

APRIL 13, 1911

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

The figures for measurements are probably approximately correct, though men do not measure horses when judging. They must estimate symmetry and measurement by the eye, as they do type and general characteristics.

COMMON UNSOUNDNESS TO BE NOTED.

A horse is either sound or unsound. He may be too unsound to work, or able to work in spite of unsoundness. The serious nature of the particular unsoundness present is to be estimated by the judge, and for that, intimate knowledge and experience are necessary.

For breeding purposes, any disease is undesirable. A disease considered hereditary is most serious. A distortion, deformity or blemish, due to accident, is not serious on the score of transmissibility, but depreciates sale value. In work horses, the degree to which a disease or unsoundness is temporary or permanent, and likely to detract from serviceability for work, must be carefully considered. A horse may be afflicted with strangles (distemper) and recover perfectly; or the attack may pass off, but leave the animal a "roarer." The attack of strangles would constitute a temporary unsoundness; the "roaring" a permanent and serious unsoundness in a work animal. In a breeding animal it should constitute an unsoundness, unfitting the horse for breeding purposes. A large barb-wire cut scar would ordinarily be considered a blemish or "eye-sore"; but, should it have caused permanent lameness, it would be a serious unsoundness in a work animal. In a breeding animal, not used for work, the blemish, and even the lameness, would be of slight gravity, not being transmissible to progeny.

Among the common unsoundnesses are: Poll evil, blindness, deafness, parrot mouth, broken crest, swoeny shoulders, shoe boils on the elbow, broken or calf knees, splints, windgalls, ringbones, cocked ankle, grease heel, scratches, sidebones, quittor, navicular disease, founder, sand crack, quarter crack, thrush, bog spavin, bone spavin, thoroughpin, curb, abscesses, fistula, skin diseases, roaring, heaves, corns, or fleshy or bony growths on any part of the body or limbs. Vices, such as wind-sucking, cribbing and weaving, are equally as objectionable in a horse as the unsoundnesses above mentioned.

The student who undertakes to train for reasonable expertness in horse-judging should provide himself with a more detailed explanation of methods of examining for unsoundness than can be given here. He should secure what every horseman should have, an authoritative textbook on the horse in health and in disease.

Speed Records.

What is the fastest record known as to horse trotting, pacing or running; also, the names of horses holding such records?

P. J.
The American Trotting Register Association cites the following records as official: Lou Dillon, trotter, Memphis, Tenn., October 24th, 1903, 1.58½; Dan Patch, pacer, Lexington, Kentucky, August 29th, 1905, 1.55¼. As to running records, you would have to specify distances. Daily Racing Form, 57 Plymouth Court, Chicago, publishes what is known as a racing annual, which gives running records at all distances.

LIVE STOCK.

Raising Calves from the Factory Cow.

In raising calves, we let them suck for about two weeks. Then we feed new milk by hand for about ten days or two weeks, at which time the calves will begin to eat a little hay or bran that may be thrown in the pail after they have had their feed of milk. Now we begin to slacken the new milk, and add skim milk, until the calf is getting all skim milk, to which is added a little scalded linseed meal to make up for the difference in the milk.

If the milk is going to the factory, we just give the calf one quart of new milk, with some scalded linseed meal in it, night and morning. The calf is let run loose in a box stall, and there is a trough or feed box with some bran or oats in it, that it can eat at its leisure. Some hay or grass, and water, are also placed where the calf can help itself at will. The way the calf will thrive will surprise everyone. We do not take the calf up after it is two weeks old, as it is better running loose.

FARMER'S BOY.

While the United States farmer is the only one who really has some cause to criticize the treaty as unfairly opposed to his interests, even he stands to lose little, if he gains something in the long run. The day Evening Post sentimentally observes whoever assists in frightening the farmers of the American Middle West back into line for high prices is playing the standpatter's game, and being the true interest of the farmers themselves.

Cow and Her Care at Calving.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

To all cows that are regular breeders there comes regularly a critical time, the parturient stage, or time of freshening.

How successful she is handled at this time by her owner or herdsman very largely determines her usefulness during the following lactation period, and frequently her usefulness as a producer or breeder for all time.

It is imperative that we do more than give them proper care just at this time and after; we must also give proper care previously. On this preparation much depends. It not only in a large measure determines the progress the dam will make, but also the development of the calf, and the production of the dam during that lactation period.

During the last two months of the gestation period, the fetus is exerting a decided drain on the dam, and the heavy producer deserves and absolutely needs some time to build up in condition, and to store energy, to be expended in the following season's production. We should endeavor to give the cow eight weeks' rest, or, if that is impracticable, as long a period as possible.

Just here I would interpolate that, in managing cows of large production, I think it much better to allow them a period of twelve, or, preferably, fourteen months between calves. If a shorter time is allowed, it is often very difficult to get a real good cow dried off in time to have any rest, and in this case the dam and the calf both suffer, while the life of usefulness of the dam as a producer and breeder is shortened. Aside from the benefits enumerated, resulting from a short rest and improved condition, cows in best condition are much less susceptible to disorders in general at this time, and can be put on full feed and got under way after calving much earlier than the cow in poor flesh. Cows in high condition, however, require very careful feeding previous to freshening and immediately after. Such cows will show wonderful udder development, and must be handled intelligently in regard to selection of feeds and amount given, and to the care and handling of the udder; still, these cows with large, swollen udders are much safer to handle than the cow in poorer condition, whose udder will also, of course, contain much swelling and inflammation.

If we were fortunate enough to have the cow dried off for a few weeks, we should have fed her liberally on feeds rich in flesh-forming constituents, such as cornmeal or barley chop, etc., with bran, in order to make the most of the time at our disposal to put the cow in best condition. This feeding must, however, not be continued too long. The heavy meal ration should be very much decreased, and changed to bran, chiefly, with a little oat chop or oil-cake, from ten days to a fortnight previous to freshening. If feeding heavily of silage, the amount should be lessened very considerably, and in its stead, roots, preferably mangels, substituted. The feeding now should be largely governed by the udder development, and all feeds used should be of a laxative nature, easily digested, and of a cooling effect upon the digestive system. This applies after calving, as well as before. Easy digestion and low temperatures, with the bowels moving freely, are the conditions of health the herdsman should aim at in feeding. Silage (but not much), clover hay, roots, and, if possible, some bran, make an excellent combination; while, after freshening, for 48 hours or longer, I consider best-quality clover hay, with a little bran, sufficient; while, later,

roots may be added, and oat chop mixed with the bran. Immediately on calving I like to give a hot bran mash, using a gallon of bran, filling the pail up with water, and a pinch of salt. Many administer a purgative of epsom salts at this time. When this is considered necessary at any time, I find two pounds epsom salts, one pound molasses, and some ginger, mixed with nearly a pail of water, given as a drench, most effective. This may seem like a lot of waste, but I find that results are much better when this amount of water is used.

It not infrequently happens that a case of malformation or wrong presentation occurs, and, in such event, it is best to call in a competent man early and before trying home remedies or acting on the suggestions of neighbors. This point cannot be emphasized too strongly, as doing otherwise does not give either veterinarian or cow a fair chance.

But, aside from this trouble, the cow is subject to many other ills at this time. Parturient apoplexy, or milk fever is a disease to which our largest producers are particularly subject. The first precaution against this trouble is careful feeding before and after calving. It is very important that the bowels be kept loose, while, as well as proper feeding, exercise is a great aid to this condition of digestion. The practice of milking a cow immediately the calf is dropped is a practice very conducive to an attack of milk fever. Drawing a large flow causes a great rush of blood to the udder, and often the disease follows. As a preventive measure, the udder should be milked out only partially for the first three days. It usually begins to show itself about 12 hours after the calf comes, the first symptoms being a refusal to eat and a general uneasiness. In a short time the cow gets down, loses the use of her limbs and the muscles of her throat, and becomes unconscious, death ensuing in a few hours more. When one has any number of well-fitted, good cows, he should by all means be provided with a milk-fever outfit to administer the air treatment. Such wonderful cures have been wrought by this treatment that the disease has lost none of its terrors for us. The bicycle pump has been frequently used successfully. There is always some danger from the filling of the udder with unsterilized stable manure or unsterilized instruments, and, as a safeguard, it is wise to use pure oxygen, administered by a veterinarian.

Garget, or caked udder, of one or more quarters of the udder is a source of great loss to dairy farmers. While very seldom causing the loss of an animal, in a great many cases it seriously impairs the cow's future usefulness as a producer. At calving time, the udder is especially susceptible to attack; an exciting cause is all that is necessary to start trouble. An attack may result from any one of many causes, as, for instance, taking a cow from a warm stable to one of a lower temperature, or placing anywhere in a cold draft. Improper feeding, or a sudden change to heating or constipating food, as well as lying on a cold, damp or hard floor, such as a cement floor, not properly bedded down, are all potent causes of garget. The udder may have suffered some injury from a bruise; while, milking, improperly done, or at irregular intervals, may also act as exciting causes. Garget may develop to any stage, from the perfectly natural swelling of the udder after calving, to gangrenous infection and death from blood poison. Simple inflammation and caking of a quarter or more, is the commonest type of garget, and it should have prompt attention. With the feed right, and the bowels moving freely, frequent diligent bathing with



Lambing Pens in Use.

H. C. Stephens' Hampshire flock, Cholderton, Salisbury, England.