

the door of each box at night, because it is found that even on the roughest nights mares incline to be out, and there is a considerable risk that in doing so the foal may contract rheumatism or other ailments. This uniform treatment of the mares outside is preferable to keeping them inside during winter and turning them out four or five hours daily, because in the former case the animals are kept at a more uniform temperature, and are therefore less liable to chills.

From the replies received from other gentlemen in the Rhins of Galloway, there would appear to be some diversity of treatment in regard to the wintering of brood mares—some keeping them out with the optional shelter of a shed, and others following the course indicated as adopted by Mr. MacCairg. But wintering out is altogether the rule. In Lanarkshire, housing at night in winter appears to be the general rule, and the feeding, compared with that already specified, is somewhat heavy.

Mares of the class now under review are apt to be somewhat neglected by breeders in respect to the care of their feet and legs, because, not being required either for work or showing, they are little taken notice of, except when in season and about the time of foaling. But there can be no greater mistake than this, because it is an accepted truth in breeding that acquired defects in course of time become constitutional, and consequently hereditary; and while there is no occasion to have these mares shod, their feet should have careful attention and be dressed at regular intervals, care being taken to prevent the hoof breaking. The toes should be kept short, and the hoof of a round, open shape, and the pressure brought to bear on the frog and heel. In this way the hoof-head is kept open and round and the heel wide—two of the most important characteristics of a sound foot.

To be continued.

#### Our Scottish Letter.

The past four or five weeks have been eventful ones in this country. September and October are the great sale months of the year. All classes of young stock, including horses, cattle and sheep, are sold at the auction marts, and then also are held the few remaining great fairs like the Falkirk Tryst and the Moss of Balloch and Beith fairs, at which Highland cattle and Ayrshires are sold by private treaty. Of all these great country events, the only one which now retains any vitality is that held on the Stenhousemuir site at Falkirk. Without exception, the glory has departed from the others, and in respect of sheep, it has gone from Falkirk. Immense numbers of Highland cattle are, however, sold at the Tryst by private treaty, and in spite of the growing popularity of the marts, we would be disposed to give the Tryst in Stirlingshire a long period of existence.

As trade at the various sales has gone, it may be summarized in this way. Amongst the finer breeds of cattle—that is, Shorthorns and Aberdeen-Angus—excellent prices have been made, the highest average being at the credit of the blackskins. Possibly, outside of its original habitat, in no part of Great Britain or Ireland has the Aberdeen-Angus taken a firmer hold than in the north of England, and the best cattle sale of the season was held there. Mr. Owen C. Wallace, a gentleman well-known and highly popular in the hunting-field, founded an excellent herd at Bradley Hall, on Tyneside, some years ago. His guide, philosopher and friend in this enterprise was Mr. Clement Stephenson, and there could be none better. The excellence of the advice which he gave may be inferred from the fact that at the Bradley Hall dispersion sale, seventy-four head of polled cattle of all ages made the splendid average of £51 19s. 9d. apiece. If such a return does not approach the highest prices realized for cattle in the halcyon days of cattle-breeding, it is certainly an indication of the very high quality of the stock, and a proof that there are still plenty of men who have not lost faith in the breeding of cattle in the Old Country. The sale which ranks next to that at Bradley Hall was Mr. Duthie's draft from the Collynie herd. The position held by this herd in the Shorthorn world was sufficiently demonstrated by the crowd from all quarters which assembled at the sale. Your countryman, Mr. Gibson, who was lately running a tilt at the Cruickshank Shorthorns, is probably well aware that in Collynie there are more of the old Sittytton cows than in any other individual herd in this country. Mr. Duthie usually holds an annual sale of bull calves, but this year he held a draft sale, in which were included seventy-four head of stock of all ages and both sexes. The average price of the lot was £40 17s., and the bull calves alone made an average price of £50 11s. 9d. for twenty-eight, as against £50 15s. for twenty-one in 1893. Although there have been many Shorthorn sales this year, including the dispersion of the celebrated Underley herd of Bates cattle, and Mr. Andrew Mitchell's well-known Alloa herd of Booth cattle, the Cruickshank cattle at the Collynie draft sale made by far the best average. Whatever, therefore, may be the end of it, it is apparent that the Shorthorn breeders of this country are as determined as ever they were to keep to the Aberdeen line of the breed. The sale at which the third best average has been made is that of Auchorachan, where the yearling bull Boaz of Ballindalloch was sold for 200 gs. to Mr. Jones, Ballydavid, Waterford. This was a draft Aberdeen-Angus sale, and the average for forty-two head was £38 11s. 6d. Mr. Mitchell's herd of Booth Shorthorns, which

numbered forty-eight head, drew £32 3s. 4d., and one of the cheapest sales of the season was that of the draft from Lord Polwarth's fine herd of Shorthorns, chiefly of the Booth race, which realized an average of £26 9s. 6d. for forty-six head. These were very good cattle, and it was unfortunate that only a comparatively small number attended the sale. Breeders of the Cruickshank cattle have no great love for the Booth type, but the cattle offered by Lord Polwarth were meritorious and must have attracted the eye of any lover of good stock. A significant fact in connection with these sales was that in one week the first prize Shorthorn yearling bull and the first prize Aberdeen-Angus yearling bull at the H. & A.'s show were sold by public auction, and while the polled bull made 200 gs., the Shorthorn drew only 82 gs., for exportation to Buenos Ayres. The somewhat numerous company who criticised adversely the award which placed this bull, Imperial Gold, first amongst the Shorthorn yearling bulls at Aberdeen, would no doubt be inclined to look upon this selling price as confirmation of their views. The two hardy breeds, the Galloway and the West Highlander, have also of late come under the test of the auctioneer's hammer during the period reported on. In no case, however, have prices at all commensurate with those already specified been realized. A Galloway herd dispersion took place at Cally, near to Gatehouse of Fleet, in Kirkcudbright. The best prices were paid for cows and heifers by Mr. Jas. Biggar, Chapleton, and the Rev. John Gillespie, the secretary of the Herd Book. These were as follows: Maggie II. of Cally (13371), £33 12s.; six cows made an average of £13 11s. 3d., and yearling heifers from £10 to £10 15s. Carlisle is also a great centre for the sale of Galloway cattle, and drafts from such famous herds as those of Sir Robert Jardine, Bart., the Duke of Buccleuch, and Mr. Jas. Cunningham, Tarbreoch, were sold there. Being drafts, of course fancy prices did not rule, but some fair sums were put down. The highest figures were for Indian Prince II. of Drumlaury, £42; for the cow Atlanta IV. of Drumlaury, £26 5s.; for the heifer Susie Lady II. of Harelawhill, £14 2s. West Highlanders are chiefly sold, as has been said, at Falkirk Tryst, but very extensive sales also take place in the auction marts at Oban, Perth, Inverness and Stirling. Sir Donald Currie, K. C. M. G., M. P., the famous pioneer of South African commerce, has had a sale at one of his Perthshire farms, which he is relinquishing. The prices realized for the Highlanders were not very high, but they were sufficiently encouraging. At the Tryst bullocks were making £18 for three-year-olds and £16 for two-year-olds, and at the various sales heifers ran up to £17 10s. Ayrshires remain uniform in price. There is a steady demand in autumn for what are called back-calvers—that is, young, healthy cows which calve in the close of the year and are therefore in fine trim for the supply of milk during winter. Many hundreds of Ayrshires change hands in the autumn, and this year the prices ordinarily ruling have been from £13 17s. up to £18 and £20, according to weight and size. As most of the dairy cattle sold at this season go into the hands of cow feeders in the cities, who retain and feed them off for the butcher while milking them strongly, there is an absolute necessity for the cows being big and of large frame, as the more capacity they have for taking on flesh the better the price which the butcher is likely to pay. In the recent milking trials and butter tests at Islington, the Ayrshire has made a most creditable appearance, beating the Jersey by much more than she was herself beaten by the Shorthorn. Of course, in the percentage of butter to milk, the Jersey was first, but when the greater yield of milk and the quality of the butter were more figured up, together with the undoubtedly higher value of the carcasses of the Shorthorn and the Ayrshire than of the Jersey, the balance of profit is very probably more in favor of the milking than the butter producing breed. In our next communication we purpose referring somewhat at length to the sheep sales and their lessons, and something will also be said about horses.

SCOTLAND YET.

#### The Cow for the Manitoba Dairy Farmer.

Mr. James Elder, of Virten, Man., writing to us recently on the above subject, said:

"As to the breed for dairying, the Jerseys, Ayrshires, Holsteins, Durham, and even scrubs, have their advocates; but for dairying, I would not invest in a thoroughbred cow of any breed. In the first place, thoroughbreds cost too much. Second, a thoroughbred is more delicate than a grade, and expects to be pampered. Some of our thoroughbred stockmen attempt to deny this, but to the observant man it is of no use. There is an old saying, and a true one: 'Half the breed goes down the throat.'

"No: Thoroughbreds we must have, in order to keep up the supply of males to use on our grade cows. But to the dairymen I would say (with the exception of a bull), give thoroughbreds a wide berth. If you have extra care or extra feed to spare, grades will as a rule give a much better account for it.

"For my own part, I would much prefer a Shorthorn grade. We had a fair share of experience in Ontario, and with one exception, our best cow had

at least two crosses of the Shorthorns, and were large, showy cows, with wide hindquarters, roomy bellies; large, but not fleshy, udders; front quarters not so full, necks long and fine; smooth heads, with fine horns, wide between the eyes, long muzzles and wide nostrils. Such cows will milk well till twelve or fifteen years old and then dress 600 pounds of beef. Not only have we found cows of this kind give best results in the pail, but when we remember how many of our cows miss breeding or meet with accidents, the beefing quality is a very important item."

#### A Vigorous Protest from the Holstein Camp.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I was greatly interested in the article on "Dairying in Manitoba," by Mr. Jas. Elder. There was one part of his article that I think is hardly in accord with the practical experience of hundred of advanced dairymen of to-day. I have references to his contention that "Thoroughbreds are more delicate than grades." He says, "I would not invest in a thoroughbred cow of any breed"—and that "thoroughbreds are more delicate than grades, and expect to be pampered." Then again, he says that "thoroughbreds we must have, to keep up the supply of males to use on our grades," and a little further on, that "if you have extra care or extra feed to spare, grades will as a rule give a better account of it." Well, it seems to me just a little inconsistent to claim that a grade cow is superior to a pure-bred, and will give a better return for feed consumed, and in the same breath urge dairymen to use a son of the pure-bred cow to improve the herd. If Mr. Elder's contention is right, why, in the name of common sense, not use the grade bull? I will not attempt a defence of the Jersey or Ayrshire, as I have had no experience with them, and will leave that to the breeders of these cattle, but when anyone will advocate that a grade cow will give a better return for feed consumed than a pure-bred, I must take issue with them, and would venture the opinion that they have had very small experience with my favorites—the Holstein. Such a statement is warranted neither by facts nor the well known laws of heredity. It is only reasonable to suppose that cows that have been kept pure for hundreds of years, as the Holsteins have, and bred specially for the production of milk and butter, would transmit those qualities to their offspring to a far greater degree than could be found in cattle that are a mixture of several breeds. From my experience with Holsteins and grade Shorthorns for dairy purposes, I would not fear backing one good Holstein cow against two ordinary grade cows for one year's production of milk or butter. I have a cow in my herd that this summer, after milking eleven months and being well on in calf, gave 35 pounds of good milk per day on grass alone. Many farmers get the idea that because a horse, a bull or a boar is pedigreed, it must be superexcellent and a fair sample of its breed; but all breeders know that there are blanks in all breeds, and also that those blanks occur less and less, according to the length of time the breed has been established, and the general excellence of the family. No intelligent man can now doubt the potency of the breed. From a very early period the thrifty Dutch farmers have bred the Dutch or Holstein cattle in all their purity, improving their excellent qualities by a careful and continuous system of breeding to that particular line in which they saw the greatest profit. The fact that these cattle are so highly esteemed in the best grazing districts of Holland—we may safely say the best in the world—where land is worth from \$400 to \$600 per acre, and rents yearly for \$20 and upwards per acre, and where the production of beef, butter and cheese is the principal industry, goes far to show the superiority of this breed of cattle. Now, in regard to hardiness, I find the Holsteins are very hardy, not requiring rich food or extra care to obtain good results, hence are very desirable for the average dairyman and farmer: they are large, hardy, rapid growers, maturing early, fattening readily when not in milk, and make an excellent quality of beef. Visitors to my farm invariably remark how sleek and thrifty the cattle look. I might also mention that my nearest neighbor, Mr. J. McCartney, took in a number of cattle to herd with his own. Most of them were Shorthorn grades; amongst them were three or four half-bred Holsteins. Mr. McCartney informed me himself that the Holsteins outstripped all the others in growing and general thriftiness. Such testimony I regard as valuable, especially in view of the fact that he was prejudiced against Holsteins when first brought into this district. From my three years' experience, I am well satisfied with them as a working dairy breed, and would heartily recommend them to all dairymen that want cattle with strong constitutions, and that are large and economical producers of milk and butter.

W. J. YOUNG, Emerson, Man.

#### Fruit Growers' Meeting.

The annual winter meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association is announced to be held at Orillia, beginning on Tuesday evening, Dec. 14th, and continuing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Among others expected to be present, are Prof. Beach, of Geneva, N. Y.; Prof. Panton and Prof. Hutt, Guelph; Prof. Craig and Prof. Fletcher, Ottawa, and Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Toronto.