

presume, on business, and his appearance is hailed as an indication that the foreign demand is to be renewed. The members of the Clydesdale Horse Society have rescinded the by-law which prohibited the registration of any but home-bred Clydesdales in the Clydesdale Stud Book. If there be any animal in Canada or the United States good enough to win in this country, and likely to breed superior stock, the fact of its being bred abroad will not now prevent its registration in the Stud Book here.

SCOTLAND YFT.

Comments on Mr. A. W. Smith's Paper.

"MISTAKES OF SHORTHORN BREEDERS."
(BY "CLAUGHBANK.")

Papers such as Mr. Smith's, are, I believe, of much more use than those which are simply precept, for where mistakes are pointed out, they have, as a rule, a much greater effect on the minds of those interested, for a mistake when made is always an example, and "example is better than precept."

Mr. Smith, in pointing out the great error that has been made in the past by Shorthorn breeders in breeding for red, gives, perhaps, a very necessary caution regarding running to the other extreme; but, at the same time, I think he betrays a slight prejudice against the whites. It is generally believed that white cattle are less hardy than those of other colors; but is not this belief based on supposition, and not on actual facts. There are white animals that lack constitution, and, when speaking of such a beast, a farmer will say, "white cattle are tender, anyway;" and such an instance will go a long way to condemn white cattle in his mind, as well as in those of his hearers, and this simply on account of the prejudice against white animals. Mr. Smith speaks of many years' experience having proved that white is not a color to be desired. Is he right in making this assertion? Is it not rather a supposition based on prejudice, than the actual experience of careful observers? I am inclined to think so. Then, again, as to "so many white animals being so successful in the show ring only proving that pampering and forcing, and constant care and attention of the very best kind successfully combating even a thin, papery white skin, which very often encloses a weak constitution." Here, again, it would appear to me, the essayist is a little out. When a breeder selects animals for the show ring, he picks out his best, and one of the first points he looks for is the mellow skin and mossy hair which betokens a good constitution and good feeding abilities. Then, how can a papery-skinned animal be expected to compete successfully against animals possessing this, to all intents and purposes, most important point in an ideal beef beast. Again, an animal to be successful in the show ring must be a good feeder, and if it is to be in it at all in competition open to the world, it must have a good constitution to stand the feeding required to put it in the condition fit to be seen in such company as it must meet. Were the white Shorthorns which have been so successful in the show ring of the papery-skin kind? If so, it would seem to me that a papery white skin is an indication of quality heretofore not recognized. We must remember that among farm stock, owing to the prejudice against them, there are comparatively few white cattle, and my own observation leads me to believe that of these grades there are a few poor ones, a number of medium ones, with a good sprinkling of really good ones, probably those of the latter class outnumbering in proportion to the number of white cattle the good ones of darker colors. There are papery skins on some of these white cattle, but I do not think that they have skins of this description in a greater proportion than colored cattle have; but it is sure to be noticed when it is white; but who can say that there is anything wrong with the beast that has a mellow, unctuous skin, with a yellow tinge through the white hair. There is no doubt that breeding for the fashionable red was very detrimental to Shorthorns, and if white ever became the fashion to as great an extent, it would have the same effect; but, as Mr. Smith points out, there is little danger of that. There are many men who, in selecting a bull, would choose a red one rather than use a white, though the latter be much the better beast. It is this that has been, and is to-day, hurting the Shorthorns as beef cattle. There are, probably, breeders who would not breed their cows to Lord Stanley, the champion Shorthorn bull of the World's Fair, on account of his color; and his owners, for whom he and other white ones were so successful at Chicago, are advertising red bulls for sale, showing that though the whites could win the highest honors for them, they must have red ones to suit the public. Prejudice for or against any color is wrong in breeding Shorthorns; the principle that should be observed is, breed from the best, whether they be red, white, or roan.

Mr. Smith next speaks of what he calls "the pedigree fallacy." Is he not, in this, assailing that principle which is at the foundation of all successful breeding, viz.: inbreeding. Inbreeding was practiced by those great breeders who first brought the Shorthorns into prominence, as well as by the early breeders of other breeds. They had their types to set, and their example must be followed to a certain extent. Certain families of Shorthorns have characteristics of their own, and these should be perpetuated, and this can only be done by inbreeding, so that those breeders that the essayist finds fault with for confining themselves to a few

families are really doing a good work by inbreeding, if they are doing it with good judgment. This inbreeding may not tend to make them successful in the show ring while they continue it, but they are supplying the material which, when crossed on other families of the right kind, will produce the choicest stock. Mr. Smith gives an instance of this when he speaks of Mr. Cruickshank's cattle being grand in themselves before he ceased to bring in fresh blood; but since he had done so there had been a falling off in them; and then he speaks of celebrated Scotch bulls of to-day, whose celebrity came to them by being crossed on cows with a large percentage of English blood. Mr. Cruickshank did as other great breeders have done before him: he selected animals of the type he wanted, and then inbred them to set that type, and though this inbreeding may not have improved his herd, it gave them the power to transmit to the offspring of cows of other blood the good qualities which they had inherited. It may be that the steers of the country have deteriorated, but this is not owing to inbreeding, unless it is that the wrong sort of sires have been used, and these being inbred did more harm than if they had been animals which were not inbred, and, therefore, were not so prepotent.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

System of Management in Breeding Stud of Draught Horses in Scotland.

(Compiled from a paper prepared by Archibald MacNeillage, Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society.)

THE CARE OF FOALS.

Turning now to the younger members of the ordinary stud, the treatment of foals first demands attention. The age at which they are weaned varies somewhat, but there is a general opinion in favor of from four to six months old. In Aberdeenshire and Morayshire the average age quoted is five months, and in Forfarshire two breeders say four months and one four and a-half. The Montrave foals are uniformly weaned either in the last week in October or first week in November. In East Lothian, four months old is the usual age; but in Kintyre the mares nurse for about six months, unless they should be required for work earlier.

Should a mare be a poor milker, there is nothing better for either her or the foal than a feed of oats twice a day, but in a case of a mare constitutionally defective in this respect, the foal is much better to be taken from her when about three months old. It will thrive much better on good food than on the milk of its dam—in all likelihood deficient both in quality and quantity.

The time of separation of dam and foal is a crucial one in the life of the latter, and much depends on the wisdom with which the separation is carried out, and the treatment the youngster receives after weaning. The plan found most advantageous is to hand-feed the mare for about a fortnight before the foal is taken away. During this time the foal learns to eat the bruised oats and "chop" served to the dam, and consequently when deprived of the latter's milk it is not so much disturbed. The objection to this method is that the foal invariably goes back in condition for a time, and some breeders for about a fortnight before weaning graze the mare and foal in a field of young grass—a "seed" field, as it is sometimes termed,—in which it is intended that the foal should be wintered.

The more usual method is to shut the foal in a loose box for a week or ten days after weaning, when it is fed, in some cases, on a mixture of cut hay, oats and bran, with a small proportion of treacle. After a time it is allowed to run at pasture.

In Aberdeenshire, as is the case with all stock, foals in winter generally are housed at night and run out during the day; but in the Balmedie stud they are wintered altogether outside, but have a shed to take shelter in if they choose. Having been taught to eat a little along with their dams before separation, for the first few days after that event foals are fed with a little porridge mixed with bran and sweetened with treacle, given in the form of a gruel drink. The diets are small, but of frequent occurrence, and the gruel is always fresh. Afterwards they receive a little bruised oats mixed with bran and cut hay, damped with treacle and water, and a moderate allowance of hay. As soon as possible they are turned out to graze, when they are fed four times daily, viz., at the same hours as the mares: 5 a. m., 9 a. m., 4 p. m., and 8 p. m. At 5 and 4 they get boiled food, and at 9 and 8, oats, with a fair allowance of good hay. As regards quantity, Mr. Lumsden considers three foals equal to two mares. When two or more foals are wintered together, they are fed separately; that is, they are tied up when feeding, or otherwise prevented from plundering one another's food.

Older fillies are wintered in the same way, with a slight increase in the quantities of food given; but except in the case of fillies that are to be knocked about from show to show, hand-feeding in summer is dispensed with at Balmedie.

In other studs in Aberdeenshire, foals in the morning get a feed of oats and bran mixed in equal proportions, and in some cases the same is repeated where they are brought in at night; but in others the evening meal consists of a boiled mash composed of oats, barley, beans and turnips, with plenty of hay, oats or straw.

During winter, the foals in the Linkwood stud are run out from 8 a. m. until dusk, and fed with mashes of bran and bruised oats and plenty of good

hay. Mr. Robertson does not believe in feeding with a great deal of boiled food. He used to do so, but finds the young stock much healthier when fed as already described, being careful, however, that no bran or oats be given without being well mixed with cut hay or oat-straw of good quality. The fillies do not "bolt" the food too quickly when thus mixed, and a pound or two of linseed-cake is found suitable for all classes of stock.

In the Kirkpatrick-Durham district, which stands 600 feet above sea level, it is impossible to winter out; and Mr. McQueen remarks that a good deal depends on the elevation, the locality, and the situation of a farm, whether the breeding and rearing of young stock can be carried on successfully. The higher and poorer the land, more hand-feeding is required, at any rate to bring out horses for showing. However, not much difficulty in this direction is met with in Wigtonshire and the lower levels of the Stewartry, which may safely be termed the land of Goshen for Clydesdales. The only problem breeders and exhibitors in these localities have to solve is how to prevent foals going back in condition immediately after weaning, and various devices have been resorted to obviate this. One is that of nursing the foals until they are seven or eight months old; another that has not much to recommend it is to give the youngsters a liberal supply of cow's milk. By this means it is possible to have splendid big yearlings, with lots of feather, etc., and big stomachs; but no better means of manufacturing wind-suckers was ever devised, and it is rare that yearlings so brought out count for much as two-year-olds and three-year-olds. The most rational process is to put the foal on a field of good, rich pasture—young grass preferred, if it does not cause diarrhoea; care being taken, however, that the new pasture is not too rich, as compared with that on which they have been running with their dams. To transfer foals from bare pasture to rich young grass is about as sure a way to kill them as any that could be named. Boxing foals after weaning is sure to cause a fall in their condition; and half the winter may be over before they recover what they have lost. On the whole, therefore, if it can be managed, the most popular way of treating foals in Galloway is to wean them in the grass-field in which it is intended to winter them, and feed them during winter twice a day on a proportion of bruised oats and linseed-cake, say something less than 12 pounds each per day for foals, and from 12 to 14 pounds each per day for fillies rising two years old and three years old. Fillies wintered inside, other things being equal, have little chance in the show-yard against those wintered in this fashion.

Mr. Chapman's method of rearing is interesting, because differing somewhat from that followed in Scotland. The foals are weaned gradually. During the last month the mare is wrought during the day, and goes back to the foal at night. Afterwards the foals have the run of a paddock, with a shed in which they are fed, but the weather must be very bad when they lie down in it. They get as much as they can eat of hay, chaff, bran and bruised oats mixed together, but no other corn. In increased quantities this continues to be their food as they grow older, and until put into yoke.

Winnipeg Exhibition Judging—A Note of Explanation.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The readers of the ADVOCATE, being informed that I was appointed judge of the beef breeds of cattle under the one judge system, could come to no other conclusion from your statements than this, that I was judging a bull of my own raising, and for this reason there was room to believe that Mr. Lister's bull did not get justice in being placed third. When I saw the nine bulls come into the ring, and noticing that Mr. Barron's bull, that I bred, was not farther back than second in my judgment, and knowing that the owner of the worst bull in the ring was in a position to claim the sympathy of the breeders of Canada that he had been unfairly dealt with, I said to Mr. Martin, one of the directors, that I would not judge this lot, as I had bred one in the ring. Mr. J. C. Snell, of Edmonton, Ontario, judged this lot of bulls, and is considered one of the best judges of cattle on the American Continent.

JAMES RUSSELL.

Richmond Hill, Ont.

No More "Free Seeds!"

Some time ago we took occasion to refer to the efforts of U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Morton to check a number of wasteful expenditures that had grown up in that Department. The Attorney-General, in response to an appeal, recently decided that the Secretary of Agriculture is under the law empowered to purchase only seeds that are "rare and uncommon to the country, or such as can be made more profitable by frequent changes from one part of our country to another." Upon this interpretation of the law, the Secretary has issued an order discontinuing the seed division during the fiscal years of 1895 and 1896, and discharging the employees of this Department Oct 1. This very properly puts an end to the buying of all sorts of seeds and distributing them promiscuously over the Republic at the request of Congressmen.