

CARE OF THE FOAL.

Many colts are lost annually from the want of proper knowledge of their requirements on the part of their owners. When the foal is dropped, if it be in the stable, the greatest possible care should be taken to see that the surroundings are as clean as possible. The large, light, well-ventilated box stall, in which the mare should be placed a few days before foaling, should be well cleaned and aired at least a week before foaling time. A few handfuls of fresh, air-slaked lime scattered on the floor acts favorably in destroying many bacterial organisms which so often cause joint-ill where such precautions are not heeded. In the case of this disease, the joints swell up, the colt shows inability to stand or walk, and the trouble usually terminates fatally. If the colt was saved through persistent nursing, permanent lameness would be the result, and the animal's usefulness very seriously interfered with. The afterbirth and all soiled bedding should be removed after the mare foals, and plenty of fresh, clean straw should then be provided.

Instinct is supposed to teach the mare to rupture the membrane in which the foetus is enclosed as soon as birth takes place. But, if parturition takes place unaccompanied by much distress or exertion, the mare frequently remains in a pro-cumbent position for a greater or less length of time, during which time the colt suffocates. Therefore, it is the duty of the attendant to rupture this membrane (the placenta) and remove all foreign accumulations from the colt's nostrils. The cold air coming in contact with the colt's body, causes a rapid reflexed action of the muscles, and breathing is induced. Hence, the importance of removing the membrane as quickly as possible.

Furthermore, a soft, strong string which has been well disinfected in a five-per-cent. solution of creolin or carbolic acid, should be tied tightly around the navel cord, about one and one-half inches from the body. Then, with a scraping motion of the knife, the navel cord should be disconnected about one inch below the string. Then bathe the navel string three or four times a day with some good disinfectant, as a five-per-cent. solution of creolin or carbolic acid. After such disinfection, about three parts boracic acid should be mixed with one part iodoform, and applied to the colt's navel by means of a bandage fastened over the back. By such an application, the navel cord soon dries up, and becomes immune from poisonous organisms.

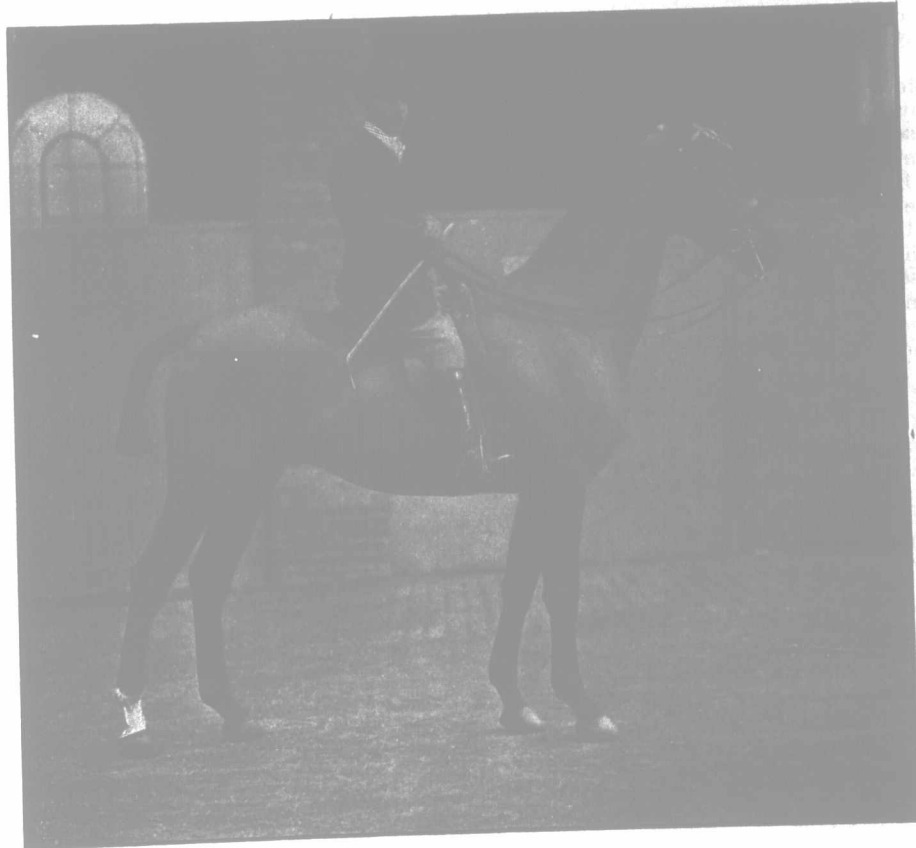
Bleeding from the navel sometimes occurs, and should be prevented by applying a ligature, as described above.

Occasionally a colt will be seen to void its urine through the navel, and this is frequently co-existent with joint-ill. In this case, the urachus, a foetal organ which conveys the urine through the umbilical opening into the allantois or middle foetal membrane, remains persistent in performing its function. At birth, the function of the urachus should cease. If, for any reason, the normal urinary channel be impervious, the urine must escape from the navel. Under all circumstances, the attendant should satisfy himself as to whether the urinary system is capable of relieving the contents of the bladder. If, after satisfying himself on this point, the urine still escapes from the navel, a ligature should be applied. The ligature should consist either of disinfected silk or sterilized catgut. Caustic is very often used with good results. When using caustic, as butter of antimony or tincture of myrrh, it should be applied to the opening by means of a feather once daily, until the escape of urine from the navel has ceased.

Constipation is, perhaps, one of the commonest ailments of newborn foals, and undoubtedly is the direct cause of great fatality. When the colt is born, its rectum contains a quantity of dark-colored, waxy, faecal matter (meconium), which has accumulated during the colt's existence in the womb. Without mechanical assistance, the colt is often unable to expel these hard faeces. Nature makes provision for this difficulty by arranging that the first milk excreted by the mare shall act as a purgative on the foal. Consequently, this increases the normal condition of the bowels, and the meconium is liberated. Owing to the fact that many mares are fed on dry feed up to the time of foaling, the first milk has this purgative action only to a slight extent, and other means must be resorted to. An injection of a pint of warm water should be given by means of a syringe, and repeated frequently until the desired effect is produced. Sometimes this sub-

stance may be removed by means of the oiled finger. Failing in this, a dose of two or three tablespoonfuls of pure Italian castor oil may be given the colt, by inserting the spoon containing the oil fairly well back into the mouth. Always avoid bruising the colt's gums with the spoon, as this would tend to check its nursing, resulting in a serious setback. If the colt should be very weak and young, purgation would be more advantageously induced by administering a dose of raw linseed oil to the mare. The lacteal apparatus of the mare is very susceptible to the action of strong purgatives; hence, aloetic purgatives should be avoided, as superpurgation is easily induced in the young colt.

On the other hand, diarrhea is a common malady, but is usually difficult to treat successfully. It may come on during the first or second day after birth, and may be caused by the mare's first milk having too strong a purgative action. As a rule, before attempting to check it by administering medicine, it is better to wait a day to see if it will not cease spontaneously, as in many cases it will do. Should the diarrhea begin at a later period, the cause may not be apparent. Indigestion is often the starting point, and a common cause of this is not allowing the colt to nurse for five or six hours at a time. If the mare is kept from the colt very long, possibly for the purpose of work, the mare's blood becomes overheated from both worry and work. Consequently, the milk has not its normal strengthening effect, but rather the reverse. By the time she returns, the colt is very hungry, and takes more milk than its stomach is able to digest. As a rule, this condition terminates in both indigestion and diarrhea. It should be remembered that a colt's stomach is small, and requires food often. Therefore, during the first three weeks it



Broadwood.

Champion at the London, England, Hunter Show, March, 1908.

should not be required to go more than three hours at a time without nourishment. Again, it may be caused by an irritant in the bowels.

In treating diarrhea in young animals, the object should be to induce healthy evacuation of the bowels by mild remedies, rather than by the administration of powerful astringents. Acidity of the stomach very often accompanies indigestion. In this case, a small quantity of limewater, given in about the same quantity of the mother's milk, acts favorably in counteracting such acidity. The mare's milk may be rendered less laxative by feeding dry feed in preference to grass or mashes. If the colt suffers considerable distress and strains often, three or four drops of laudanum may be given by the mouth in a little of the mother's milk every three or four hours, until a change is seen. If the diarrhea is due to an irritant, a couple of tablespoonfuls of pure Italian castor oil will remove the trouble, and usually produces a healthy condition of the bowels.

The young colt should receive considerable attention by the attendant until it becomes strong. A little attention in the beginning may save a huge doctor bill later on. So much mortality exists among young colts that, in case one is sick, veterinary skill should be employed. To put off sending for the veterinary surgeon until the owner has lost hope of the colt's recovery, is indeed poor economy.

Hastings Co., Ont.

A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT.

(Jas. Hayden, Huron Co., Ont., Horsemen's Experience Competition.)

In February, 1903, I sold a very nice team for the sum of \$290. We raised them and kept them until they were nine and ten years old; therefore, the price seemed like so much profit to start with. In the month of March I looked around for several days until I came across what I considered a very promising team of heavy-draft fillies, one rising two years and the other three. They were full sisters, and very well matched. I bought the two for the sum of \$280, and a set of show harness for \$40. When I bought them, they were very poor, and covered with long, shaggy hair. My neighbors laughed, and said I would not want to keep them long, for they were so rough-looking. We only had them home, and in a very warm stable for a week, when they were continually biting themselves all over their bodies. I examined them, and found their bodies almost covered with lice, which seemed to be making them almost crazy. I did not know how to get rid of them on account of so much hair, so we got a pair of clippers and clipped them both, then took a brush and brushed them thoroughly, then rubbed them with common machine oil from their head to their feet. This made a complete job, and we had no more trouble. From this they commenced to gain, and by seed time were in very good shape. With the aid of an old horse I got for his feed, they were able to do all my work. In July I bred them to a first-class horse, and got both in foal. In the spring of 1904 one of them had twins, both of which were dead. The other raised a very fine filly. I again bred them to the same horse, and got them both in foal. In the spring of 1905, the one which lost her twins had a beautiful filly, smart and right for 24 hours, when it commenced to go lame on one hind leg, and in 48 hours it was dead. The other had another filly, a very nice one, which lived and did well. I did not breed them again, but took pretty good care of them until the following summer, when I sold them, in June, for the sum of \$500. They weighed 3,400, and were sound, and had no faults. I showed them seven times at township fairs, and got four firsts and three seconds for heavy-draft team, and two second prizes for a brood mare. I then sold the two fillies; one was 1½ years old, the other 2½ years old. I got \$145 for the year-old, and \$185 for the two-year-old, which made \$830 altogether, less \$280 which I paid for the mares, leaving me \$600 and all their work for the three years I had them. I bought more heavy colts, one of which, at two years and five months, weighs 1,545 pounds.

I think the greatest benefit I have derived from my own experience is in feeding idle horses and colts in winter. We have been feeding a good part of fall-wheat straw for a number of years. We cut it and put it in a box, mix what meal we are feeding with it, and moisten it with water; if hot water, so much the better. Mix it thoroughly, and give each horse a pailful; also a few roots. They will not want much hay—just enough for them to eat up clean in about one hour and a quarter altogether. Give this three times a day, and they will do better than when feed is kept before them all the time.

It is not surprising that a great many horses this spring bear evidence to the high prices that have prevailed for oats and hay. Standing on town and city markets may be seen many teams which look as though their winter's fare had been straw, and not too much of that, hitched to loads of hay for sale. It has been a close year, and some farmers have doubtless been obliged to sell hay, even when it meant depriving their horses. But it does seem a pity, from the standpoint, not only of humanity, but of economy. Underfed horses mean inefficient team power, poorer tillage, less of it, and less accomplished per teamster.