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Horses.

The French Coach Horse.

Origin.—Since 1870, the French Government has been giving attention to the development of the horse-breeding interests. A Director-General, with qualified assistants, directs the work of the Government stud, and through these Thoroughbred stallions have been imported from England and Arabian stallions from Arabia. In 1883, a studbook was established by royal decree, and in it no stallion is given a registered number unless belonging to a Government stud or haras. Owing to the financial aid which is obtained from the Government, the best stock-getting stallions are prevented from leaving the country, and through this means also the breeding interests follow a definite course in their development. In 1885, a decree was issued excluding from public use all stallions not authorized by the Government. The French Coach is the result of crossing Arabian, Thoroughbred and Hackney stallions on the native mares of France.

Characteristics.—The typical French Coach Horse is in all essentials a coach or carriage horse. They stand about 16 hands high and weigh 12 to 14 cwt. The best type is striking in appearance, being upright and carrying their head and tail high when in motion. They are smooth and symmetrical, and frequently of fine quality and very graceful in movement, with high knee action and regular hock action. They have intelligent heads, graceful necks, singly-ribbed bodies, and muscular quarters, and while some are clean-lined, there are many that are coarse and heavy in these parts. The common colors are bay, brown or black. Considering the mixed breeding of these horses, they are uniform in type, a result likely due to the uniformity in the ideals of the men who have control of the Government breeding operations. In comparison with the Hackney, the French Coach is more rangy in type, the Hackney being stouter. The peculiarities of their action have been encouraged by having the trotting races held on sod instead of tracks, like those in this country. Trotting on sod requires more stamina, the feet must be lifted higher, and a quicker movement of the pasterns takes place as the feet leave the ground. The French Coach has not been bred for speed, but rather for grace-

fulness, stamina and beauty of form. The Government established in 1831, the Derby and St. Leger races, which are trotted over from two to three and three-quarter miles on the turf. To prevent sacrifice of size for speed, a law has been enacted excluding from races all horses under 15½ hands high. The trotting Derby for three-year-olds requires all animals to be trotted under the saddle on the sod track, carrying not less than 120 pounds, and the distance is two miles. The St. Leger for three-year-olds includes a distance of two and a half miles on a similar track. In 1891, of the 312 trotters in the official year-book, there were 112 that trotted this distance in 2.45 per mile; 62 of them under 2.40, and 101 of these were three-year-olds. The best time made by three-year-olds was that of Parvenche, the two and a half miles being trotted at the rate of 2.37½ per mile. The best time made by four-year-olds was at the rate of 2.30 12-15 per mile, by Impetuese. The course was 200 yards short of two miles. The best time made by five-year-olds was three and one-eighth miles at the rate of 2.33 3-5 per mile, made by Ismerie. The fastest three and three-fourths miles was made by Hemine, at the rate of 2.35 11-15 per mile, carrying 176 pounds. Sans Vergogne, winner of the French trotting St. Leger, as a three-year-old, trotted two and one-half miles in 6.40. These records are made under saddle for distances varying from two to two and one-half miles, carrying a weight of 120 to 175 pounds.

Utility.—They are best suited for breeding stylish and handsome carriage and coach horses with very graceful and moderately fast action. To produce such horses with any degree of certainty from French Coach sires the mares must possess, to a liberal degree, Coach form and action.

Congenital Scrotal Hernia in Colts.

Congenital scrotal hernia is quite a common, and, fortunately, not often a serious condition in foals. At the posterior portion of the floor of the abdominal cavity, or, more correctly speaking, on the floor of the pelvic cavity, there are two openings, one on either side, passing through the tissues that form the floor. The superior orifice of each opening is called the internal inguinal ring; the inferior, the external inguinal ring, and the cavity between the two is called the inguinal canal. In the female, the mammary vessels pass through these canals to reach the mammae, and in the male the testicles pass through to reach the scrotum, and the spermatic cords in the entire animal continue to occupy them, hence the canals remain patent until the animal is castrated, when, in most cases, they become partially obliterated, and while scrotal hernia may occur at any time, even in a gelding, it is not often seen except in stallions. However, it is of the congenital form we wish to speak at present. It is not at all uncommon for this form of hernia to exist at birth, or appear within a few days. The scrotum will be noticed fuller than normal; usually only one side contains intestine, but in some cases both. If the tumor be not very large, there is no occasion for alarm. It will be noticed, if the colt be held upon his back, that the contents of the sac can be readily returned to the pelvic cavity, but in most cases quickly returns to the scrotal sac when he regains his feet. It does not interfere with the health of the animal, and if closely watched will, in most cases, be noticed to vary in size. This is accounted for by a spontaneous return of the intestines for a time. As in umbilical hernia, the mesentery which suspends this intestine is proportionately longer and looser in the foal than in the animal a few months or even a few weeks old, and as age advances it gradually contracts, and thereby draws the hernia up into the abdomen, and a spontaneous cure results. In most cases, this cure results by the time the foal is weaned, but in rare cases not until a year or a year and a half old. The application of bandages, trusses or liniments should not be resorted to, as the anatomy of the parts is such that they can do no good, and if persisted in do harm, by causing irritation. Extraneous interference is seldom called for. Nature should be allowed to have its course, and will generally succeed in affecting a cure. However, there are cases in which treatment is necessary. All cases should be carefully watched, and if the tumor is not becoming larger, even though it may not be noticed to be growing smaller, or even to be less noticeable at times, leave it alone, but if a gradual or sudden increase in volume be noticed, which will interfere with the little animal's action, causing him to walk with a straddling gait, which becomes more marked, more or less quickly, according to the rapidity with which the intestine gains entrance to the sac, then treatment becomes a necessity. In cases of this kind, the services of a skillful veterinarian should be procured without delay, as an operation is necessary. The patient must be placed upon his back and held there, the scrotum and surrounding parts thoroughly washed with a disinfectant, as a 5-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid, the hands

of the operator and assistant also, instruments also disinfected. Then the scrotum is carefully cut through, and the intestine exposed and carefully returned through the canal into the abdominal cavity. If the testicle be present, it should be removed (and, of course, its fellow also), and a clam, enclosing the abdominal coverings, along with the spermatic cord, applied, the animal allowed to rise, and the clam left on until it sloughs off. In some cases the testicle has not yet descended and cannot be found. Where this condition exists, after the intestine has been returned, the edges of the external ring must be drawn together with carbolized catgut or silk sutures, which will become absorbed, and in the meantime the opening will become so contracted that a recurrence of the hernia is not probable, although the testicle will, in most cases, descend into the scrotum. This, of course, is an operation that should not be attempted by any except an expert, where the services of such can be secured. "WHIP."

Stock.

Spaying Heifers.

This operation is done for various purposes, either to limit the number of breeding females, cull out the inferior ones, or to get stuff in shape to fatten more quickly, by removing the cause of any disturbance due to sexual functions. Three methods are followed: (a) the upper flank, (b) the abdominal, (c) the vaginal method. Lay operators usually prefer methods (a) and (b), usually (a). This consists of making an incision in the hollow, just at the spot midway between the last rib, point of the hip and edge of the loin, on the left side. An incision of the skin is first made, it having been drawn taut and to one side, then through the muscles of the parts and the lining (peritoneum) of the abdominal cavity. The operator introduces his hand, secures the ovary, and removes it with either an emasculator, or the regular spaying scissors, after which he removes the remaining ovary. The wound is closed by stitches, which include the muscles and skin; some operators smear it when closed with a little tar. The operation should not be done during fly time. The methods of restraint vary with the position desired by the operator. Some operate with the animal lying on its right side, and others, where a suitable stocks or crate is at hand, with the animal on its feet. Dr. Reynolds described a method he favored and used on the range. He threw the heifer, and had her lying somewhat on her back, and by means of a pulley and ropes raised her hind legs about a foot or two from the ground, thus throwing the intestines forward out of the operator's way. An incision just large enough to admit the hand, is made along the middle line of the belly, just forward of the udder, and the hand introduced and the ovaries removed as before, the wound being sewn up with a strong fiddle string. The great thing is to have the heifers to be operated upon in healthy condition, and rather empty of food, and for the operator to use plenty of antiseptic solution (such as coal-tar dips), in which to put his knives and other instruments and his hands at frequent intervals. Further information can be got from the book, "Veterinary Elements," to be obtained at this office (\$1.50 postpaid). The vaginal method is usually left for the professional man to follow, the lay operator preferring the other methods.

Weighing of Live Stock for Sale at Stock-yards.

Many a stockman in the West has objected to the weighing-off-car method, which is, of course, in the interest of the buyers. This method, while in force in Winnipeg, is not in Toronto, Kansas City, Chicago, or other big yards. At Chicago, all stock coming into the yards on the railroads is weighed on a railway scale just outside the chutes; the train is pulled in, unloaded, pulled out again, and the empties weighed. The net weight of the stock is arrived at in this way, and this is the weight that the shipper pays for on his freight bill.

After being unloaded the stock is delivered to the commission company to whom it is consigned, taken over to the yards, fed and watered, and then sold as soon as possible, and weighed up over the stock-yard company's scales, which are inspected regularly.

As far as we can see there is no reason why our sellers of live stock for butcher or export purposes should get different treatment than that meted out to stockmen at other points where stock are marketed. This is a subject our live-stock associations, cattle-breeder's associations, etc., can well afford to take up, especially in view of the fact that there is a talk of union stock-yards in the air.

Further Testimony Unnecessary.

Gentlemen,—Enclosed find \$1.50, for renewal of my subscription, which I regret having omitted to send before. To add any further testimony to the excellency of the "Farmer's Advocate" would be superfluous, so I'll clew up,

Faithfully yours,

S. LINNELL.