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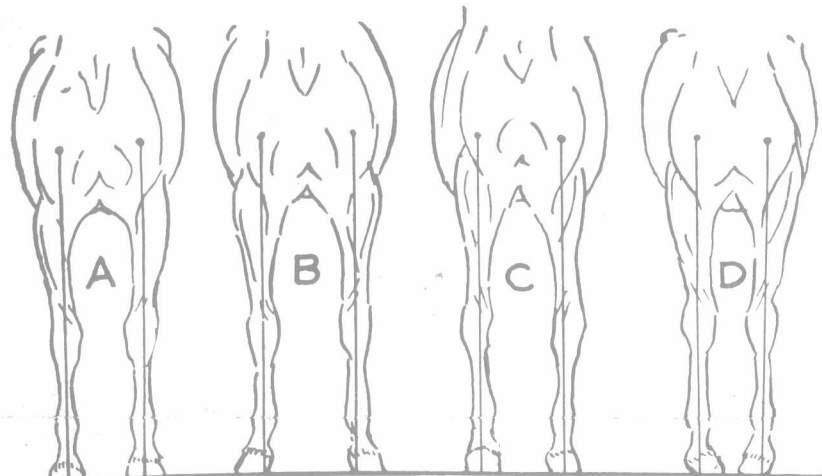


Fig. 1.—Front legs viewed from in front. A, proper set; B, toe wide; C, too wide; D, toe narrow.

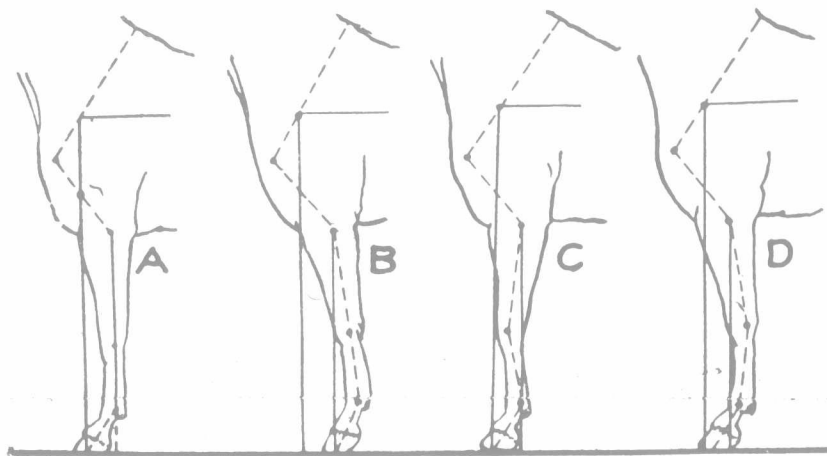


Fig. 2.—Front legs, side view. A, proper set; B, leg too far back; C, knee-sprung, buck kneed; D, calf kneed.

been at work and the foal confined in the stable for a few hours and is hungry after its long fast. In such cases some of the milk should be extracted by hand and the mare allowed to stand for a few minutes and become somewhat cool before the foal is allowed to nurse.

Another, and not uncommon cause of the trouble, is the dangerous and uncalled for habit many people have of administering a purgative or laxative to the foal shortly after birth. This, even though the dose be light, often causes serious and sometimes fatal diarrhoea. Under ordinary circumstances nature should be allowed to have her course in these cases, and we find that the first milk of the mare, "the colostrum," has a sufficient laxative action. In rare cases when the mare has lost considerable milk for a few days before foaling, hence the colostrum has escaped, it may be necessary to give the foal a slight laxative, as about an ounce of castor oil, but in most cases it is wise to withhold medicines until symptoms indicate their use, and this is seldom seen, especially when the removal of the meconium has been attended to as advised in a former article.

In colts, that from any cause, are reared by hand we find that the partaking of cow's milk in its purity usually causes serious digestive trouble, which may be diarrhoea, or the reverse condition, constipation. In such cases about one part of pure water to two parts of milk, to which has been added a little sugar, gives good results at first, and when the foal becomes older, stronger and accustomed to the food, he can digest pure cow's milk.

Symptoms of course are evident and unmistakable. The little animal voids liquid or semi-liquid faeces frequently. At first there is usually little distress noticed, but in a short time more or less violent straining occurs, indicating that the mucous membrane of the intestines has become irritated and inflamed. The patient becomes dull, lies a great part of the time, refuses to partake of his usual amount of nourishment, or possibly refuses to nurse at all. He loses strength quickly, will not or cannot stand for any considerable length of time, pants, looks towards his flank, strains violently, or, in the later stages the liquid faeces escape without apparent effort on the part of the patient. His mouth becomes cool, the circulation very weak and pulse very frequent, and death soon results.

Treatment. Preventive treatment should never be neglected. When we understand the causes we should endeavor to prevent them. When the disease occurs in a very young animal, from a few hours to a few days old, we are forced to admit that it is a very serious case. If it occurs in a strong foal of a few weeks of age it is not nearly so serious, but in all cases requires prompt and energetic treatment. The principle of treatment is to make the patient as comfortable as possible, allay pain, check the excessive secretions of the mucous and digestive glands of the intestines, and keep up strength. Many authorities claim that the trouble is always due to some irritant and that this must be removed before a cure can be effected, hence the administration of a laxative is the first essential. Theoretically this argument may have force, but the writer has noticed that in most cases it is unwise to treat this way. The ad-

ministration of a laxative can do no good unless a reasonable length of time, at least 12 hours be allowed before means of checking the diarrhoea be resorted to. The disease causes weakness and loss of appetite very quickly, and if the necessary time be given as stated it is highly probable that the patient will be dead, or at least beyond any hopes of recovery. Hence, prompt and energetic methods to check the diarrhoea should be adopted. In quite young patients opium gives the best results, as it eases pain and checks secretions. It is generally given in the form of laudanum, in 2 to 4 dram doses in a little of the mother's milk every three or four hours until diarrhoea ceases. Care must be taken not to continue the dose after cessation of the diarrhoea, else constipation will be produced. In the meantime efforts should be made to get the foal to nurse. If he refuses

while if the weather be quite warm he should be kept in a cool, shady place. WHIP.

The Legs, Weight, Form and Quality of the Drafter.

The usefulness of a horse depends a great deal upon the quality and set of the animal's legs, including the feet. In a recent bulletin, by W.H. Palmer, of the Extension Department in Ohio, some very good illustrations which we reproduce herewith were published showing the correct and incorrect positions of both the front and hind legs, front and side views. In the first illustration will be seen the proper set of a horse's legs as viewed from in front, also the very common fault of having front feet which toe out or toe wide. Then one which is wide at the knees or a little bandy-legged, and another one whose legs are set too close together and which toes in.

Illustration No. 2 shows the correct leg from a side view, then one which is set too far back under the animal. Another which is knee-sprung, and still another which is what is commonly known as calf-kneed.

Any horses having front legs which do not set as indicated from the front and side views of the proper set, are not as efficient as horses having the proper set of front legs. Something must give out under the strain, and these weaknesses grow worse or cause more strain on other parts, which finally culminates in a pro-

nounced blemish.

Illustration No. 3, shows correct and incorrect set of hind legs, A, being a proper set. Followers of draft horses at the shows know how common it is to see a horse travel wide at the hocks. The legs shown in B of this illustration are a very good example of legs set too wide, while C shows a very bad form, the hocks wide and the fetlocks and toes pointing in. The legs shown in D are equally bad, as they are set too close together, and those shown in E, close together at the hocks, are commonly known as cow-hocks, making the animal stand very wide at the toes.

Illustration No. 4 shows the hind legs from the side view, A being the proper set, while B shows a bad case of sickle hock; C a leg which is altogether too straight, and D also another form of leg which is too straight. A little study of these four illustrations will give an intelligent idea of what is required in the proper set of a horse's legs.

The bulletin also gives a detailed description of the method of going over a horse carefully in judging his value. Among other things the following paragraphs on weight, form, quality, and temperament should be of interest to our readers.

"In order to classify as a draft horse, the animal in fair flesh must weigh at least 1,600 pounds. The nearer the horse approaches a ton or over the better. This weight should be due to massiveness of form and heavy frame and muscle, rather than to a great quantity of fat. As has been indicated before, there are three classes of draft horses: light drafters, 1,600 pounds to 1,700 pounds; medium drafters, 1,700 pounds to 1,850 pounds; and heavy drafters, 1,850 pounds and over.

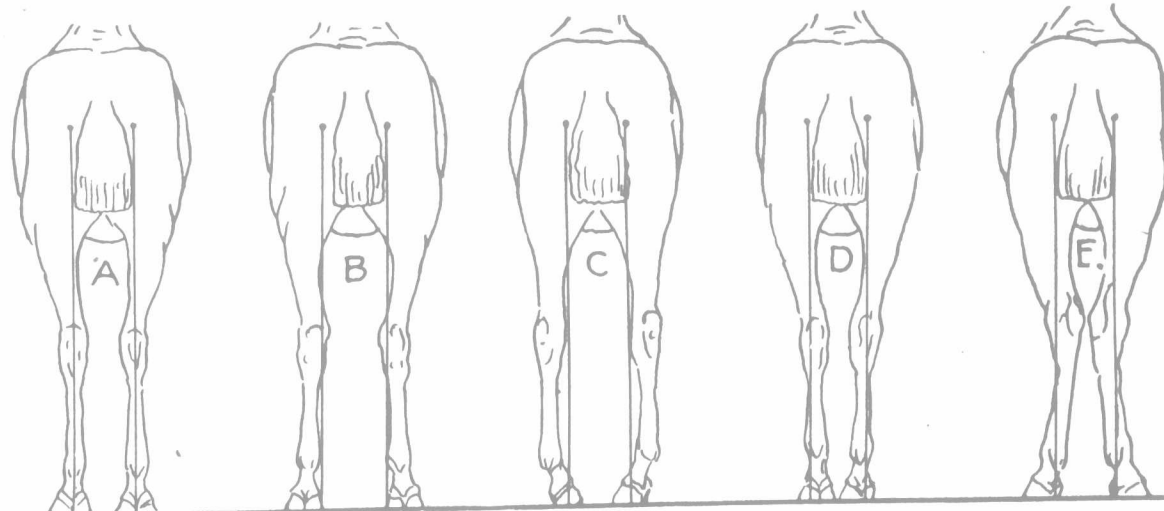


Fig. 3.—Hind legs from behind. A, proper set; B, too wide; C, too wide at hocks and fetlocks with toes pointing in; D, too narrow; E, cow hocked.

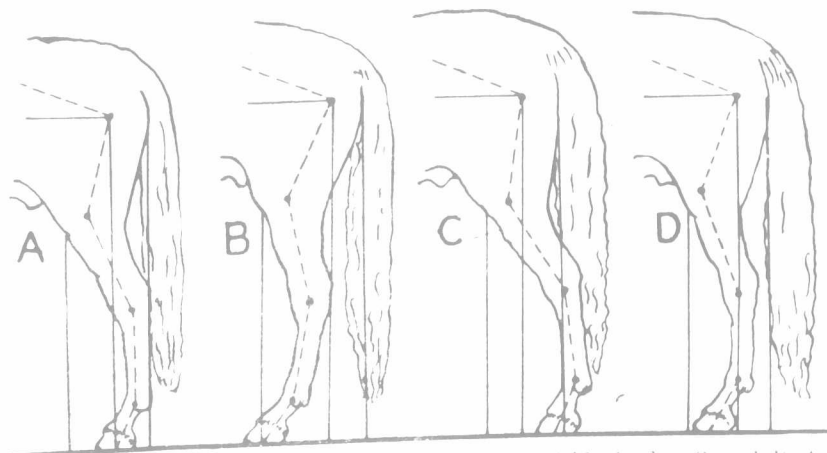


Fig. 4.—Hind legs, side view. A, proper set; B, sickle hocks; C and D, too straight.