

## THE HORSE.

### To Prevent Stocking.

A tendency to swelling of the legs or "filling," generally called "stocking," exists in all horses under certain conditions. While the tendency is more marked in heavy horses, light ones are by no means exempt. Horses of any class that lack quality, those whose legs are inclined to be meaty rather than hard and flat, are more predisposed than those of good quality. Of course, a swelling of the legs due to actual disease or injury is frequently seen in all kinds and classes, but we refer to the condition when it occurs without apparent cause, and, while not generally considered serious, is liable to result in disease if it continues for any considerable length of time. It is generally due to sluggish circulation in the vessels of the extremities, but just why circulation in the limbs should become sluggish in so many cases is somewhat hard to understand. When horses that have been on pasture or at regular work are kept idle in the stable when the weather becomes cold we conclude that the filling is due to lack of exercise, but the trouble frequently occurs without any appreciable cause. It is more common during early fall than at any other time, but in many cases persists during the winter. Some horses are so predisposed to it that it is almost impossible to prevent it without constant attention and care. There are many predisposing causes. Some horses are congenitally predisposed on account of their conformation, or lack of quality. High feeding on grain and lack of exercise, either combined or singly, are predisposing causes, and, on the contrary (paradoxical as it may appear) the opposite condition—that is an insufficient supply of feed—often has the same effect. It is not uncommon to notice a poorly-nourished horse, one generally out of condition, whose legs fill at night, neither is it seldom that we notice a well-nourished, well-fed, well-cared-for animal in the same condition. When this abnormal condition is not the result of disease or injury, the swellings become dissipated after the animal has been exercised for an hour or two. The swellings are due, as stated, to sluggish circulation. Exercise increases the circulation and stimulates the absorbents, and the exudates that caused the swelling are absorbed and carried away, thus reducing the enlargements.

While the condition may occur under well-advised and apparently careful treatment, poor attention and faulty digestion are fertile causes. Horses whose bowels are somewhat constipated, though not sufficiently so to cause actual disease or visible distress, are prone to stock, hence preventive measures are advisable. When horses that have been at steady work and heavily fed on grain, are changed to a period of partial or total idleness, the grain ration should be greatly reduced, and some means should be taken, especially for the first few days, to give them some daily exercise. In other words, violent changes in feed or usages should be avoided. On the other hand, when horses have been running on grass, or under other conditions getting little or no grain, and change of conditions renders it necessary to feed grain, the change should be made gradually. We have on other occasions mentioned sudden changes of feed as being very liable to cause acute digestive derangement, but are now discussing them simply in regard to their influence upon the conditions under discussion. Whether horses be idle or at work, care should be taken to keep their bowels in a reasonably laxative condition. We do not mean that a condition of semi-diarrhoea should be maintained. A protracted state of this nature might cause the very condition we are trying to avoid. Most of us have noticed that stocking is not so common during the summer as in the fall and winter, even though the horses are receiving practically the same treatment. This is largely accounted for from the fact that during the seasons when grass is green, most horses, though not actually on pasture, in one way or another get an occasional mouthful of it, which has the laxative effect noted. At seasons when this laxation cannot be obtained, a substitute should be provided, and this substitute should not be drugs. The too-common idea of teamsters or owners, that a periodical dose of medicine is necessary to keep a horse "right" is irrational and harmful. A healthy horse requires no medicine, hence the main point is to keep him healthy. Hay and oats, of course, are the feeds principally depended upon to produce the necessary vigor, muscular, respiratory and nervous, but something else is required to satisfy the appetite and aid digestion. This "something else" should be both tasty and laxative. Nothing better than a few raw roots can be given; an ordinary-sized mangel or turnip, or a couple of carrots given once daily, preferably at the mid-day meal. If large quantities of roots are fed to working horses the laxative effect becomes too marked, and there are some horses that cannot be given them even in small quantities without that result; such horses, of course, must be treated accordingly. When roots cannot be procured, or in cases where they cannot be fed without undesirable results, a feed of scalded bran a couple of times weekly, or a little linseed meal daily, or a little raw linseed oil mixed with the feed once daily, will give good results; or, when it is not expedient to feed anything but hay and grain, a feed of boiled oats or a little boiled barley will probably answer the purpose. In a few words, it is in most cases necessary to make some slight deviation from dry hay and oats in order to keep the bowels acting properly. It may be hard to understand, and some will deny the fact that "horses fed on rolled oats are not so liable to either digestive or leg trouble as those fed on whole oats." The writer has not fed a bushel of whole oats in twenty-

five years, and while his horses during that time have been used solely for road and saddle purposes, he has not owned a horse that was "washy," or would purge when driven.

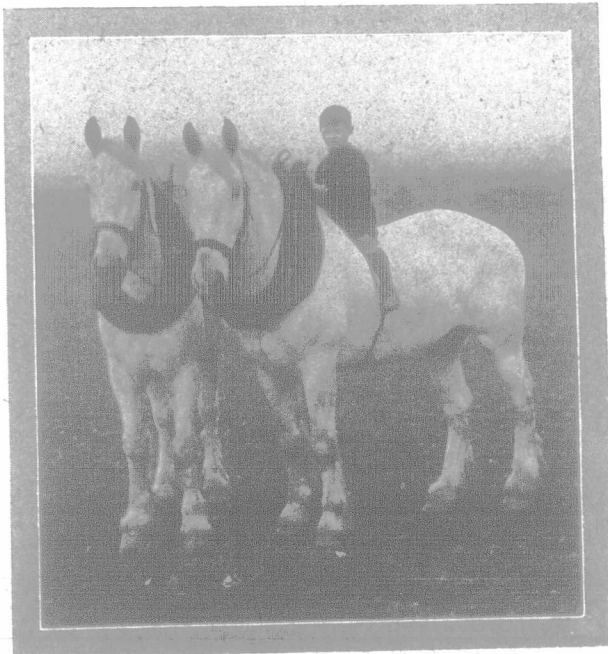
A few words re curative treatment. When a horse has reached the stage when he "stocks" it is good practice to stimulate the action of both bowels and kidneys. A purgative of 6 to 10 drams of aloes (according to size of patient) and 2 drams of ginger should be given. After the bowels have regained their normal condition, a dessertspoonful of saltpetre should be given in damp feed, or in drinking water, once daily for three or four days, to act upon the kidneys. Then the animal should be fed as stated and given daily exercise. Hand-rubbing the legs frequently gives good results, and, if stocking persists, the application of bandages of a somewhat elastic nature, moderately tight, act well. The bandages can, if necessary, be left on all the time the patient is at rest. The slight pressure and warmth they supply stimulate the circulation and tend to relieve and prevent filling.

WHIP.

### Future Horse Production.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The growing popularity of the automobile has influenced some farmers in the belief that horse breeding will no longer be profitable, and the writer has in the last year been frequently told that the average farmer could not expect to make money raising colts. We think this is an extreme and erroneous view. The future of horse breeding, provided the big drafter is grown, is brighter than ever. It is true that the day of the ewe-necked bronco and light driving animal has passed forever; the market for such stuff is gone, but the demand for big draft stuff is still good and bids fair to remain so indefinitely. In parts of the country horses must be kept on the farms as of old; even the



Faithful Farm Servants.

tractor may be found there also. There are certain farm operations that require horses, and the farmer cannot dispense with the horse entirely if he should wish to do so. While the number of horses required can be reduced, it is only up to a certain point, for the tractor can encroach in a degree only on the domain of the horse.

The fancy driver will never have the vogue he had in days gone by, but one need not be surprised to see a revival of his popularity again in a small measure. And there are sections of the country and innumerable small farms, where the automobile and tractor invasion will not reach, such as in a rough, hilly country, which must stick to the horse as a means of travel and for farm power.

We believe the fear ill-founded that the day of the horse is over. All signs point to the opposite view. But in the future the breeder must stick to the big, blocky type of horse. Some breeders are firm in the belief that the horse will not hold his own against the tractor or any other power devised to supplant him, or rather will not do his work more cheaply and effectively. Just how far the tractor can do this is not yet proved, but granting that the big farm finds the tractor an economical power, it cannot be said that we can even cut horse production in half. It seems to be shown that the heavy plowing in hot weather can be done more cheaply with tractors than with horses, and the truck does hauling so much quicker that the horse must take second place in long hauls. But we have not got to the point where our roads are always passable for trucks, and we still have wet seasons when the tractor cannot be taken to the field, owing to its weight.

It might be possible to over-stock the market with big draft animals, but it is not probable. The city streets are now nearly free from horse-drawn traffic, but the farm must keep a certain number of horses for the pinch, like a wet season when the tractor remains in the shed. If we produce two-thirds of the usual number of draft colts, I believe the market will take them at good paying prices. A good mare can do plenty of work and produce a fine colt, and if the farmer must

keep horses he can make the colt help pay for the keep of the mare. At farm sales the big colts and horses still find buyers, while the small, inferior animal is almost a drug on the market. It is plain that the horses we keep must be good ones, for this is the kind demanded.

Wellington Co., Ont.

J. G. G.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Trade in Live-Stock with Belgium.

The following live-stock notes have been forwarded to us by the Dominion Live-Stock Commissioner, H. S. Arkell, Ottawa, dealing with Canada's trade in live stock with Belgium, and interesting points regarding spring market prices for beef.

The following quotation is from a letter received from the Minister of Commerce, Labor and Reconstruction, Brussels, Belgium:

"As you state, there is at present an important trade in live stock between Canada and Belgium. It will be possible to maintain this trade, but, as you will understand, in smaller volume than at present, as agriculture in Belgium will be able to fill the needs of the country more and more as reconstruction of the live-stock industry progresses toward the state existing before the war; however, even when completely reconstructed, Belgian live stock will always be insufficient to satisfy the needs of the country.

"Before the war, we were importing fat stock from Holland and also a small quantity from France, and it is probable that a portion, if not the whole, of the import requirements will be received from Canada, now that a commercial current has been created.

"Belgium, as you state, is also in need of horses, but not as much so as for cattle. A few importations have been made from the United States and Canada, but the prices asked were high, and the quality of the animals was not always satisfactory to our breeders. I believe that it is necessary to be very careful in the organization of this particular trade. Horse raising in Belgium will be reconstructed very rapidly, and the breeders are, at present, looking towards Germany where there is a possibility of recovering animals of the Belgian breeds taken away during the war, and the origin of which, consequently, is not to be discussed."

"Records at the Live-Stock Branch show that during the past four years the average prices of all grades of butcher steers of good weights were \$1.00 or more per hundred, higher on all Canadian markets during the months of January, February and March, than during October, November and December, the preceding three months. Market history does not always repeat; nevertheless, the world's markets are short of finished beef, the feed supply in many of the chief exporting countries is, as a whole, scarcely more than sufficient to carry stock on a maintenance diet through the winter months, and importing countries continue to show unusually stable activities in the market for finished beef. Sufficient premises exist on which to base the opinion that weight and quality will be at a premium on the spring markets. We emphasize the words weight and quality."

### Watering the Stock.

Water is important for all classes of stock. To limit the amount, increases the expense of putting an animal in condition. All animals require a considerable amount of water for their bodily needs, but there is no class of stock which requires so much as the milch cow, as she requires it for the production of milk as well as to supply the body needs. Animals can live longer without solid food than they can without water. The process of digestion, mastication, absorption and assimilation are hindered, the blood thickens, and waste matter remains too long in the intestines when the water supply is not sufficient. It is generally believed that for the most satisfactory and economic results, farm animals should have all the water they will drink. Protein feeds usually create a greater desire for water than do the starchy, carbonaceous feeds; thus, a cow on test, being pushed for a high record, and fed heavily on nitrogenous feeds will require much more water than her stablemate receiving less protein. Henry and Morrison, in their book on "Feeds and Feeding," show that under normal conditions animals consume a fairly uniform quantity of water for each pound of dry matter eaten. The amount is placed at four to six pounds for milch cows, four to five pounds for steers, two to three pounds for horses, and for sheep and swine, seven to eight pounds. This latter amount seems rather high. The same authorities state that fattening cattle should not only have an abundant supply of uncontaminated water at all times, but it should be easily accessible. While it is best to have water before cattle at all times, they readily adapt themselves to taking a fill once daily, and thrive. With swine, there is sometimes difficulty in getting them to take sufficient water in the winter time, especially when it is cold. With all farm animals it must be remembered that the water taken into the system must be raised to body temperature by the burning or consumption of food in the body. Thus, an animal forced to drink out of a hole chopped in the ice will require more feed to keep it in similar condition to the one drinking water at a moderate temperature. On many farms the cattle are turned out each day, or twice a day, to drink out of a trough, and there are some stockmen who maintain that this system forces the animals to take exercise and is better for them than permitting them to have water before them at all times. However, this