skulls from the drift and turbarry of Europe.

Briefly stated, this face-gland rudiment exists in the skulls of all Thoroughbred and Arab horses that have come under our notice, and it is absent in those of European horses. The presumption accordingly is that the Arab and the Thoroughbred (as has been suggested on other grounds) have an origin quite apart from the horses of Western Europe, presumably from an Eastern form related to the fossil horses of India.

To convert this assumption into a certainty requires a much larger series of pedigree-horse skulls than the museum now possesses.

STOCK.

The Dressed Beef Trade.

Sir,—I noticed in last week's "Farmer's Advocate" an article on the "chilled meat" trade, which I think timely. In the first place, as long as we have the dairy interests we are sure to have a lot of second-class stockers to put in for feeding every winter, as it is almost impossible to get a bunch of feeders that one would like. If you go to a farmer who has, say, six steers, four good ones and two slabby ones, you have to take the bunch to get the good ones, or else pay more than the good ones are really worth. Now, if we had a "chilled-meat" trade, those second-class steers could be slaughtered and sent to England frozen. In this way some of our large companies could build up a profitable trade, and help solve the space problem, as it costs as much to send a second-class bullock to England as it does to send a prime one. This is no doubt one great reason why the Americans are beating us in the English market. They send nothing but prime cattle there alive, and kill all the light weights at home, in that way keeping up the reputation of their beef. It would also help the cattle interest in Western Canada, by cutting the freight bill in two—no small consideration.

A good dressed-meat trade should help the cattle trade all around, as we would not then have those periodical jams of butchers' stock at the different points.

Lambton Co., Ont.

G. B.

Sheep as Scavengers.

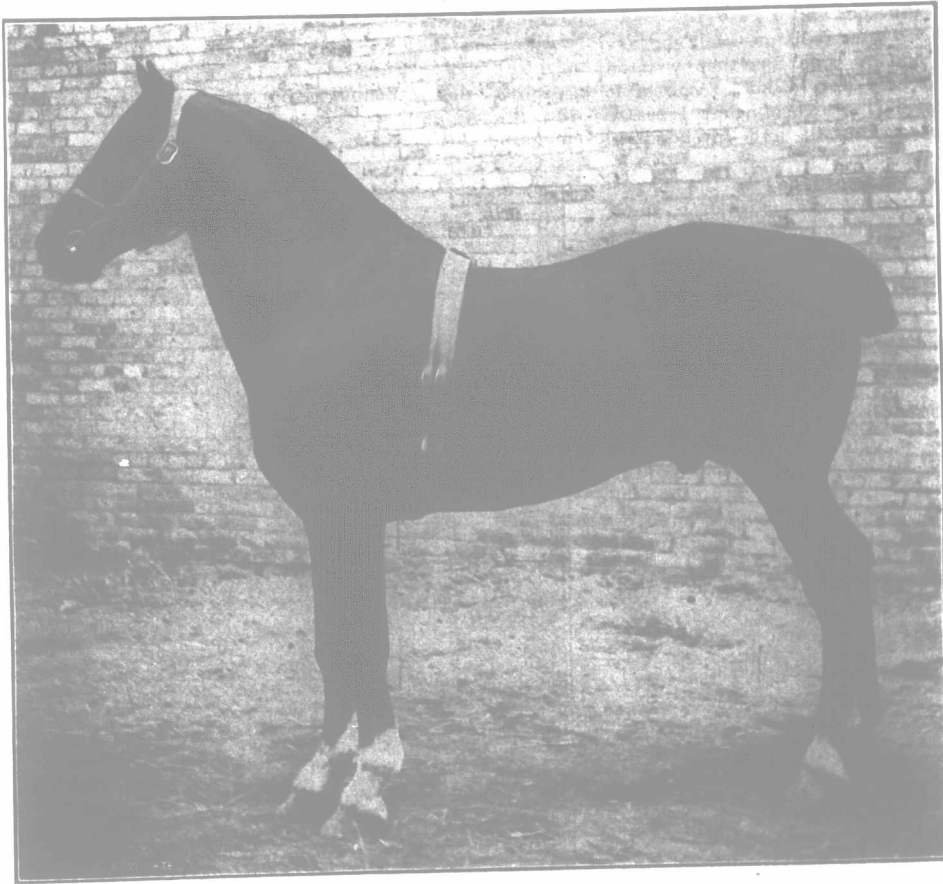
It has been rightly said that the sheep, on most farms are not making as rapid progress towards ideal type and purity of blood as could be desired. One reason for this state of affairs seems to us to be the fact that sheep are very commonly kept on the farm to act as weed eradicators and brush trimmers. We hear a deal said, too, about sheep having "golden hoofs," meaning that they tend to enrich land by spreading their droppings everywhere. It is a good thing, of course, that sheep will trim brush and eat weeds, as do goats, and also commendable that they fertilize land as no other animal does, but it is all wrong that farmers should look upon sheep as they do goats, and consequently give them as little attention. The true purpose of sheep-keeping should be to produce fine mutton and some wool, or fine wool and some mutton. Incidentally, it will be true that the sheep will fertilize the land and tend to keep down weeds, but these results of sheep-keeping should be considered merely incidental to the main object of their maintenance. There was a time many years since when flocks of sheep were rented out to farmers on shares, and at that time the flesh was little liked and in small demand, so that the renter merely allowed the sheep to fend for themselves, and paid little or no attention to proper feeding and management. Times have changed, however, and to-day there is little profit in keeping sheep to act as scavengers and fertilizing agents upon the farm. We want to see sheep made as important as the other animals upon the place; given their fair share of good food; sheltered as

this view of the subject prevails we can look for real improvement in our farm flocks, but not till then. The brush-trimming and manure-spreading sheep is no better than a goat, and less valuable, in that scrub wool is less valuable than mohair. Everything possible should be done by sheepmen to educate the average farmer to the appreciation of sheep as mutton producers and wool bearers, and to desecrate the old-fashioned and detrimental idea that the chief value of sheep generally is that they can clean up a brush- and weed-infested farm, and fertilize it by spreading manure as they graze about the place. There is a proper place for both goats and sheep, but they should be separated while alive.—[Live-stock Report.]

The British Breeds of Sheep.

Commencing with the issue of November 3rd, 1904, the "Farmer's Advocate" has weekly presented to its readers a portraiture and descriptive article on one of twenty-four distinct British breeds of sheep. It may seem inexplicable to Canadians generally, who know of less than half that number of breeds of the ovine race, why so many varieties are maintained in so small a country as that of the British Isles. The explanation, doubtless, lies partly in the conservatism of the people, and largely in the more marked variation in the climatic conditions and character of the soil within the limits of more circumscribed areas. It is rare in England to find two counties adjoining, the soil of which is nearly similar in composition, and in some counties rare to find two parishes of similar soil, while in many cases

adjoining farms and fields are made up of soil of entirely different character. Observation and experience on the part of farmers and breeders in different localities, has led to the production of distinct types, found suitable to the environment, and when these types have become fixed, local pride and ambition has contributed to their maintenance, to the exclusion of a trial of other varieties which might have proven more profitable. This extreme conservatism has grown less in later years, with the result that some of the principal, more modern and improved breeds have spread over wider territory than formerly in the home country, and have found a very much wider field in the colonies and foreign lands. Sheep



Gay Rosador, Imp., (7089).

Hackney Stallion, owned by the West Elgin Hackney Breeders' Association St. Thomas, Ont. (See Gossip.)

they ought to be in inclement weather, and deemed to be factors in the achievement of agricultural success everywhere. When this conception of sheep husbandry prevails we shall see more attention paid to the using of pure-bred, pedigreed rams of individual excellence of form and quality, and at the same time farmers will commence to weed out the poor specimens from their flocks, and so improve the general quality of the lot. As it is, every sheep is kept for breeding purposes, and the standard of excellence is necessarily low, for when it comes time to market a bunch of sheep the scrubs and the tatterdemalions in the flock set the price. The good ones are apt to be lost sight of, and the buyer does not do the sorting for the seller. The sorting should be done upon the farm, but the best time to do it is in the fall when the ewes are being set apart for breeding to a selected ram. Every poor ewe that is bred, tends to lower the standard of future excellence, and the quality of the flock is naturally kept below par by such practice. Where sheep have been long kept for brush-trimming and weed-killing, they are apt to be kept right along for such purposes, for they never wholly succeed in eradicating brush, and weed seeds are spread as well as manure in their wanderings. It would be far better policy to clean up the farm by energetic labor and to eradicate the brush with the grub hoe and brush scythe than to employ sheep for the purpose, and when this has been done sheep can be profitably kept upon every farm for the production of mutton and wool, and without taking their other value into consideration. When

play a much more important part in farming operations in England than here. There, not only the professional breeder, but the general farmer, depends very largely upon sheep for the double purpose of growing mutton and wool and of manuring the land, the flock being enclosed by hurdles on green crops, sown for the purpose of being eaten off, the hurdles being moved further into the field as each section is cleared, while the droppings of the sheep, evenly distributed, enrich the land. This system may not be considered practicable in this country, though we see no good reason, except the labor problem, why it might not be successfully adopted. One thing certain is, that the climate of Canada is much better adapted to the healthy growth of sheep. They prefer a comparatively dry climate, while that of England is generally the opposite, and there they are subject to many more diseases than here, and require much closer attention. Sheep have been sadly neglected in Canada in the last fifteen years, partly owing to the rapid extension of the dairy industry, and partly due to the low prices prevailing for wool and mutton. Both of these commodities have greatly advanced in price in the last two years, and sheep-raising should now be found a profitable branch of farming. No class of farm stock requires so little attention or makes better returns for the labor and expense attending their rearing, and we hope to see many new flocks established in the country before the close of the present year, and existing flocks improved and strengthened by the infusion of new blood.