

THE HORSE.

Preventive and Curative Treatment of Joint-ill.

Joint-ill annually exacts a heavy toll from the foal crop in this Dominion. It is more severe some seasons than others, and is often quite prevalent in some districts and absent from others. The theory upon which the veterinary profession base treatment is that the germ gains entrance through some raw surface, particularly the navel, at time of birth or shortly after. It locates in the joints, multiplies rapidly and gives rise to characteristic symptoms. It was once thought that the disease could be contracted before birth, and was therefore congenital, but modern science does not recognize this as a fact. However, the horsemen at several famous British studs still cling to the belief that preventive measures against pre-birth contraction of the disease are worth while, as the following excerpt from the *Live-Stock Journal* will indicate:

"A simple treatment adopted at the Carlton Stud of Messrs. James Forshaw and Sons, as a safeguard against joint-ill will save breeders many troubles with their foals. The treatment was adopted by the late James Forshaw, and has been consistently carried out ever since. When the foal is twelve hours old an injection is given of about a pint of warm water (about the temperature of milk when freshly drawn from the cow), to which a little soap has been added. The quantity of soap required is so small that it is sufficient to rub a little on the hands and wash it off into the water to be injected by an enema or rubber ball syringe, the latter being preferred. The whole of the liquid is slowly injected into the rectum. Even if there are signs of looseness or purging after this treatment the dose must be repeated in twenty-four hours.

"The reasons for the process are thus explained. Examinations of the young foal often revealed the presence of hard dung, which in many cases could not be discharged until dissolved by the soap solution. This obstruction retarded the cleansing process, and the system became poisoned. A second injection is given because even though the foal may have shown signs of looseness small, hard balls of dung have been found in the passage, and great importance is attached to thorough cleansing of the bowels. Without venturing any opinions as to the cause and cures of joint-ill, which are matters for the scientists who are engaged on research work, the fact remains that at Carlton there has not been a case of joint-ill for twenty years, and it is also important to know that the farmers in the districts surrounding the stud who have adopted the practice, have also had a remarkable immunity from this trouble.

"Another simple form of preventive treatment is adopted in Messrs. H. and R. Ainscough's old-established Burscough Shire Stud, in which there are at present fifteen out of sixteen mares in foal. A few days before foaling time iodide of potassium (five grams to each meal) is mixed night and morning with the mare's feed, and this quantity is given every second or third day. For three or four days after foaling the same dose is supplied daily, and then every alternate day until the foal is eight or ten days old, after which time outbreaks of joint-ill are rare. In numerous cases on farms in the district a timely dose of iodide of potassium given to the dam—the foal gets the benefit through the mother's milk—has had the desired result."

PREVENTIVE TREATMENT.

If we accept the theory that infection occurs at or subsequent to birth, then it is obvious that measures should be taken to prevent the entrance of the germ into the system.

All dust, cobwebs, etc., should be swept out of the stable, and the stall in which the prospective foal is to be born, should be thoroughly and regularly cleaned, and it is good practice to scatter slaked lime on the floor each morning before providing fresh bedding. It is good practice to give the stall a thorough coat of hot lime wash with about 5 per cent. carbolic acid, or, if whitewash be objectionable give it a thorough scrubbing with hot water containing 5 per cent. of the acid. It is also good practice to wash the external genital organs, tail and hind quarters of the mare occasionally with an antiseptic and germicide, as a 5-per-cent. solution of one of the coal-tar antiseptics or carbolic acid. When the mare is to foal on grass, of course, all these precautions cannot be taken, but there is little danger of the germ existing on grass, but it may be found in sand or clay devoid of grass. The most essential preventive measures that can be observed in all cases is local attention to the navel as soon as possible after birth, and several times daily afterwards until it dries up and is thoroughly healed. The breeder should have on hand a supply of a strong antiseptic and germicide when his mare is about to foal. This may be a 10-per cent. solution of carbolic acid or one of the coal-tar antiseptics, tincture of iodine, or a solution of corrosive sublimate 30 to 40 grains to a pint of water. Whatever is used should be applied as soon as possible after birth and every few hours until the navel opening has healed.

SYMPTOMS OF JOINT-ILL.

The symptoms may become apparent soon after the infection enters the system. From a few hours to a few days, and in rare cases a few weeks after birth, the foal is noticed to be dull, lies a great deal, and manifests lameness or stiffness in one or more limbs. An examination usually reveals a swelling, heat and tenderness of one or more joints, often in the hocks or knees, but it may be the stifle, hip, elbow, shoulder, fetlock

or pastern. Any joint or joints may be affected. The trouble is often thought to have been caused by the dam treading upon the foal, or by injury in other ways. The symptoms increase in intensity, sometimes quickly, in others more slowly. The swellings increase in size and soreness, the patient becomes weaker, less able to move, and lies most of the time. If helped to his feet he goes lame and sore, but in some cases will nurse fairly well, but soon lies down again. As the symptoms increase in intensity the general debility also increases, and the desire for or the ability to take nourishment diminishes. The joint or joints involved become puffy, and if they burst or are lanced a muddy-colored liquid escapes. In many cases the articular cartilages of the joint become destroyed. In these cases manipulation of the joint reveals a grating sound, caused by the ends of the bones rubbing against each other. When this stage has been reached it is a humane act to destroy the patient, as, though it is possible in some cases to preserve life by careful nursing and attention, the animal will always be a cripple.



St. Paul.
Winner of the King's Plate at the Woodbine, 1920.

CURATIVE TREATMENT.

When a foal once contracts joint-ill its chances for complete recovery are not good, but success sometimes crowns one's efforts when treatment is persevered in. We cannot do better under this head than to reproduce the treatment recommended previously in these columns by *Whip*, which is as follows:

Curative Treatment is often effective when given early. The use of serums and anti-toxins especially prepared for the purpose, and which can be administered only by a veterinarian, has been reasonably successful both as a preventive and cure, hence it is wise for a breeder to employ a veterinarian as soon as possible after the first symptoms are noticed. Even amateur treatment may occasionally be successful. It consists in bathing the joints long and often with hot water, and after bathing rubbing well with a camphorated



Fyvie Sensation.
Capt. Montgomery's first-prize two-year-old Clydesdale at the Ayr Show, 1920.

liniment as one made of 1/2 oz. tincture of iodine, 2 drams gum camphor, 4 oz. extract of witch hazel and alcohol to make a pint. The foal should be given 5 to 10 grains (according to class and size) of iodide of potassium in a little of the dam's milk three times daily, and it should be helped to nurse at least every hour if not able to nurse without help. The mare should be well fed on milk-producing food, as bran, rolled oats, good hay, raw roots or grass if procurable, and should be given 1 to 1 1/2 drams iodide of potassium 3 times daily. Such treatment may be successful in arresting the ravages of the germ and destroying those present. When the disease has reached that stage where abscesses are formed they should be lanced, and cavities

flushed out well three times daily with a 5-per-cent solution of carbolic acid. When the articular cartilages have been destroyed and the bones can be heard or felt grating against each other, the patient should be destroyed.

Clydesdales at Ayr and Kilmarnock.

By SCOTLAND YET.

Three of our great spring shows have now taken place. Some time ago I sent an account of the Glasgow Stallion Show. During the past six days we have had both the Kilmarnock and Ayr shows. In former years there was an interval of ten days between these two events; this year there was an interval of only four days. In a certain sense this proximity robbed the events of much of their interest. In another sense it provided a favorable opportunity for instituting more than one comparison, e. g., at Kilmarnock the system of adjudication adopted was that of single judging; at Ayr, which stubbornly adheres to precedent, judging was carried through on the old system of a bench of three, all three acting together. At both shows there was an exceptionally fine display of Clydesdales and Ayrshires. The bench of three attracted the heaviest entries, and especially in the class of two-year-old colts seldom has there been witnessed a finer display than at Ayr. While the Ayrshire Agricultural Association refused to accept the panel of judges put forward by the Councils of the two breed societies interested, it is rather significant that in so far as the Clydesdale benches were concerned, all the six judges, but one, are on the panel for 1920. At Kilmarnock there was a splendid show of brood mares. The winner was Alex. Niven's Veda, a four-year-old, by Dunure Footprint, whose dam is an own sister to the dam of that very fine horse, Dunure Refiner. Both of these mares are descended in direct female line from the world's famous champion, Moss Rose 6203—from 1882 to 1898 a most successful winner. Veda was very near the foaling and was not shown at Ayr. She was sold there to Falconer L. Wallace, of Balcairn, Old Meldrum, the famous breeder of Short-horns, and proprietor of what used to be called the Edgote herd. Veda was only placed reserve female champion at Kilmarnock. She is a great mare, and has changed hands at a very high price. The first yeld mare at both shows was M. S. Thomson's fine, big, black mare, Patience, also by Dunure Footprint, and reserve for the Cawdor Cup in 1919. Her headquarters are at Spotsmains, Kelso. The first three-year-old mare, and the female champion at Kilmarnock, was James Kilpatrick's Craigie Sunray, by Bonnie Buchlyvie, out of Wells Lady Ray, a daughter of Dunure Footprint, and winner of the Cawdor Cup last year. Craigie Sunray is a very bonnie, level and true filly. She is perhaps neat enough but her balance and quality are undeniable. The first two-year-old filly at both shows was James Gray's beautiful quality big filly, Peace, by his own horse Botha. This is a right good filly. Her sire we always thought a first-class horse. He is a son of Baron of Buchlyvie, and unlike several of our best present-day sires, breeds his stock of first-class dark-brown colors. Peace makes peace, as everyone admits her merits. At Kilmarnock, Lord Forteviot, of Dupplin, Perth, who is a new patron of the breed, was first with an exceptionally true yearling filly of his own breeding, got by Dunure Footprint, out of a mare by Signet

16816. This is a very promising filly. The second at Kilmarnock and the first at Ayr was the first at Aberdeen, Robert Young's Park-hall Perfect Lady, by the veteran sire Royal Favorite 10630. This is a filly which everybody is pleased with. The winner in the three-year-old stallion class at both shows was James Kilpatrick's Craigie Excellence, a very good horse, by Rising Tide. He was second at the Stallion Show to the famous Rising Star, whose owner Thomas Clark is also owner of Rising Tide. Craigie Excellence was male champion at Kilmarnock. The best classes of males at both shows were those for two-year-olds and yearlings. At Kilmarnock, Craigie Alacrity was first, but at Ayr he had to give way to A. M. Montgomery's Fyvie Sensation, a beautiful colt bred by Messrs Donald, Lethen, Fyvie, and got by Hiawatha Again. This colt has almost ideal "underpinning." His top is none too well furnished at present, owing to his having lately come through strangles. He pleases all critics. After Craigie Alacrity, at Kilmarnock, came G. A. Ferguson's Premier Dale, which also followed him at the Stallion Show. He was not shown at Ayr, as Mr. Ferguson was to have been one of the judges but was prevented from acting through illness. In third place at Ayr, as at Glasgow, stood James McConnell's great colt, Record, bred by Mrs. Kinloch, the owner of Hiawatha Again, and got by Prince Ossian 16001, out of a mare of the same race as Hiawatha Again. This is a colt of immense substance and growth. He was bought at Lanark in October for £3,400, and has numerous