

RURAL - SCHOOL REFORM.

On another page we give an analysis, by Mr. Stothers, of Inspector Cowley's recommendations relating to public-school Continuation Classes in Ontario. These classes should be of great value to the rural districts, if the danger is avoided of converting them into mere annexes of the High Schools, with practically the same programmes and aims. In fact, Mr. Stothers points out how they may, under the proposed plans, prepare for professional life. There is all the more reason why our readers should study Mr. Stothers' letter. We hope that the work in these combination departments in rural and village schools will eventually develop along the lines that will prove best for the men and women who stay on the farms.

It is serious, if true, as Mr. Stothers claims, that the men recently appointed to train teachers in the Normal Schools are lacking in experience of rural-school affairs. Continuation Classes and High Schools are, after all, of less importance to farmers than good general public schools.

HORSES.

LAMENESS IN HORSES.

(Continued.)

SHOULDER LAMENESS.

Shoulder lameness is not as common as many people think. By many, all obscure lamenesses in the fore legs are said to exist in the shoulder. At the same time, shoulder lameness is not by any means uncommon, and exists in three forms: First, disease of the shoulder-joint; second, sprain of the muscle that passes over the front of the joint. This muscle is principally tendinous; that is, it contains little flesh or muscular tissue. Third, sprain of the muscles on the shoulder-blade, some of which attach inferiorly to the point of the elbow, and some to the anterior and external surface of the arm. This lameness is usually called "Shoilder Slip or Sweeny." Disease of the shoulder-joint, fortunately, is not common, and may arise from sprains, bruises or rheumatism. Inflammation is set up in the joint. The ligament (called the capsular ligament) that encloses the whole joint becomes thickened and distended with synovia (usually called joint-oil). The articular cartilage (a cartilage that covers the ends of all bones that go to form the true joints) becomes removed by ulceration, or, in rheumatic disease, converted into a porcellaneous deposit.

Symptoms.—The horse is very lame. In all shoulder lameness, the peculiarity of gait is, to a more or less marked degree, indication of the seat of trouble. The patient does not carry his limb straight forward, but with a rotary, the foot being made to form the segment of a circle; he brings the leg forward with a somewhat sweeping motion, in some cases the foot being dragged or trailed forward along the ground, and he has difficulty in lifting the foot over any object, and is inclined to stub the toe and stumble. In shoulder or knee lameness, the signs of pain are often more noticeable when the patient lifts the foot from the ground, while, in disease below the knee, pain is expressed when the foot comes in contact with the ground. Upon manipulating the joint, pain, heat and swelling will be detected. In order to detect the swelling, it is often necessary to press to one side a muscle that passes loosely over the joint. If the limb be lifted and moved backwards and forwards, the patient will evince pain, caused by the movement of the bones of the joint. In some cases this will cause the animal to lift his fore part bodily from the ground. It must be understood that uneasiness when these movements are performed is not of itself sufficient grounds for diagnosis, as some horses are fidgety and will not tolerate such handling; but, if there be the peculiarity of gait noted, along with pain, heat and swelling, we may conclude that the joint is the seat of trouble.

Treatment.—If properly treated in the early stages, a perfect recovery is probable, but if change of structure, especially sloughing of the articular cartilage, has taken place, the most favorable termination we can expect is a stiff joint; and as an animal with a stiff shoulder-joint is practically useless, unless valuable for breeding purposes, it is better to destroy him. In the early stages, rest in a comfortable box stall, soothing applications, as bathing frequently with hot water and rubbing with an anodyne liniment, as 2 oz. laudanum, 1 oz. acetate of lead, to a pint of water, for a few days, until the acute inflammation is allayed, and following this with repeated blistering, will in most cases effect a cure in the course of a few months. But if the injury be severe, a speedy cure cannot be effected.

STRAIN OF THE FLEXOR BRACHI.

This muscle, as stated, is highly tendinous, and

passes over a double groove on the upper part of the bone of the arm, as a rope passes over a pulley. Both muscle and groove are covered with cartilage, and enclosed in a synovial sheath. The function of this muscle is to raise the forearm and fetch it forward. It is good practice to put on a high-heeled shoe during treatment.

Symptoms.—The peculiarity of gait is similar to that of shoulder-joint lameness. There will be pain on pressure of the part, also heat and some swelling, but, on account of the muscle being principally tendinous, the swelling is not well marked. If the foot be lifted and the leg carried backwards, the patient will evince great pain, and, if it be a severe case, will rear off both fore legs. In most cases lameness increases on exercise. The result of sprain of this muscle is inflammation of the tendons and structures of the sheath which encloses them, which, if not arrested, will run on to ulceration of the cartilage and decay of the bone, and finally to ossification (conversion into bone) of the whole substance of muscle and tendon. The usual cause of sprain of the flexor brachi is stumbling or falling forward, with the foot backwards. This puts great strain in the region of the shoulder-joint, and the muscle under discussion is often violently stretched.

studs, as a center, they were scattered into different parts of Ireland, and gave immense satisfaction.

They are described as heavy-bodied, rather low-set, yet smart, with clean, strong limbs, good style and action. I can readily imagine that such a horse would, for many parts of Ireland, be extremely useful. The Clydesdale and Shire are too heavy and slow. The loads drawn are not heavy, and therefore a horse more alert and active meets the necessities for plow, cart and gig better than a greater weight. At all events, it seems clear that the so-called Irish Draft Horse has a fast hold on the memories of the agricultural population, and hence the demand for its restoration. It is not strange that the peculiar conditions in Ireland should demand a different style of horse than Scotland or England, where the situation and needs are different, but, so far as I can learn, these horses have entirely passed out of existence.

It is said that the brothers' families who originated them died out altogether, and with them the horses disappeared also. Whether they can ever be restored again, is a question yet unanswered. The Department, I understand, have undertaken it, but this is scarcely such work as should be assigned to a public branch of Government. It cannot be handed to any official to work out. The guiding spirit in such a work must have time, and must also be gifted with an intuition to

choose wisely among different specimens, so as to fix the type required. To produce one animal, is not enough. The object is to found a family with the required characteristics and power to transmit them. The sires should be possessed with prepotency, so as to leave their impress on the ordinary breeding mare. I am informed that, answering to the call of the Department, five stallions of the original type have been discovered, but although every encouragement has been held out, no mares have, so far, been presented.

The Department have lately opened a record in which stallions of the desired type are to be registered, the object being to stimulate the further production of horses of this type and preserve them in a distinct class. The ideal set forth in the Department's leaflet is as follows: Not less than fifteen hands high; short, clean, flat legs; well-set joints; good feet, good head

and rein; well-laid-back shoulders; indications throughout of power to do general farm and harness work; action free and light-stepping. It is further stated that horses for draft purposes are what is required, and that animals of the half-bred Hunter type, or showing a distinct trace of Shire, Clydesdale or Hackney blood will not be eligible, and will not be inspected.

LIVE STOCK.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER.

Having just returned from a three days' visit to the Dublin Horse Show, it is not unnatural that certain reflections should occur. The great social event of the year in the Irish capital took place at the same moment that the Government proclaimed under a statute of King William IV., six counties in the south and west. This has been caused by a recrudescence of unrest in that region, consequent on the movement for the reinstatement of evicted tenants of twenty years ago, and the determination to drive off the farmers, locally called "planters," who took their places. This movement has been characterized by a kind of grim retribution, which takes the form of driving off the cattle which the planters have grazing on the lands formerly occupied by the evicted. Along with this somewhat humorous phase of agrarian trouble, there has been a more serious feature, viz., the attack upon Lord Ashtown, who, up to a few years ago, was one of the most popular landlords in the West. His seat is in County Galway, and there he was unmolested, even when things were at the worst, in the eighties. Some time ago he was under the necessity of discharging some of his employees, and since then he has led a sorry life. The outrage, however, did not take place in Galway, but at a lonely shooting-lodge in County Waterford. One side of the



Cuddington (imp.) (9178).

Five-year-old Hackney stallion. Second at the Canadian National Exhibition, 1907, in the class 15 hands 2 inches and over. Imported and exhibited by Graham Bros., Claremont, Ontario.

Treatment.—As in shoulder-joint lameness, it is well to apply a high-heeled shoe, which enables the patient, while standing, to have the diseased parts in a state of repose. The patient must have perfect rest, and the same local treatment as for disease of the joint. It must be understood that in all cases where horses that have been worked and highly fed are given rest, it is good practice to administer a purgative of 6 to 10 drams aloes, according to size, and reduce the grain ration or discontinue it entirely, and feed on bran and hay. In cases where the pain is excessive and long continued, the animal may be noticed to fail in condition, and then should be fed sufficient grain to keep him up.

"WHIP."

THE IRISH DRAFT HORSE.

The following memo is by Hon. John Dryden, in the report of the commission to inquire into the workings of the Irish Department of Agriculture:

The improvement of the horse is more difficult than any other class of live stock. There are in every country so many opinions as to what is best and what cross is suitable for the district, that it is always found very difficult to unite the people in a co-operative way. In Ireland, however, I have found more than ordinary unanimity of action, and I have no doubt in most parts much improvement is going on.

I have repeatedly heard a demand expressed for the restoration of what is called "The Irish Draft Horse." No doubt a species of horses once existed in Ireland known by that name. So far as I know, they were never registered, but from the best-known facts, they were originally produced by two brothers living, I believe, in or near the County of Kildare. From these