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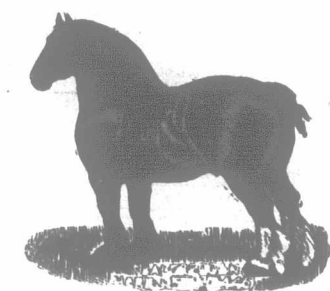
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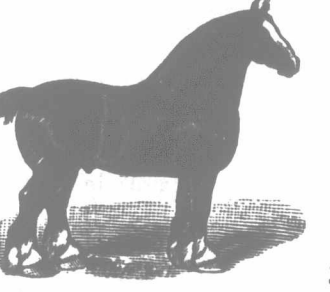
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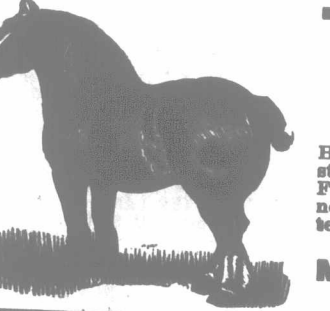
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Miscellaneous.

TO DISTINGUISH GANDERS—TO TELL WHETHER COW IS IN CALF.

How can one tell geese from ganders, as we bought three, and they are all very much alike? The party told us at the time we bought them that two were geese and one a gander.

2. Is there any reliable way of telling if a cow is in calf, say four or six months since she was bred?

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1. Until geese are about full grown, the sexes can scarcely be distinguished; after that time, these differences may be noticed: The goose is rounder-bodied and plumper-looking than the gander. The gander's body seems longer, and his head and bill are larger.

The gander's call is shriller (he screams more), and is generally, though not always, on a higher pitch. Probably the most distinctive point is carriage. When going about, the point of the gander's bill is slightly elevated, he appears to be looking rather upward than on the level. The bill of the goose, on the other hand, points slightly downward; she seems more demure, and is less fussy and aggressive. The above points apply, of course, to individuals of the same breed.

2. There is, to our knowledge, no reliable outward indication at six months after breeding, whether the cow is in calf or not. The best sign is the non-appearance of oestrus (heat), but in some cases even that is not a certain indication, as in rare cases comparatively young cows in good condition permanently cease to come in heat, while not in calf, and prove hopelessly barren.

REMODELLING OLD BARN.

A correspondent from Prince Edward Island has written, asking us to outline a plan for rearranging and improving his farm buildings. He has five barns, and intends to re-model rather than go tearing things to pieces. He has his own idea as to what ought to be done, but, as he has just taken up farming after being in commercial life for some years, he wishes advice.

The diagram our correspondent encloses with his letter shows a very complete set of farm buildings. In addition to those mentioned are an ice house, wood house, boiler house, machinery, shed and dairy. Three of the barns are so set as to enclose a yard facing south, a sunny, sheltered spot, and it is across the north end of this yard that the proposed cow stable is to be built. Protected on three sides, and open only to the south, it will certainly be warm and sunny. We heartily approve of the idea. It may be wise to refrain from tearing down and building anew, though that is just what a Western Ontario farmer would certainly do, if changes were to be made.

It would be impracticable for us to discuss in detail in "The Farmer's Advocate" all the suggestions offered, and we will but answer a few of the difficulties presented. The horse stable is cold and dark. Needless to say, more windows should be put in. If floor is elevated, with drafts underneath, banking will make a wonderful difference. To improve walls, nothing excels a layer of tar paper inside and boards over it.

For concrete manure gutter behind cows, prepare by levelling the ground into proper shape, and ramming it thoroughly.

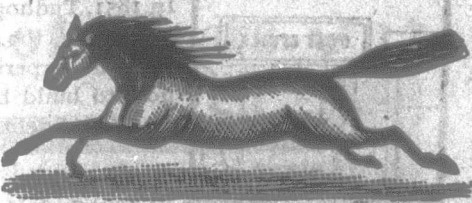
Gutters are generally made level from end to end, so as to hinder escape of liquid. The last coat of concrete should be rich and fine, one part cement to two of sand, overlying to the depth of half an inch, three or four inches of gravel concrete, mixed one to nine, and firmly rammed.

Stall space for two cows, seven or seven and a half feet square. Of this, the manger takes two or two and a half feet in front, and the platform five feet. Each horse stall should be eight feet long, exclusive of passage behind, and five feet wide.

T. B.

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