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APRIL 5, 1906

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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largest orchard in British Columbia. His experience, extending over fifteen years, had shown him that fruit-growing, while very attractive and remunerative if properly managed, required great care and attention, but the results obtained in Canada might be pointed to as an encouragement for Irish farmers to engage in the same line. "No doubt," said His Excellency, "the climate of Canada is splendidly adapted for fruit-growing, but there are, as usually happens, drawbacks to be contended with, as, for instance, the prolific insect pests." "EMERALD ISLE."
Dublin, Ireland, March 9th, 1906.

The timid retreat from difficulties; the brave meet them.

HORSES.

foaling Time.

(Continued.)

While in a large percentage of cases the act of parturition in mares is effected in a normal manner without the intervention of man, cases in which this does not occur are so numerous that we think it wise to keep close watch on all mares about to bring forth young. The task of watching should be entrusted to a reliable man, and if he has some knowledge of the anatomy of both dam and foetus, and also some knowledge of obstetrics, or the manner in which the phenomena of parturition takes place, the forces that produce it and the various conditions that prevent it, and has the knowledge and skill to remove these obstacles, of course it is all the better. Even though he has no special skill as an obstetrician, if he has an intelligent idea of the act when it takes place in a normal manner, he will be able to recognize abnormal conditions, and if not able to rectify these he can send promptly for a veterinarian. A very important point with the veterinary obstetrician is to know when to interfere, as much harm is sometimes done by premature or irrational interference, as is at other times by being too tardy. Some mares, especially primipera (those fetching forth their first young), become excited at the presence of man; while rarely the reverse is noticed, the presence of a man, especially her master, appears to have a salutary effect upon the mare during labor pains. In most cases it is wise for the watcher to keep as quiet as possible, and practically out of sight of the mare, but at the same time in such a position that he can observe her actions and note the progress being made towards delivery. He should not be anxious to render assistance; he should be content to allow nature a fair opportunity to perform her functions, and when things are making fair progress he should continue an interested but non-interfering spectator. He should see that the surroundings do not interfere with delivery.

While in most cases the mare appears to exercise a great degree of intelligence, we sometimes notice that during the excitement caused by the pains she appears to have lost the intelligence or instinct usually shown, and will lie with her croup so close to the wall that delivery cannot take place, and if left alone the foal will perish, and more or less serious complications be caused in the dam. In such a case the attendant should interfere promptly, and cause her to rise, and if he cannot do this he can at least shift her sufficiently by pulling on her tail or other ways to give room for delivery.

It is not uncommon for a foal to be born enclosed in the membranes. This occurs more frequently in a rapid and easy birth. So long as the circulation between the mucous membrane of the womb and the foetal membranes continues, the blood of the foetus is purified by a supply of oxygen from that of the dam, but so soon as the membranes are disconnected from the womb the foetus must receive oxygen from the air, and if born with the membranes intact, it will perish unless they be promptly ruptured. Instinct is supposed to teach the dam to at once rupture them with her teeth, but experience teaches us that even when birth is easy and not preceded by any considerable pain or distress, she will generally lie for a few minutes after delivery, and in the meantime the foetus may perish. When this condition exists the attendant should at once sever the membranes with a knife, which he should at all times have within reach. In this, and in all cases in which the navel cord is not severed, he should tie it tightly with a strong, soft cord, about an inch from the abdomen, and sever it with a scraping motion of the knife about an inch below that. When the cord is severed in this manner bleeding will not occur, even though the legature should become removed, as it will if the cord be cut straight with a sharp knife. Again, instinct is supposed to teach the mare to sever the cord with her teeth, but she frequently fails to do so, and unless the attendant does so the membranes remain attached to the foetus by the cord, and materially interfere with its actions. He should remove all mucus from the foal's mouth and eyes, and unless the dam rises and attends to it he should rub it with wisps of straw or with cloths until it is dry. When it struggles to gain its feet he should assist it, and, if necessary, hold it up to suck, but if the foal be strong and smart, and the dam is giving it the proper attention, probably the less interference is given the better, and this especially applies if the dam is cross and cranky, but it must be understood that if the foal be not strong enough to get up and walk it is necessary to assist it, even though more help be necessary to control the dam.

In some cases the dam is unnatural and vicious with her foal, and if not prevented will injure and probably destroy it. In such cases it is necessary for the attendant or attendants to control her, which can usually be done with a twitch, to allow the foal to suck. Except in rare cases she soon becomes reconciled, but it is often necessary to remove the foal, or to watch the mare constantly to prevent her from injuring it until it has sucked several times.

In cases where labor pains have been frequent and severe for a considerable time, and no progress is apparently being made towards delivery, the attendant must decide that some abnormal condition exists, and

that there is some cause operating to prevent delivery. In such cases it is his duty to ascertain, if possible, what this cause is, and remove it if he can. If he has an intelligent idea of the anatomy of the dam, and of the normal position of the foetus, he should roll up his shirt sleeve, oil his hand and arm, and insert his hand into the vagina, press forward to the womb, and discover the abnormal condition that exists. In many cases it is a malpresentation (the foetus in an abnormal position); in others it may be an excess of volume of the foetus; in others the obstruction may be a nondilation of the os (the opening into the womb). Whatever it is, when once he has discovered it, he should consider carefully whether he has sufficient knowledge and skill to remove the obstruction; whether it consists in rectifying a malpresentation, dilating the os, reducing the volume of the foetus, or removing other obstructions. If he decides he can succeed, he should proceed to do so with all possible despatch, but should never get in a hurry. He should act promptly but carefully, as this is a case in which things hurriedly done are seldom properly done, and it is a very critical period in the life of both dam and foetus. If he decides that the case demands greater skill than he possesses, or the use of instruments which are not in his possession, he should not spend time in a vain endeavor to rectify matters, but send at once for a veterinary obstetrician, who, if promptly called, can, in most cases, succeed in saving the life of the dam, and in many cases that of the foetus also, while if unskillful interference has been carried too far, and too long a time has elapsed, complications which he cannot overcome may have arisen, and both will perish.

Other reasons why a mare should be carefully watched at this critical stage might be given, but space will not permit, and we think we have given sufficient to prove our claim, "that she should be watched."

A good antiseptic—as 10 grains corrosive sublimate to 8 ozs. of water, or a five-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid, or a solution of bluestone, 3 drams to 8 ozs. of water (the first mentioned the best)—should be on hand, and the colt's navel dressed with it as soon after birth as possible, and four or five times daily afterwards, until the parts are healed, in order to prevent that almost surely fatal disease, known as joint ill or navel ill, to which colts are very liable.

"WHIP."

Hackney Colors.

A writer, reporting in an English exchange special features of the recent London Hackney Show, says:

"Regarding the question of color, the catalogue informs us that of the nineteen first-prize winners seventeen were chestnuts, the exceptions being Terrington Ruth, a bay, and Menella, a brown. Of the nineteen second-prize takers, eighteen were chestnuts, the exception being the bay, Hopwood Spark, shown in the gelding class. Of the nineteen thirds, fourteen were chestnuts, the exceptions being two bays, two browns and a blue roan. Of the sixteen fourth-prize winners, eleven were chestnuts, three bays, one brown, and one blue roan; whilst all the three fifth-prize winners were chestnuts. The colors in the above nineteen classes totalled out: Chestnuts, 248; bays, 83; browns, 33; roans, 13; blacks, 5; and piebald, 1.



Royal Drewton, Imp. - 218 - (8626).

Hackney stallion, by His Majesty, by Matchless of Londeshoro, by Danegelt; dam Bouquet, by Wildfire. Owned by Dr. A. B. Campbell, Berlin, Ont.



Dento, Imp. - 133 - (5576).

Hackney stallion, by Dagenham, by Danegelt, by Denmark; dam by Yorkshire Prickwillow. Property of Dr. A. B. Campbell, Berlin, Ont. (See "Gossip.")