

science table. The little folks, the beginners, were around another table doing construction work in cardboard and paper folding. The teacher would quickly and quietly give the girls some suggestions on following the directions for cooking the potatoes which they were preparing, then go over to the boys and direct them in making their coats-racks and book-shelves. Then she would go to the little folks and direct their work. I want to say that I have never visited a more interested or a busier school. The children were getting joy out of their work because they were interested in making things which were needed in their daily living. Whatever the girls cooked was served to all the pupils as a part of their lunch. The day I was there, I ate with all the pupils and the teacher around a common table. The food was cooked and served by the girls.

The girls were also taught sewing, and the boys the elements of agriculture. She organized her older boys into a corn club and a potato club, and the girls into a cooking club and a sewing club. She did not have a plot of ground near the school for demonstration work, but she had each of her boys secure a plot of ground from his father on the home farm. This plot was prepared, seeded and cultivated, according to the theory worked out in the school. The result was that the boys raised from one-fourth more to four times as much corn and potatoes as the fathers on the same amount of ground. Thus it was she taught the entire community lessons in scientific agriculture. Late in the fall she held at the schoolhouse a one-day's agricultural fair. Each boy brought his best ears of corn, best potatoes and other agricultural products, and each girl her best loaf of bread and best garment which she had made. These things were placed on exhibition, together with hat racks, book shelves and other things made by the boys in the school, as well as booklets, showing in a graphic way other work of the school. All the people in the neighborhood were invited, and most of them attended. The people took their dinners with them, and made it an all-day affair. The programme consisted of songs and recitations by the children, judging the farm products, woodwork, bread and sewing by some disinterested persons; a short talk by someone who had made a careful study of community work, followed by open discussion, some phase of school and the neighborhood dinner was a very important part of the programme. The schoolgirls made the coffee and dessert for this dinner, and were the waitresses. The day I attended this one-day agricultural fair, in addition to the above programme, there was an hour given to an exhibition of supervised school-play, consisting of folk dances and games. This feature was thoroughly enjoyed by the parents.

This teacher also organized a neighborhood improvement club, which met in the schoolhouse each Saturday evening from 7.30 to 9.30. This club was made up of adult members of the neighborhood. It had its officers, committees, constitution and by-laws. Its purpose was to discuss and try to solve all problems which had a direct bearing on the betterment of community life in that particular neighborhood.

The programme consisted of a talk by someone who had given special preparation to the particular subject for the evening, followed by an open discussion, in which no one was allowed the floor more than five minutes. Some evenings the programme was given over to an old-fashioned spelling-school or neighborhood entertainment.

I visited that community, and called at each home in the neighborhood. It is needless for me to say that that school has won the hearty cooperation and support of the neighborhood. The regular studies were not slighted, but they were revitalized by correlating them with community work. I saw in that school the best reading, language, arithmetic, hygiene and health, geography and history work I have ever seen in a rural school. It is a new type of school. Its purpose is to prepare the boys and girls for the work of the community, instead of for the next higher grade; to prepare them to live in that community, instead of "to pass." This school is

gradually but surely lifting that community to higher health, economic, social, moral and educational levels. In doing this, it is buttressing the foundation of a democracy.

## HORSES.

### The Brood Mare.

The question has often been discussed, says a correspondent of the Farmer and Stock-breeder, whether it is better to work the infatuated mares or to turn them out and let them run idle and barefoot. It appears no hard-and-fast rule applies in this case. No doubt, when they are turned out and allowed to live a natural life, there is a better chance for the progeny to start life under healthy conditions, and there is less risk of accidents prior to foaling. Still, many mares have had to work hard all through that trying period, and have produced and reared first-rate foals. It is not every farmer that can afford to keep idle mares; the work of the farm has to be done. On some farms, where the land is level, and there is no very heavy shaft-work for the horse, the brood mares do all the work, the colts assisting in the spring work, and being got ready to take the place of the mares when they are laid aside. It is very important that the mares should be handled carefully, not subjected to any rough usage, nor put to any severe strain in the work, particularly avoiding heavy shaft-work. Some horsemen are very careful with the mares, and never have any mishaps, yet it is not surprising that the small farmer who does most of

to avoid risk of navel-ill being contracted, the navel should be attended to at once, and dressed with some antiseptic lotion. The best litter is clean straw cut in long lengths through a chaff-cutter. It does not fetter the foal in his efforts to get up as long straw does. Some foals contract a habit of chewing and swallowing lumps of dirt. This habit must be watched, and everything removed that it is likely to get hold of. Sometimes the foal is very backward at getting to suck; it is not advisable to force it to the teat. If the mare is quiet and motherly, she will by-and-by induce it to suck. It may be necessary to draw a little of the milk from the udder by hand so as to slacken it, and save it being hurt by the foal bunting at it. A mare may be aggravated to kick at a foal under these circumstances, and if the mare is at all sickish and inclined to kick, she must be watched and held by the head for a few times, until the foal sucks and the mother gets accustomed to it.

In case of difficult foaling, great care must be taken to ascertain that all the afterbirth is got away. Any portion of that being left in the womb will set up a septic poisoning and cause the death of the mare. Many valuable mares have been lost at foaling time.

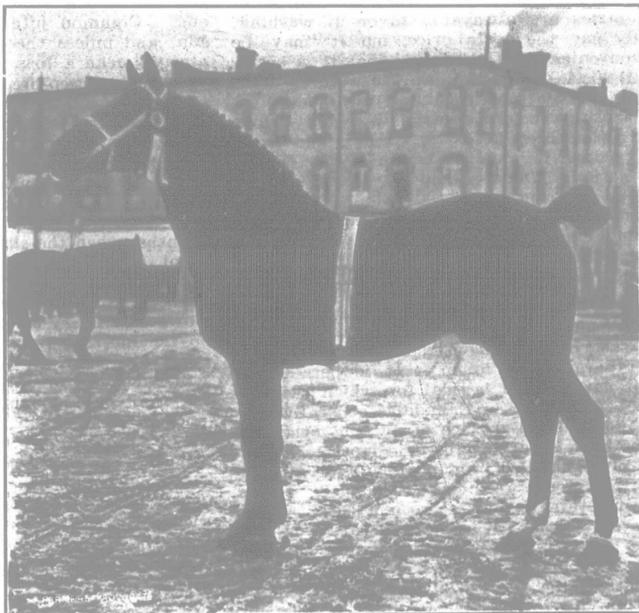
A foal left motherless is sometimes difficult to manage. Hand-feeding with cow's milk, slightly diluted, and sweetened with sugar, is not always satisfactory. To rear a foal successfully by hand, it must be fed frequently, and with small quantities by night, as well as by day, for a time, until it gets strong. That entails considerable care and attention, and is apt to be neglected at a busy time. If another mare foals shortly after, it is quite possible, by good management, to persuade her to adopt the orphan and let it share with her own foal. With the help of a little hand-feeding, a mare will rear two foals nicely until they can help themselves. If a mare is not available, a cow can be enlisted to act as nurse. On two different occasions we have had to adopt this plan, and, by selecting a recently-calved cow—one that stood up fairly high on her legs—and that had been accustomed to be sucked by a calf, we had not much difficulty in getting the cow to take to her strange calf. In both cases the cow and foal grazed together all summer, and without any hand-feeding both colts were successfully reared on their horned nurses.

### Wasting Good Hay.

Notwithstanding repeated advice of authorities and experienced horsemen, it is difficult to persuade the average teamster that his horses should not necessarily have all the hay they will clean up. In a severe winter like the present, when, moreover, most of the hay is of superior quality, horses are very liable to overeat, and a stableful of them will soon convert quite a big mow of hay into a dung-heap. Now, this overfeeding of hay is not merely a waste of valuable feed, but is actually attended with danger to the horse. Heaves are commonly caused by overloading the stomach, and aggravated by dust. The big bellyfuls of hay also detract from the shapeliness of the animal. With roadsters and light horses in general it is particularly bad practice to feed heavily of hay.

But what is overfeeding? It is a little difficult to draw the line, but established rations in commercial stables are something of a guide, and it is well to weigh a feed occasionally to see how one's practice agrees with recognized standards.

We had an interesting experience on our own farm last fall. The hay was of choice quality, and the horses polished off large mangerfuls three times a day. As a matter of fact, they required less of this choice-quality than of ordinary hay, but its palatability induced them to eat more. General directions to limit the quantity made scant impression on the men, so one day we had them weigh a feed. We found that we had been feeding each of these fourteen-hundred-pound mares 33 to 35 pounds of hay per day, besides 12 pounds of oats apiece to one team, and 6 pounds apiece to the other, which was not working so hard. The total daily cost of feed for these four mares and a roadster being wintered at the farm, was about \$1.25. These facts were discussed with the men, and the rations compared with those used in city stables. The fact is that a common allowance is about one pound of hay per hundred pounds live weight, which, for a fourteen-hundred-pound horse, would be 14 pounds, or less than half what we were feeding. Of course, where the grain ration is limited, a little more long feed may be allowed, but the amount should seldom exceed twenty pounds per day for horses of ordinary size. The Dominion Transport Company feed their heavy-drafters about 18 pounds of mixed grain and 20 pounds of hay per day. Such firms do not stint rations for the sake of saving feed. They make big money, and want their horses to look well. They consider the welfare of the animals first, and cost afterwards. Feeding with them has, by years of experience, been reduced to a fine art. Their practice is worth pondering. After canvassing the subject in this way, we decided to cut



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Hackney pony stallion. First and champion, Silver Medal, Winter Fair, Guelph, 1911. Exhibited by T. H. Hassard, Markham, Ont. Sire Fireboy.

his own horsework, and looks after his mares himself, is generally the most successful breeder and has the fewest mishaps with his mares. Regular feeding on good hay, with a small allowance of oats and bran, according to the amount of work expected from them during the time of pregnancy, should, barring accidents, bring them safely through to foaling time.

### FOALING TIME.

As the time approaches, roughly calculated at eleven months, but with exceptional cases of ten months and twelve months, and any period between, the mare should be watched carefully, especially after the appearance of wax on the points of her teats. She should have the liberty of a loose box to lie in, a box fitted with no projecting parts or corners on which a foal might get injured, and also fitted that one can look in to see what is going on without disturbing the mare. It is well to watch at night, as in many instances a little timely help may save the life of the foal. Sometimes delivery comes so quickly and so easily that the foal never struggles, the cowl or covering is never broken, the foal is smothered, and never breathes. Sometimes the delivery is difficult, and help is necessary. Occasionally there is a wrong presentation, although we do not find that happen so frequently amongst mares as amongst cows and ewes. It is a serious piece of business when it happens with a mare. Expert assistance must at once be summoned, and the foal has frequently to be sacrificed to save the mare's life. Fortunately, these mishaps do not occur often, but it is a safe policy to insure valuable mares over this time.

The foaling box should be particularly clean,