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O. C.

HORSES.

Joint Ill and Pervious Urachus.

I wish to take exception to the advice given in "The Farmer's Advocate" for the treatment of colts' navels. You advise the tying of the cord, to be followed by the application of a ten-per-cent. solution of formalin three times daily. I followed these instructions, with fatal results in a valuable colt. Below I give a history of the case, which would seem to prove that your advice is misleading, and calculated to do invaluable harm and cause heavy loss to the public.

In anticipation of the birth of foal, I had bottle of a ten-per-cent. solution of formalin ready, and had cord and scissors in it. When colt was born, I tied the navel three inches below the abdomen, and cut it below the string, dressed the cord with the solution, and twice daily afterwards. The colt bled so much that I was forced to put on another string. Then he swelled greatly at the navel. In about a week it broke, and a milky, watery fluid escaped, and the colt had a strong desire to urinate. I again used the formalin, got it stopped, but it swelled again, and in a few days broke again. I again used the formalin, and sent for my veterinarian. It was again healed when he arrived, and he advised the application of poultices. I did this for 24 hours, when it broke again, and the watery fluid escaped. He leaked badly from the navel, and I again called my veterinarian. The colt was now three and a half weeks old, and the veterinarian could plainly see that he had joint-ill, as he walked stiff. He treated for joint-ill, and the colt died in a week. A post mortem revealed the hips and navel full of corruption, all other organs healthy. I might say that, before death, the colt's legs and joints swelled badly, and he could not rise without assistance, and water ran freely from the navel.

My veterinarian has this season treated 60 cases of joint-ill, and when he is called in time he never loses a case. He has lost four this season out of the 60, mine being one of them, and says 80 per cent. of these were treated at birth as mine was. He says that nature should be allowed to act at birth, that in no case should the cord be tied, that the blood should escape. He asks, "What becomes of the blood you tie in?" In answer, he says: "One of these things, it either goes back to the bladder, becomes absorbed, or forms an abscess."

Now, sir, I would like to see this discussed in "The Farmer's Advocate." I might add that I have followed the treatment you recommend since it first appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate."

S. C.

The above case was one in which there was a complication of diseases, viz., pervious urachus and joint-ill. Two or three years ago, or longer, an article of mine on each of these diseases was published in "The Farmer's Advocate." They are distinctly different conditions, but occasionally co-exist. In this case, the former trouble was present from birth, but the latter developed when the colt was over three weeks old.

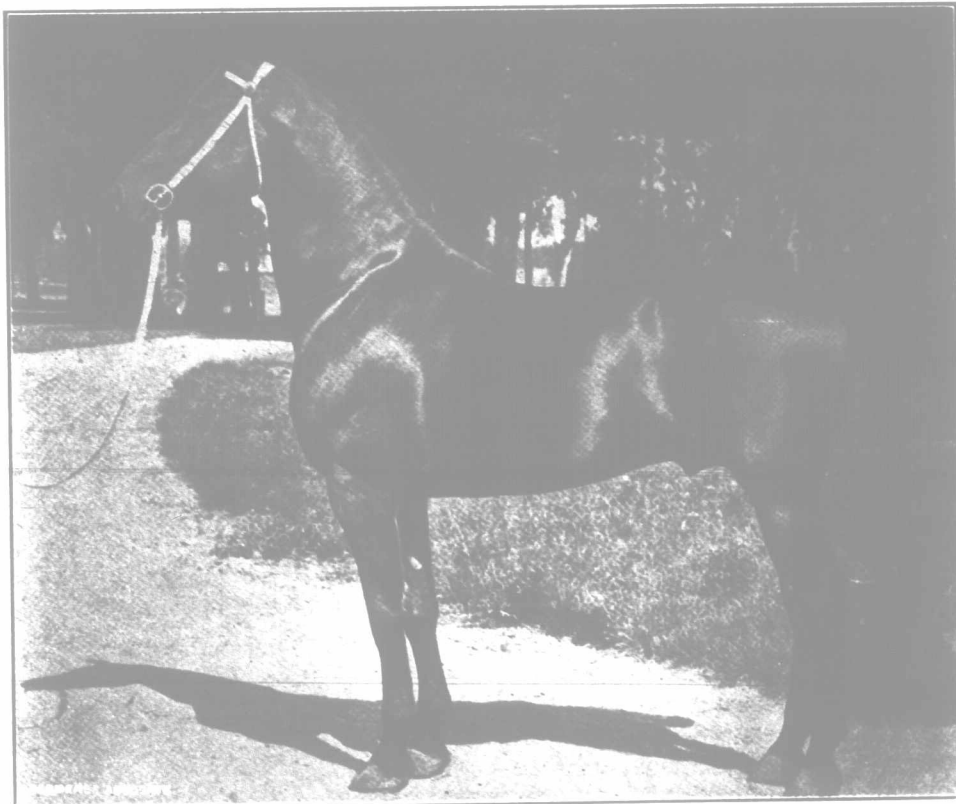
I am forced to disagree with your veterinarian when he states that under no condition should the umbilical cord of a colt be tied. Your experience in this—your own case—should prove to you that he is mistaken. You state that even after you tied the cord the colt bled so freely that you had to put on another ligature. In many cases the cord is severed during birth, or bitten off by the dam shortly afterwards, and in such cases it is seldom that bleeding takes place. We like it better when this occurs, but when the cord is not severed, but the afterbirth still attached to the foal by means of the cord, it is necessary to sever it, and experience has taught us that, when cut, and not ligatured, there will be an escape of a considerable quantity of blood—enough to weaken the colt, and in some cases sufficient to cause death. If the cord were severed by a scraping motion of a dull knife, or with an emasculator or an emasculator, bleeding would not be so likely to occur. But the farmer does not know how to sever it, or has not the proper instruments, hence he is forced to tie it, and I must say that in a practice of 28 years I have not known a case that I considered resulted unfavorably, from the fact that the cord had been properly tied. The blood that escapes passes from the main artery of the posterior portion of the body of the colt by two fetal vessels called the umbilical arteries. As soon as the foal is born, the function of these vessels ceases, and they become obliterated, and the blood that may still remain in them becomes absorbed.

As to the question, "What becomes of this blood?" and ask, "Does it return to the bladder?" Now, sir, it has never been in the bladder, and it gets there, as the vessels, that

contain it have no connection with the bladder. In some cases an abscess is formed, but I am of the opinion that this is not due to the blood, but to infective matter that has been introduced in some way, probably by the cord that has been used to tie the navel cord, it not having been properly disinfected.

I will now mention another fetal organ that caused the primary trouble in your colt. During fetal life a small quantity of urine is formed. This passes to the bladder, from the lower and anterior portion of which a tube called the urachus passes to the navel opening, and conveys the urine out of the colt's body to the fetal membranes. At birth, this tube, under normal conditions, becomes obliterated, and the urine escapes from the bladder by the urethra. In some cases, the reasons of causes for which cannot be given, this tube does not become obliterated; it remains pervious, and the urine, in greater or less quantities, continues to escape through the navel opening. This condition is called "pervious urachus." This was the condition in your colt. In some cases there is a false membrane in the urethra which prevents the escape of urine through the normal channel, and in such cases a catheter must be passed to break this membrane down. You do not state whether or not your colt voided urine normally or not, hence I cannot say whether or not the normal passage was pervious. When pervious urachus is present, treatment consists in ligaturing the cord with a suture that has been made thoroughly antiseptic, and then dressing the parts frequently with an ordinary antiseptic, as a 5-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid.

As regards joint or navel-ill, modern science has demonstrated beyond all doubt that it is caused by a specific germ that exists in stables, earth, etc., and gains the circulation through the



What Breed is this Horse?

(See breed-study contest.)

navel opening during or after birth. This germ may be present on the hips, thighs or tail of the dam, and enter the opening during birth, hence, often preventive measures prove abortive. Treatment of this disease has, to most practitioners, been very unsatisfactory, hence preventive measures are considered best. These consist in applying to the navel, as soon as possible after birth, and several times daily afterwards until it heals, a good antiseptic. A ten-per-cent. solution of formalin in water has given good results to most practitioners who have used it. I do not use it, but would have no hesitation in doing so, and do not consider it "too strong." I usually use a solution of corrosive sublimate, 20 grains to a pint of water, but a ten-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid, creolin, Zenoleum, etc., will probably give as good results. There is no doubt that this disease developed in your colt as the result of the entrance of the germs after he was two or three weeks old, and the reason the navel opening had not healed before this was on account of pervious urachus. Your veterinarian certainly has had a great number of cases of joint-ill this season, and his success in treatment has been phenomenal. As the disease usually proves fatal under the treatment of most practitioners, the treatment adopted by this gentleman would be instructive and interesting reading to the veterinarians in Canada. At the same time, we are of the opinion that possibly a large number of the cases were not really joint-ill, as, certainly, in your case, a correct diagnosis was not made, but a confusion of the two conditions thus used exists.

—WHIP.

Another Breed-study Contest.

The interest aroused by the first breed-study contest encourages us to continue the feature by publishing this week the picture of a celebrated horse, whose breed our readers are invited to guess, giving reasons for their opinions. As before, a prize of a one-dollar book is offered for the first and best correct answer given, main stress being placed upon the statement of reasons. We believe that, in stimulating a discriminating study of animal form and characteristics, these breed contests may do much good, and, apart altogether from the question of prize-money, anyone who takes part will be greatly benefited, whether he wins or not. Address answers, "Breed-study Contest," "Farmer's Advocate," London, Ont. Do not delay sending replies. In a close decision, priority of receipt may turn the scale. Competition closes August 6th.

Favors Raising Fall Colts.

In a speech before the Minnesota Live-stock Breeders' Association, George F. Lee said the raising of fall colts ought to receive more attention among farmers than at present, and especially so where several colts are raised each year. Many mares, he said, are worked but little during the winter months, and could better raise a colt than in summer, when in the harness much of the time. No extra warm barn, nor no more room, is needed than for the spring colt. The little fellow will get a surprisingly warm coat of hair, and ought to be out in the yard every day when other horses can be out.

It is best to have the fall colts come between October 15th and December 1st; getting them earlier brings it into the fall work too much, and getting them later makes it rather cold for the little fellows before they get their coat of hair.

Wean the colts about March 1st, which gives some time to get the mare in good shape for spring work. The colt by this time will eat oats, and when grass comes, let them out, but teach them to come to the barn every night, so that they can be fed twice a day. It will not do to try to carry a fall colt through the first summer on grass alone. Such a colt, well started, and kept growing right along, can be broken to work and earn its living after two and one-half years old, which is half a year ahead of the spring colt, instead of a year behind, as some claim.

Another point is that a mare in foal, handled by a considerate driver, can better stand the work in summer than one nursing a colt and doing the same amount of work.

Some difficulty may be experienced in getting the mares to breed late enough in the fall, especially if they are thin in flesh, but when once started, there is no trouble after that.

Foul Feet.

In the hot summer weather, when horses are being fed upon fresh green hay, and kept in the stable much of the time when not at work, thrush or foul in the feet very soon develops. The fresh green manure becomes tightly packed in the clefts of the feet, remaining there, and being damp, in this hot weather very soon becomes offensive and injurious. The stable should be cleaned out, without fail, every day, and fresh, dry bedding placed in the stalls. The feet of the horses need to be examined frequently, and to be thoroughly cleaned. If any fondness is developing, after cleaning the feet it is well to soak them in a disinfecting solution, thus killing all germs. After this, powdered boric acid, sprinkled in the deeper crevices of the feet, is beneficial.

Thrush and foul feet are easily prevented by pursuing clean, sanitary methods about the stables, but are quite difficult to overcome when well established.