

### Negligence.

Under the sub-heading "Negligence" a writer in an English contemporary gives some sound advice on caring for the colt. No one, he says, who attends horse shows regularly, and examines the classes of young light horses critically, can fail to have noticed how badly many otherwise good-looking youngsters stand. In young show horses, (hackneys and hunters) the fault he has noticed is very prevalent, and two causes are assigned for it—over-forcing and negligence. The body and growth of a two-year-old on a yearling reflects that while it is easy enough to grow flesh and muscle and to get increased size, it is not so easy to grow bone and joints strong enough in proportion to carry the extra weight. This he believes to be a potent cause of faulty standing.

Citing cases which are common in his experience and which are also common in this country, he writes about going to the fields to look over a breeder's stock and upon being shown a foal, said, "he is standing incorrectly and his feet require attention and dressing," the common answer is, "Oh, he will come right in time," or "There is not much the matter with him," or "We will see to him when the busy time is over."

"It is this attention to the feet of young horses, foals, yearlings, two-year-olds, and three-year-olds equally which is one of those 'unseen jobs' that gets neglected in a busy time. There is nothing to show that it is neglected unless something more than a perfunctory look is given to the young light horses, and this perfunctory look is about what they get on many farms at a busy time.

"It may happen that the farmer himself does not really in his heart of hearts care very much for his light horses. He seems to think, in many cases, as with the kodak, all he has to do is to press the button in the way of good feeding, and they will grow up without any further care. When he finds that this is not the case, he gives up in disgust, and says light-horse breeding does not pay.

"It seems reasonable that the light horse should need particular attention to his feet, because the strain upon his joints is much greater than with the heavier horse. He is higher couraged, and his spells of galloping, and sharp pulling up and buckling are a very heavy strain on his weak and undeveloped joints; and it stands to reason, that, where there is special weakness, and there is generally some place that does not come up to the standard of perfect strength, someplace that, either by accident or naturally does not quite do its full duty, there will be a corresponding want of correctness of position. In a horse that stands perfectly level, an imaginary line drawn from the ground to the knee along the cannon bone will have equal portions of the various joints at each side of it; the horse will stand true and more freely. But if the inside, say, is lower than the outside wall, that imaginary line would come out at the outside of the knee, and all the joints would work more or less stiffly, inducing a leg weariness and sometimes bringing about a bad fall. So it is essential that an absolutely level surface of the walls of the hoof should be maintained, and there should be careful and constant examinations to see that this is done."

Take for example of malformation and cure, pigeon toes, as it is called, when horses turn their toes in. Here the weight falls on the outer quarter of the foot. This, of course, wears faster than the inside quarter, and so the fetlock, instead of growing straight as it should do, gets out of the perpendicular. If the inside quarter is rasped down till it is lower than the outside quarter, this will tend to equalize matters, and of course this is not quite such plain sailing as it appears, because it is possible that sufficient horn cannot be rasped off without making the foot tender, which, of course, should always be avoided. In this case the best possible must be done, and the foot frequently attended to until it will bear light plates or shoes, when of course, the matter can be righted. Turning the toes out is cured by exactly the opposite treatment. Even that very unsightly malformation, upright pasterns, can at any rate be modified by skillful treatment. The heels must be kept as low as possible, and if care is taken to see that they are lowered regularly, there will be considerable improvement in course of time. But all these things must be done when the horse is young, when his bones and joints and sinews are amenable to treatment. It is worse than useless to start with him when he has about got his growth. And for successful treatment it is necessary to make a very early beginning and to be regular in attending to the feet.

### The Sure Sire.

How many of the best type of stallions are rather shy breeders! A stallion owner was recently heard to remark that most of the horses which were considered fairly sure do not get more than fifty per cent. of the mares bred to them with foal. Of course, the failure of the mares to conceive cannot all be laid to the stallion. Very often the mare is a shy breeder, and sometimes barren. But is it not a fact that a good many horses get few foals because they are not properly managed, or have been practically ruined by injudicious treatment in former days? A colt which has been kept over-fat and deprived of exercise, very often gets few foals. One which has served too many mares in a season while yet young, often proves to be in after years, almost sterile. Then there is the common mistake of too many services in one day. True, all owners are anxious to please customers and to do a "big season," but it is found to be rather expensive accommodation when the mares come back time after time, and eventually prove barren for the year. The sire to prove sure must, under most circumstances, receive good care. We recently were told of a colt which, last year at two years of age, served fifteen mares and got fourteen with foal, and the mare which missed had not had a foal for several years. This, on the face of it, seems to be a light season, but doubtless it was enough for a horse of this age, and the results were extremely satisfactory. The colts are coming strong and vigorous, and the horse himself was not injured in growth, easily weighing now in his three-year-old form 1,800 pounds, in good breeding condition. It is planned to breed him to not more than sixty mares this year, and these to be well distributed throughout a season longer than the usual one. So far he appears to be just as sure this year as he was last. It means much to the mare owner to know that the horse to which he takes his mares is, if the mares are breeders, reasonably sure to get colts. The stallioner as well is greatly benefited. His horse gets a deserving good name, and returns his owner a better profit on his keep. It is foals

outcome will be, in the judgment of Mr. Sage, that the market will be over-supplied, and prices slump back to about where they were in those days when the motor vehicle was not the factor that it is now. Really good horses will always be in demand at good figures but prices even of these will naturally be unfavorably affected if there are over supplies of the lower grades.

### The Noted Sire's Share.

The Live Stock Journal says: "It is always desirable, if possible, that the farmer should use a stallion of some reputation or with a good pedigree to his name, for that serves to make the foals bred all the more saleable. This applies in particular in breeding of hunters and Shire horses. Dealers and others who buy un-made young hunters from the breeder generally make a point of asking who the sire is, and always feel inclined to offer a better price for a young horse sired by some well-known stallion whose stock has already turned out well in the hunting field, than for a colt got by an obscure sire. Similarly in the case of Shire stock, the fact of a filly being by a fashionably-bred or prize-winning stallion gives her special value for breeding purposes, so that she is worth considerably more in the market than one whose pedigree counts for naught."

It is equally true of all breeds. The known sire's colts are invariably more valuable than those from unknown stock, even though the latter are just as good individuals. Buyers look for the colts from the noted sires. If raising colts for sale keep this in mind.

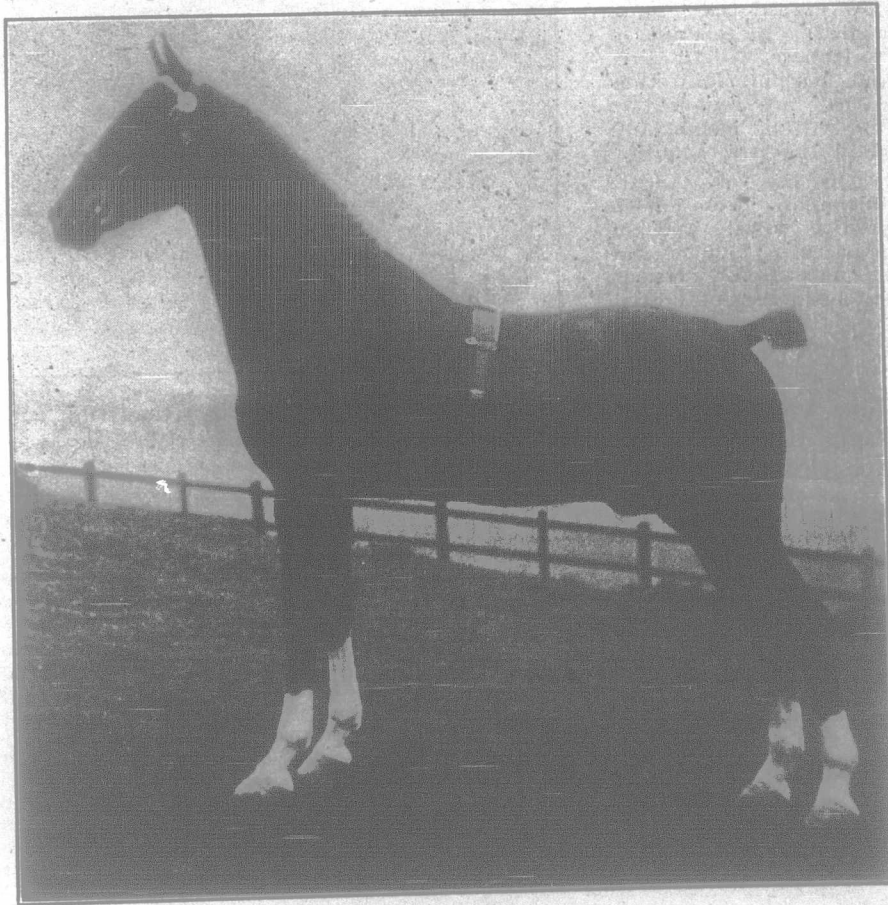
## LIVE STOCK.

Milkweeds are said to be poisonous to sheep, at any rate they will not eat them unless driven to it from hunger.

From investigations carried on by the United States Department of Agriculture, it has been learned that live stock do not usually eat poisonous plants by choice, but only when induced or compelled to do so by scarcity of other feeds.

A successful cattle breeder was heard to remark a few days ago that he believed the cattle were not suffering so much from scouring, due to being turned on very "sappy" grass, this year as much as they do some springs. He said the grass seems "harder" due, he believed, to the cold, dry weather which prevailed early in May checking the rapid growth and giving the feed more substance.

A Western Ontario man recently sold two grade calves, just about one year old, for \$40 each. These calves were not fattened, but had been raised on skim milk and were well fed throughout the winter. They were bought as stockers. They must have paid the raiser



Moordale Toreador.

Reserve grand champion at the London Hackney Show.

that count and not the number of mares bred, fairly well. How will the feeder make out? and the quicker stallioners and mare owners realize this fact the sooner will better success in breeding come.

### Advice from a Dealer.

One of the most experienced horsemen and dealers of London, (Ont.) Frank E. Sage, concurs in the statement recently made through "The Farmer's Advocate" that the most difficult horse to secure in Ontario at the present time is a good-moving, sizable driver of quality, and such are likely to continue high in price. At the same time he expresses a caution especially deserving attention at the beginning of the season, against the wholesale and indiscriminate breeding that has been going on, that will result in overstocking the country with a class of horses as before the South African war. The inevitable

### Diagnosing Abortion.

The Farmer and Stock Breeder reporting an address on contagious abortion, by Sir John McFadyean, Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, says that one of the important things he had to tell was that there was now known a method by which one could diagnose the disease with infallible certainty. The test consisted in taking a small quantity of blood from the suspected animal, allowing this to clot, the clot eventually squeezing out the clear liquid water which was called serum. This mixed with some of the bacteria which had caused the disease acted on the bacteria in a way which became perfectly obvious in the test tube to the naked eye. If the abortion was other than contagious, or if the animal was not affected, then was such