

to four years, the third molar in each row (also a temporary one) is shed and replaced by a permanent one, and the sixth molar in each row appears. It is not at all uncommon to observe a colt between two and a half and three or between three and a half and four years old to become unthrifty and have apparent difficulty in masticating. He does not appear sick, but becomes dull and listless, and does not eat well. During the growth of the permanent molars, which are to occupy the space previously occupied by the temporary ones, the fangs or roots of the latter gradually disappear by absorption as the new teeth grow. In normal cases, by the time the new tooth has reached the level of the gums the fangs of the temporary ones have become so absorbed that the crown drops off, but in many cases, on account of incomplete absorption, this does not occur, and the new tooth, continuing to grow, forces the temporary one above the level of its fellows, and, as a consequence, mastication becomes very difficult or practically impossible, and unless the animal be fed on food that requires little mastication he will fail in flesh and energy. When unthriftiness, without apparent cause, is noticed in colts of these ages, the molars should be carefully examined, and if any of the crowns are not shed they should be removed with a forceps.

In older horses the trouble is usually the presence of sharp points on the outer edge of the upper molars and the inner edge of the lower ones. The lower jaw of the horse is narrower than the upper jaw, hence the rows of molars are closer together, and as the motion during mastication is lateral, it can readily be seen that the molars in the upper rows will be worn from without inwards and upwards, leaving the outside of the teeth the longer, and the lower molars will be worn from within outwards and downwards, leaving the inner side of the teeth the longer. The teeth are irregular in outline on each side, hence on account of the manner in which they are worn there are numerous little sharp points existing on the sides of the teeth mentioned. These, in many cases, irritate the cheeks and tongue, and the degree of inconvenience or inability to masticate properly will depend upon the size and direction of these points, but in most cases they interfere to some extent. Treatment, of course, consists in removing with a rasp these points. In the performance of this operation, a mouth speculum to keep the mouth open and rasps of different shapes are required, and care must be taken to not remove too much tooth. Special care should be observed to not rasp the bearing surfaces of the teeth. These surfaces are normally rough or serrated in order to grind the food, and if made smooth by the rasp the horse will be in a worse condition than before.

In other cases, from various causes, one or more of the molars become longer than their fellows, the opposing tooth or teeth being abnormally soft and wearing more quickly, or their roots decaying, and allowing the tooth to be forced further into the socket, the long tooth or teeth after a while attain such length that they come in contact with the opposite gums and render mastication impossible. In such cases the long teeth must be shorn and rasped down to a level with their fellows. A horse whose molars are in this condition will, of course, never again have a good mouth, but after the teeth are shorn he will be able to masticate fairly well.

Decaying teeth are not uncommon in horses. This condition is usually indicated by a fetid discharge from the nostril or a fetid breath. In some cases difficulty is experienced in locating the diseased tooth, but when the disease has advanced to that stage in which it can be located, it must be extracted.

Wolf teeth (those small, supernumerary teeth which appear in front of the first molars in the upper rows) are generally supposed to have an injurious effect upon the eyes. This is a mistaken idea. They seldom do any harm unless they are large and in such a position that they interfere with mastication; but being supernumerary and having no function, they should be extracted. The somewhat common habit of knocking the crowns off should not be followed. They should be drawn with a pair of forceps. We repeat that sufficient attention is not given to horses' teeth, and that a dollar spent for having them dressed is usually a good investment, while a bungling job does more harm than good.

"WHIP."

### Christmas Number Worth Year's Subscription.

Please find enclosed my renewal subscription for "The Farmer's Advocate" for next year. I am well pleased with the paper. It ought to be in the home of every farmer in Canada; it would be money well spent. The Christmas Number alone is well worth \$1.50. With best wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, I remain,

JOHN A. MILLMAN.

East Prince, P. E. I.

### Sable Island and Its Ponies.

By Aubrey Fullerton.

"They all have their peculiarities, just like people. Some are intelligent and lovable, others are stupid and slow, and never train out of it."

Thus writes a resident of Sable Island about the somewhat famous Sable Island ponies. Often on the streets of Halifax may be seen a team of these little ponies, drawing a little carriage at an easy trot, and sometimes making a very stylish appearance. They are to be seen most commonly there because Halifax is the nearest port to Sable Island, and shipments of ponies are frequently received by steamer and sold by public auction. They afterward are sometimes sent to other parts of Canada, for the Sable Island ponies are much valued, particularly for young folks' use. The fact, too, that they come from an obscure and very dangerous part of Canada, gives them a special interest.

Sable Island bears the unenviable name of "the graveyard of the Atlantic," with a dismal record of 155 shipwrecks in the past hundred years. Yet it is only a sandbar, thrown up by the junction of two ocean currents. It lies about eighty-five miles from the nearest point on the Nova Scotia coast, or 150 miles south-east of Halifax. Crescent-shaped, and bending to the north, its whole length is twenty-three miles, with a maximum width of only a little more than one mile. Sands blown by Atlantic winds, sometimes reaching a speed of sixty and eighty miles an hour, have brought the Island into being, and in some places the sand-hills are 110 feet above high water. The sand is ever drifting. In a single night the telephone posts are often buried entirely out of sight, and the sand drifts with such a biting force that it kills all but the hardiest trees and sends all

swordgrass. I think it compensates for the rigors of the winter."

But what of the ponies? Quite as much as the sandhills themselves, they are one of the features of the Island. The lineal descendants of animals left there over three hundred years ago—probably by Sebastian Cabot or the early Portuguese explorers—they number to-day about two hundred. They roam the Island, wild, in droves of from five to fifteen, each drove having its own special feeding and drinking places. Says my informant again:

"The ponies are very hardy, and live out all winter without any shelter but the banks. They get thin by spring, but fatten quickly when the grass comes. Those used by the stations are stabled every night in winter, and are fed a little feed besides the hay, and are so kept in good condition for work. The snow rarely lies long, and when the ground is bare the wild ones have plenty of hay, as the wild grass is thick and long, and in fall dries and lies over in bunches. The Island is nearly all covered with grass, and has many fresh-water ponds. The wild ponies are not afraid of a person on foot, as they are never harmed, but when chased to get them into the pound to ship, they are like deer, and never give up until forced right into the wings of the pound. In color they are brown and black, with occasionally a yellow one, black and white, or brown and white, patched."

They are only shipped from the Island when the superintendent considers the supply large enough to spare some, and then he selects a lot of twenty or thirty and sends to Halifax. The difficulties encountered in catching them are frequently repeated when the time comes for landing and selling them. Some of them are particularly unmanageable, as was one high-tempered animal

that refused to be handled until very heroic measures were taken with him; at the end of half an hour he walked away as quietly as a well-trained farm horse—conquered. Usually, however, they are tractable, and soon learn to know what is expected of them. An untrained pony sells at the auction rooms for about twenty dollars, but a pair of well-matched animals, after training, have been valued at \$600. They average about 700 pounds in weight, and are both larger and harder than the Shetland ponies.

Plucky little creatures, toughened by the winds that they have felt all their lives, and well

in keeping with the peculiar character of their Island home, are these ponies of the Atlantic sandbar, and they are withal historic. An unbroken line of descent for three centuries or more—no one knows just when they came there or just where they came from—in the face of adverse Nature, is a good Canadian record, even if it be to the credit of a ragged, shaggy pony.

### Horse Notes.

Feed the growing colts enough grain to keep them growing.

Common scratches are simply the result of lack of proper care and cleanliness.

Sluggish horses are too often made so by the way they are handled.

Sulphur and sweet oil, mixed to a thin salve, is an excellent cure for scratches.

One of the first things a growing colt should be broken to is to have his feet handled.

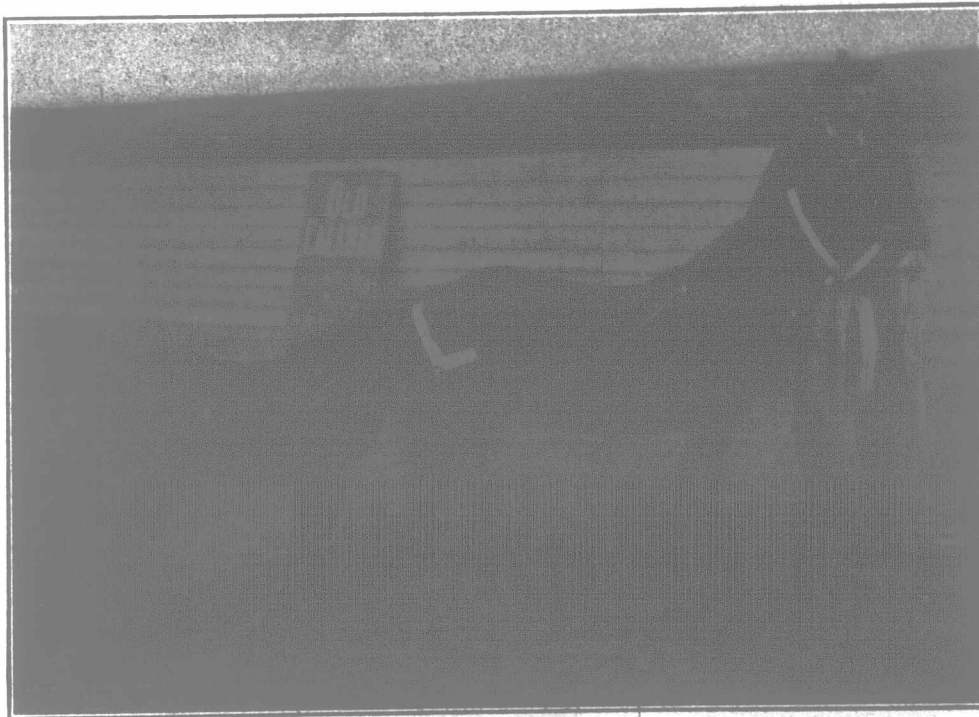
A large and strong body and frame cannot, in fact, be developed except by a bulky quantity of coarse food being consumed.

It is by exercise and hard-work that horses are prepared for severe exercise, and not by high feeding, as some think.

Different horses require different methods of training, different appliances and different handling; consequently the trainer must study each individual case on its merits.

No matter what the condition of any horse on the farm, there is no excuse for abusing it by stinting it in its rations.

There is no such thing as making horses with-



Shetland Mare and Foal.

animalkind hurrying to shelter. Yet the Island is not by any means bare and desolate, as will presently be shown.

Here, on their little sandbar, live forty of our fellow Canadians, who are commissioned by the Dominion Government as a life-saving service. By their efforts, Sable Island has lost much of its dread to Atlantic sailors. There are two light-houses, fog alarms, and a series of life-saving stations, and a wireless-telegraph equipment has recently been installed. Every day, and in thick weather twice a day, a circuit of the Island is made, with a keen look-out for wrecks along the coast. It is the duty of the force to give every possible assistance in case of a wreck, and when a ship has been driven on the sands, which extend miles out to sea, to man the lifeboats and bring the crew ashore.

Twice a year a Government steamer goes to the Island from Halifax with supplies, and during the summer there are occasional visitors; except for these, the forty souls are a little world by themselves. Yet it is not so dreary a home as it might seem. The present superintendent has been stationed there for seventeen years, and his daughter, with a spirit of true loyalty to her home, writes of it thus, in a recent letter which I have already quoted:

"In summer a lovelier spot could not be found. Garden flowers and all kinds of vegetables grow most beautifully and luxuriantly. Strawberries and blueberries grow wild everywhere, and very large. Our visitors admit that they have a superior flavor, too. Last season there was a crop of seventy barrels of cranberries, and some years blackberries are quite plentiful. In the fall the Island is a poem of color, golden-rod and blue asters gleaming everywhere in the green, shiny