THE HORSE.

Stocking.

A tendency to swelling of the legs or "filling" generally called "stocking" exists in all horses under certain conditions. While the tendency is more marked in heavy horses, light ones are by no means exempt. Horses of any class that lack quality, those whose legs are inclined to be meaty and round, rather than hard and flat, are more predisposed than those of good quality. Of course, a swelling of the legs due to actual disease or injuries is frequently seen in all kinds and classes, but we refer to the condition when it occurs without apparent cause, and, while not generally considered serious, is liable to result in disease if it continues. It is due to sluggish circulation in the vessels of the extremities, but just why circulation in the limbs should become sluggish in so many cases is somewhat hard to understand.

Where horses that have been on pasture or at regular work are kept idle in the stable when the weather becomes cold, we conclude that the swelling is due to want of exercise, but the condition frequently occurs without appreciable cause. It is more common during the fall than at any other time, but in many cases persists during the winter. Some horses are so predisposed to it that it is almost impossible to prevent it without constant attention and care.

There are many predisposing causes. Some horses are congenitally predisposed on account of lack of quality as noted above. High feeding on grain and lack of exercise, either combined or singly, are predisposing causes, and on the other hand (paradoxical as it may appear) the opposite condition, viz., an insufficient supply of food, often has a like effect. It is not uncommon to notice a poorly-nourished horse, one out of condition generally, whose legs become filled during the night. Neither is it seldom that we notice a well-fed, well-nourished, well-cared-for horse in the same condition. When the abnormal condition is not the result of disease or injury, the swellings become dissipated on exercise.

The swellings, as before stated, are due to sluggish circulation. Exercise increases the circulation and the activity of the absorbents, hence the exudates that caused the filling are absorbed and carried away, thus reducing the enlargements.

While the condition may appear under well-ordered and apparently careful treatment, poor attention and faulty digestion are fertile causes. Horses whose bowels are somewhat constipated, though not sufficiently so to cause actual disease or visible distress, are prone to stock. Hence, preventive measures are advisable.

When horses that have been at steady work and heavily fed on grain are changed to a period of partial or complete idleness, the grain ration should be greatly reduced, and some means should be taken, especially for the first few days, to give them some daily exercise. In other words, "violent change in food or habits should be avoided." On the other hand, when horses have been running on grass, or under other conditions getting little or no grain, and change of conditions renders it necessary to feed grain, the change should be gradually made. Whether horses be idle or at work care should be taken to keep their bowels in a reasonably laxative condition. We do not mean that a condition of semi-diarrhoea should be maintained. A protracted condition of this nature might produce the very trouble we are striving to avoid. Most of us have noticed that stocking is not so common in warm weather as in the fall and winter, even though horses are receiving practically the same treatment. This is largely accounted for by the fact that during the seasons when the grass is green, most horses, though not actually on pasture, in one way or another, get an occasional mouthful of grass, which has the laxative effect noted. During seasons when this laxative cannot be obtained a substitute should be provided, and this substitute should not be drugs. The too-common idea of teamsters and owners, that a periodical dose of medicine is necessary to keep the horses healthy is irrational and harmful. A healthy horse requires no drugs, hence the main point is to keep him healthy. Hay and oats, of course, are the foods principally depended upon to produce the necessary vigor, muscular, respiratory, and nervous energy, but something else is necessary to satisfy the appetite and digestion. This "something else" should be both tasty and laxative, and should not be drugs. A few raw roots, as a couple of carrots, a mangle or turnip once daily, preferably at noon, can be recommended. If large quantities of roots are fed to working horses the laxative effects become too marked, and there are some horses which cannot be given them even in small quantities without that result; such horses, of course, must be treated accordingly. When roots cannot be procured, or in cases where they cannot be fed without unfavorable results, a feed of scalded bran twice weekly, a little linseed meal once daily or a little raw linseed oil mixed with the feed occasionally will give good results, or where it is not expedient to feed anything but hay and oats an occasional feed of boiled oats will probably answer the purpose.

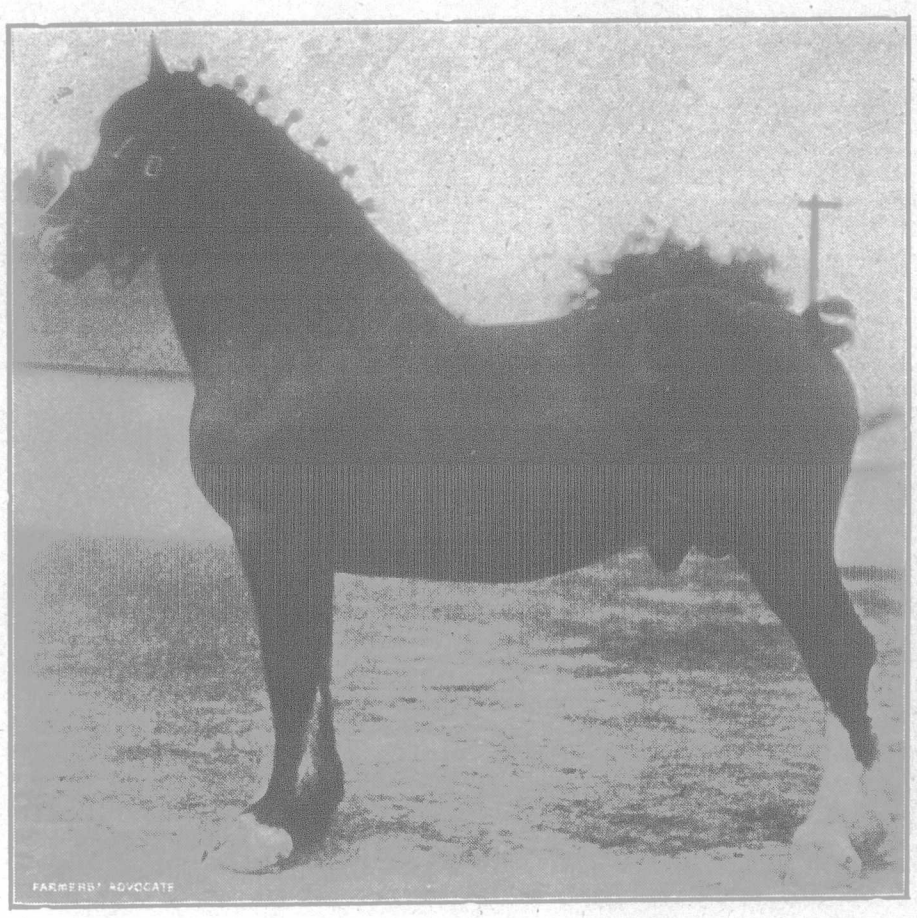
In few words it is, in most cases, necessary to make some slight deviation from dry hay and oats in order to keep the bowels acting properly.

It may be hard to understand, and some will deny the fact, "that horses fed on rolled oats are not so liable to either digestive or leg trouble as those fed on whole oats," but such has been the experience of the writer, both as an owner of horses used solely for road or saddle purposes, and as a veterinarian in attending horses used for both light and heavy work.

A few words re curative treatment. When a horse has reached that stage when he "stocks" it is good practice to act upon both bowels and kidneys. A purgative of 6 to 10 drams of aloes (according to the size of the patient) and 2 drams ginger should be given. After the bowels have regained their normal condition a dessert spoonful of saltpetre should be given in damp feed or water once daily for 3 or 4 days to stimulate the kidneys, after which he should be fed as indicated and given regular exercise.

Hand-rubbing the legs frequently gives good results, and if stocking persists, the application of woolen or other bandages that are slightly elastic, moderately tight, will tend to prevent the trouble. The bandages may remain, if necessary, all the time the horse stands in the stable. The slight pressure and warmth they supply stimulate the circulation and tend to prevent filling.

WHIP.



Lord Gray.

Sweepstakes Clydesdale stallion at the Western Fair for A. Erskine, Parkhill, Ont.

LIVE STOCK.

It is a mistake to breed animals before they have attained a fair size and age.

It is reported that on April 30, 1918, New Zealand had 1,084,288 more sheep than on the corresponding date in 1917.

Our English correspondent writes that during July in the neighborhood of 744 sheep were purchased in Britain for export principally to Canada.

Hog feeders who have used the self-feeder claim that a self-fed pig will make a "hog" of himself more quickly and at less expense than if hand-fed.

The hogs pays a high return for dairy by-products and produces more marketable meat from the same amount of feed consumed than any other farm animal.

The country must depend on the grade stock for the bulk of its meat supply, but there should be an ever-increasing number of pure-breds kept on the average farm.

Rather than permit the ram to run with the flock during the breeding season, it is preferable to confine him to a pen or yard for all but a couple of hours each day.

Those who have been holding off purchasing feeders do not find the price receding much. In fact, market quotations for good feeders are considerably higher at time of writing than they were the first of September.

Those pigs with dry, rough hair and showing general unthriftiness, even though they possess avaricious appetites, may be affected with worms. If symptoms indicate the presence of worms fast the patients for twelve to eighteen hours and then give two to six teaspoonfuls (according to size) of a mixture of one part oil of turpentine to seven parts new milk.

City folk who agitate against the slaughtering of calves and lambs, in order that the future meat supply may be increased, show their ignorance of live-stock raising. The bulk of the calves which are being vealed would not make economical use of grain and roughage which would have to be fed to bring them to maturity. Feed is too high priced to feed to animals which do not give promise of making good use of it. Few calves that would make good breeding stock or feeders are going to the shambles.

The grade may have as good conformation as the pedigreed animal, but the value of the latter is increased owing to the fact that records of its ancestors have been kept. Characteristics of the ancestors will crop out in the progeny even beyond the third and fourth generation, and the deficiencies will appear as well as the good points. The nearer the ancestors of your breeding stock are to the ideal breed type and conformation the more likely is your present herd to throw animals of merit.

The Cattle of Wales.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I have been in Wales looking over the cattle of the country. The "national" breed is now black—they are called Welsh Black Cattle—but there are other breeds, very akin to the Blacks, albeit they all spring from the same tap-root, to wit, the Wild Park Cattle of Druidical days—the Monks Cattle as they have been called, but the aboriginal White Cattle that are now being preserved in herds with a herd book society of their own, but which have since England was England and Wales was Wales been strictly and privately preserved in both a wild and a domesticated state. There are about thirty herds of White Park Cattle in Britain to-day. There is only one of them that is nearly wild—if not quite wild at times, i. e. that of Earl Tankerville, at Chillingham, on the borders of Northumberland. Time was when there were forty-five known herds and it is clearly proved by monastic records that every Monastery in Britain once had its wild white cattle, and any lady who prayed intently at the shrines and had her prayers answered—they were chiefly for a son and heir!—had to give the monks a white bull. Now, strange as it may sound, these white cattle were in the very foundation stone laying of the present Welsh Black cattle. Black calves (which were the cause of all kinds of superstitions and omens) were kept and bred from, and they gave us a Black breed in the fullness of time. These Blacks varied in their color schemes. They "renaged" to browns, and duns, and blacks and whites, i. e. blacks with a white dorsal stripe, but the Welshman, who is woefully fond of black, fixed on the black skin as the real type. Even our bonnie fighters, the Welsh Regiments, wear black—their officers having a "flash" or black tag pinned on at the back of their collars about where the stud goes. But, to return to the cattle, they are now black—as black as the Angus and should have no white, albeit it creeps in at the switch, (the end of the tail), in a few herds, and on the udder in others.

The Welsh Black Cattle Society is now some forty-five years old and its members are chiefly resident in the far North of the country and the far Southwest. For years they were divided but they came together in 1905, owing to a more settled uniformity in type having been reached by the respective breeders in North and South Wales. Undoubtedly dual-purpose the farmers of Wales are now paying more attention to milk recording and that is convincing them that in their own breed they possess a milker nearly as good as the Shorthorn, and a butcher's beast with quite as good a carcass as the "English national" breed. Once a Welsh cow won the championship for milk yields at the London Dairy Show. The flesh of these black cattle is characterized by an absence of excessive fat, being well grained.

The breed is healthy and vigorous, and their relative freedom from tuberculosis is testimony to the open air life they live, many herds of grown-ups being out practically all the winter. All calves born before March 1 are turned out early in June, and they remain out until November. Their ration during their first winter is oat straw chaff, pulped roots, and a little hay. On many hill farms the calves receive nothing but poor quality hay during their first winter. The rule is that Welsh cattle sold for stores receive no concentrated food of any kind when out at grass. Two and three-year-old bullocks are sold to the English Midlands where they are called "runts" and they are finished off on grass the following summer for the London market, having in the intervening winter an allowance of hay, morning and night, with or without cake.

When I was in South Wales I inspected the White Park Cattle owned by Captain A. S. Mathias, at Llangwarren, Letterston, Pembrokeshire, where some sixty