

HORSES.

Keep the grain ration low for the horse whose legs stock badly during idleness, and give as much exercise as possible.

Don't make one team do all the work. Divide the exercise where several horses are kept between them, giving all an equal share. Light work is the best form of winter exercise.

Deep snow has its advantages in the "breaking" of the colt. With one which is over-lively it is not bad practice to drive him around in deep loose snow for a time, to take the "wire edge" off somewhat before hitching him to a rig.

Winter is the time to train the colt, so that he will be ready to do a part of the spring's work, but many make the mistake of intermittent training at this season, having to repeat the "breaking" at each hitching. To do the work to best advantage, the colt must be kept at it continuously day after day until his training has been accomplished.

Discussion has been going on recently in some of the agricultural papers of England against certain practices of grooms in preparing horses for the show ring. Good grooming is essential, and the man who brings out his horse in the best natural condition should get credit for the same, but the man who deceives the judge by artificial "make up" is deserving of no applause, and the judge who gives him the award simply puts a premium on the practice and compliments him for his skill in deceiving others.

What Not to Do.

Under the caption, "Everyday Mismanagement of the Horse," Sydney Galvayne, in his book, "The Twentieth Century Book on the Horse," hits many points which are overlooked in many stables.

The following are the things to avoid:

Petting and caressing the animal when it does what you do not want it to do, such as jibbing, and flogging it when it does what you want it to do, such as starting. No mistakes are more common, or more utterly senseless, than these.

Striking a horse when it stumbles.—This is simply irrational abuse. It is obvious to everybody who will take the trouble to think a moment that the animal will not fall if it can help it. The proper thing to do is to look for the cause of the stumble. It is very frequently the result of a stone becoming jammed between the frog and the shoe.

Whipping a horse for shying.—This is silly, as it simply defeats its own object. The animal naturally associates the castigation with the object at which it has shied, and consequently becomes a worse shier than before.

Misusing the word "whoa!"—This expression should be limited to the expression of a desire to bring the animal to a standstill. But many people use the word indiscriminately for everything they wish the horse to do or not to do. They use it when they walk up to it in the stall, when they walk away from it, when they lift up its tail to crupper it, when they put the bit into its mouth and, in fact, when they do anything whatever in connection with it. Under the circumstances specified, the correct word to use is "steady." The horse being at a standstill, has "whoa" already. If the animal could speak, what would it say when it receives such inconsistent instructions?

Keeping the animal without sufficient water.—Water should always be kept in the manger.

Violent driving or riding immediately after starting.—This is distinctly injurious in every way.

Wearing spurs and using them unnecessarily.—Many animals do not require, and will not tolerate, the use of spurs. In such cases a touch of the heel is equally as efficacious as the spur, and involves no punishment or risk of accident.

Retaining the animal's shoes on too long from false ideas of economy.

Hanging on by the reins to retain one's position in the saddle.

Using dirty collars or harness.

Driving single-harness horses in hilly country without breeching.—Without the assistance afforded by the breeching, the animal cannot utilize the weight or strength in its quarters to assist in holding back, and the slightest stumble causes the whole weight to be suddenly thrown upon the withers and fore legs, and precludes any chance of recovery. The action of the weight of the trap on the dock by the crupper is a lifting one. The heavier the trap and steeper the hill, the greater is the lifting power, truly taking the

horse by the "neck and crop" and trying to pitch it head foremost down hill. This lifting power is accentuated by the fact that the weight on the fore feet of the horse going down hill is heavier than on the hind ones (this is vice versa when going up hill), thus adding greatly to the likelihood of accident.

Paring a good slow horse with a good fast one for double-harness purposes.

Using bearing-reins on "made" horses, especially on draft animals.

Using cruel bits to prevent bolting.

Overloading.

Striking a horse to make it start and "clicking" afterwards. The "click" alone is intended to start it.

Driving from a fixed draft pull instead of from a swinging or moving bar or from spring hooks.

Keeping horses well clothed in warm stables, and then allowing them to stand shivering for hours outside shops, etc., in the cold and unprotected by loin cloths.

Cutting the long hairs out of the ears. These hairs are specially adapted for protecting the ears from the intrusion of foreign substances, insects, etc.

Retaining a loin cloth on the animal whilst actually working it, instead of using it solely to prevent chill while stationary.

Using bad fitting saddles (or collars).

Stinting the supply of natural diet, such as carrots, etc., and giving too much artificial physic.

Constantly using bandages, wet or dry.

Keeping foals or colts continually in a loose-box, thus predisposing them to acquire bad habits, which ultimately develop into stable vices.

White-glazed tiles immediately in front of the horse above the manger. These are injurious to the animal's sight.

Striking the horse with a fork or broom-handle to make it move when in the stable, instead of standing slightly back and speaking to it.

Imagining that bearing-reins are efficacious in holding up a horse and so preventing it from falling.

Dropping into the habit of habitually speaking sharply and harshly to the animal.

Omitting to examine the horse's teeth immediately it shows any indisposition to eat.

Allowing an insufficient supply of natural light in the stable.

Leaving a horse unattended in the street.

LIVE STOCK

The feeding cattle should now be in a condition to stand the heaviest feeding.

A good place for a little clean, sweet clover hay is in the calf's manger. It is surprising how soon young calves learn to eat this and other forms of wholesome roughage as pulped roots.

Clean, light, well-ventilated stables mean healthy stock.

Teach the calf to eat a little grain. Try rubbing a little on his nose and mouth when he is through drinking his milk.

Mix the grain feeds for the farm stock. Better results usually follow the feeding of mixtures than when grains are fed singly.

Each brood sow in Great Britain produces about eleven pigs in a year, and the number born last year was approximately 4,400,00.

Before shipping stock feed it lightly. "Stuffing" the animals at this time generally causes scouring, and a far greater loss in weight than if they had been fed a reduced ration of dry feed only. All the dry hay they will eat is the best thing for cattle, and a little dry meal is the best for pigs.

In an experiment recently carried out at the Harper Adams Agricultural College, bullocks fed on sugar beets (in addition to concentrated foods) increased in live weight at the rate of 2.04 lbs. per head per day, while bullocks fed on mangolds increased in live weight at the rate of 1.7 lbs. per head per day. In the case of both roots, the animals were allowed as much as they would consume, or 57 lbs. of sugar beets per head daily and 75 lbs. mangolds. In this trial, it would appear that, comparing equal weights of roots, sugar beets had rather more than 1½ times the value of mangolds for fattening purposes.

Our Scottish Letter.

It is six weeks since I last wrote for this column, and during that period it may safely be said that the chief topic among stock-men has been foot-and-mouth disease, and the wisdom or unwisdom of the policy of restriction on movement still being pursued by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. It cannot be denied that the situation for feeders has been acute. In many cases they have not been able to secure cattle to consume their turnips and straw, and in all cases in which the requisite number of stock has been procured, far too much money has been paid for them. The difficulty was increased by the fact that at the very moment when some relaxation was to be given, there was a fresh outbreak at Mulligan, and both Englishmen and Irishmen felt scared. The outlook was anything but reassuring, and the British Board felt themselves compelled to hold their hand and go no further in the way of relaxation. Happily the situation has steadily improved, and provided no untoward incident occurs there is a prospect of free movement of stock taking place within a very short time. Restrictions are daily being thrown off, and we may hope for the free movement forthwith. Scots breeders and dairy farmers are



Radium Imp. (13674).

Clydesdale stallion; bay. Owned by G. A. Brodie, Newmarket, Ont. Sire Hiawatha.