

THE HORSE.

Sore Shoulders—Prevention and Cure.

The season for "sore shoulders," especially in rural districts is approaching.

Horses that have been worked more or less regularly during the winter should still be "fit," hence under careful handling and attention should not suffer; but young horses that have not been prepared for work, or older animals that have had several months idleness are necessarily predisposed to the trouble.

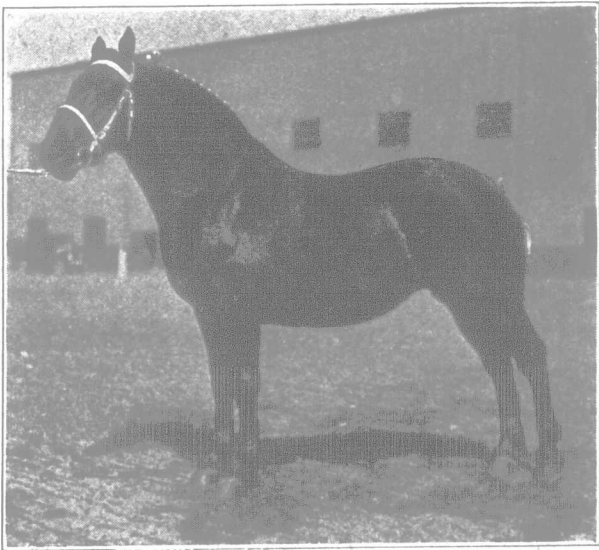
Probably the most essential preventive treatment is having properly-fitting collars. The collar should fit the horse. It should be neither too long nor too short, too wide nor too narrow. The bearing surface should conform to the peculiarities of the surface of the shoulder with which it comes in contact; while the shoulders of some horses differ from the general conformation, hence require collars "made to order," this is rare and a collar of standard pattern, of the proper length and breadth, usually gives results. As the lower part of a horse's neck expands some when he is putting force against the collar, it is necessary that the collar be a little longer than the neck when the animal is at ease. It should be long enough to allow the hand of the teamster to be inserted between the collar and neck at the bottom. It must be wide enough at the top to prevent danger of pinching the neck at the same time not wide enough to allow empty space. It must fit nicely all the way down the shoulder. If too wide it allows a rolling motion and if too narrow it pinches, either of which must cause trouble. A large percentage of sore shoulders is due to ill-fitting collars. The face of the collar and the surface of the shoulder should be thoroughly cleaned, regularly. On general principles it is good practice to remove the collar each time the horse is put into the stable, even for a short time, as at noon. This applies especially to horses that have not been properly prepared for steady work. It allows both the collar and shoulder to become cool and dry and the former should be thoroughly cleaned and the latter well brushed and rubbed before again putting the collar on. We have little faith in the common practice of "toughening" the skin by rubbing with agents of a tanning nature, as oak bark boiled in water, a solution of formalin, etc. It is good practice to wash and bathe the shoulders with cold water, but the action of tanning agents on the skin does not appeal to us. Every horse should be properly fitted with a collar by a man who understands, and of course, the collar should continue to "fit." Some new collars, after having been used for a time, lose to some extent, the normal shape of the bearing surface, hence become too wide in places. In other cases the shoulder of a horse that has not been accustomed to work, and especially if he be quite fat, after being worked for a time become less in volume, either by loss of flesh or by the muscular tissue becoming more condensed, and less bulky, hence the collar no longer "fits". In any such cases the vacant space between collar and shoulder should be filled, either by having the collar re-stuffed or using a sweat-pad. Of course, in order to avoid trouble the hames must be properly adjusted so that the draft will be in the proper place. The hames should be adjusted to fit the collar (not to make the collar fit the shoulder) and should not be buckled tight enough to change the shape of collar, pinch the neck, etc., nor loose enough to allow movement between hames and collar. The proper adjustment of the draft cannot readily be explained hence should be made by a person who understands. It should be so that the draft will be straight, so that there will not be a downward pressure upon the top of the neck, nor an upward draft with a tendency to cause pressure of the collar against the bottom of the neck.

If, from any cause the horse has a heavy coat of hair, that portion of the shoulders that come in contact with the collar should be clipped. A heavy coat of hair under the collar tends greatly to cause trouble. In fact it is good practice to clip the whole body as soon as the weather will permit, but under any conditions the shoulders should be clipped. Care should always be taken to move the mane from under the collar when the animal is at work.

Sore shoulders are of different kinds. The most common is probably, practically a scalding. The skin becomes sore, there is little swelling, more or less of the hair falls out and the surface of the skin becomes more or less raw. In all cases, where possible, the animal should be given rest or worked in a heavy breast collar; where this cannot be done in some cases an old collar can be made to fit, and the packing pounded down, or some of it removed, so as to make a surface that does not press heavily upon the sore spots. As a dressing for this trouble nothing gives as good results as the ordinary "white lotion" made of 1 oz. each of acetate of lead and sulphate of zinc in a pint of water. This should be applied several times daily. In other cases, probably the first intimation the teamster has of trouble is a somewhat diffused swelling on the shoulder, manipulation reveals a fluctuation. The enlargement appears to contain fluid and there is little soreness or heat. This is called a "Serous Abscess" and has been caused by bruising of the shoulder by the collar. Local applications are useless. The tumor must be freely lanced at the lowest part to allow escape of serum, (a fluid of the consistence of water, probably containing some threads of connective tissue and of a somewhat pinkish color). The cavity should then be well flushed out 3 times daily until healed, with a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid or one of the coal tar antiseptics. In

cases of this nature the animal must not be worked with a neck collar until the wound is healed. Another shoulder trouble does not occur so suddenly. When the animal experiences pressure by the collar in the morning or after a period of rest, he flinches, squirms and appears to suffer pain. These symptoms disappear and he does not appear to suffer acutely until after another short or long period of rest. An examination reveals a circumscribed enlargement of the muscle, which is hard and tender to the touch. The enlargement usually gradually increases in size and soreness becomes more acute. In most cases, after a variable time, a soft spot appears at the most prominent part and manipulation reveals fluctuation. The enlargement contains pus or matter, and is known as a "purulent abscess." Treatment is the same as for a serous abscess. In some cases the enlargement does not "point" (the soft fluctuating surface mentioned is called "pointing") In such cases it is not possible to say definitely whether that is a purulent abscess with very thick walls, or a fibrous tumor. In order to determine it is necessary to explore by making a small incision through the skin at the most prominent part, then forcing a director or a probe through the tissues towards the centre of the enlargement. If pus, even in small quantities appears, of course, it proves the trouble to be a purulent abscess and the treatment noted will be effective, but if no pus be present the trouble is a fibrous tumor and the only effective treatment is dissection. The whole mass must be carefully dissected out, the wound stitched with the exception of an opening at the lowest part for escape of pus, and then treated as an abscess until healed.

What is known as a "set-fast" is a case of scalding where the skin becomes separated from the healthy tissue, but remains connected by a healthy portion in the centre. This must be severed and the raw surface treated with white lotion until healed.



Mildred.

A winning Percheron mare at the large shows and champion female at the Ottawa Winter Fair for the Lafayette Stock Farm Company of Canada, London, Ont.

LIVE STOCK.

J. S. Howard one of our subscribers writes that he has used goose grease in place of castor oil with good results for lambs showing signs of constipation.

Breeders are beginning to find out that it doesn't pay to consign poor stuff to a big sale. There are many pure-bred bulls on which the knife should have been used.

Robt. Nichol of Hagersville, held a Shorthorn sale recently when females averaged a little over \$200 and the males \$150. The animals sold below their value considering the quality.

While a large percentage of our bacon hogs are placed in the first grade there is a slight tendency towards lack of depth and length of body. We must not sacrifice in substance and constitution.

A Noted Live-stock Breeder Passes.

Through the decease of Robert W. Hobbs, of Maisew Hampton, England, agriculture lost one of its most distinguished and successful stock breeders. The late Mr. Hobbs was in the foremost rank among breeders of dual-purpose Shorthorns, and the herd of five hundred head together with the large flock of Oxford-Down sheep, and the Shire horses, made Kelmescott famous the world over. The love for these breeds was inherited from his father, who established a notable herd and flock, and the work of selection and breeding which he did brought the stock nearer perfection. Breeding stock from Kelmescott have on more than one occasion been imported to America and have proven their value and high quality in both show and sale-ring. The late Mr. Hobbs took his sons into partnership with him, and now one is responsible for the sheep, another for the Shorthorns,

another for the Shires, and a fourth, on being released from the army, has joined his brothers on the farm. One other son is a noted live-stock auctioneer, and two others are in business. Of late years Mr. Hobbs, having been more or less relieved of active work on his estate, has devoted considerable time to public affairs relating to live stock, and has been active in the work of the various live-stock societies. His services were much in demand as a judge of the three classes of stock above named.

Character and Type in Stock Breeding.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever." As human beings we are naturally inclined to love and admire that which is beautiful or graceful to the eye. This pertains to nature; to things which are produced, patented or perfected by the hands or brains of man, and last but not least, to the form and appearance of our domestic animals. There are a great many things which go to make up this appearance in beast, which brings forth the comment such as, "Is not this a beauty?"

A few things to outline this characteristic of beauty are general, such as expression of the eye. In the horse or cattle beast, the head and eye particularly are the things first inspected in judging. The eye will, to a great extent, express the temper or disposition, as well as thriftiness; a bright, bold, clear eye denoting a vigorous constitution, etc. These mentioned characteristics are general to all breeds of live stock,—yes, to all living creatures. Apart from these it is mostly a study of conformation and type of the different breeds.

With reference to the breeding of live stock, we know that this is a calling which is taken up as a hobby, by many wealthy commercial men. We know of hundreds of business men who operate and own a pure-bred herd and farm aside from their business. The breeding of pedigreed stock is not fully appreciated by the man not interested. To accomplish the art of mating and breeding stock, to produce animals of a kind and form to win highest honors and bring comment from the public, is together with the benefit to the general public in the production of these types or seed stock, the greatest pleasure to the man who is honestly engaged in this business. In other words, it is not so much the "dollars" the good stock breeder is after, as the feeling and pride of having produced something superior and better from the materials at hand. I do not wish to impress that the financial rewards are small from good stock breeding, but simply that the public, the buying public as well, does not fully appreciate or give credit to the improver of the herds, at least not to the extent the manufacturing world does when they pay fabulous prices to men who do patent or perfect a pattern or machine.

I have too often heard people say when cattle are selling: "It certainly is a choice beast, but the price—no animal is worth it." Too few realize in the proper sense the benefit to the community and to themselves the labors of the constructive breeders. The only possible way to improve the stock of any country is through the use of the good pure-bred sire, one with quality, character and prepotency besides a fine pedigree. This is a known fact and preached every day, and must and will eventually work a great benefit in this Province.

The pure-bred stock breeder must always keep in mind the type which will most economically reproduce such stock that will make the most profitable kind to supply our markets with prime beef, butter, and cheese. Huron Co., Ontario. W. E. OESTREICHER.

Aberdeen-Angus at Cold Creek Farm.

The Aberdeen-Angus sale, held by G. A. Ritchie at his farm near Plainville, offered to the public a number of choice individuals of the breed. There were only fifteen animals selling, and a number of these were but young calves. The herd sire, Balmedie Pride's Lad, went to E. Brisbin, of Cobourg, at \$200. The animals were all in very good condition and should do good for their new owners. The following is a list of the animals sold for \$100 and over:

Balmedie Pride's Lad, Edgar Brisbin, Cobourg	\$200
Kyma Nannette G. Lad 3rd, Geo. Falls, Bewdley	155
Cold Creek Laddie, Whitehead Bros., Rossmount	191
Mirabel, Jas Thompson, Cambourne	150
Lizette, Herbert E. Moore, Port Hope	160
Fair Maid of Cold Creek, Duncan Ferguson, Cobourg	227
Moss Rose 3rd of Cold Creek, John Underwood & Son, Grafton	250
Kyma Nannette 3rd, Herbert E. Moore	150
Lela of Cold Creek 2nd, Geo. Davidson, Cambourne	200
Cold Creek Fair Maid 2nd, Alex. Campbell, Baltimore	225
Lela of Cold Creek 3rd, Edgar Brisbin	161
Moss Rose 4th, Edgar Brisbin	205
Mirabel 3rd, Justin McCarthy, Cobourg	100
Lela of Cold Creek 4th, Thos. Robson, Harwood	103
Cold Creek Fair Maid 3rd, Alex. Campbell	180

We recently heard of a drover who for several years has made a practice of purchasing high-quality rams and distributing them, at less than cost, in the district from which he buys several carloads of lambs every fall. He says this is a good investment. If there were more drovers and stockmen of his temperament there would be more first-grade stock going into our markets.