THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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of it for a minute. truth in the saying. ally, and naturally enty. Good health ly account for it.

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dependable leaders. ariably choose men hereabout? Almost he course of affairs e over yet, were of Kitchener, Haig re all what might Germany saw the ty for the nation's irs and experience. but it is an illustraust to the man-who

eem to be reaching s during the latter As to when the nds. It's likely to f the chapter if the my attention paid And it is in ssed. of the hill has been reward of all his raduated from his the "knocks" at he experiences the ne most surely by He sees a reason ls that, to a certain n fulfilling Nature's

reason why he should stay where he is. He's too good reason why he should have been spent gathering knowledge to lose. A lifetime has been spent gathering knowledge and developing character. Why should he stop just when he is really ready to begin?

Work of some kind is the thing that makes life worth work of even tolerable, especially to the man who has living, or even tolerable. And the better the quality been brought up on it. And the better the quality of our product the happier we are in its creation. Again, why stop just as we are becoming experts?

Farming is another word for hard labor. I'm good and ready to admit that, or assert it, rather. And for the man who is getting along in years it doesn't get any easier. But it's a snap compared to the different methods for killing time that I have seen retired farmers use after they had gone to town.

Believe me, there is nothing easier than staying in the harness that one has become used to, even if it does rub the skin a little bare in places. And we all are inclined the skin a mourning for the horse that dies with his head through the collar.

Growing old is the greatest achievement in life when it is carried through to a successful conclusion.

THE HORSE.

Stick to Type in Horse Breeding.

Probably one of the strongest factors acting against profitable horse breeding, is the failure of breeders to "stick to type." The indiscriminate selection of sires, patronizing a sire because he is owned by a friend whom the breeder wishes to help, failure to study the laws that govern breeding, and an attempt to produce an ideal,

all contribute to failure. Breeding is not a thing of chance. It is governed by certain natural laws, which it is not our purpose to discuss here, but with which every breeder should be conversant. These laws are, unfortunately, not absolute; there are many deviations, some of which are hard to account for. At the same time they act with reasonable certainty, and the breeder who studies them carefully, and exercises reasonable intelligence in mating his mares, while he may be disappointed occasionally, will, on the whole, be favored with a fair degree of success. On the other hand, the breeder who does not give the matter due consideration, does not study, or neglects the laws mentioned, but breeds indiscriminately, without regard to the type or individuality of his mares, will be disappointed in a large percentage of his attempts. The object of every breeder should be to produce something better than the dam. This can be done only by the selection of a sire of the same class, but of better individuality. The use of the word "class" here may lead to confusion, but we cannot use the word "breed" as few of our mares are purebred. Hence when we say "a sire of the same class" we mean a pure-bred sire of the breed the mare more strongly favors or some of whose blood she possesses. Hence, if the mare is, to some degree, of Clydesdale or Shire type and individuality, she should be bred to a Clydesdale or Shire stallion, if she be of Percheron type, breed her to a Percheron sire, etc.

Under present conditions we take it for granted that the intelligent breeder will not patronize an impure or unregistered sire of any breed or class. If we mate mares of composite breeding with sires of like breeding, even though they be typical of the type we wish to produce, we will, in most cases, meet with disappointment, as neither parent has sufficient prepotency to reproduce type with reasonable certainty.

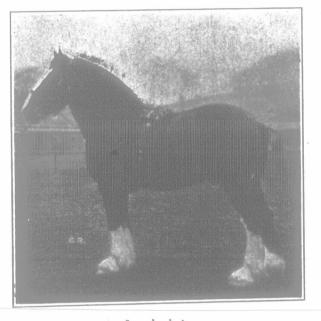
Prepotency (the power to transmit to the progeny the characteristics of the parent) can be acquired only by breeding in certain lines for many generations. Hence the parent of composite or mixed blood cannot possess the necessary prepotency, and, if each parent acks the essential what can we expect the progeny to be? All unprejudiced students of the breeding problem will admit that the Thoroughbred possesses greater prepotency than any other breed of horses, probably Why other domesticated Because he has been bred for so many generations without the infusion of foreign blood. Hence, in our endeavor to produce a foal that will be a better animal than the dam, we must select a sire that is not merely a better individual, but one that is pure-bred, and, of course, the longer his pedigree the better. Again, we should not select a sire simply because he is of the breed we want, and has a good pedigree. We must have individuality as well as pedigree, but, if we are forced to sacrifice either for the other, we would sacrifice individuality for pedigree, but this only to a limited degree. Get both if possible. Again I would say "stick to type." If the prospective dam has an infusion of the blood of some draft breed, breed her to the best pure-bred sire of that breed procurable. As regards strict type, we may deviate to some extent; in fact, it is often wise to do so. If the mare does not suit us in this respect, we can improve type in the progeny by the careful selection of a sire. For instance, if she be too high, lacks substance, has too long a back, beefy bone, coarse feathering, etc., select a sire of the blocky type, one with plenty of substance, one with a straight, short, strong back, bone and feathering of good quality, etc. In a few words "select a sire that is good (in fact, may be over-developed) in the points in which the dam is deficient, or, on the other hand, one that is rather deficient, or, on the other hand, one that is rather deficient in the points in which the dam shows over-development. It is not always possible to get the services of a sire that, in all respects, is exactly what we would select to suit the individuality of the mare, but we should always bear her individuality in

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mind, and make the best selection possible. If we have a mare of the class mentioned, and breed as above, we will, in all probability, produce a foal better than the dam, and, if this be a filly, by exercising the same judgment in breeding her, we will still improve the progeny, and so on. But if we keep changing the breed of the sires, even though we keep to the draft breeds, we degenerate instead of improve. The more or less constant change of the breed of sires accounts for the fact that first-class horses of any breed or class are not as numerous as they should be, and this unsatisfactory state of affairs will continue just so long as breeders fail to give the necessary study and intelligent consideration to the breeding problems.

The same general rules apply to breeding horses of the light breeds or classes. Violent crosses seldom give good results, as breeding heavy mares to light sires or vice versa. There have been instances in which such violent crosses have produced valuable animals. Such may be regarded as a calamity, rather than a favorable result, from the fact that one successful attempt tends to encourage further efforts on similar lines, not only by the "lucky" breeder, but by his neighbors, and it will be noticed that where such an irrational proceeding proves successful in one instance, it will prove disastrous in many

To successfully breed light horses, the same care as to type and individuality must be observed as in the production of the heavier breeds or classes. Where pure-bred dams are owned there should, in the majority of cases, be no question as to the breed of sire to be selected, as in such cases we should "stick" not only to type, but to breed. At the same time, even with purebreds, there may be cases in which we may be justified in selecting a sire of another breed. For instance, if we have a Thoroughbred mare, and wish to produce a harness horse, we may be justified in mating her with a Hackney. The Hackney gives better results when crossed with a Thoroughbred, or one with considerable Thoroughbred blood, than with any other class except a pure-bred of his own breed. In this case the prepotency of the dam transmits ambition and staying owers, and the sire transmits the action necessary in a heavy harness horse.



Landprint. The Clydesdale Stallion which won the Glasgow Premium (3 years) at the recent Glasgow Stallion Show.

In some sections, where breeders for years bred their mares to Standard Bred sires with the hopes of producing harness racers, with the idea that a fast stallion of this breed would produce a fast colt out of most any kind of a mare, the usual result was disappointment. To such an extent has this line of breeding been carried on in certain sections that there are many animals of both sexes with a strong infusion of Standard Bred blood that practically belong to no class. They are not fast enough to race, have not size enough for carriage, and are simply useful for drawing a light rig over a good and are simply useful for drawing a light rig over a good road at a fair road pace. The question is often asked, "How shall we breed these mares with resaonable prospects of producing a useful animal that will have a fair demand at good prices?" This is a hard question to answer. If crossed with a Thoroughbred the progeny will be too emails will be too small, except for light saddle work. If bred to a sire of her own breed, the progeny will proably be too small for valuable service and not fast enough to race. If crossed with a heavy harness horse, as a Hackney or coach horse, the same fault as regards lack of size, with lack of quality (unless the mare has very good quality) will probably be noticed. Of course, t would be unwise to cross her with a draft horse. What then, can be done? If the mare be too small and too slow to be of value for work or driving purposes, it will be better to not breed her. If she has size but lacks speed and quality, breed her to a big Thoroughbred with the hopes of producing a good big saddler, or a combination horse. If she has both size and quality but lacks speed, breed to a Hackney and expect to produce a heavy-harness horse, but if she has neither size nor speed, even though she be of good quality, she may be bred to a Hackney with the hopes of producing a high-acting cob, or to a blocky Thoroughbred, with prospects of producing a polo pony, but either of these lines of breeding is liable to be disappointing.

Stable Tricks and Vices of the Horse.

BY DR. G. H. CONN.

Probably there are few horsemen who have not had the privilege of observing in some horses, one or more of the vices or tricks that they are commonly subject to. The disadvantages of horses afflicted with any one of the many tricks and vices are loss of condition in the animal, danger in handling on account of injury and the annoyance that they cause, and in some cases the destruction of stable equipment and clothing. Most of these conditions are acquired from association with other animals, while a few may be the result of some disease or injury, and others may result from unkind treatment. These conditions are not as common in work horses as they are in the lighter breeds, but they are of common enough occurrence, to be of considerable importance and a knowledge of the nature of them, may be the means of preventing them in the greater number of animals.

If one is buying an animal from another who has owned it for some time, it is always well to first observe the horse in the stall; pass in beside it, noting its action and behavior. If it is a work animal it is well to observe the harnessing operation. Observe the manger for evidence of cribbing, and the sides and back of the stall for evidence of kicking; if in the winter, make an effort to observe the clothing, to determine whether the animal tears it or not. It might be well to use the comb and brush for a few minutes, to detect any difficulty in grooming. Careful notice should be taken of the animal while being hitched. There are very few tricks and vices but what detract very much from the animal's value, and some of them are so serious as to make the animal almost useless for work purposes, while others

render it dangerous to handle the animal. If animals are kept out of doors as much as possible when not working, it will lessen the liability of learning these tricks. It is also good for the animal as it provides much needed exercise. Idleness with the greater part of the time spent in the stable is conducive to disease, as well as the possible acquiring of tricks and vices.

THE HABIT OF WEAVING .- This is a habit that i noticed very often in race horses and especially in wild animals in captivity. The animal will weave back and forth continually, and at times to the extent that the feet will alternately be raised and lowered to the floor with the movements of the body. This is a nervous condition that may be brought about by some diseased condition; however, there is not, as far as we know, any particular disease that has been credited with producing this habit. It is very possible, however, that this condition may be started in an animal from observing another animal.

Some horses weave constantly, while others weave only a part of the time; it is needless to state that any animal practicing this habit continually is greatly weakened and incapacitated for work. It requires too much energy during the constant weaving. Such animals should always be kept apart from others, so that they do not contract the habit from observance. They should be provided with bedding that will not slip under them, and should be placed in a large, roomy box-stall. If possible, they should be allowed to run in the pasture for some little time, or as much of the time as the weather will permit.

The extent to which the animal is affected by the habit, will determine the disposition of it. If it renders it weak and unable to work, it should be destroyed. If it can work without much inconvenience, and will remain in fairly good flesh while doing so, it may be used in this way.

WINDSUCKING AND CRIB-BITING .- These are by far the most common habits that we find amongst work horses. They lower the selling value of many a good horse to a ridiculous figure, and at the best are very undesirable. However, many of these animals are capable of giving very satisfactory service for years, with no other inconvenience to the owner, than the time and bother of attending to the method of constantly preventing the performance of the act.

A windsucker arches its neck, draws its head toward and gives a gulp, thus swallowing air. The

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crib-biter accomplishes the same end, but it catches hold of the manger or some other object in order to get a good purchase, and at the time it pulls back a grunt is emitted.

A windsucker cannot be recognized, but the cribbiter can be recognized by its worn-off teeth. In some animals these teeth are worn down almost to the gums. Colic or indigestion frequently result from this habit. There is no question but what horses will learn both

of these habits from observing other horses, and for this reason horses that have acquired these habits should be kept away from all other horses. Many methods have been used to prevent this practice in horses, but many times they outwit the device. They usually desist during the time that the act produces any discomfort, but as soon as they find a way to practice the habit without any discomfort they are performing the act as of old. Many of the practices that were used, were cruel and should not be countenanced at all. Sawing between the teeth, lacing wire between the teeth at the gums, are both cruel and last only as long as the soreness lasts. One of the best methods is to take a wide strap and place around the neck just back of the region where the throat latch rests. This should be buckled tight enough that the horse cannot arch his neck. This will not interfere with breathing, eating or drinking; it should be removed when the horse is working, unless he cribs on the yoke or tongue, and in such cases it may be worn at all times. Muzzles have been tried, but are not as satisfactory as the wide strap. The