

This was from March 1 to September 1. For a year my general experiments have convinced me of the following, when the same quarters and same care is extended to all. A dung-hill, as "Learner" terms her, will lay 128 eggs, in a year. White Leghorns, from 175 to 201. Black Spanish, from 100 to 125 (but the eggs are large): Light Brahmas, from 154 to 192.

These figures being the extremes of my different experiments, you will see that the six months' experiments are at that time of year most favorable to all except the Brahma. Taking them from September 1 to March 1, they will outlay all other breeds in existence.

Hoping what I have said will serve to answer your correspondent's queries, I remain,

Yours truly,

I. K. FELCH.

The tendency is almost invariably to exaggerate the laying powers of all breeds. The above figures given by Mr. Felch are too large, except in case of the Black Spanish.

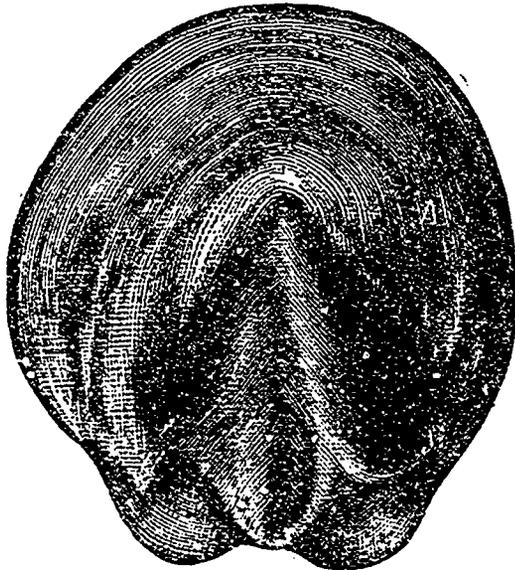
Poultry Yard.

### VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Under the direction of D. McEachran, F. R. C. V. S., Principal of the Montreal Veterinary College, and Inspector of Stock for the Canadian Government.

#### The Foot of the Horse and its management.

*How the farrier treats the foot.*—If we compare the foot of the unshod four-year-old with the foot of an eight-year-old horse which has been shod and subjected at least monthly to the operations of the farrier, usually indicated by the term *shoeing*, we shall be astonished at the change in its general form and appearance. We give as an illustration of these changes the outlines of the foot of a colt, a year old showing the gradual change which it undergoes under the influences of the farrier's art, each succeeding year for seven years, by which term the foot has become a genuine contracted one.



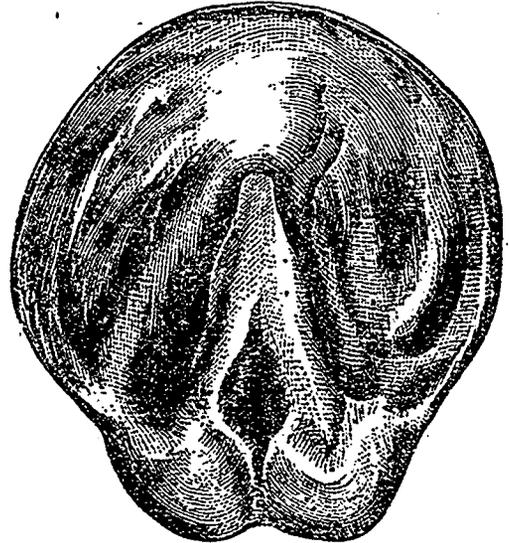
How much of this change is due to natural alteration consequent on advancing age, how much to the road, what share has the groom in it, and to what extent it is a result of shoeing good or bad, are points worthy of consideration.

That the horse will continue to have the wide open feet of his colthood through life we need not expect, as the animal grows older the feet, as a rule, become longer, narrower and

Bracy Clark.

harder, often thicker—We have seen horses which have never been shod, with feet which could not be called otherwise than contracted. This natural tendency to contract is increased by the elongation of the toe from want of friction to keep it worn down, and the carelessness of those in charge in not having them cut down.

When we consider the influence which food and temperature have on the growth of the hair, we can imagine that a tissue so similar in its nature as horn will also be influenced by the same causes: such we find to be the case.



We know that while the well fed horse has a smooth, fine coat, the underfed one has a rough, dry coat. We notice that oil cake or linseed will produce a smooth, sleek coat, while hay and water will produce a long, rough one. A warm stable with good grooming and blanketing will make the coat smooth and short; a cold stable without blankets, and general neglect, will result in a growth of hair thick and long.

Sickness affects the skin and coat; thus we often find that, after an illness, there is a falling off of the hair and scurf skin. The change of season also affects the skin and hair, which latter is changed twice a year, spring and fall.

The very same changes which occur in the skin and hair, also take place in a modified degree in the hoof. Its growth is subject to endless changes from the above causes. At one time it is stimulated, at another it is checked. Hence the ridges we frequently find in it.—The quality of the horn is just as much influenced by care and feeding as is the hair.

It will thus be seen that the feet require careful cultivation, and the different influences which affect them, should be borne in mind by those men in whose hands they are placed, and by none more than by the groom.

The horn of the foot requires a certain amount of moisture, and unless this is supplied, it becomes hard from evaporation of its natural moisture, and contraction and other changes ensue.

It will thus be seen that the owner has much to do with the feet, and many a good foot has been injured by improper stabling, grooming and feeding.

Let us accompany the colt to the forge; let us see how the foot fares in the hands of the farrier. We observe that, after some trouble, he succeeds in having the foot submitted to his will. The drawing knife, is freely used on the soft horn. the heels and frog being easiest to pare away suffer most; the rasp shortens and rounds the toe; the sole, already thin,