

attention from the man in charge of the horses housed therein. The essential conditions for producing and maintaining good sound feet are: First of all, select one, and, if possible, both, parents with good feet; then, when the foal is weaned, it should be haltered, and the hoofs rasped round, and the process repeated at intervals, lowering the heels, if necessary, till the time for work comes, when light shoes should be put on to prevent wearing away the hoofs on hard clods. Keep the stable as clean as practicable, and thus prevent, as far as possible, any derangement of this very important part of a working horse.

Alsike Poisoning.

The Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station has been investigating some cases of alsike poisoning of horses and mules. From the bulletin published on the subject, we quote in part as follows:

"The cause of this trouble is not positively understood. Whether the toxic effect is due to the plant itself, which possibly undergoes some change within the digestive tract, and subsequently liberates a poison, or whether it is due to the presence of a mold in connection with alsike clover, is still undetermined. The mold has been strongly suspected. To determine this point will require further investigation. It is known, however, that the principal lesions are produced on the skin and mucous membranes.

SYMPTOMS.

"The symptoms vary to some extent, depending upon the location of the lesions and the length of time the animal remains on the alsike pasture after the symptoms begin to develop. The prevailing symptoms are as follows:

"On the skin are inflamed areas, appearing at first as more or less rounded vesicular swellings, varying from one-half inch to five or six inches, or more, in diameter. The hair over the affected areas stands erect, and has a dull appearance, indicating loss of vitality. Later the skin becomes hard and puffed out, as the result of the formation of puss underneath. Finally, the deadened skin is cast off, leaving a deep, raw, angry-looking ulcer, which eventually heals, with the formation of a conspicuous scar, covered with more or less white hair. These changes in the skin may occur on any part of the animal, but especially on the limbs, body and croup. The eye symptoms consist of a marked conjunctivitis, with swelling of the eyelids, sensitiveness to light, and a watery discharge from one or both eyes. The mucous membranes of the mouth become inflamed (stomatitis), ulcers form, and the animal slobbers and refuses to eat. The advanced cases are frequently accompanied by emaciation. The tongue is usually affected, and the inflammation may extend throughout the entire digestive tract. The functions of the liver may be disturbed, and a yellowish (jaundice) coloration of the tissues follows. In such cases symptoms of colic are not uncommon, and the respiratory tract may become involved, and pneumonia develop. Some observers in other countries have noticed marked nervous symptoms, such as excitement, convulsive movements, staggering gait, and paralysis of the throat, with inability to swallow, the paralysis at times becoming generalized, the animal getting down and being unable to rise. In the cases observed in Tennessee, the nervous symptoms, except the general depression, were not very noticeable.

PROGNOSIS.

"The outcome of the disease depends upon the location and extent of the lesions upon the horse or mule affected. If they are situated on the exterior, the animal will readily recover as soon as removed from the alsike pasture. If the vital organs are involved, such as the brain, lungs and liver, the disease may readily produce death. Among those cases occurring in this State, not a single fatality has been heard of at the Station, but the disease has considerable economic importance, since it leaves the animal more or less disfigured by the formation of scars, which materially depreciate his market value.

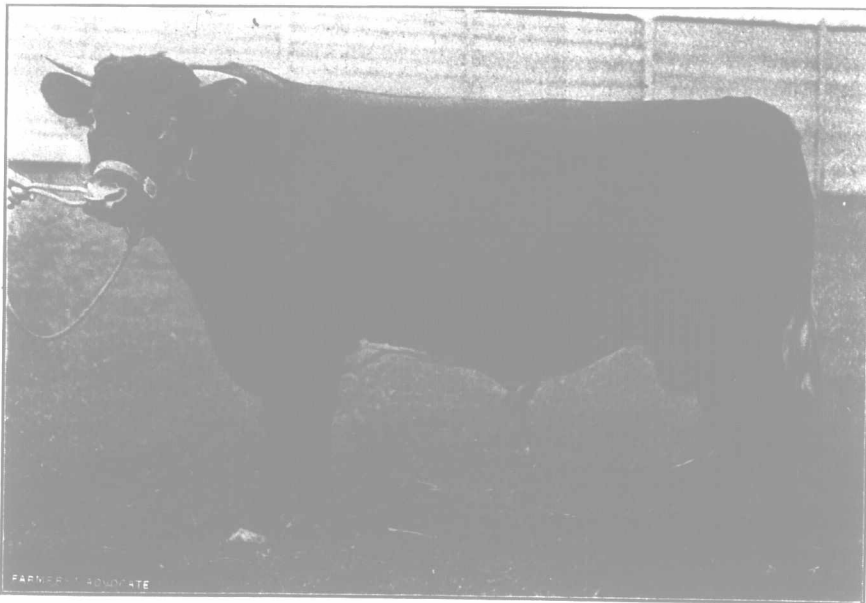
TREATMENT.

"The treatment is comparatively simple. As soon as the disease is recognized, the animal should be removed from the alsike clover pasture and the wounds subjected to an ordinary antiseptic treatment, such as frequent washings with 5-per-cent. solutions of carbolic acid or creolin, and the application to the ulcers on the skin of drying powders, consisting of boracic and tannic acids in equal amounts."

Received your premium knife in fine order, and was delighted with it. I find your paper an excellent one, and could not get on without it.
Glenarry Co., Ont. E. PEDLER.

Shires at the Royal Show.

The class for Shire Horses at the English Royal Show, at Derby, June 27th to 30th, was declared to be one of the best in the history of the show, all the sections of the prize-list for the different ages being well filled with entries of excellent quality. The enthusiasm which marked the event while the judging proceeded was very evident, and foreigners from several countries were present, ready and willing to give good prices for the better class of Shires. The oldest class in the prize-list for stallions was for colts foaled in 1903, in which there were five entries, the first award going to Hon. Victor Cavendish for Holker Menestrel 2nd, by Birdsall Menestrel; the second to John W. Whitehurst for Markeaton Special Brand, by Brandmark; and third to Sir P. Albert Muntz for Dunsmore Regent, by Dunsmore Jameson. The male champion of the breed was found in the first-prize two-year-old colt, Tatton Dray King, sired by Drayman 23rd, and shown by Earl Egerton, the second prize in this class going to Mr. F. Farnsworth's Ratcliffe Forest King, by Lockinge Forest King, and third to Mr. L. Solomon's Newry Menestrel, by Birdsall Menestrel. For yearling stallions, Mr. F. E. Muntz's King Forest, by Lockinge Forest King, was first in a strong class of thirteen, the second place being filled by Mr. Farnsworth's Ratcliffe Consequence King, and third by Mr. Michaelis' King of Tandridge. In the class for mares with foal at foot, Lord Rothschild won with Blythwood Guelder Rose. For mare without a foal, and foaled in or before 1902, Earl Beauchamp won with Sussex Blue-gown. For filly foaled in 1903, Sir P. A. Muntz was first with Dunsmore Fuchsia. For filly foaled in 1904, R. Whitehead won with Peak Dolly, by Dunsmore Jameson. Fillies foaled in 1905 were a strong class, and were led by Mr. B. Orme's Combermere Abbess, by Tatton Friar. The Shire Horse Society's champion gold medal for the best mare or filly of the breed went to Sir P. A. Muntz's Dunsmore Fuchsia. Guelder Rose being reserve.



Bapton Viceroy.

Yearling Shorthorn bull, first and champion, Royal Show, 1906. Bred and exhibited by J. Deane Willis, Bapton Manor, Wilts.

Grinding Oats for Horses.

"Some diversity of opinion prevails," an English writer says, "as to whether it is desirable to crush oats for feeding horses or not. It is frequently held that crushed oats are better and more digestible for horses than whole ones. Speaking in a general way, practical experience does not support this opinion, and, as a general rule, whole oats are to be preferred to crushed ones for horse-feeding purposes. The molar teeth of a horse possess great grinding powers, and horses are able to masticate oats with perfect ease, and without any trouble, so there is certainly no call to crush the oats, with the view of facilitating their mastication under ordinary conditions. It is only when a horse's teeth are defective, owing to old age or some other cause, that it may experience some difficulty in dealing properly with whole oats, and in that case it is advisable, if not absolutely necessary, to crush the oats. In the case of young horses, under four or five years old, teething troubles sometimes temporarily interfere somewhat with their powers of mastication, and when this is so it is expedient and desirable to feed the oats in a crushed state. If a horse has the habit of eating his oats too rapidly, and masticating insufficiently, it is well to mix a little clean chaff or bran with the oats, to correct the habit; and, indeed, this is advisable at all times.

"To sum up the whole subject, feeding of crushed oats, instead of whole ones, to horses is not to be recommended, and is inadvisable under ordinary

conditions. The only cases in which it is advisable or necessary are, firstly, when a horse's powers of mastication are impaired or deficient, so that it cannot properly chew whole oats; secondly, when a horse is a very greedy feeder, and in the habit of bolting unchewed oats whole-sale, despite the admixture of plenty of chop to the corn; and, thirdly, when a shy feeder or bad doer evinces a partiality for crushed oats, preferring them to whole ones. Oats fed to foals should be given in a crushed state. Although foals can eat whole oats, and soon learn to do so, yet the latter are hardly suitable for them, being too hard, seeing that the masticating power of a foal is undeveloped and comparatively small. After they have been crushed, oats soon lose their freshness, and quickly become stale. It is, therefore, not advisable to store crushed oats for any length of time, and they should always be fed in a freshly-crushed state. When crushed oats become stale, they lose some of their palatability, and are not properly relished by horses."

The Belgian Draft Horse.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Of late years the increase of commercial relations between Belgium and America has been great, and in no way is it more remarkable than in equine matters. When Americans first began to purchase stallions of the Belgian breed they were very lenient concerning their qualities, and the mere fact of a stallion being imported was sufficient to entitle it to consideration as good enough for breeding purposes. But this state of affairs did not long continue; it was speedily seen that the Belgian type of horse was exactly what was needed, and breeders and buyers began to be exacting in regard to good points, being no longer satisfied unless a horse had a pedigree. Instead of horses bringing a trifle over what it formerly cost to transport them, prices went up, and to-day horses are sold at their real value, only those having sterling qualities being accepted.

It is now impossible to buy a high-class Belgian stallion from four to seven years of age under \$2,000, and a young and promising colt will easily fetch \$300. Mares are a little cheaper, but very hard to procure, as the breeders are reluctant to part with one which gives promise of turning out well and profitably.

About twenty years ago Belgian horses were first introduced into the United States by American buyers, who came over specially for that purpose, but to-day the U. S. Consulate is kept well employed with business concerning the shipping of numerous horses. Brussels, the capital of Belgium, receives constant visits from well-known buyers from over the waters, especially from Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and our Province of Quebec.

The chief characteristics of the Belgian draft horse are exceptional docility, compact form, massive bone and breadth of chest; short, strong, thick-set build; good legs, clean and free from hairs, splendid round thigh and solid feet, with flint-hard hoof, and excellent action, the latter, especially behind, proving their good constitution and energy.

As far back as 1888 English breeders recognized the fact that the Belgian draft horse would soon enter into formidable competition with them on the American markets, and to-day's exports prove they had good cause for their belief.

In 1850 the Government started a depot of stallions at Tervueren, and the Belgian Studbook first saw the light at the same period, but the stud was abandoned in 1865 on account of the unfortunate results it gave rise to. The Belgian draft horse of to-day, however, thanks to the untiring and devoted energy of a small body of men, occupies the first rank of its kind, though this elated position has taken twenty-five years of strenuous work to attain. This magnificent result is due chiefly to the large interest taken in the matter by some of the best society men. A grand exhibition is held annually in Brussels every June, and is the largest show in Europe for a single breed of horses. There are to be seen on the fairbank no less than one thousand breeding horses of the Belgian breed only.

So great has the traffic become of late between Belgium and the States, that over 1,500 Belgian