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## Care of the Newly Born Foal

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In the majority of cases a foal needs no care only to be left alone and allowed to look after itself. But, sometimes the farmer finds that all is not going right and the little creature needs attention. Constipation is not an unusual condition; it is generally due to the retention of the "meconium," a dark colored, waxy substance contained in the bowels at birth. An injection of warm water or oil will usually cause this substance to be expelled and in most cases answers the purpose better than the administration of oil or other purgatives. Some farmers make it a rule to give a foal at birth a dose of castor oil whether it shows any symptoms of needing it or not. The practice is bad, for a dose of oil will possibly set up an attack of diarrhoea and to that extent injure the patient.

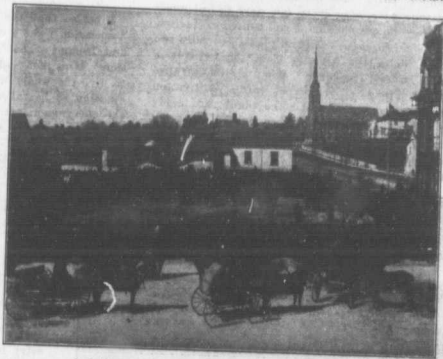
If the mare for some weeks previous to foaling has been fed on some succulent food, there is not much danger of constipation in the foal. Foals born on pasture are seldom troubled in that way. A foal should also be closely watched till it is seen to urinate, and, if during the act some of the urine is seen to escape from the navel opening, some means should be at once adopted to arrest that abnormal discharge. A ligature around the navel cord will sometimes answer the purpose. If the cord is broken off too short for that, the application of a caustic to the parts, such as nitrate of silver, or butter of antimony, will burn a scab over the end of the leaking duct and stop the discharge. If such simple remedies fail veterinary help might better be procured, for if the condition is allowed to persist, it will in all probability cause the patient to pine away and die a lingering death. This condition is met with most frequently in colts than in fillies.

### "NAVEL ILL"

"Navel ill," is the most serious disease that foals are liable to suffer from. It is often confused with the condition above referred to, but it is altogether a different trouble. It is a germ disease and requires the presence of the germ in the system to establish the malady. The navel is inflamed more or less from the fact that it is there that the germ usually finds an entrance to the system—that being the only raw spot on the body—and the fact of this local inflammation often leads to the conclusion that the navel is the seat of the disease. The germs of this disease seem to abound in many sections and if they

get into the system they generally lead to fatal results. Curative treatment is not very successful, a large proportion of the patients will die under the most careful treatment, but while curative treatment is often unsatisfactory; fortunately preventive treatment is easy and usually very successful. It consists in destroying the plication of it gets into the system, by the application of a 10 per cent. solution of carbolic acid or some other disinfectant to the navel opening as soon as the foal is born, and repeating the application twice a day till the parts heal over, when danger from infection from that quarter is over. This healing-over process will usually take place in from ten to twelve days. This simple precaution has saved the life of hundreds of foals.

Every farmer who has a mare in foal should



Awarding the Ribbons at the Harris Spring Stallion Show.

We are apt to underestimate the value of the spring stallion show. It is a great feature in inspiring healthy competition amongst horsemen locally, and thereby it tends towards actual progress in elevating the standard of the horses raised.

provide himself with the means of treatment before hand, more especially if the disease has been prevalent in the section in previous years. There is much less danger from this disease if mares foal out at pasture than if they are in the stable or around the barnyard. When a mare is expected to foal in a box stall great care should be taken to see that everything around should be made thoroughly clean. The floors should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, also the walls and manger. A plentiful supply of good clean straw should be provided and all surroundings kept scrupulously clean.

Some foals are born in a weakly condition, are unable to stand and suck, but still have vitality enough to pull through all right if given a good chance. Such a foal should be helped to its feet and allowed to suck at least every two hours night and day until it is able to get up and help itself. Many a foal is allowed to die that might have been saved by a little more attention of this kind; especially at night.

## Sound Advice From a Horse Man

Most farmers make the mistake of breeding from mares that they cannot sell. They reap the reward of their folly in that they cannot sell the progeny either, at least for anywhere near the price that first class stuff will bring. Such were the observations of Mr. J. F. Staples, of Durham Co., a well known horseman who recently called at the office of Farm and Dairy.

"One can make as much money out of horses as out of cows," said Mr. Staples. "The cows, we must admit are sure money makers but then it requires hard work to make them yield the products from which to get that money. During the past year, I sold nine horses that realized close on to \$2,000. These were, all but one, of my own breeding. Raising horses is just a side line on our farm. We have cows and everything else in general that one would expect to see on a farm where mixed farming is practised. The oldest of these nine horses was a three year old, another was a yearling and another a two year old. One pair realized \$425. One was a ridgeling and necessarily was sold at a sacrifice, bringing \$140. Another pair brought \$400, while the remaining four realized \$925, thus totalling in all \$1890.

"These results did not come by the use of high priced mares. I started with a well bred mare that cost me \$35. Horses were cheap at that time, which accounts for me getting her so reasonable. She was a good mare with good breeding and was the originator of my Clyde stock. I aim to sell all surplus stock at any time that I can find a buyer who is willing to pay for good stuff.

### RAISE HORSES FOR MARKET.

"If we would meet with the most success in horse breeding," continued Mr. Staples, "we must raise them for the market, not for ourselves. The majority of farmers do not want a big heavy horse, nor do they want a light horse. They want a general purpose horse. Such horses have proved to be the most useful on the farm, but it does not pay to raise them. They are what we call misfits. We have enough of them already. We can buy any number of that kind, so we should devote our attention to breeding a more profitable sort. From our ordinary operations we will get enough of these misfits, and if we do not (and in that case we may consider ourselves lucky) we can buy enough to fill our requirements.

"Probably the best horse I ever owned is one that I have on the farm now. I bought him when three years old for \$105. He was just ready for the harness. He was a cross bred. His owner had crossed his mare and got as a result a tough little nut—a very good sort, but probably worth at the most only \$150 on the market. His owner certainly made a mistake. At a slightly increased first cost he might have secured a colt worth \$200 or over, at the age of three years.

### PROFITABLE TO BREED.

"While the hackney is not a farmer's horse, it is probably one of the most profitable to breed. The hackney is the gentlemen's horse and he it