

Managing Brood Mares

Too little attention is given to the proper management of brood mares during the winter season, or to be more exact, during the entire season when they are carrying their young. The total loss of foals is far more frequent than it ought to be, both before the proper time when they should be born and also at the time of birth. Of course one frequent cause of loss is contagious abortion usually following from debilitating diseases such as pneumonia or influenza.

Abortion, however, is frequently caused by one or the other of the following conditions: (1) Slipping while the ground is icy in the winter season and more particularly when such slipping is accompanied by a fall; (2) injury

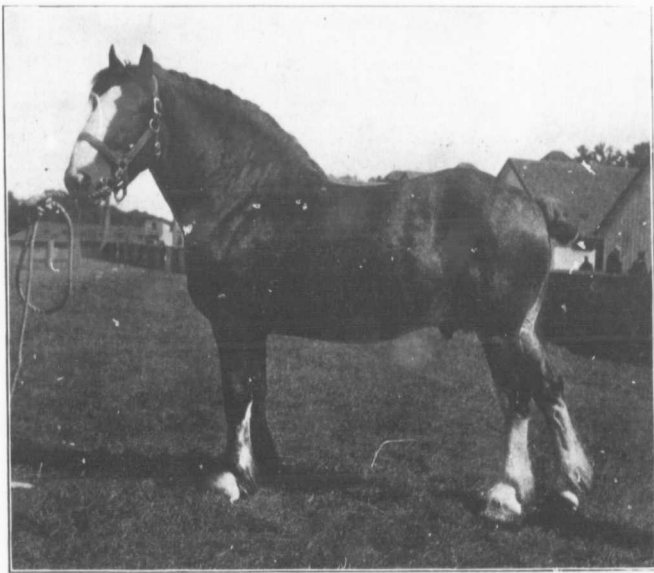
abused when they are not obstinate, for no other reason than that the attendant is possessed of an unbridled temper which he does not try to curb or restrain.

In addition to the above causes may be added improper food, that is fodder or grain that is moldy or too constipating in its nature. If brood mares are given a good quality of fodder, it is not so very important that it shall be nutritive, provided sufficient grain is given along with such fodder to maintain a sufficient degree of flesh. Some field roots, as carrots and a bran mash occasionally, and now and then a little oil cake will exercise a salutary influence upon the health of the mare.

It is greatly important that every rea-

city, Carriage horse, highstepper, or whatever he may show indications of turning out suitable for, there is usually a strong desire on the part of the owner that his early training should be of a character calculated to still further fit him for the purpose.

Indeed, it is the rule, rather than the exception, to find, wherever a colt shows some indications of aptitude, that the owner has given at least some superficial study to the matter, and has proceeded to put into practice as well or as poorly as he can, the results of his investigation. The result is that the *flashy-going colt* is never put to work, but his feet are loaded down with heavy iron, for this is used by trainers to increase the knee action. When he is driven he is very apt to be seen struggling



The Clydesdale Stallion Lord Mac, a get of the McGregor stallion Montrose Mac, imported by G. G. Stewart, Howick, Que.

from other vicious horses with whom they may be running at large in a yard or paddock; (3) getting into snow drifts or into marshy places fall and spring and straining themselves in the effort to get out; (4) injuring themselves in going in and out of the doors of box stalls where these swing on hinges; (5) in other instances, they receive injury from trying to crush through places where the openings are too narrow for them.

It may not be an easy matter in all instances to prevent brood mares from injury in the cases named, but there is another cause, which it is possible to protect them from. We refer to the abuse they frequently receive from attendants. Brood mares differ in the ease with which they are managed. Some are obstinate and will not comply readily with all the plans of the attendant. Such obstinacy is followed with abuse. In other instances, they are

sonable effort should be made to prevent loss of foals either before or after birth. Getting them is a somewhat costly process, hence the aim should be to reduce the instances of loss to the lowest possible minimum. That such reduction is possible is clearly shown by the great difference in the relative amount of loss in breeding studs.—Prof. Shaw.

Training the Hackney Colt

The breeding of the Hackney colt is to a very large extent a new phase of the live stock business with Canadian farmers. It has proved a move for the better and it is now not uncommon to meet with colts throughout the country which show fine conformation, combined with useful size and very often, too, a promise of meeting within the next year or two, the requirements of one or another of the fancy leather purposes of the

and fighting with a heavy curb bit, for that is the way it is done by the fancy leather man in the showing in the city, and so the curb bit is put on and kept on, though the colt fights it all the time. Of course, the curb bit, with the line loose and the bit slack, is just the same as any other bit, so the line is kept at least moderately tight, and it is of late not so very uncommon a thing to see a promising colt driven with a curb bit, against which he is boring with blackened tongue, and instead of learning the nice carriage which a proper use of the curb bit imparts, he is learning only one thing, and that is to hate and to fight, the curb bit. The preparatory training of this class of horse is far better left to the skill and judgment of the experienced trainer, for on the care and attention with which the first few lessons are given, depend to a large extent, the value of the future