

Itchy Legs.

Draft horses, especially those of the Clydesdale and Shire type, are more or less subject to an itchiness in the skin of the legs, particularly in the region of the fetlock and cannons. This is much more noticeable in horses with bone and feathering of poor quality, commonly called round bone, or bone of the fatty or beefy type. It is seldom noticed in a horse with good quality of bone and feathering. In many horses there is, undoubtedly, a congenital predisposition, inherited from sire or dam, or both. While this predisposition exists to a more or less marked extent in all breeds of heavy horses, it is probably more marked in the hairy-legged classes. The trouble is much more marked during the winter months than at other seasons, and is noticed in horses that are practically idle much more frequently than in those at regular work. As stated, the predisposition exists, and the exciting causes are idleness, lack of brushing and grooming, dirt, alternate wet and dry condition of the legs, changes from heat to cold, high feeding, etc. Probably the most fertile cause is the too common habit of washing the legs to remove mud, ice, etc. Anything that has a tendency to check the circulation, even for a short time, tends to swelling of the legs, itchiness and eruptions. Whatever the cause, the legs become itchy, the horse stamps with his feet, bites the parts, rubs one leg with the shoe or foot of the opposite leg, etc. This continues until the legs become raw in places, small quantities of blood escape and adhere to the hair, collect dust, etc. If this be not removed, the parts become foul and fetid, and the trouble becomes aggravated. When warm water and soap are used for the cleansing of the parts, and the legs, instead of being rubbed until dry, are allowed to dry from the heat of the parts, the reaction causes a more or less marked stagnation of the circulation, which tends to increase the trouble. Hence, the accumulation of blood, dust, etc., should be removed by rubbing and brushing, instead of by the use of fluids, unless the attendant has the time and inclination to rub the legs until dry, and this requires so much time and labor in heavy-legged horses that it is seldom properly carried out. The question then arises, "How can we prevent the trouble?" Of course, the principal point is to produce horses with clean, hard, flinty bone, with fine feathering, and an absence of beefiness or roundness of bone. This can be done only when mares of the desirable quality are mated with sires of equal quality. The next question is, "Having horses in which the predisposition to itchiness exists, how can we prevent it?" This can be done only by taking care to prevent the operation of any of the exciting causes. Horses that are idle, or partially idle, should be fed on easily-digested, laxative food. The use of drugs or medicines as preventives is not advisable. Regular exercise, ordinary food of good quality, and in reasonable quantities, with an occasional feed of bran and a few roots daily, combined with daily brushing and rubbing the legs, in order to prevent the accumulation of dirt, etc., and the removal of scruff and dandruff, goes a long way towards preventing trouble. We are aware of the fact that it is usually considered unnecessary to groom idle horses, and also of the fact that the legs of working horses seldom receive the grooming they require. But experience teaches us that, while general grooming can probably be dispensed with in idle horses, if they be of the hairy-legged classes, the legs must receive regular attention, else trouble is very liable to follow. When the legs become covered with ice or mud, they should not be washed, but allowed to become dry, and then well brushed. All the exciting causes already mentioned should, as far as possible, be avoided.

Curative Treatment.—When the trouble under discussion appears, of course curative treatment is necessary. In the first place, the patient should be prepared for a purgative, by feeding on bran alone for about 18 hours; then an aloetic purgative of 8 to 12 drams of aloes, according to size of the patient, with 2 or 3 drams of ginger, should be given, and bran alone fed until purgation commences. After the bowels regain their normal condition, alteratives, as 1 to 2 ounces Fowler's Solution of Arsenic, should be given twice daily for a week. This can be given either mixed with bran or chop, or mixed with a pint of cold water and given as a drench. Local treatment consists in good and regular brushing and rubbing of the legs, and the daily application of something that tends to check the itchiness. A solution of corrosive sublimate, about 20 grains to a pint of water, or a solution of Gillett's lye, about a teaspoonful to a pint of water, gives good results. Whichever is used, it should be applied warm, and well rubbed into the skin, which can be done only by parting the hair in many places and applying the liquid carefully and thoroughly. It is good practice to then rub with cloths until the legs are dry, but at all events, colds and drafts must be excluded. If this treatment is well carried out, it usually results in a cure, but, if carelessly conducted, it will not produce satisfactory results. When the trouble has reached the eruption stage, the treatment for scratches or mud fever must be adopted.

"WHIP."

From Forge to Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Seeing a letter from "Farmer's Boy," in issue of January 28th, re horseshoeing, I agree with him in fitting the shoe on cold. I learned my trade of blacksmithing in an Ontario town for four years, but I prefer the country, and am back on the farm. Many of my neighbors come to me when they cannot get the town shoers to do as they want. Farm work may seem hard, but when you are all day shoeing horses, some of them troublesome, that is hard, too; and machinery is now helping the farmer to bridge over some of the rough places. ANOTHER FARMER'S BOY. Parry Sound, Ont.

farmers keeping mares with bone blemishes and breeding to high-class stallions in the expectation of having clean, strong colts of high quality.

He had known localities where an inferior stallion, with a service fee running from \$5.00 down to 25 cents, secured 150 mares in a season, whereas four stallions of the proper type, but charging \$10.00, had to be contented with 160 mares for the four. When the colts grew to salable age the loss to the owner from breeding to the cheap stallion was \$90 or \$100. The owners of such stallions were not to be blamed; they were after money, and knew how to get the greatest profits. The men who owned the mares were at fault.

There were four classes of horses in demand on the market, viz.: draft (agricultural), carriage, road and saddle. Draft horses were best suited to the average farmer for breeding purposes. They were not so liable to blemish, and a slight blemish did not detract greatly from the selling price. Again, he was more easily broken, and was able for light work at an early age.

General-purpose horses were desirable if they were of the proper type. They should be similar to carriage horses in build, action and speed. Then the avenues of disposal were to millionaires, and to departmental stores and merchants for delivery purposes.

Q.—How do you like the German Coach?

A.—He is all right. In fact, he is almost ideal as a general-purpose work horse, and has style, action and speed.

Of the draft horses there are five breeds, said Mr. Kydd, and four of these are a curse to horsemen. There were good and bad in all breeds, but no matter how good they are, great damage is done by changing the breed, using Shires for a season, then Percherons, then Clydesdales, and later, perhaps, Suffolk Punch and Belgian. A locality should strive to make that district famous for a particular breed, so that buyers could come and secure a carload or more.

Desirable type and conformation were outlined by Mr. Kydd, and shown by means of a chart. As

regards the foot, a deplorable feature was the damage done by many blacksmiths in excessive cutting away of the frog and side bars, and in rasping and cutting the hoof unduly. Approved sloping pasterns were contrasted with straight pasterns by means of careful drawings. Ailments, such as sidebones, ringbones, bog spavin, bone (Jack) spavin, thoroughpin and curb, were discussed, and specimens of several of them displayed by bones from diseased legs.

Over Sixty Enquiries.

I am pleased to report remarkable results from my advertisement that appeared for only three successive issues in "The Farmer's Advocate." I referred to turkeys and Leicester sheep, and over sixty enquiries have come, every one of which mentioned your paper. I have had an advertisement in another agricultural paper for almost a year, and so far can trace only one enquiry. This last advertisement appeared in two other papers at the same time as it was in "The Farmer's Advocate," but none mentioned the others. The extraordinary results have taught me that it pays to advertise in the best.

D. A. GRAHAM.
Lambton Co., Ont.

Many thanks for the very handsome and useful knife we received. Let me say that your valuable paper seems to improve and become more interesting with each issue. No home should be without it.

SAUEL ELDER.
Dufferin Co., Ont.



Dalffible Grace 2nd (imp.) —26353—

Ayrshire cow; five years old. Winner of first prize and championship, Western Fair, London, and Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa, 1908. Imported and exhibited by Robert Hunter & Sons, Maxville, Ontario.

Pointers Regarding Horses.

Among the questions receiving special attention during the series of Farmers' Institute meetings held throughout Ontario this winter is one in which W. F. Kydd, of Simcoe, gives an exceedingly interesting and instructive discourse on various features of the horse industry. With a thorough grasp of the subject, and an evident desire for questions, every obstacle in the way of acquiring valuable information is removed.

While Mr. Kydd does not claim that horses are more profitable than any other class of live stock, yet it must be admitted that fair returns can be derived. It has been claimed that proper care and feeding would bring the cost of raising a colt to three or four years of age to \$90, or, perhaps, \$95 or even \$100, depending on the district and the food at hand. Average horses were worth \$175 to \$200. A carload recently shipped West from Middlesex County comprised several common blocks of fair quality that cost \$180. One extra good gelding had cost considerably more, and the buyer said he was willing to pay \$300 for such individuals.

A great many horses raised in Ontario did not bring prices that made it profitable. Localities that had the best horses kept all the high-quality mares for breeding purposes. Too many sold these, and they were found on wagons in our towns and cities. Unsoundness must be guarded against. Bone diseases were among the most hereditary ailments. There was no reason for

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