

## HORSE

### Mare a Non-Breeder: Mange

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Some few months ago I purchased a heavy mare. She was shod on the front feet. Some time later she started to limp in front, so I had her re-shod. The blacksmith informed me the mare was foundered, her feet being flat and the wall of the foot very thin. The hoof is also very brittle. Since then at times she goes lame in the hind legs, one at a time, and it hurts her to back up or step down from the stall floor. She seems to have difficulty in urinating water, lifting one leg and sometimes groaning as in pain. When water does come, it is good color and not scanty. At times she has almost lost her balance while straining. The mare is a valuable animal, and a fine worker, being a quick walker and spry most of the time.

Would you give me a practical remedy for mange, one to be applied to fifteen head of horses, also something to disinfect the building? My horses are very irritable, and itchy, rubbing against the stalls and biting themselves. Some of them keep thin, although well fed and not worked hard. One or two have leg mange as well. They were all clipped in spring, when lice were found on them, but are in separate building.

I have a mare which I bred to two different horses last year and failed to get in foal. This year she has been bred to another horse three times and is not in foal. The mouth of the womb was dilated at one service, and the groom said she was in good shape. This mare is seven years old, and has raised a colt, judging by udder and teats, which are large. She has been in this country a year and a half, and was in poor shape last year, but is all right this season. The first time I bred her the horse was very keen, but after fooling around her for a few minutes suddenly went flat, and it was a long time before he could be got to serve her. This horse is a very good foal-getter. This has led me to think that perhaps the yeast-cake injection might be advisable. The heats are regular and discharge seems normal.

Sask.

F. E. C.

The symptoms point to inflammation of all four feet. Probably the hind feet are as thin and brittle as the fore. If the hind feet are affected that would be a reason for, and explanation of, the groaning and pain evidenced during the act of micturition. You had better look to the hind feet. If they are thin, have her shod with shoes having low calkins.

Mange being an infectious disease, all outbreaks must be reported to the Dominion government veterinary inspector at Regina. This official will attend to your horses upon receiving notification from you. The trouble may be caused by hen lice. If so, you must thoroughly cleanse your stable by whitewashing with strong lime wash. Into each pailful of lime wash put a pint of crude carbolic acid. This must be worked well into the chinks between the boards, as the mites hide there. The bodies and legs of the horses may be sponged with a two per cent. solution of creolin every evening. It is better to remove all the horses into another stable—one that you are sure is free from lice.

Just before service this mare should be examined by a competent veterinary surgeon. He would probably find the cause of her failure to conceive, and remove it. There is nothing in the yeast-cake treatment for mares that cannot be got in foal. There are two conditions only

required to get mares in foal. The first is that the stallion is capable of doing his share, and that the mare's genital organs are normal. In case of repeated failure to have the mare conceive, or after one failure, if the stallion is a foal-getter, have a competent veterinarian make an examination of the mare. It may be he can easily remedy the trouble, or if he cannot at least you will know that it is no use continuing to breed her.

### Horse Raising in Killarney

Few districts in the West have a better reputation for the excellence of their horses than has that section of Southern Manitoba of which Killarney is the center. The accompanying illustration shows the breed and something of the kind of draft horses raised in the community. Baron Sproat, the aged horse in the picture, has been three times grand champion at Killarney summer exhibition, no mean honor, considering the classes of Clydesdales that are exhibited annually at this show. He is owned by Jas. Cowan. Another noted Clydesdale stallion in the district is Silver Plate, the property of Jas. Tucker, Margaret. Mr. Tucker is deeply interested in draft horse breeding, and at last summer's exhibition at Killarney showed a six-horse team that was the sensation of the horse department of the fair; not the team alone, but the excellence with which they were handled by his son. It takes some practice for one man to handle a six-horse team. Generally where six horses are

ject. To begin with, the classification is all wrong at many shows. Classes are provided for mares in foal or with foal at foot, and the mare is judged entirely irrespective of her foal. This gives the young mare in foal an unfair handicap over the mare who is regularly breeding every year, no matter how good the foals of the latter may be. A class for barren mares that produced a living foal in the previous year or that are in foal in the present year may be added; but, after all is said and done, they are added in the interests of shy and irregular breeders, and these are not desirable animals to have in a stud. There is just the chance that a man may have a good mare that has lost her foal through pure misadventure, and if it were not for this I would certainly advocate having classes for mares with foals at foot, and leave the barren mare class out altogether.

When there are classes of mares and foals do the judges attach sufficient importance to the foal? Is the foal sufficiently taken into consideration as an important factor in judging the mare? I am inclined to think it is not, and that mere prettiness or perhaps action in the mare is given too much heed to. For the present I am only considering so-called pure breeds, such as the Shire horse or the Hackney. Now the first thing, in my humble opinion, that should be looked for in a brood mare is what may be termed breeding character. There should be size, substance, roominess and action. Then the next great

point is, what sort of a foal does the mare breed, and this is too often lost sight of or treated as quite a minor consideration. I do not know how often during the last season I have seen mares win as brood mares that had no pretensions to being high-class brood mares. And how many times in brood mare classes of all breeds have we seen a mare win and her foal finish amongst the also-ran division, whilst the dam of the winning foal, an easy winner, has been highly commended, or at best reserve? When I see this I am satisfied that unless there is some very specific reason for the mare being put back, the brood mare class has been badly judged.

Brood mares are wanted to breed good horses, not to look pretty, and I think a proof that we are not judging our brood mares wisely is that I do not remember a single champion mare that has bred a champion. I have no opportunity of referring, so there may have been one, but I do not remember either a Shire or Hackney champion mare that has bred anything out of the common.

Is it, I wonder, that the big fine mare, the cynosure of all eyes, has been so much shown, has been so forced from being a foal that her breeding powers are somewhat impaired by the strain? It would be a not unnatural explanation of what is an undoubted fact. There is the law of averages to consider when one comes to look into the question of breeding champions, but the law of averages does not account for the fact that champion mares are frequently—nay, generally—only average breeders.

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The consumption of horseflesh in France, according to figures gathered, is constantly on the increase. In Paris alone there are 600 meat shops, mainly in the poorer quarters, where horseflesh alone is sold. The consumption now exceeds 200,000 animals yearly. The butchers report that the increase is due quite as much to the growing in favor of horseflesh for food as to its cheapness compared with beef, the price of from ten to thirty cents per pound being a powerful argument to the poor under the constantly increasing cost of living in France.



BARON SPROAT AND TWO OF HIS GET. THIS STALLION WAS THREE TIMES GRAND CHAMPION AT KILLARNEY SUMMER FAIR

shown to a wagon, two or three drivers decorate the seat and manage the ribbons.

Horsemen at Killarney take an active interest in the trotting horse. It is quite a racing center. One of the noted horses in the district is Zoalco, a half brother to The Zoo, one of the famous performers on American tracks. This colt has not been "uncovered" yet, but when he is those who know profess a surprise is in store. Geo. Lawrence, president of the exhibition, is one of the leading light horsemen of the district, and is ably seconded in his efforts to encourage light horse breeding and clean racing by such men as Jas. Cowan, Andrew Wilson, J. M. Baldwin, J. H. Daly, Fred Smith and several scores of others. They are raising crops in the Killarney country that droughts cannot depreciate. Agriculture that is sustained by horse-raising is on a pretty substantial basis.

### Judging Brood Mares: The Foal as a Factor

"The Looker On," a regular writer on horse subjects in *Mark Lane Express Agricultural Journal* (British), has an interesting letter in a recent issue of that paper, which we reproduce, for the reason that most of the objections which this writer offers to the present system of judging mares and foals hold here to the same extent to which they do in the old country. The letter is as follows:

The question presents itself to anyone who has gone the round of the shows as to how far our brood mares are judged on correct lines. Personally, I have considerable doubts on the sub-