

ing is more deadly to the procreation or evolution of ideas, than for human beings to become as clay in the hands of others, and in saying this I am reminded of some meetings of an organization of students and ex-students attended, never mind where or the name, ostensibly formed for a good purpose, and, according to the statistics quoted, doing good work, but one could not judge so by its members for they sat mute and irresponsible as wooden men.

College presidents and members of faculties need, to my mind, to throw off the Russian or German attitude of 'little father' to students, donning in its place that of 'elder brother'; if that is done, the influence of the head will grow, provided it is well understood that an agricultural college is not a boarding school for youths, and that the president or principal is not a headmaster.

The agricultural college will fail of its mission if, in addition to coaching its men in the best technical methods, it omits to foster and develop those attributes by means of which its graduates may gain respectful attention from the general public. The farming community of to-day is continually calling for help in the shape of government commissions and other adventitious aids to securing a *square deal*, which in the past it has largely failed to get, because it did not properly, adequately and forcefully present its side of the case on such debatable questions, as transportation, finance, law and other big things of everyday life. In many rural communities repeated repulses, due to lack of trained leaders, have disheartened the farmers, as a consequence, the agricultural college man can now be said to have his opportunity, and if properly trained, the chance to demonstrate that education is a useful aid in developing the qualities of leadership and executive ability, besides increasing one's breadth of view and persuasiveness as an advocate. *The agricultural student and graduate owes to his country that he should enter public life*; therefore, the young man just entering on his college life should study his fellow when at college, and thus lay a foundation, so that when he leaves his intramural world, he may always quit himself as a man, play the game, and steadfastly uphold as ideals in public life, honesty and purity, and urge the rewarding of men on their merits.

INTER PRIMOS.

HORSE

Lameness in Horses.

SWEENEY OR SHOULDER-SLIP.

Sweeney or shoulder-slip consists in a sprain followed by atrophy or wasting away of the muscles of the shoulder, principally those covering the shoulderblade. In severe cases, the shoulder-joint (the bones which are held together simply by a capsular ligament, there being no lateral ligaments) appears to slip out and in at each step taken by the affected limb, hence the name. This lameness is noticed principally in young horses that are put to work on soft or uneven ground, and especially in young horses that are worked in the furrow to the plow. The horse, not being used to such work, will frequently place one foot on the land and the other in the furrow, and this uneven treading tends to sprain the muscles mentioned, and the bones of the joint being principally held in position by muscles, will, when these muscles have wasted away to a considerable extent, show the slipping action noted.

Symptoms.—The lameness in the early stages is not well marked; in fact, may not be noticed. The earliest symptoms noticeable are a heat and swelling of the muscles, soon followed by a wasting or shrinking of them. The shoulderblade is a flat triangular bone placed upon the ribs and held there by muscular attachment. On the outer side of the bone is a ridge of bone, running from above downwards. This is called the spine of the scapula, or shoulderblade. It divides the blade into two unequal parts, about one-third in front and two-thirds behind. This spine, while easily felt in the healthy animal, is not visible, as the muscles on each side are of sufficient size to make the surface practically smooth, but when the muscles are atrophied, it is quite visible as a ridge running from above downwards, with a more or less well-marked hollow on each side. The skin appears to the touch to be quite close to

the bone, but there is an absence of heat or soreness to pressure. When the muscles passing over the joint are affected and atrophied, the slipping in and out of the joint is quite noticeable, but this is not noticed in most cases. The lameness is not pronounced, except in these extreme cases, when the slipping is well marked. Action is defective, but it is doubtful if pain is experienced. The limb is brought forward with a rotary motion of the foot, and more or less difficulty is experienced in lifting the foot over obstacles. The animal stands sound, and there is usually, except in the first stages, no heat or tenderness to pressure. As the disease progresses, the peculiarity of action and the wasting of the muscles become more marked, and in advanced cases the animal has considerable trouble in progressing. Horses affected with sweeney in an ordinary degree progress with considerable ease on level ground, but in soft or uneven ground the defect in action is usually well marked.

Treatment is slow. It requires several months to effect a cure of a well-marked case. Treatment should be directed to cause a reproduction of muscular tissue. The muscular elements are still there, but have become so reduced in size and strength that the muscles cannot perform their functions. It is better to give the patient absolute rest; but, at all events, he should not be used for hard work or on soft or uneven ground. While a little light work on level ground may be given without serious results, recovery will be quicker if he be given perfect rest. In order to cause a regrowth of the muscular elements, it is necessary to set up and keep up an irritation. Different methods are followed. Some recommend a seton or setons, extending from the top to the bottom of the shrunken muscles, both before and behind the scapular spine. Some recommend repeated friction with the hand or a smooth stick, some recommend the application of strong liniments, and some favor repeated blisterings. Probably better results are obtained from blisters than from other modes of treatment. The ordinary paste blister, made of two drams each of biniodide of mercury and cantharides, mixed with two ounces lard or vaseline, gives good results. The hair should be clipped off the surface to be blistered, and the blister well rubbed in. The effect of any blister depends greatly upon the manner in which it is applied. In order to get well-marked results, it must be well rubbed in. The animal must now be tied so that he cannot get his mouth to the parts, else he will get his nose, lips and mouth blistered, and possibly tear the skin of the blistered parts. In twenty-four hours the blister should be again well rubbed on, and in twenty-four hours longer it should be washed off, and the parts rubbed with sweet oil or vaseline. He may now be turned loose into a box stall, and the parts oiled every day until the scale comes off, when he should be tied up again, and the blister again applied, as at first. After this he should be blistered every four or five weeks, and between the blisterings it is a good practice to use friction by hand rubbing or the occasional application of a strong liniment. The length of time required to effect a cure varies in different cases from three or four months to a year, but treatment should be continued until the muscles have regained their normal bulk and tone.

"WHIP."

"A New (!) Breed of Horses."

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

With the above caption in your issue of Sept. 4th, page 1395, you put under the limelight the project of the Agricultural Department of the Iowa State College to breed some show horses, drafters, grey in color, the superiority of which the Percheron men will not be able to claim is due to the blood of their favorites. A rather severe criticism has been handed out to the U. S. Government's horse-breeding schemes by the *Breeder's Gazette*, which in a way is perhaps not altogether unmerited; yet the plan to make a breed of American carriage horse and the one on foot in an Eastern State to regenerate the Morgan, are not analogous with the Iowa project. The only serious fault with the Iowa people was that they rushed into print too soon, and from information at hand, the opposition of your Chicago contemporary may be due to its strong love for the Percheron fraternity, which is to it, so 'tis said, a mark of wealth. Very many people, good judges of horses too, agreed that Lawrence Drew knew what he was about and it is nothing more or less than the resurrection of his scheme of horsebreeding that has taken place at Ames.

The very fact that two ultra-Clydesdale enthusiasts, the one a noted ex-breeder, the other a judge of no mean ability (I refer to R. B. Ogilvie of Macqueen fame, Secretary of the American Clydesdale Association, and Professor W. J. Kennedy), are engineering the proposition, is evidence enough that it is no child's play or fool's idea. I know that these men have in a way lifted the lid off the powder can, but they are farsighted enough to see the growing power of the grey and black horses from France, which it will take the combined efforts of Scotland's and England's, bays, brown and blacks, to withstand in the fight for the possession of the draft and farm markets of the western half of the North American continent. Ultra-Clydesdale men, or wealthy beginners, will not agree to the proposition of the Iowa people as a feasible one, but no matter, their own changing horse types condemn, for in the last twenty years they have not quite succeeded in producing the same average quality of draft horses that the Percheron men think they have, and for general crossing it is doubtful if much more can be said for their efforts. In the Old Country the unbiased horseman will admit that the best Shire mares are of a higher average quality than the best Clydesdale mares, judged as draft horses, and that with the males the reverse is often the case. 'In union is strength' is a fitting maxim for the breeders of the two great British breeds of draft horses to observe.

It is after all only the scientific game of livestock breeding over again, only this time the present-day draft horse breeder in Canada is repeating the mistakes of the Shorthorn breeders of America and Great Britain, with the prospect of a more severe punishment, for while the Shorthorn has as a dual-purpose bovine, no rival to be taken at all seriously, the Clydesdale and Shire have a very strong rival in the Percheron, for in a measure it combines some of the merits of the two British breeds without being seriously hampered by the defects of either. It is quite natural for men, who have invested heavily in a breed, or who make their living by dealing in a breed, to be vigorous advocates of the class of stock they handle, and rightly so, but the markets know no favorites, *dollars demand utility and determine values, irrespective of breed or creed*, and the wise breeder will not overlook that fact. Let us wish that the blending under such auspices will result in all that is hoped for, starting in such a small way, its potentialities must have been recognized as great, or the outcry would not have been so bitter and so loud.

"NEW DRAFTER."

Bonusing the Horse Breeding Industry.

In complying with a request from the provincial department of agriculture for a suggestion upon the best method to encourage the breeding of a large number and a better quality of horses in Saskatchewan the executive of the Stock Breeders' Association endorsed a principle which must be justified by the good it will do the country as a whole. We allude to the resolution in connection with the bonusing of importers and purchasers of draft stallions.

As a rule, farmers fight shy of bonusing propositions. The system has cost the country a lot of hard cash, the returns from which have been a certain amount of service from public utilities in addition to large advantages which accrue to those who own or operate them. There is good reason, however, why horsebreeding should be assisted out of public funds, reasons, so good in fact, that the principle involved may be ignored and after all it is only in the abuse of virtues that they become vices.

Hon. Mr. Motherwell and his deputy Mr. Kitchen have determined to assist farmers to raise more and better horses. The province requires the horses and the department had even considered importing and distributing breeding stock in different districts. This it must be admitted would be rather a radical interference with private enterprise and could not be justified upon the ground that the home dealers were charging exorbitant prices for the horses they offered.

The bonus it is expected will be two hundred dollars to be applied upon the price of a purebred draft stallion which comes up to a certain standard. Just how the inspection that will be necessary before the bonus can be paid, will be made is not yet settled but it should not be impossible to secure impartial judges of a horse.