

day, allowing him to wear it in the box or paddock, gradually shortening the check straps until we get his head as high as we wish. This teaches him to yield to the restraint of the bit, and to hold his head in the desired position. A substitute for a jockey can be made with an ordinary surcingle, crupper and sidechecks. When he has had sufficient handling of this sort a set of harness should be put on him and left on for a few hours daily in stall or paddock until he becomes accustomed to it. He is, or should be, now ready to drive, but should be driven a few times in the harness before he is hitched to a rig. He should be taught the meaning of the words of command that he will hereafter be expected to obey; as few words as possible should be used. He should be taught to stand at the word "whoa," step backwards at the word "back," go forward at a chirrup or the command "go on," lessen his gait at the word "steady," etc., etc. The same word should be used at all times to express a certain action. We often hear drivers use the same word to express different ideas; for instance, we hear a man say, "Whoa, back," when he simply wants his horse or team to slacken their gait, or say the same when he wants them to stand, etc. This certainly has a tendency to confuse a colt. We should say "back" only when we wish the animal to step backwards; "whoa," only when we wish him to stand, etc. In driving with the harness only, the lines should pass through the shaft tugs, instead of through the terrets, as they then pass along the sides, and the driver can prevent the colt turning, as he has leverage on his hips. After this has been done until the pupil has learned to obey the words of command, and not endeavor to turn or become frightened at objects on the road or street, he is ready to be hitched. It is wise to hitch him to a two-wheeled rig at first, as if he should turn suddenly there is much less danger of serious results. It is also good practice to use a kicking strap (or, possibly, we should say an anti-kicking strap) for the first few times. In most cases very little trouble is experienced when the colt has had the foregoing education, and until the time comes to drive him very little time has been spent. When once we commence to drive, he should be driven a little every day until he becomes handy. While I prefer teaching a colt to go in single harness first, others think it wise to teach him to go double, and where a steady, prompt and reliable mate can be had, it probably is as well. We usually find that when a colt is taught to go well in either harness there is little trouble with him in the other. During the summer of his third year we consider he should again be in pasture, and his training should be continued his third winter. When three years old he should be safe for any person to drive, and do a reasonable amount of work, but should not be expected to do hard and steady work of any kind until at least four years old, and we find that, with few exceptions, horses that are useful at a very old age have not done much work until five or six years old. It certainly pays when practicable to go easy with horses until fully matured.

"WHIP."

### The Care of Unshod Hoofs.

The United States Department of Agriculture has done a good work in issuing Farmers' Bulletin No. 179, which treats of horseshoeing, a question that is far too little understood, not only by the farmer but also by many of those who undertake the work of shoeing horses. In fact, there are some shoers who have done this work all their lives, and yet there are many things in regard to it which they have never sufficiently mastered.

In speaking of the care of unshod hoofs, the bulletin says: "The colt should have abundant exercise on dry ground. The hoofs will then wear gradually, and it will only be necessary from time to time to regulate an uneven wear with the rasp and to round off the sharp edges about the toe to prevent the breaking away of the wall."

"Colts in the stable cannot wear down their hoofs, so that every four to six weeks they should be rasped down and the lower edge of the wall well rounded to prevent chipping. The soles and clefts of the frogs should be picked out every few days, and the entire hoof washed clean. Plenty of clean straw should be provided. Hoofs that are becoming awry should have the wall strengthened in such a manner as to straighten the foot axis. This will ultimately produce a good hoof, and will improve the position of the limb."

### Monument for Prof. Nocard.

At the recent annual meeting of the Ontario Veterinary Association it was resolved to ask all veterinary graduates to contribute to a fund for the erection of a monument to Prof. Nocard. Dr. J. G. Thompson, of the University of Toronto, was asked to receive contributions.

At the same meeting it was also decided to offer a \$2500 prize to be competed for by the 1904 graduates of the Ontario Veterinary College.

### Healthy Stables.

One phase of stock-raising that is claiming more than the usual amount of attention at present is the question of properly ventilating stables, and the effect upon stock of continued confinement in comfortable or warm quarters. It is not a fancied condition—the general hardiness of stock much accustomed to outdoor life, but an actual fact that confronts all thoughtful breeders. It would seem that in our anxiety to make conditions as favorable as possible to the development of the best types we had overstepped the mark, and have been subjecting our stock, with the idea of making them comfortable, to conditions more injurious to their health than the ordinary temperature would impose.

There is a tendency operating in all animal life to fortify itself against adverse conditions, and this tendency is developed by gradually subjecting stock to conditions that without proper preparation would appear severe, but which, with gradual and continued use, are endured without any ill effects. Writing on this subject in the *Live-stock Journal Almanac*, Sir Walter Gilbey says:

Though originally the inhabitant of a hot climate, the horse can endure without danger, or even discomfort, a much lower temperature than is generally supposed. In this country, given extended pasturage and water, he requires little attention from man, the most that is necessary, perhaps, being an open lean-to shed or hovel wherein he may find shelter in tempestuous and stormy weather, or during the heat of summer find refuge from the annoyance of flies.

It is interesting to observe the behavior of horses in a pasture where such shelter has been erected. They will seldom seek its protection in cold weather, even when snow falls and there is frost on the ground. This indifference to cold is significant, indicating, as it does, that what the horse desires above all things is fresh air.

There can be little doubt that the principal cause of most diseases to which the horse is subject is confinement in close and ill-ventilated stables; the effluvia arising from excretions in ill-ventilated stables are harmful to his lungs and eyes alike.

The horse, by reason of the character of the work exacted from him, is peculiarly exposed to the dangers of bad air; coming into his stable after the day's work, he suddenly exchanges the fresh, cold, outdoor atmosphere for that of a close, sometimes artificially heated, building.

Moist, hot air relaxes the fibers, while fresh air acts as a stimulus, bracing up strength and vigor. We all know the exhilarating effect of clear and frosty air upon ourselves, when in winter we come out of doors. Equally we know from experience the drowsy sensation produced by sitting in a warm room with a number of people; this drowsiness is produced by breathing a vitiated atmosphere.

The supreme importance of ample ventilation is not yet fully understood in this country, though, as already said, the subject has received much more attention of recent years. Stables have almost always been, and still are, built less with an eye to practical advantages than with regard to appearances. Only too frequently the horse owner who contemplates erection of a range of stabling devotes by far the greater part of his attention to questions of proportion, architectural design and external appearance, than to the questions of ventilation and light, which are of the first importance in securing the health of the horses to be kept in the building. When we consider how large a proportion of his existence the race horse, carriage or saddle horse spends in his loose box or stall, the vital importance of ventilation becomes apparent to us. With the large majority of such horses it is probably within the mark to say that, taking the whole year round, the animals pass fully three-fourths of their lives indoors.

When the erection of stabling is contemplated, the first point to be considered in arranging details of construction is to provide for free circulation of air. The aspect of the stables is almost equally important. "Sun is life." The horse in confinement revels in the brightness of the early morning sun, and his love for it should be indulged by selecting a south or south-eastern aspect for his stable.

It was an article of faith among those who built stables during the earlier and middle decades of the nineteenth century that a stable should be dark. It was supposed by some that the light from a window in front of the horse tied up in his stall was injurious to his eyesight, for which reason windows on the manger side of the stable were made small and placed high up in the wall, and being small and not convenient to open, were generally left closed, thus blocking the only passage for the ingress of fresh air and the escape of foul air. Light in the stable was held objectionable on the supposition that light attracted flies, the truth being that foul litter, etc., are the attractions which bring swarms of flies to annoy the horse in his stall.

### Stallion Lien Act.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of the 14th inst., I notice the article, "Stallion's Lien Act," every word of which, after over thirty years' experience, I most heartily endorse. But the writer does not, in my opinion, go far enough. When I was in the business, I made it a condition in my horse bills that, on a certain day, all my patrons should bring their mares to the stand at which they patronized my horse, date of which they were notified by mail. This saved me a great deal of trouble in collecting. They all knew where to find me, and these whose mares were not in foal were sure to bring them, while those whose mares were in foal usually paid the cash, or, if that was not convenient, I took their notes of hand at whatever time we agreed upon, with interest; but if they neglected to bring their mares, and I had to make a special trip, I charged two dollars extra for every special trip made for collecting. With that condition inserted in my bill, I had very little loss of time, as they all either came or sent a proxy.

In the stallion business, all is not gold that glitters. I will relate one case, out of many, which affected me personally. A party sent two mares one year to my horse. At the end of the season I was under the firm belief that both were in foal, but when he brought them for inspection neither of them were looking like being in foal. He said to me, when I made the remark that I expected both of them would have proved to be in foal, "Oh, there is not a foal in their skins, to that I can take my oath." I thought it was strange for a man to be willing to take his oath. It set me thinking, and I began to make enquiries about it the next season, for the horse was on the same route, and I found that each mare had picked foal during the winter, having been strained lumbering, but I made him foot the bill in full, all the same.

Your correspondent does not say anything as to how to manage if a mare is disposed of.

One man parted with his mare, and wanted me to go only one hundred and twenty miles to look after her, but I made him come to time, because he was worth more money and was better able to pay than I was to take the trip.

If an act were passed making a lien on the mare, it might give the owner of the horse a great deal of trouble to find out the truth, and also to locate the mare. My experience in the stallion business clearly indicates that, in the eyes of some people, it is quite right to "do" the horse owner, if possible, no matter how. I do hope that your correspondent may be able to work it out so as to protect the man who runs the risk of importing or purchasing a good horse for the benefit of his country as well as himself. Horse-breeder should also include in the proposed lien act, a clause requiring a license on all male animals charging a service fee. I remember having a very fine imported Shire horse travelling about one hundred miles from home, and when accosted as to amount of service fee, I told the party twelve dollars. "Oh," said he, "what nonsense; twelve dollars. Why, I can get the use of such a man's horse, and insure a foal, for two bushel and a half of oats."

Now, how do you think any man having enterprise enough to bring out from England a good horse could buck against such as that? This, however, is very common in some parts of Canada, I am sorry to say.

Then, we should also raise the duty on American bronchos, etc., for these scrubs are doing the horsemen of this country a very great deal of injury. Wellington Co., Ont. OLD STALLIONMAN.

### Watering Animals.

There should be a prescribed system for the regular watering of all animals on the farm. The belief is more common than it should be that water at long intervals is not only sufficient, but that it is the best way of treating cattle. Of course, this is a mistake, and one that ought to be apparent to all who give the matter any thought. In the first place, a thirsty state is an uncomfortable state for the animal to be in, and from motives of humanity it should be relieved. It is a condition directly opposed to good digestion. When thirst is allayed only when it has arrived at a stage of acute suffering, an overdose of water is taken, and that causes as much injury to the digestive organs as the thirsty condition which it supercedes. Cattle should, when on dry feed, get water.

### Wind-shield Records in a Separate Class.

The officials of the three light-harness associations which control the sport in America, at a recent meeting decided that the so-called "wind-shield" records which were made last year by Lou Dillon, Major Delmar, Cresceus, Dan Patch and Prince Alert on numerous occasions, and over which there has been much agitation, shall be placed in a class separate from the regulation trotting and pacing records which are on file as official marks. This action leaves Maud S. the undisputed queen of trotters, inasmuch as her record to high wheeled sulky has not been broken, according to the race associations.