

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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Two for the Home.

While most of your readers would find it quite unsatisfactory to get along without the "Farmer's Advocate," we find it almost necessary to have two numbers coming to our house, as indeed we had for some time. Think, Mr. Editor, what it means to drop a single copy of such a paper as the "Advocate" upon the table of a house with thirteen eager inmates, unless some definite law of precedence is enforced. ANSON GROH, Waterloo Co.

Mr. C. W. Buck, Brantford, Ont.: Enclosed find our renewal for the weekly "Farmer's Advocate." We do not live on a farm, but still enjoy reading your up-to-date farmers' paper.

John Andrew Scott, Richmond Co., Que.: We are all pleased to have the "Advocate" every week, and think it is impossible to get another such farmers' paper for the same money, \$1.50 per year.

A. J. Dolsen, Kent Co.: I am glad to be found among your subscribers, as the "Advocate" very properly gives stock-breeding a leading place in its departments. Stock-breeders are, therefore, made to know almost as much of each other's work in this Province as if they were near neighbors. Wishing you every success.

Charles Dunlop, Russell Co., says: I have been taking the "Advocate," I think, six years, and I have always got the worth, more than the worth, of my money. It has always kept more than abreast of the fast advancing times, and now that it is to be a weekly is of double value, and is sure to bring you success.

W. Burrell, Brant Co., Ont., says: I am pleased with your paper, and consider myself a subscriber for life.

John A. Martin, Simcoe Co., Ont., says: I am taking advantage of your generous offer to send the "Farmer's Advocate" to a friend in the States, and I would like to let them know that we have a first-class farm journal printed on top of the world.

HORSES.

Leg Troubles in Horses.

The most common form of leg trouble in horses is erythema, an inflammation of the outer layer of the skin, characterized in the early stages by local redness, heat, swelling and irritation. The redness can be noticed only in animals whose skin is white, but the other symptoms are readily recognized. The terms used to express the disease differ according to the parts affected. When the trouble appears in the heels it is called scratches or cracked heels; when the greater part of the leg from the foot to the body is involved it is called mud fever; when the front of the hock, sallanders; when the back of the knee, mallanders.

CAUSES.—Some horses, notably those whose bone may be said to be beefy or round, are particularly predisposed to it, and require careful attention to avoid it. High feeding with little exercise also predisposes to an attack, and in some cases it appears without any well-marked cause, doubtless due to some unexplained alteration in the blood. In the majority of cases, however, good care will prevent it, as it is usually caused by inattention to cleanliness, allowing horses to stand in damp stalls, when the heels frequently become damp or wet with liquid or semi-liquid manure; cold and heat operating alternately on the skin; wet, friction, dirt, pressure, debilitating diseases, plethoria or poverty. Probably the most frequent cause is the habit of washing the heels and legs. During late winter or early spring, when it thaws during the day and freezes towards evening, horses, especially those with considerable long hair on their legs, will come into the stable with water and slush frozen to the hair, and when the roads are muddy, even though there be no frost, an accumulation of mud will be present. In such cases it is common practice for the teamster (through mistaken kindness) to wash the frozen matter or the mud off with warm water, and then stand the horse in his stall and allow the legs to dry by the natural heat of the legs and stable. The hot water washing opens the pores of the skin, and a free secretion sets in, which, however, is suddenly checked by the cold air or possibly drafts, the vessels of the skin thus become congested, and, subsequently, inflamed, and if this practice be repeated a few times cracked heels is usually the result. Washing with cold water is not so bad, as the reaction is not so great, but the legs should not be washed at and inclination to remain with the horse and rub his legs with cloths or wisps of straw until thoroughly dry, in order to avoid the reaction mentioned, and as this entails a large amount of both time and labor it is seldom done. The safer plan is to allow the horse to stand until the mud has dried, and then brush the legs clean, or when there is ice he should remove as much as he can by carefully hand rubbing, and allow the rest to drop off as melted by the heat of the legs and stable, and when the hair becomes dry brush well to remove any tendency to mat, and also any dirt or foreign substances that may be present. A fertile cause of that form of the disease called "mud fever," and a form that is very hard to treat, is the practice of clipping horses' legs during cold weather. Suddenly depriving the animal of this natural protection in cold weather appears to cause a congestion of the vessels, which is followed by an inflammation of the same and surrounding tissues, hence the disease. Horses that are to be clipped should be clipped before the weather becomes cold in the fall, not later than the middle of November, else in the spring, when the danger of severe weather is past, say the middle of April. Spring clipping, in my opinion, is the best, as at this season the horse does not require the protection of a long coat, and as he perspires much less without it, he will do more satisfactory work on less food than his mate that is not clipped. Then, again, as before stated, some horses are so predisposed to the disease under discussion, either from the peculiar quality of the bone or other hereditary traits, that high feeding and want of exercise will quickly produce it. For this, as all other diseases, prevention is better than cure, and if we recognize the causes mentioned as those that produce the disease, we can readily see how to prevent it. It is seldom where reasonable care is taken to avoid the trouble that it will appear.

SYMPTOMS.—The first symptoms noticed are swelling and tenderness to the touch, and a stiffness or lameness, which, with the swelling, usually disappears on exercise. After a time the skin cracks, when the soreness and lameness will increase, and there is a greater tendency to swelling; there will be more or less of a discharge from the cracks, and if intelligent treatment be not given the discharge becomes fetid, overabundant granulations (proud flesh) appear, and the condition of the limb gradually becomes worse.

TREATMENT.—It is good practice to administer a purgative of 6 to 10 drs. aloes (according to the size of the animal) and 2 drs. ginger. This has a tendency to reduce general plethora and

stimulate circulation; follow up with diuretics and alteratives, as 2 drs. nitrate of potash and an ounce of Fowler's solution of arsenic, night and morning. The food should be light, as bran, a few roots and hay; very little grain should be given, unless it is necessary to work the horse. Local treatment consists, if taken in the early stages, in the application of a cooling lotion, as an ounce each of sulphate of zinc and acetate of lead, to a quart of water, applied freely three or four times daily. If cracks have appeared, and the weather be warm, the lotion should still be used, but if the weather be cold, better results are usually obtained from the use of the oxide of zinc ointment, as the lotion is too astringent and drying. Ointment should not be used in hot and dusty weather, unless the horse is left in the stable, as dust, etc., will adhere to the ointment and aggravate the trouble. If proud flesh and a fetid discharge be present, the parts should be dressed once or twice with a caustic, as butter of antimony applied with a feather, and the parts poulticed with linseed meal and powdered charcoal, applied warm three times daily for two or three days and nights before using the lotion or ointment. "WHIP."

The Canadian Draft Horse.

At the Winter Fair at Guelph last December, Mr. W. S. Spark, of Canterbury, England, made his debut before an audience of Canadian stock-breeders. Since then he has addressed gatherings of breeders in many different parts of the country, and in the course of his remarks has given us something upon which to ruminate. Mr. Spark's subject of address is the draft horse, with the history, breeding and characteristics of which he claims to be perfectly familiar. After carefully investigating the merits and defects of the Clydesdale, Shire, and the Canadian draft stock, he comes to us with the advice to establish in Canada a new breed upon the foundation stock above mentioned. The typical Shire, Mr. Spark says, has the desirable body, quantity of bone, and plenty of stamina, but some lack a little in quality of feet and bone, while the Clydesdales, as a rule, possess the perfect feet, ankles and quality, but lack in muscling of the forearm and gaskin, and general massiveness throughout. In short, either of these two great draft breeds could be used to improve the other, in order to secure heavy draft horses of the best type.

Not wishing anyone to accept his advice upon purely theoretical grounds, Mr. Spark cites the case of the famous Clydesdale stallion, Prince of Wales, whose name is one of the most highly esteemed in the Clydesdale records, and a horse of remarkable prepotency, yet whose grandams on both sides were Shire mares. In fact, Mr. Spark says the reason why the Shire for so long lacked in quality of bone and obliquity of pasterns, was because the early improvers of the Clydesdales made regular visits to England for the express purpose of buying Shires of the best quality, and the Shire breed was impoverished in this respect by every such draft upon its best studs.

Canada, Mr. Spark now thinks, is the country where these two families of draft horses (for he scarcely thinks they should be called distinct breeds) should be reunited. A grand recompense is pictured for the breeder who makes this bold step, but, it appears to us, more than boldness is required to carry out this scheme. The developing of such a breed as our English authority advises would mean the expenditure upon an experiment (of course with fair assurance of success) of a large sum of money, and long years of persistent application to detail in pursuit of an ideal. Unfortunately for the scheme, the breeders of draft horses in Canada are not blessed with a superfluity of this world's goods. No breeder of either pure-bred Clydesdales or Shires could afford to sacrifice for work horses a large number of colts from pure-bred mares, that would be necessary if he were to establish a new breed. The simplest way in which the desired qualities in both the Clydesdale and Shire could be developed, in the mind of the Canadian breeder, would be by the breeders in the Old Country selecting their stock with those requirements in view. Not so long ago we remember the coarse, hairy-legged Clydesdales that came over to us from Scotland, in striking contrast to the fine quality in the legs of this same breed to-day. Neither are the Shire breeders blind to the need of improvement in this respect, for each year's importations are eloquent of the great advancement they are making in the development of greater quality in the English draft horse, and it would be no rash presumption to predict that in ten years we should more generally have Shires not lacking one whit in fineness of feather or bone, as indeed many are not at present. This will then have the desired effect upon the Scotch breeders, for if their horses are lacking, as Mr. Spark says in substance, then they will have to develop it in order to successfully compete with their English neighbors.