

The Literature of the Farm.

The character and quality of the books and papers we read doubtless exert a greater influence in shaping our course of action in life than we are aware of, or are willing to acknowledge. The political proclivities of the people are largely the result of their regular reading of the organ or exponent of a party, presenting, generally, a biased view in the discussion of public questions, in which devotion to party interests play a prominent part. Similarly, at least in so far as it appears to our judgment and reason, the character of the literature devoted to distinctively agricultural and allied topics which one reads, has more or less influence in directing his choice and course in the operations of the farm in relation to stock-raising, cultivation of the soil, crop rotation, and the special lines of the business to which he decides to devote the most attention. The quality of one's reading, from a moral point of view, the most important of all the incidents of life, unconsciously affects the character and tendencies of the reader; especially is this true of the plastic minds of the youthful members of the family, and proportionately so of those of maturer years. Hence the importance of the exercise of judgment and discrimination in the choice of the books and periodical papers placed in the list of the literature of the farm home. Circumstances may not admit of securing a large library, and a few well-chosen books are better than a larger number purchased without due regard to their reliability and helpful character. But, by all means, do some book-reading. Exclusive perusal of periodicals is too miscellaneous and scrappy to be thorough. Persons who confine themselves to newspaper reading lack in breadth and depth of knowledge, and are liable to degenerate until satisfied with the petty personal gossip of the neighborhood. It is true that the working farmer has comparatively little time for reading, especially in the seasons for busy outdoor work; but in the long winter evenings he and his family have more favorable opportunities for reading than have city people, whose evenings are broken in upon by various distractions incident to their social life.

A wisely-chosen magazine, and a journal devoted to the specialties of farming and farm life, in addition to the local weekly and a daily newspaper, where the postal department provides a daily service, are not expensive luxuries, and can well be afforded by most farmers, and time can generally be found to read at least the portions of these periodicals in which one feels most interested. And in making choice of these, discrimination should be exercised, after comparison, to ascertain which is the most reliable and helpful in the general and special branches of farm operations and family life. The price of the yearly sub-

scription to a farm paper is but little, especially when one considers its weekly cost, and it is a poor production that is not worth to a farmer many times its cost in useful information and helpful hints and suggestions. But in this, as in most other things, the best is the cheapest, and care should be given in the selection to be sure that the literature chosen is directed by practical and experienced writers, who know what they are writing about, and are not likely to mislead their readers.

HORSE

Lameness in Horses.

(Continued.)

SPLINT LAMENESS.

Splint lameness is quite common and sometimes quite alarming in young horses, and occasionally in horses of all ages. It is rarely seen in the hind limbs. In order to understand and appreciate the trouble, it is necessary to have an intelligent idea of the bony anatomy of the horse from the knee to the fetlock. This part is usually called the cannon, and consists of three bones one large cannon bone extending the whole distance from knee in front and from hock behind to their respective fetlocks. This bone has a somewhat broad and flat posterior surface. To both internal and external edge of this surface is attached by ligamentous attachments a small, somewhat triangular bone, of considerable size above, where it articulates with the bones of the knee, and gradually decreasing in size as it extends downwards, becoming quite small, and terminating in a small nodule, somewhat pea-shaped, a little more than two-thirds down the large bone. This nodule can be easily felt on each side of the limb a few inches above the fetlock. In fine-limbed horses without long hair on their legs, they can sometimes be seen, and are occasionally mistaken for splints. A splint consists in bony union between the large and small bones. Inflammation between the bones is set up, usually simply by concussion during ordinary travelling. As a result of the inflammation, an exudate is thrown out. This is, of course, soft at first, but quickly becomes converted into bone, and unites the large and small bones by bony union. An enlargement of greater or less size is noticed which, in most cases, gradually disappears by absorption until nothing can be noticed; at the same time, the ossific (bony) union between the large and small bones is permanent. We often

hear people say that a horse over seven years old never has a splint. This arises from the fact that the visible enlargement has usually disappeared by the time the animal reaches that age, but, as stated, the union between the bones still exists. This absorption does not always take place, and it is not uncommon to observe well-marked splints in horses of all ages. In some cases the splint is double—that is, an enlargement is noticeable on each side of the leg—and in such cases there is generally an ossific deposit extending across the posterior surface of the large bone from one splint to the other. This often causes an irritation to the suspensory ligament, which passes down this surface, and causes permanent lameness. Except in cases of this kind, and in those in which the splint is so high that the knee joint is involved, splints seldom cause persistent or permanent lameness.

Symptoms—In many cases there is no lameness. The first intimation of the presence of splint is the appearance of the enlargement, which gradually disappears. At the same time, splint lameness is often seen. The symptoms are usually characteristic. A horse lame from splint will usually stand and walk sound, but if asked to go faster than a walk will show well-marked lameness, the head drooping decidedly when the sound foot touches the ground. The lameness is often noticed before there is any visible enlargement. When a horse, especially a young one, shows this peculiarity of lameness, splint may be suspected. Manipulation will usually discover the seat of trouble. By pressing with the thumb and finger the line of attachment between the large and small bones, from the knee to the termination of the splint bone, the seat can be detected by the horse flinching and lifting the leg, and, if severe pressure be exerted, he will often rear on his hind legs. The usual seat of splint is the inner surface of fore leg, but may be on the outer surface of both. The hind limb is seldom affected, but when it is, the seat is usually the outer surface. When we know the peculiarity of the lameness and the manner of locating it, there should be little difficulty in locating the trouble.

Treatment.—Lameness is usually present only during the inflammatory stage. When the exudate becomes ossified (converted into bone), the inflammatory action ceases and lameness disappears, unless the enlargement be of sufficient size and so situated that it causes irritation to the suspensory ligament, or involves the knee joint. Splint lameness sometimes appears very suddenly. A horse may be driven a journey and go perfectly sound, and after a rest, when taken out to drive home, may go very lame when asked to go faster than a walk. Treatment should be directed to allay the inflammation. Of course, the horse must be given rest. The seat of the splint should be showered with cold water several times daily for two or three days. This is often all that is necessary, and he will go sound, and after a while the enlargement will be noticed. In other cases lameness is more persistent, and it becomes necessary to apply a blister. A second or third blister is sometimes necessary, and in some cases it is necessary to have him fired by a veterinarian. In rare cases the lameness is persistent, and a long rest is necessary, and, as stated, lameness may be permanent. When lameness does not exist, it is seldom considered necessary to treat. Friction or blistering has a tendency to hasten absorption of the enlargement, but in most cases nature effects this without extraneous assistance. As a simple matter of fact, there are few horses that have done considerable road work that are free from splints, although they may never have gone lame, and there is no visible enlargements. Unless a splint is very large, double, or very close to the joint, it is not considered an unsoundness.

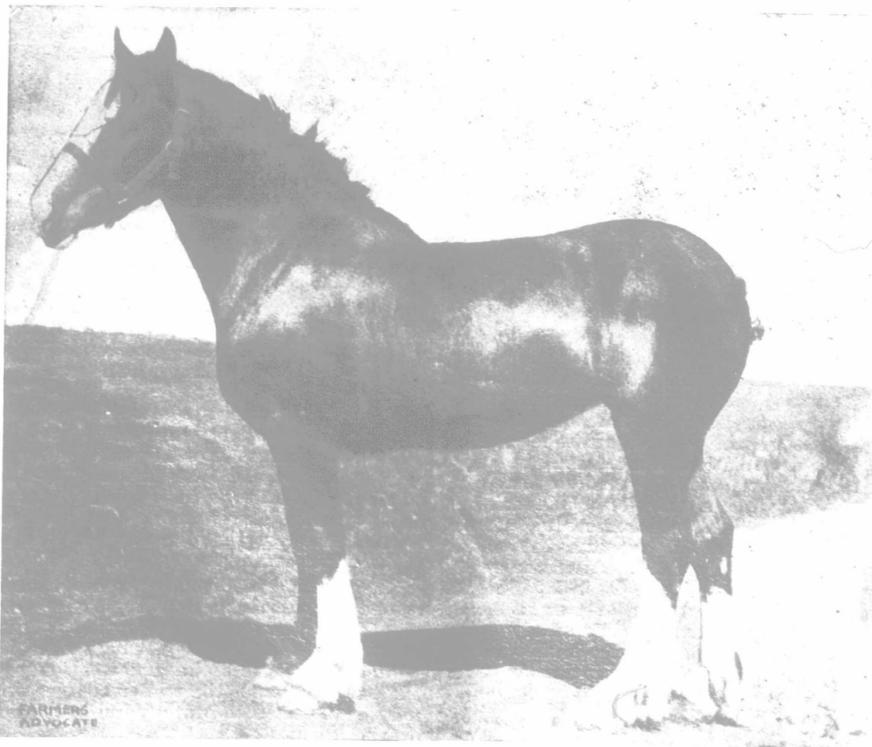
"W.F.I.P."

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"There can be no doubt but that the chestnut is an impressive color in a horse and in other words, has a strong tendency to reproduce itself, states Sir Walter Gilbey. A chestnut stallion, put to a mare will almost certain throw a chestnut foal."

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Regarding the longevity of horses J. W. Wadsworth Sons Co. of Charlotte, North Carolina, write:—"We owned a mare that died at the age of 44 years, and was used by my family for 29 years, and worked up to the age of 39 years." This is an unusual instance of years, few horses living that long.



CLYDESDALE FILLY, "MAUD OF STANGE."

Second in the Two-year-old Class, Regina. Sire, Baronson. Imported and owned by A. & G. Math, Lumsden, Sask.