

If you are looking for a new drafter, why not buy a mare? She will work as well as a gelding, and if bred may raise a colt which will soon be worth as much as the original price of the mare.

Five or ten dollars extra for the service fees of a horse often brings ten times the original outlay in the increased value of the resulting offspring. The best sire is the one to breed to, regardless of the higher service fee.

The farm is the only source of the country's horse supply, and the way to make the country famous for horse-breeding is not for the business to be monopolized by a few noted breeders, but for every farmer to produce one, two or more high-class draft colts each year.

Cross-breeding is seldom advisable in horse-raising. An indifferent sort of misfit horse is almost sure to result. The market has little demand for go-betweens. A draft horse or a light horse of good breeding and conformation is sure of a ready sale at a good price.

When allowing the pregnant mare to go in and out of her loose box stall, always be careful to have the door securely fastened open, so that there is no possibility of her being injured by squeezing through a small space and catching her abdomen. This may cause abortion.

Heavily-loaded horses should seldom be whipped while drawing. A tap with the whip at this time is not unlikely to cause them to become excited and to jump, which may cause them to strain some part of their make-up. It is a cruel practice to hitch a horse to a load which is more than he can move, and then punish him because of his inability to do so.

Overloading the team should be avoided. Where heavy teaming is to be done, the load should be just what the team can draw along steadily, without overexertion. Small or light loads are not in the interests of economy in the work, but, on the other hand, overtaxing the horses' strength often proves a strain from which the animal does not recover very quickly, and a continuance of the practice generally results disastrously, the animal's joints or constitution finally giving away in some particular, thus shortening his period of usefulness.

Improper systems of feeding, badly-constructed, poorly-ventilated, dirty stables, overdriving or overworking, and neglect of grooming and care, are no doubt responsible for the greater number of ailments to which the horse is subject. The disease is often aggravated, rather than remedied, by the injudicious use of drugs, administered by incompetent attendants. Simple ailments should not be over-medicated. Neither should bad diseases be neglected. A proper diagnosis, and the right treatment in bad cases should be left to a veterinarian.

Don't take the colts in from the pasture and tie them up in their stalls, to remain for days, weeks and even months at a time without exercise. Remember that, with the colt, the main thing is to induce healthy, vigorous growth, and this cannot be accomplished without abundance of exercise. The development of bone and muscle, so important in the colt, depends largely upon his treatment in early life. These cannot become highly developed unless the horse is given opportunity to use them a large part of the time during colthood. Five to eight hours daily in a large paddock will be very beneficial.

At a recent sale of carriage horses in Toronto, as high as sixteen hundred dollars was paid for a single animal, and prices throughout the sale ran very high, several animals selling for upwards of eight hundred dollars. This does not look much as though the horse is soon to be superseded. Undoubtedly, the motor vehicles have greater effect on the light-horse trade than on that of heavy horses, but a sale of this kind clearly proves that the right kind of a horse will always be in demand. A man who can afford to pay \$1,600 for a horse can easily afford an automobile, but there is a satisfaction which comes from the owning and driving of a beautiful horse that cannot be obtained from the speeding motor car. Breed the right type of horse, and your business is safe.

The Winter Care of Weanlings.

The ultimate development and value of the foal depends largely upon his care and food during his first winter. When he is fed and attended to in an indifferent, haphazard way, he of necessity becomes thin in flesh, weakly and poorly developed. It is doubtful if he will ever entirely recover from this neglect, notwithstanding all future care and attention. The too-common idea that a colt should be taught to "rough it" early in life, in order that he will become a "tough, hardy animal," is essentially wrong. In order that he may develop the best that is in him, he must always be well looked after, but especially is this so for the first winter. During the early months of his life, he has subsisted on nature's food, obtained from his dam, supplemented after a few weeks of age, by grass, and in many cases by grain, which he soon learns to eat, if given the opportunity. Then, when weaned, being deprived of milk, if he be allowed to "shift for himself," it requires little consideration to enable the owner to see why it is that he is not doing well. We often hear owners say that "weanlings never do well." Weanlings should "do well," and will, if properly fed and cared for. Foals should be taught to eat grain before weaning time, as we observe that, when they are not, it requires some time to teach them, and in the meantime they, of course, fall off in condition and energy. During and after the weaning period, if a reasonable supply of cow's food can be substituted for the dam's milk, the foal does not suffer for want of the latter, but there are few cases in which this plan is followed, as, of course, it is expensive, and often not expedient. So long as the weather remains reasonably fine, the weanlings should be allowed to run in the fields and eat grass during the day time, and be stabled in comfortable quarters at night, with a feed of grain mornings and evenings; but the principal trouble arises after the weather becomes severe and there is no longer grass for feed.

Where there are two or more colts to run together, they do better than where there is but one during the seasons in which they can spend a great part of the time at large, but in most cases it is better to have each in a stall by itself when in the stable. This applies especially at feeding time, as it is seldom that each gets its proper share of food when two or more are fed in a common manger, or even separate mangers in a common compartment. In most cases, one eats faster than the other, or becomes "boss," hence gets more than his share, while the other gets correspondingly less. The inside quarters should be roomy, well lighted, and well ventilated, and, when possible, of moderate temperature; but it is better that the temperature be somewhat low than poorly ventilated and warm. The colts' coats will grow sufficiently to protect them from cold, provided drafts are excluded; but nothing can act as a substitute for fresh air. Where possible, the little fellows should be provided with roomy box stalls, as it is quite possible there will be occasionally a few days at a time during the

winter when they cannot be turned outside, when, if in boxes, they can take a reasonable amount of exercise; but, where boxes cannot be supplied, they must be tied in single stalls. When possible, daily exercise in the yard or paddock should be allowed, as it develops muscle, aids digestion, and tones the respiratory organs.

When regular exercise is allowed, there are few cases in which it is not safe to allow the colts a liberal supply of grain. There are few weanlings that will eat enough to cause digestive trouble, provided, as stated, that regular exercise is allowed. Of course, there are exceptions, which must be treated accordingly. The question then arises, "What shall I feed them?" As with older animals, hay, oats and bran must be depended upon for the production of bone, muscle, energy, etc., and anything else given is merely for the purpose of satisfying the appetite and aiding digestion. Care should be taken that all food given be of good quality. Musty or dusty hay or grain should on no account be given. Well-cured clover hay gives better results than timothy, but it is often impossible to procure clover hay of good quality, and, in its absence, good timothy gives fair results. The amount of hay should be liberal, but in no case more than will be eaten at each meal. The habit of keeping hay constantly before an animal of any age is wasteful and harmful. If he be fed what he will eat in at most one and one-half hours, and then get nothing whatever until next meal time, he will have an appetite for his food, and will relish it and receive more benefit from it than if he had been eating more or less between meals. The form in which the oats are fed will depend to some extent upon expedients and the opinions of the feeder. Some prefer whole oats, some whole oats mixed with bran, and some boiled oats. Personally, we prefer rolled oats. Where rolled oats are fed, some give it dry, others wet, others mix it with bran and feed either dry or wet. We favor the following: In the evening, mix the ration of rolled oats with a little cut hay or wheat chaff in a pail, pour boiling water on it, cover so as to avoid the escape of steam, and allow to stand until morning; then feed. Then mix another feed in the same manner, and allow to stand until evening, giving a mid-day meal of dry, rolled or whole oats. This scalded mixture is very palatable, and the results are good. We also prefer to give a feed of bran two or three times weekly, in lieu of oats, but many prefer mixing a little bran with each meal, and either plan seems to be satisfactory. In addition, we think it wise to give a few raw roots. We usually give a couple of carrots or a sugar beet or turnip with the mid-day meal.

In addition to feeding, housing and exercise, it is necessary to pay attention to the feet. During the winter, the wear of the feet is not equal to the growth, and unless care be taken, they will grow too large and out of proportion, become abnormal in shape, and interfere with the proper relation between the bones of feet and limbs; may cause the animal to walk in an unnatural manner, and possibly interfere with his ultimate usefulness. The stalls should be cleaned out at least once



Potato-digging Trials.

Held at Littlewood, Eng., under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society, showing mechanical sorters at work.