

THE HORSE.

Attention to Horses' Teeth.

There are many horses of all ages that are not thriving although consuming a reasonable amount of feed, and their owners are at a loss to account for it, and often spend money in condition powders, stock foods, etc., without results.

The animals do not show symptoms of illness, but simply do not thrive and have not the life, spirits or energy that they should have. The cause, in the majority of cases, will be found in the mouth; there is usually either faulty dentition or irregularities of the teeth. The subjects do not need medicinal treatment but what is required is intelligent attention to the teeth. We say "intelligent attention" as, in many cases, unskillful or ignorant interference does much more harm than good. While it does not necessarily require a veterinarian to make a skillful veterinary dentist, it requires a man who is conversant with the anatomy of the mouth, and has the necessary instruments and skill to correct abnormal conditions of the teeth—few farmers have either. And the so-called "veterinary dentist" who is not a veterinarian, is usually an unscrupulous person who understands neither the proper arrangement of the teeth nor the proper manner of correcting faults; a man who lives by deceiving the horse owner. Hence, in most cases, it is wise for the owner to get a qualified man to attend to his horses' teeth. There are few horses that have reached the age of six or over (and often those of younger age) that would not do better if their teeth were attended to yearly. The reputable veterinarian does not make a practice of examining the mouths of his patrons' horses, and telling them that the teeth require attention. This appears too much like "asking for a job" and horse owners are very apt to take it that way, hence the veterinarian who has much respect for either himself or his profession is above it. He rightly thinks that if his advice or service is worth having it is worth asking for. At the same time, a large percentage of horses that give reasonable service and look reasonably well on the feed consumed would look and thrive better if their teeth were dressed regularly. There are many cases in which attention is not required, and the professional man who, for the sake of the fee, will dress a mouth that does not require it, is, we trust, rarely seen.

The first trouble likely to result from the teeth appears, in many cases, between the ages of two and four years. At from two years and three months to three years of age, the first and second molar teeth in each row (which are temporary teeth) are shed, and replaced by permanent ones. At from three years and three months to four years, the third molar in each row (also a temporary one) is shed and replaced by a permanent one, and the sixth molar in each row appears. It is not uncommon to observe a colt about three years or about four years of age, that is unthrifty and has difficulty in masticating. He does not appear sick, but becomes dull and listless and does not eat well. During the growth of the permanent molars, which are to take the space previously occupied by the temporary ones, the fangs or roots of the latter gradually disappear by absorption as the new teeth grow. In normal cases, by the time the new tooth reaches the level of the gum the fangs of the temporary one have been absorbed and the crown drops off, but in other cases, on account of incomplete absorption, this does not occur, and the continued growth of the new tooth forces the temporary one above or below the level of its fellow, and as a consequence perfect mastication becomes difficult or practically impossible, and unless the animal be given feed requiring little mastication, he will fall in flesh and energy. When unthriftiness without apparent cause is noticed in colts of these ages, the molars should be carefully examined, and if any of the crowns are not shed they should be removed by the use of forceps.

In older horses the trouble is usually due to the presence of sharp, projecting points on the outer edges of the upper molars and the inner edge of the lower ones. The lower jaw is narrower than the upper jaw, hence the rows of molars are closer together, and as the motion during mastication is lateral, it can readily be seen that the molars in the upper rows will be worn from without inwards and upwards, leaving the outside of the teeth the longer, and the lower molars will wear from within downwards and outwards, leaving the inner border of the teeth the longer. The teeth are irregular in outline on each side, hence, on account of the manner in which they are worn there are numerous sharp points on the sides of the teeth mentioned. These, in many cases, irritate or scarify the cheeks and tongue, and the degree of inconvenience or inability to masticate properly will depend upon the size and direction of these points, but in most cases they cause more or less trouble. Treatment, of course, consists in rasping the sharp points off. For the performance of this operation a mouth speculum to keep the mouth open, and rasps of different shapes are required, and care must be taken to not remove too much of the teeth. Special care must be observed to not rasp the bearing surfaces of the teeth. These surfaces are normally rough and serrated in order to grind the feed, hence, if made smooth, the horse will be in a worse condition than before.

In other cases, from various causes, one or more of the molars become longer than their fellows, the opposing tooth being abnormally soft, hence wearing more quickly, or the roots decaying and allowing the tooth to be forced more deeply into the socket. The long tooth or teeth after a while attain such length that they come in contact with the opposite gums and render perfect

mastication impossible. In such cases the long tooth or teeth must be shorn or rasped down to the level of their fellows. A horse whose molars are in this condition will, of course, never again have a perfect mouth, but after the teeth are shorn or rasped down he will be able to masticate fairly well.

Decaying teeth are sometimes met with in horses. This condition is usually indicated by a fetid breath or a fetid discharge from the nostril. In some cases difficulty is experienced in locating the decaying tooth, but when the disease has reached that stage in which it can be located it should be extracted.

What are called "Wolf Teeth" are small, supernumerary teeth which appear in front of the first molar in the upper jaw. They are commonly supposed to effect the eyes, but this is a false idea. They seldom do any harm, except when quite large and in such a position that they interfere with mastication, but, being supernumerary and having no function, they should be extracted.

WHIP.

Percheron Breeders of America Held Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Percheron Society of America was held at 8 p.m., December 2, in the Congress Hotel, Chicago. A goodly number of Percheron breeders were in attendance.

President White, in his opening address, expressed the deep thankfulness which all Percheron breeders feel in the close of the war. He spoke of the notable service which the Percheron breeders of France and America have rendered to the allied cause, furnishing horses, themselves and their sons. He referred to the horse situation in Europe where, according to information he has recently received from members of the Agricul-



A Good Colt and Its Young Mistress.

tural Commission sent to Europe to study the situation respecting live stock and farm products. There is a great shortage of work horses, the balance on which cannot be restored except by the shipment of large numbers of horses from this country. He cautioned breeders, however, not to expect too sudden a response in value on account of the fact that ship space will not be available for ready exportation of horses before spring, and even if there were available space at the present time it would not be advisable, because of the lack of grains and forage for horses over there.

The need for intelligent action on the part of individual breeders in eliminating unsound horses and those of faulty conformation was specially dealt with by President White. Breeders were urged to weed out rigorously and castrate the inferior stallions and to sell the mares of inferior character as grades, to the end that the standard of the breed might be steadily improved.

In conclusion, the President dealt briefly with the general utilization of the multiple hitches for six, eight and ten-horse teams, which render it possible for an individual farmer to do double or treble the work in the field that has heretofore been done per man. All breeders were urged to make general use of these hitches in order that they might not only increase the efficiency of their own farm help, but encourage the more intelligent and general use of these larger teams, thereby increasing the efficiency of draft horses and adding to their value.

Secretary Dinsmore in his report stated that the registrations made during the last fiscal year were somewhat less than in 1917; 3,881 American-bred stallions, 5,226 American-bred mares, 63 imported stallions and 10 imported mares were recorded, a grand total of 9,180. Only 21 of these imported animals were imported and registered within the last fiscal year. The other imported animals have been imported in preceding years and heretofore recorded in minor associations. A total of 9,798 transfer certificates were issued during the past year and about 2,500 more transfers

were embodied in rewritten certificates, or accompanied applications when tendered for record. The transfers were slightly in excess of those of the preceding year. The rank of the leading states, arranged in order, according to number of animals purchased by breeders residing within those states, is as follows: Iowa, 1,526; Illinois, 1,187; Canada, 770; Kansas, 754; Missouri, 618; Ohio, 528; South Dakota, 513.

The Secretary also reported that Volume XIX of the Percheron Stud Book of America containing pedigrees from 122,001 to 134,000 had been issued during the past year, and that the next Volume, containing pedigrees from 134,001 to 146,000, was nearly ready for completion by the printers.

In the election of directors, William Danforth, of Minnesota, W. S. Corsa, of Illinois, and Ed. Nicodemus were elected to succeed themselves, and Otho H. Pollock, of Ohio, was elected to succeed Lewis Slack, of Ohio. At the conclusion of the annual meeting of the stockholders the annual meeting of the Board of Directors was held in room immediately adjoining. President E. B. White, who has served the Society during the bitter years of protracted litigation, was re-elected to succeed himself, U. L. Burdick, of North Dakota, was elected Vice-President, C. N. Stanton, of Chicago, Treasurer, and Wayne Dinsmore, Secretary, re-elected for a term of three years. W. S. Corsa was elected as a representative from the Percheron Society to the National Society of Record Associations.

LIVE STOCK.

Swat the inferior pure-bred bull as well as the inferior grade or cross-bred.

Remember that sheep require water regularly just the same as other stock.

Do not make the feed as sloppy for the hogs in winter as you would in warm weather.

The Ottawa Winter Fair will be held January 14 to 17. Make your entries of live stock early.

The frequent use of curry comb and brush increases the thriftiness and, incidentally, improves the appearance of the cattle.

It is time for us to realize that a business cannot live on a reputation alone. It must produce the goods that will maintain a reputation.

A determination to improve the stock on the farm and to have it in prime condition when marketed should be included in every Stockman's New Year resolutions.

If Canada is to maintain a large export trade it will be necessary for every stockman to maintain the maximum number of animals on his farm, and to finish his stock before marketing it.

Once a hog gets to the 150-pound mark it does not take long to increase his weight to 200 pounds, or the weight desired by the market. There is little likelihood of the price dropping for some time. It will pay to finish the hogs.

Judicious advertising through the proper medium has built up many a business. Through the press the public is made aware of the business in which you are engaged. If you do not advertise, the world has no evidence that you have any pedigree stock worth looking at.

It is reported that the quality of Canadian meat products exported is not on a par with that of other countries. We are in too big a hurry to cash in. Our competitors take time to make their bullocks and hogs prime, and as a result are gaining an enviable place in the world's markets.

During the week of the International, at Chicago, consignments of the various breeds were sold by public auction at remarkably high prices. In Shorthorns, 29 females and 14 bulls made an average of \$2,307. Fifty Herefords averaged \$1,566; 34 Angus averaged \$986, and 43 Polled Durhams made an average of \$506.

Corn produces a greater weight of feed to the acre than most other farm crops. The silo is the place to store it so that it is ready for use at any time, and gives feed analogous to June pasture conditions for the stock during mid-winter. If you want to handle more income, plan on one or more silos full of corn next year. It will help out if hay or straw is short. Good seed is essential to a good corn crop. Procure a supply early.

Did you notice the care taken by herdsmen at the Winter Fair in preparing the rations for the animals on exhibition? Good quality feed was used and it was made as palatable and appetizing as possible. A little more might advisedly be done on the average farm in the way of catering to the animals' wants. An animal must relish its feed if it is to make maximum gains. Mixing of dry roughages with pulped roots, or silage, and sprinkling on a little salt, is a good practice. It takes more time, but it pays.

The Argentine is a great meat-producing country. It is placing a high grade product on the British market, which is meeting with favor. Quality as well as quantity is their watchword. It is significant that some of the highest priced bulls of England and America have been