

to relax the womb as well as the bowels, ought to be given only when absolutely necessary. Young mares should be often gently handled all over and accustomed to having the udder and flanks touched, this simple precaution frequently obviating a great deal of subsequent trouble and annoyance. As the time approaches for the mare to foal she ought to be closely watched, so that should assistance—not mischievous interference—be required it may be furnished without loss of time.

With regard to the symptoms of approaching parturition, no rule can be laid down, as many mares will loosen up, make bag, form wax and even run milk wecks before they foal, while others will do none of these things, but simply lie down and institute proceedings without any warning whatever. As a general thing, however, when the teats are full and the piece of wax on the end is succeeded by a drop of milk, when the hips have sunk and the vulva has relaxed, while the animal shows symptoms of more or less uneasiness, the act of foaling is not far off. The treatment to be afforded to the foal and to its dam after the act of parturition has been accomplished may conveniently be considered in another chapter.