

of entertainments, because they promote a love for home, which is most desirable, and a lack of this is the curse and death of a nation. It also kept the different members of the family at home, and the social intercourse promoted a love and respect for each other. By keeping the family at home, it kept them out of mischief. This, of course, was more applicable to town homes. Entertainment at home was kept under the supervision of the parents, which was not possible with entertainment sought elsewhere. It became a source of culture and refinement. Entertainments that instruct, as well as entertain, should be selected, but, unfortunately, the instruction part is not always considered. It is not generally known that character is greatly influenced by the manner and spirit in which entertainments are carried on. Every emotion, whether good or bad, that is aroused in the course of a game tends to strengthen that particular emotion in character. When we exercise our arm it grows stronger, and the same with emotions. Exercise a trait of character, either good or bad, and it grows. Here, then, is a good reason why we should think only good and high thoughts. Thought and emotion are the builders of our character, and the kind of character depends on the kind of thoughts and emotions.

The question of how to keep the boy on the farm depends much on the early cultivation of love for home and farm life. Farming can be made interesting, and a love for farm life can be cultivated, just as well as any other occupation. The study of nature was referred to as the bottom plank in the development of love for farm life. Get your children interested in nature, in its many branches, and you will not have to try to keep your boys on the farm.

Reading was spoken of as the most profitable entertainment, and two common classes were reading for instruction and for amusement. The question of what to read had to be answered by each individual himself, depending on what he desired to make of himself. If he desires to become a man of no account, he can read novels and other light stuff; while, if he desires to become a man of some importance, he must read heavier reading—something that will arouse his brain into action. Exercise of our mental faculty strengthens it. The habit of getting a story-book as a present for a youngster was said to be a waste of money; better get him a book on the study of insects, plant life or birds, etc. It would do more towards making a good farmer than all the stories published. Some good farming paper should, of course, be in every farm home.

Mr. Rowlands, in dealing with "Entertainment in the Club," said that everyone could assist by being present and taking an active part. It must be a sort of central station, at which ideas are switched round and exchanged. Ideas are things that cost nothing, and by giving to your neighbor you are doing him good and yourself no harm; you are making him your debtor, and in that way benefit yourself. We should encourage asking and answering questions, as this often led up to other important branches of the subject. Recitations and readings should be encouraged, as they helped the faculty of expression. Debates, too, must not be forgotten. They stimulated the mental faculties into action, sharpened the perception, and were a great source of information both to the debaters and the audience. Quite a lot depended on the president in selecting subjects, and men to present them. Subjects of live interest to farmers should be chosen. After all has been said, the success of the Club depends on what we make of it; and if all do a little, there is no reason why the Club cannot again be of increasing value.

The Club appointed Experimental and Entertainment Committees, and decided on a debate for next meeting. Subject: Resolved, that it is better to specialize on a certain crop than to continue in mixed farming. A. E. W.

Complete Substitution for Milk Fat Unwise.

It is probable that the advantage of the small proportion of butter-fat in whey lies not alone in its own nutritive value, but partly in that it improves the digestibility and balance of the whey. Of late years we have heard so much about the economy of substituting starchy and sugary feeds for butter-fat in the ration of calves and pigs, that there is a tendency to depreciate the peculiar value of the natural fat as a food for young stock. "The Farmer's Advocate" has more than once pointed out that, while such substitution may be all right up to a certain extent, it is not wise to abstract all the fat from skim milk or whey to be fed to young calves or pigs. The point is that, while meals rich in carbohydrates and vegetable fats or oils may profitably take the place of MOST of the milk fat, they cannot equally well be substituted for ALL of it. In other words, one-quarter per cent. of fat in whey or skim milk is doubtless worth considerably more than half as much as double the proportion would be, just as two pounds per day of skim milk or whey will do a calf or pig relatively more good

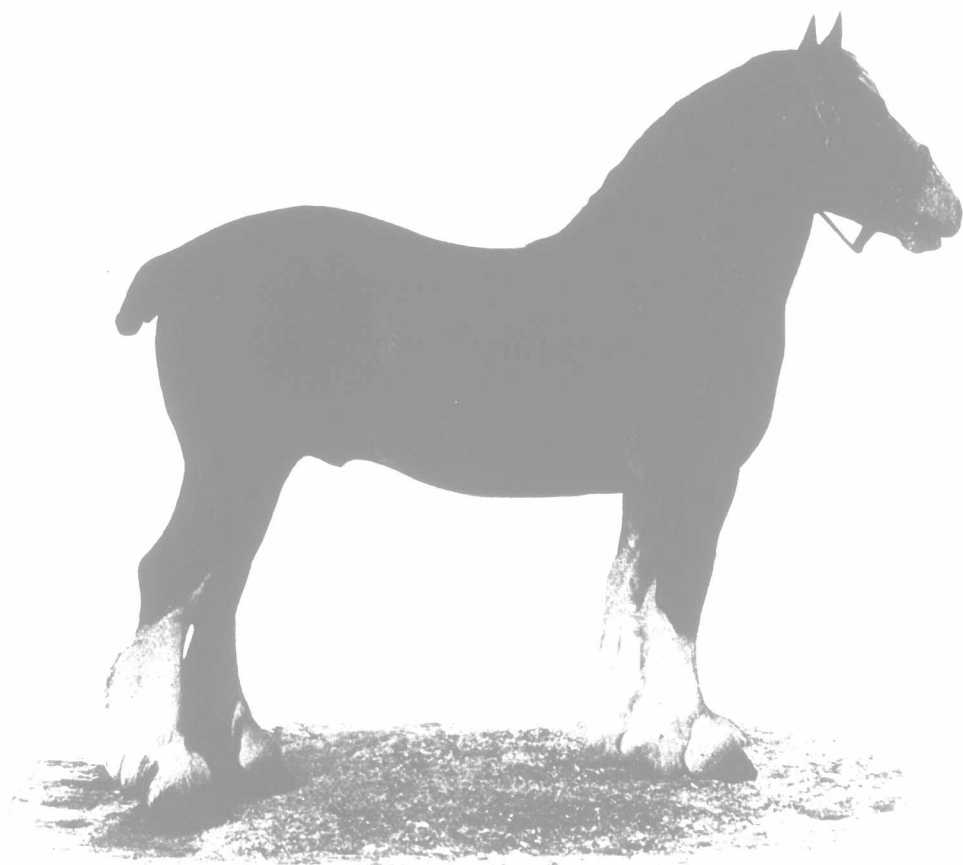
than twice the quantity. Milk serum and milk fat are the natural food of the young animal. They may be economically substituted in part, but should not be entirely withheld, if it can be avoided. To do so is usually false economy.

HORSES.

Flooring Horse Stables.

Clay, planking and concrete are the three materials of which stable floors are commonly made. Of the three, a good clay or earth floor is undoubtedly the best, providing it could be kept in perfect condition as regards cleanliness, dryness and levelness of surface. It is good for the horses to stand or lie on the soil itself, if the soil is dry, and not reeking with filth or soaked with urine or other moisture. But a clay floor is not a practicable proposition. For boxes, it answers fairly satisfactorily, but for ordinary stable requirements it is far from being what an ideal floor ought to be.

The objection to plank floors is that they lack durability, and, since the planking is always some distance above the ground, there is danger of the horses breaking through. Also, the space underneath is dark and filthy, and gives off disagreeable odors. Good plank floors are about as satisfactory as any that can be laid down, but, as a rule, they are "good" only for a comparatively few years. They have to be soon replaced, and are none too reliable at best. Plank make the warmest floor of the three materials named; the horses will do with less bedding, but they lack durability, and nowadays are becoming expensive.



Duntre Nikko, Imp. [8792] (14102).

Clydesdale stallion, bay, foaled May, 1906. Second in class, Ontario Horse-breeders' Exhibition, Toronto, January, 1909. Imported and exhibited by T. H. Hassard, Markham, Ont. Sire Hiawatha.

Concrete has advantages and disadvantages as a horse-stable flooring material. It is watertight, solid and clean, but is a little too hard. Horses standing on it are said to stock up more easily, if they are addicted to swelling in the legs, while standing idle. It is also slippery, and rather cold, and unless considerably more bedding is used than is required on a wood floor, the horses are likely to be uncomfortable. Concrete is durable when properly laid down, and therefore economical. A fairly good floor is made by using a concrete bottom, and laying plank over this for the horses to stand on. The extra cost per plank need not exceed two dollars per stall, and this might easily be repaid in a year or two by improved health of the horses and condition of their feet and legs, not to mention comfort.

There would seem to be a profitable field for someone who can invent a cheap, warm, clean, watertight and durable material for horse-stable floors.

Many a vicious horse has been started on his bad career by not being properly handled when young. Even though the colt is naturally of a bad disposition, he can be easily managed while under six months old. When he once is taught that man is his master, the first step in his training has been successfully accomplished.

Canadian Registration of Thoroughbreds.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The usefulness of our Society is every day becoming more apparent both to the owner and importer of Thoroughbred stock, as well as to the Dominion of Canada at large. Members of our Society now extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, and the past year of 1908 has shown, in the matter of registration of stock at Ottawa, that the Thoroughbred Horse Society is only second to the Clydesdale Horse Society.

The country that depends upon its native breed of horse, without frequent crossing of the Thoroughbred horse, will never become prominent as a producer of the light horse for driving or saddle purposes. A cross of the Thoroughbred blood is the backbone upon which all the lighter breeds of horses must build, if Canada expects to take her place as a horse-breeding country, as she is entitled to do. Canadians should have enough national spirit in them to support the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society, through which they can register, for a small fee, their Thoroughbred stock, and receive from the National Live-stock Records, Ottawa, a certificate issued and stamped with the approval of the Canadian Government.

WILLIAM HENDRIE,

Pres. Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society, Toronto, Ont.

Rapid Growth of Milk-fed Colt.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Early last fall I saw in your columns a request for experience of farmers in feeding milk to colts. Having had a little experience along that line, I watched eagerly for the experience of others, in the hope of getting new ideas, but have not seen anything yet. As I first got the idea from the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate," it is only fair to give its readers the benefit of my experience. In October of 1907, I bought a foal, the get of a 1,400-lb. mare and 1,700-lb. Clydesdale stallion. It was very small when I brought it home, only girthing 4 ft. 4 in. I started to feed it skim milk, 1 quart a meal twice a day, gradually increasing till it was getting 3 quarts a meal. I added to this a little ground flaxseed, till it was getting about two tablespoonfuls per meal. Its other feed consisted of equal quantities of bran and oats, by bulk, all it would clean up, till it was eating two quarts of mixture per meal, with one quart pulped turnips daily; also, all the clover it could eat. Was turned out to pasture as soon as grass was long enough to bite, and this feed dropped. This filly, at 18 months old, girthed 6 feet, and weighed 1,100 pounds. A full brother to this filly, this fall, equally poor, has, on similar treatment, gained half an inch a week in girth. These colts always get about three hours in the yard daily.

Muskoka District, Ont. AMATEUR.

[Note.—This experience is very satisfactory, and should be instructive to others. A little sweet skim milk is an excellent and very profitable feed for weanling colts. Care must be taken, however, not to overdo the feeding of milk to foals, more especially of whole milk, else the tendency will be to stimulate excessive laying-on of fat, beyond the ability of the joints to support. This does not apply to a moderate allowance. Indeed, a reasonable quantity of skim milk, along with bran and oats, will tend to the development of bone, as well as flesh. Exercise will help to prevent accumulation of excessive fat. Editor.]

Your "Farmer's Advocate" knife is a dandy. Sarnia, Ont. W. L. McKENNON.