

HORSES.

The Pastern in Horses.

Anyone who has studied the anatomy of a horse, or who has had anything to do with judging horses in the show-ring, must be well aware of the great value that is placed upon the character of the pastern. So important is the pastern that it matters little though a horse should have the very highest qualifications in other respects and be deficient in this, he will not be permitted to take first place. The following with reference to the pastern is found from the pen of Dr. J. C. Curryer, in the National Stockman:

"The pastern, next in importance to the foot, should be oblique, sloping, and springy, viewed from the side. It is made up of the long or pastern bone, articulating at its upper end with the lower end of the cannon bone at the ankle or fetlock joint; the smaller pastern bone bearing on this at its upper end and below with the coffin-bone inclosed in the hoof, and should stand at an angle of 45 degrees with the ground surface of the foot. It is plain to be seen—and all experience bears unquestioned testimony—that this sloping of the pastern, in conjunction with the cushion structure of the frog, is the main dependence of the horse from jars in movement and concussion of the joints of the feet and legs. The pastern bones, as it were, are suspended in a mass of ligaments and tendons, and when placed at the proper angle greatly relieve the bones of the foot from severe concussion, irritation, and possible inflammation, as well as relieving the sensitive frog from injury, by reason of such suspension at that angle. Ringbones, sidebones and joint troubles are generally associated with straight pasterns. Horses with springy pasterns have more freedom of action in their legs, are better walkers, smoother trotters and pacers, and the springy pasterns are indispensable to the easy-riding horse. The pasterns should be of medium length in draft horses, but this essential springing down of the pasterns at every step, or in pulling heavy loads, is of great importance in their lasting qualities, or for breeding purposes. The straight-pasterned colt will become more so as he advances in age and use. Straight pasterns bring the greater jar or concussion within the bones of the foot, and thereby have the greater effect on the coronary and navicular bony tissues."

Age of Breeding Mares.

Says a writer in the London Live-stock Journal: "I cannot say at what age a mare produces her best foal, but for the last eighteen years I have been agent for one of our largest insurance companies for mares against the risk of foaling; besides this I have had some personal experience. I have carefully analyzed the result of each year's business, and though others may find results different, to me the greatest risk is a four-year-old mare with her first foal; I much prefer a three-year-old. I attribute this to the fact that a mare at four years of age is almost at her full strength, and oftentimes when stunted at three years, is allowed to lie comparatively idle, generally not much handled. We all know that a mare is a most impatient animal, and at this age not perhaps under the best of control; the consequence is a ruptured blood-vessel and death. With a three-year-old my experience has been much more favorable; there is one mare this year which has proved barren for the first time, now fifteen years of age, that has produced eleven live foals, only one of which has the company had to pay for as dying before they were a month old. Mares of eight years are generally good breeders, and can be depended on up to fourteen years; but mares of ten years or upwards, when put to the stud, I find very irregular, many only bringing foals alternate years. From these we lose a great number of foals. I strongly advise, from figures in my possession, farmers to breed from their mares early, the first foal at three years, then rest one year if there is fear of spoiling her growth (which I do not think is the case). An early mother is the best milker and mother."

"Japan will probably become a good customer for a heavier class of horse. The war has brought into prominence the fact that Japanese horses are inferior in power for such work as the moving of artillery, while even for cavalry purposes they are not up to the mark. Recognizing this inferiority, the Japanese Government have recently passed a law requiring the gelding of every two-year-old stallion which fails to satisfy the veterinary authorities as to its fitness for stud purposes. But, as there is hardly any grass land in Japan, and the land is so much subdivided and so carefully tilled, that it would be difficult to provide much pasture, the breeding of heavy horses can hardly be practical, and it is recognized that improvement must be mainly effected by importation." So says the London Live-stock Journal, and why should not Canada cater to such demand, since shipping facilities by way of the Pacific coast are so favorable?

The Mare and Foal.

An English veterinarian, Dr. Harold Leeney, writing in the Live-stock Journal on parturition of the mare and care of the foal, says, in part:

"Many breeders have never been present at the act of parturition, and some will assert that foals are all born with the mare on the ground, but this is not so. She gets up and down, as a rule, during the very short period of labor, and if a protracted one stands longer than she lies. Parturition may, however, take place in either attitude, but the dam instinctively rises when it has actually taken place, and the umbilical cord is broken partly in the act, and completed, as a rule, when she turns to attend to her offspring."

"In view of the now known entrance of malignant organisms through the cord, there is an increasing disposition to adopt the customs of the midwife, and ligature at a suitable distance from the navel, to permit of its withering away in the usual course. This practice is to be recommended in districts where joint-ill and other troubles are to be feared, but there is no method of disconnecting the young creature so satisfactory as the natural one. The tied cord has a disposition to tangle at the distal end, whereas the broken one, under normal conditions, first withers at the extremity, and by thus closing the vessels reduces the chance of organisms gaining access."

"Breeders should have some practical acquaintance with the subject of delivery of the

Horse Trade Keeps Good.

"Never in the history of the American horse trade was there such strength of demand and such an apparent scarcity of desirable horses as at present," said a Chicago dealer to a Live-stock World representative.

"One would naturally think the gasoline wagons were going to demoralize it entirely between the number of horses they displace and the number they scare off the roads; but the fact is, that, notwithstanding the great growth of the auto business, there seems no keeping pace with the growth of the horse business. True, there is a scarcity of big breeders who keep a hundred mares or more, but the number of men who have six, eight or ten good mares, seems to be on the increase, and it is a more wholesome sign of the times to have the business in the hands of small and middle-class farmers than to have it so largely in the hands of traders who deal on such extensive scale."

"For the most part the big breeders were discouraged some years ago, and quit the business at the wrong time. The men who stayed right in the breeding business are the ones who have made the good money, and they are the ones who win in any business. Those who dodge in and out are apt to do their dodging at the wrong time. It takes six years to get started again to breeding horses, and that is why the comparatively small breeder who keeps up the quality of his stock and keeps his horses sold off pretty closely, taking the market prices, whatever they are, is much more apt to do well in the long run than the plunger."

Asked what effect have the trolleys had on the horses of the busser and old street type, "Hasn't it knocked them out altogether?" the reply was: "From the scarcity of horses in those lines of work one would think so, and I am sure that the horse of the street type is not one that is good to tie to; but, strange as it may seem, even these horses have been and are selling at prices that would have looked very high in the palmiest days of the 'street' business in Chicago. How do I account for it? First of all, general good times; and, second, and perhaps more important than all, the telephone."

"How in the world can the telephone effect the market for busses and streeters?"

"Simply because, since the general extension of the telephone system, there is very little going to the grocery, the meat shop, and practically no carrying home of bundles from any kind of store. Every little green grocer has to have a nag or two, and some that are not very large in the volume of business they do, keep four or five, so keen is the competition, and so much advantage does prompt delivery give to the butcher, the grocer and the general store-keeper."

The Shetland is a Favorite.

Possibly the Shetland is absolutely the purest-bred variety of horse in existence; that is to say, when he is pure-bred, which is not invariably the case with animals passed off as such. His diminutive size, however, is so soon increased by the introduction of a cross that the detection of foreign blood is not often a matter of much difficulty, and certainly the majority that can be picked up in the island are uncontaminated by such a taint. Master Shetland is disposed to grow too big when indulged in respect of good feeding and housing. The head of a Shetland is very delicate and fine, even for an animal of his inches; his short neck is small at the setting on of the head, but thickens considerably at the shoulders, which are usually short and straight. His back is short, ribs well sprung, and quarters very big compared to his size, whilst his legs are flat and feet rather round. Ten hands or a little under is the average height, but smaller specimens are occasionally met with, and when they are they realize a good deal of money if well made. The prevailing colors are bay, brown and dun, but occasionally a black or skewbald is met with, and very rarely indeed a white.



Oro del 36450.

Winner of first prize for Standard-bred Stallion 3 years and under, also reserve champion Standard-bred Stallion any age, at the Canadian Horse Show, 1905. Owned by the Cruickston Stock Farm Galt, Ont.

young when abnormally presented. Especially is such knowledge desirable where mares are concerned, because the period of labor is short, if the foal is to be born alive, and it is unlikely that professional aid will be forthcoming in time. Cows and other ruminants bear waiting for skilled assistance. I can call to mind no living foal, or, rather, should it be said, foal that lived after a labor extending to two hours, but many of cows that had been in labor more or less for two days, and even longer, and brought forth alive."

"Many of the obstructions to parturition are of the simplest character, while some malpresentations defy the experienced accoucheur. In the normal single birth the head and fore legs are presented, and usually preceded by the expulsion of a bladder or portion of the investing membranes. The inexperienced accoucheur, in his anxiety to render help, will prematurely rupture this so-called bladder. It should be allowed to accomplish its purpose of dilating the passage, and only broken when it is coming with the fetus and getting in the way. A foot turned back from the fetlock may be all that stands in the way of delivery, or a leg. Where any such impediment exists, a hand washed in some disinfectant, and with carefully-parad nails, should be introduced, and the limb brought into line, leaving the expulsion to be effected by the powerful muscular contractions which follow at short intervals in the ordinary course of things. It is time enough to exert traction when the animal's own efforts have failed."