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Thoroughbred or Pure-bred.

Of all the words used in connection with live stock, "Thoroughbred" is the most abused. Horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry, dogs and cats are all erroneously called "Thoroughbreds" by many people who cannot be expected to know better, and by thousands who should know the correct and incorrect application of the term. We recently received a letter asking us to look up some notes we had published a few years ago regarding a certain horse which the writer called a "Thoroughbred." We searched all the issues of the month our correspondent named, but could find no "Thoroughbred" horse notes. We finally succeeded in locating the description of the horse which turned out to be, not a Thoroughbred, but a Clydesdale.

This subject has been discussed time after time, but still farmers, and others indirectly connected with farming operations, will persist in calling pure-bred animals or poultry "Thoroughbred." The word "Thoroughbred" as used in connection with live-stock breeding is correctly applied only when referring to one particular breed of light horses—the "Thoroughbred." There are no "Thoroughbred" Clydesdales, Shires, Percherons, Hackneys, Trotters and no "Thoroughbred" Shorthorns, Herefords, Aberdeen-Angus, Galloways, Holsteins, Ayrshires, Jerseys, and no "Thoroughbred" sheep, pigs, poultry and dogs. One of the earmarks of a good stockman should be the correct use of Thoroughbred and pure-bred. Remember your cattle, your sheep and your pigs are pure-breds, not "Thoroughbreds," and all heavy horses, and all light horses but one breed, are pure-breds. You have no Thoroughbred Clydesdales and Percherons; they are pure-bred.

With June drawing near and clover cutting only a few weeks away it would not be bad policy to look over the haying machinery to ensure that it is ready for the field.

Nature's Diary.

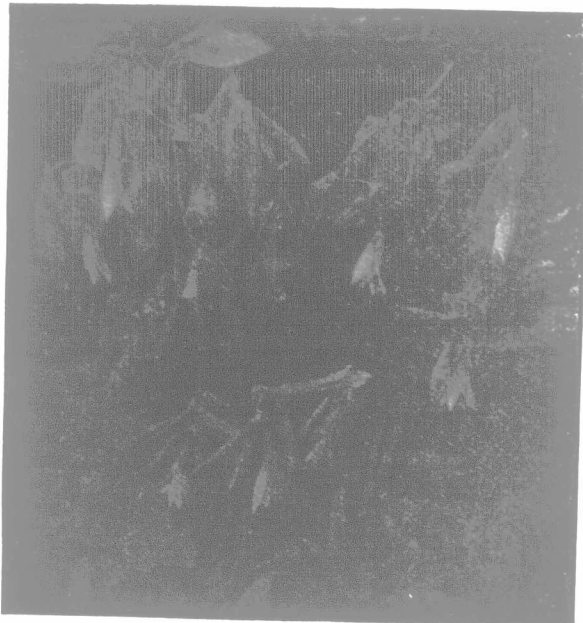
A. B. Klugh, M.A.

A very attractive plant, which is fairly common in deciduous woods in Ontario but which seems to be comparatively little known, is the Bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*). The flowers are pale yellow, the parts of the perianth are six in number, and are narrow and slightly twisted. It belongs to the Liliaceae, Lily Family, and as in many other members of this group the sepals and petals are alike, so that we use the term "perianth" for them collectively. This term means "around the flowers," and it may at first seem strange to speak of these floral leaves, which we usually regard as being part of the flower as being around the flower until we remember that essentially a flower consists of the pistil and stamens, or of either pistil or stamens alone, and that many flowers, such as those of the Willows and Oaks, have no floral envelopes.

The leaves of the Bellwort, as may be seen from the illustration, are arranged on the stem so that the stem passes through the basal portion of the blade. Such leaves are called "perfoliate," hence the specific name *perfoliata*. The generic name, *Uvularia*, is derived from the manner in which the flowers hang—like the uvula or soft palate.

Each division of the perianth of the Bellwort has at the base a deep groove which contains nectar.

Many plainly colored birds have beautiful songs, and many beautiful birds have plain songs. Thus many of the Sparrows are not remarkable for their brilliant plumage but are fine songsters, while most of the Warblers are gaily colored, but their songs do not rank as very effective musical performances. But the Tanagers combine beauty of plumage and beauty of song. Our Eastern representative of this family, the Scarlet Tanager, is sometimes called the soldier bird, because in the male practically the whole body is flaming scarlet with black wings and tail. The female is very different in coloration, being greenish yellow all over with dusky wings and



Bellwort.

tail. The song of the Scarlet Tanager is a rich, clear warble. It has a peculiar call-note, which sounds like "tic-whirr-tic-whirr" repeated at intervals.

The representative of the family which is found in British Columbia, the Louisiana Tanager, is light yellow, tinged with red, and has a song which resembles very closely that of its eastern relative.

When considering the forest we usually think of wood-boring insects and fungi as being entirely injurious. In the case of living trees this view is undoubtedly correct, but in another way these animals and plants play a very useful role. If it were not for the work which they do in causing the disintegration of dead and fallen trees the forest would soon be choked with its own debris. We say that dead trees "rot," as if rotting were some natural process inherent in the wood itself or due to exposure to the weather. As a matter of fact the process of rotting is mainly due to the action of the mycelium (threads) of fungi which penetrate the wood in all directions and separate fibre from fibre. The large fruiting bodies of the fungi which we see on the outside are really only a very small part of the fungus, the main part consisting of the mycelium which carries on its work in the interior. The boring insects by their work also hasten the process of rotting, thus by the action of these forms of life the dead wood is reduced to dust, the dust forms part of the soil of the forest floor, from which in time new trees arise.

A beetle which is usually fairly common and sometimes abundant in the forest is the fiery

Hunter—a black beetle about an inch and a quarter in length, with little spots colored and shining like burnished copper on its back. This beetle is a very beneficial insect, as it consumes many kinds of caterpillars and seems to have a particular fondness for Canker-worms.

THE HORSE.

Remember that the young colt should not be allowed to get wet until it is at least two weeks of age; better older.

If the driving horse shows soreness or any inclination to contraction of the hocks, pull off the shoes and turn them away to grass for a few months. This is the best cure.

The nursing foal to do best should have shade in the pasture field. We have seen smart foals killed by a very hot sun when they were only from a few hours to a few days old.

Be careful in letting the foal to the dam when bringing her in from work. If she is over-heated digestive troubles will surely result with the foal, which may mean a permanent injury or death.

Bring the colt which was broken in the spring up from the field from time to time, and put it in harness at some light work in order to keep it handy and ready to do the work expected of it at any time.

The hard-worked team should not be expected to subsist on grass alone, oats are essential. Neither should work horses be turned out and left over-night until the weather becomes warm and the work not so urgent.

Watch the colts for a few days when they first go on pasture. A horse generally does most of its rummaging around during the first few hours out of the stable and fences are likely to be tried, and, too, there is some danger of colic, where the colt may be ravenous and eat too greedily of the soft grass.

There is some danger in turning over-heated animals out to grass. We have seen fatal indigestion result from a mare in a heated condition being turned on grass for only half an hour. Far better is it to leave the work horses in the stable on dry feed until thoroughly cooled down after the day's work. A little hay is also good when on tender pasture grass.

Horse Prospects Brighten.

There has been considerable agitation on the part of farmers and horsemen during the past winter regarding the stagnation of the horse market, and the methods of buying army horses in this country. All this has served to divert the interests of many of the smaller breeders from the horse trade, which, unsettled as it has been, seemed to offer no very rosy prospects in the near future. Things are changing rapidly, however, and we understand that the British Government is now buying horses in this country at a very rapid rate. Representatives are going through the country and buying the horses direct from the farmer's stable, which is by many believed to be even a better plan than buying at central points on certain set days. Large numbers of horses will likely leave this country very soon for the Allied armies in France, but Canada can spare many thousands before she is very much depleted in horse stock.

Our Scottish letter this week will be of unusual interest to horsemen, and in it "Scotland Yet" outlines something of the prospects in the Old Land. Horses over there are selling at about one-half more than their normal value. An £80 horse in Scotland is now bringing £120 readily. The demand is unprecedented in that country, even reaching so far as to induce societies to hire stallions so far ahead as the year 1917. But our Scottish correspondent hints at another factor in the situation which is noticeable in this country as well as in the Old Land, that is the increased use of motor vehicles since the war began. "Scotland Yet" points out that never before in the history of his country have the motor car and motor truck been so much in use, and once established it will in future do much of the work formerly done by the heavy draft horse. Owing to war pressure firms have been obliged to replace their horses with motor trucks. For a time good prices and a keen demand for horses are looked for in the Old Land, but the situation after the war is more or less problematical. It would seem that the best and safest practice for horsemen in Canada would be to keep their breeding operations up to normal if they do not increase them this year, because the best of the horse market is likely to be experienced in the