It generally pays in preparing a horse for sale to begin early in the winter, get on all the fat possible with sufficient exercise to avoid overloading and prevent stocking. Feed regularly, water regularly, exercise regularly, and groom regularly.

It is said that the inroads of the automobile have driven so many horses out of commission in Britain that there is a scarcity of horse manure as fertilizer, and scientists are seeking new substances to supply humus.

If the mare has a fall colt, she requires liberal feeding on nicely-cured hay with plenty of oats and bran and a few roots. Effort must be made to supply at least a part of the succulency which springing grass affords the dam of the spring-dropped colt.

There is often a great rush of work to be done late in the autumn. Then it is that work horses perspire most freely, and then it is that they are often exposed to cold, chilling winds or drafts after the day's work. It is well to get plenty of fresh air into the horse stable, but avoid cold drafts which blow directly upon horses which have their coats wet with sweat. Close doors to avoid drafts.

Horses and Silage.

Now that the silos are full and winter approaching, many will begin to wonder if silage may be fed to horses without bad results. The hay famine in several districts will alter many an old time custom of feeding, and throw the herdsman upon his resources to compound a winter diet for the stock. Only a very judicious feeder should be advised to feed silage to horses, and yet we have seen horses fed on silage throughout the entire open silo period, and only last winter two colts were under our observation which secured nothing but hay and silage all winter long. Fatal results have been reported, however, with silage-fed horses. In one case the veterinarian pronounced it cerebral meningitis, and the animal showed a paralized condition and much weakness. It was unable to swallow; it would attempt to drink, but could not; its muscles would twitch and tremble, and it finally became so weak that it could not stand. When down its muscles would move automatically, as if walking or trotting. From four days to a week seems to be the time required for the disease to run its course and cause death to the patient.

In all cases where trouble has resulted from feeding silage, the silage was immature, containing considerable acid, or mouldy and overheated. Some of it came from new silos which had not yet become sealed with small materials and juices from the corn.

Past experience has shown that good, sweet, well-matured silage, not mouldy or otherwise impaired, is excellent fodder for the horse and colt, but any silage not up to this standard will be fed at a risk to the owner and danger to the animal.

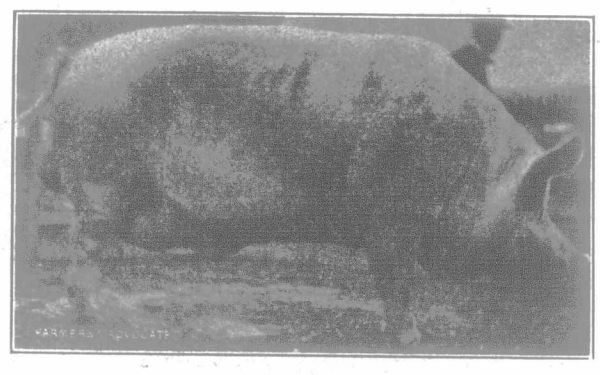
When Horses' Legs Swell.

I have a mare five years old, a half-bred Clydesdale. Her hind legs swell while she is in the stable over night. I feed one gallon of oats three times a day, and hay and water, and work her ten hours a day. She is in good health every other way.

Parry Sound. J. W.

Ans.—This tendency to swelling is called by some horsemen "filling", but is generally known as "stocking." This tendency is greater in heavy horses than in those of the lighter breeds, and the class of horse with meaty, coarse legs is more predisposed to this swelling than is the horse with the clean, flinty, flat bone so much in demand. Although this subject has been discussed in "The Farmer's Advocate" many times, a little space may be given to it again at this season when horses are just on the verge of a long period af comparative idleness, and are right in the midst of the cool, fall weather with varying temperatures and muddy heels, so likely to develop scratches or cracked heels and consequent swelling.

Stocking is generally attributable to a sluggish circulation in the extremities. Horses inside on dry feed give most trouble from this cause, but some horses are congenitally predisposed because of faulty conformation. High feeding on grain and lack of exercise are two of the commonest causes; but we have seen horses in very low flesh and receiving a small amount of feed shown stocking well marked. As this particular horse is working daily and the swelling shows in the morning after a night's rest, we take it that the swelling disappears when the horse has been worked for a short time. This is sluggish circulation. Exercise increases circulation and stimulates absorption, and all superflous exudates which really cause the swelling are carried away. This condition may occur with the best of care, but it is usually associated with poor care or faulty digestion or both. Horses suffering from partial or well-marked constipation commonly develop the symptoms. Grain rations should be reduced when work slackens, if only for a few days. Changes from grass to dry feed, even for horses working hard, should be made gradually, and the grain ration increased slowly. Fall and winter are the seasons when stocking is most common. This is largely due to dry feed, for, during summer, most farm horses get at least an occasional mouthful of grass, which acts as a laxative. The natural thing to do then is to provide a substitute for grass. Roots fill the bill, and, with a liberal percentage of bran in the grain ration, should have a beneficial effect. Scalded bran fed two or three times weekly is often advised, as is also an occasional feed of boiled oats, and sometimes a little linseed meal once daily or even some raw linseed oil mixed with the grain once daily will help greatly. It is generally necessary to feed something other than dry hay and oats to a horse which is troubled with stocking as this one is.



A Big Yorkshire.

Champion boar at Toronto, 1913. Owned by William Manning, Woodville, Ont.

With a horse affected as this one is a purgative is indicated, and 6 to 10 drams of aloes and 2 drams of ginger should be given. After purgation ceases it is a good plan to give a dessert spoonful of saltpetre in damp food once daily for three or four days. Examine his heels to see that he has no "scratches." If he has apply oxide of zinc ointment. Rub his legs well each night after a day's work, and under no circumstances leave them wet and muddy if it is at all possible to get them clean and dry. If necessary the legs might be bandaged tightly at night, but this is scarcely practicable with a heavy horse at daily hard work. Prevention is better than cure, and the best preventive is the breeding of nothing but the cleanest-limbed draft horses.

Back to The Horse.

"Back to the Land" has been the advice often given, but seldom followed by the townsman. "Back to the horse" has not been heard as much but many city people have enjoyed their cars and limousines for a time and now that they have become a common luxury and a business appliance, the afore-time spurner of equine usefulness has returned to the horse for pleasure and profit. Automobiles and trucks have come to stay in towns and cities, but there is still labor where nothing can replace the horse. Construction and excavating work still demand the horse, and country roads, as yet, are not suitable for trucks to do effective work. Electricity will not propel the plow or drill through the soil for many years to come, so we must still retain that useful animal which has been so faithful in the past. In the city of Detroit many families who still have their tonneaus and touring cars are returning to the saddle and carriage horse for real pleasure and enjoyment, and the very fact that it has life and responds to intelligent and skillful, not automatic management, commends it to the lover of nature and nature's animals.

Judging Bull Calves at Toronto, 1913.

LIVE STOCK.

This is the stockman's day.

If investigations bring results, the beef industry should soon be on a solid basis.

There is considerable stir in the sheep business this autumn, and this important branch of agriculture seems to be gaining ground quietly while the beef situation monopolizes attention.

Early October generally sees a slump in pork prices, and this year has been no exception to the rule. There is not a greater supply in the country, and prices should soon return to the former level.

If there is any one animal which requires exercise more than another, the large brood sow seems to be that one. We recently saw a litter of pigs, over half of which were farrowed hairless, small and weak, due undoubtedly to the fact that the sow had been confined in a very small pen, and had put on considerable flesh, exercise being precluded entirely. A sow carrying a litter should have a large yard winter or summer.

Human nature is very similar in all things. People like to make large sales at high prices, but it is not good judgment to so deplete the supply by heavy selling that profitable returns are impossible for some time in the future. High prices tempt the stockman to dispose of his good females, something which should be carefully guarded against just now. Good breeding females should be kept to strengthen the herds and flocks.

How to Disinfect a Cattle Barn.

It is always good practice where a contagious disease of any kind has gained access to the herd to disinfect the entire stable. In fact, this is often imperative if it is desired to stamp out the disease. Disinfection is absolutely necessary where tuberculosis has gained access to the herd. Bulletin 123 of the Pennsylvania State College of Agriculture recently published gives a plan for disinfecting the stables which is valuable for this as well as for some other diseases:

1. Remove all manure, litter, loose dirt, loose, rotten boards and scrape the floor clean.

2. Sweep the ceilings and walls free from cobwebs, dust and dirt.

3. Wash the feed boxes, mangers, stanchions and partitions with hot water containing enough lye or washing powder to cut the dirt. Scrub all these objects vigorously with a stiff brush.

4. Spray the walls, ceilings and floors with bichloride of mercury solution (1-1000) or a 5 per cent. carbolic acid solution (not crude).

5. Flush the floors with a saturated solution of iron sulphate or a solution of chloride of lime (1 lb. to 3 gallons of water).

6. Spray interior of feed boxes, mangers, stanchions and partitions with the 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid. This is done for the reason that there is danger of poisoning the animals if the bichloride of mercury is used for spray upon those structures which the animals can lick with their tongues. The carbolic acid is absolutely harmless if used in a five per cent. solution.

7. A whitewash applied to walls, ceilings and partitions will add to the cleanliness of the stable.

To make a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid use one part by weight of pure carbolic acid to twenty parts of water. Add the carbolic acid to a gallon of moderately warm water, stir vigorously, then add enough more warm water to make the desired amount. The solution can be applied with spray pumps, sprinkling cans or with a brush.

In the mixing and application of bichloride of mercury, it must be remembered that this disinfectant is extremely poisonous when taken internally, not only to cattle but also to man. The buckets, tubs, spray pumps and sprinkling cans which have been used in applying the solution should be thoroughly scrubbed with soap and rinsed with clean water before using for any other purpose. Bichloride of mercury will corrode metal, so that it is well to use wooden utensils. The mercury solution must be used with caution about the feed boxes, mangers and stanchions for fear of the cattle contracting mercuric poisoning by licking these objects. For this