

Prince of Kyle and The Summit. The judges drew out the three first prize winners—Prince of Kyle, The Summit and Prince of Millfield, and by an unanimous vote awarded the championship to Mr. Kilpatrick's great horse, with Mr. Mitchell's phenomenal two-year-old reserve. There were many choice horses shown in the aged class, on which we have made no note, but of which it would be fair to write something commendatory. The actions of the two sets of judges showed that there are but shades of difference amongst Clydesdale fanciers when the best are concerned, but amongst the rank and file divergence becomes more marked. The three competitors for the Cawdor Cup were such horses as no breed need ever be ashamed of. SCOTLAND YET.

Care of Colts.

BY DR. TORRANCE, V. S., BRANDON, MAN.

Many colts are lost annually from the want of a proper knowledge of their requirements on the part of their owners. When the foal is dropped, if it be in a stable, the greatest care should be taken that the surroundings are as clean as possible. The afterbirth and all soiled bedding should be removed and fresh straw provided, and in this way a frequent source of danger to the colt may be avoided—blood poisoning through the navel. The swollen joints of young foals, and abscesses that gather in various parts of the body and are often referred to some supposed injury, are generally the result of blood poisoning from some septic material having been absorbed into the system through the moist surface of the navel cord. For this reason the surroundings of the colt should be kept as clean as possible, and, if the season admits, both mare and colt will be much better out of doors than in. The danger of blood poisoning is much greater if the navel cord has been ruptured close to the body than if it has broken at the usual length, and in such cases the cord should be first washed clean and then ligatured by tying a piece of stout cord tightly around it. When mares foal out at pasture there is little danger of this disease attacking the colts, and on the Western ranches, I believe, it is practically unknown.

Bleeding from the navel sometimes occurs, and should be prevented by applying a ligature as described above.

Occasionally a colt will be observed to void its urine through the navel, and in this case, too, the ligature should be applied, but of course if the natural passage is undeveloped or obstructed from any cause, a fatal termination must be expected, unless professional skill can open the proper channel.

Constipation is, perhaps, the commonest ailment of new-born foals, and is the cause of great fatality. When the colt is born its rectum contains a quantity of dark-colored, waxy fecal matter, which has accumulated there during the colt's existence in the womb, and frequently the colt is unable to expel these hard feces without assistance. Nature makes provision for this difficulty by arranging that the first milk secreted by the mare shall act as a purgative on the foal, and thus increase the action of the bowels and get rid of the obstacle. Owing, however, to the fact that many mares are fed chiefly on dry feed up to the time of foaling, the first milk sometimes has this purgative quality to only a slight extent, and other means must be resorted to. An injection of a quart of warm water should be given by means of a syringe, and repeated frequently until the desired effect is produced. Failing in this, a dose of two or three ounces of warm oil may be given; but, if the youngster is weak, it will be better to give him his medicine through the mare, and with this object the mare may be given a dose of aloes, or oil, which will readily act on the colt through the milk, and without causing griping pains.

Diarrhoea is not so common a malady as the opposite condition, but is more serious and difficult to treat. It may come on during the first or second day after birth, and may be caused by the first milk of the mare having too marked a purgative effect, and before attempting to check it by giving medicine, it is better to wait a day to see if it will not stop spontaneously, as in many cases it will do so. Should the diarrhoea begin at a later period the cause may not be apparent. Generally indigestion is the starting point, and a common cause of this is not allowing the colt to have a drink for three or four hours at a time. The mare cannot be spared from work, as the seeding is going on perhaps, so the foal is left shut up in the stable while the mare goes out to work. By the time she returns the colt is very hungry, and takes more milk than its stomach can digest, and indigestion and diarrhoea are the result. It should be remembered that a young colt's stomach is small and requires food often, and therefore during the first two weeks it should not be required to go more than three hours at a time without nourishment.

In treating diarrhoea in young animals the object should be to induce a healthy action of the bowels by mild remedies, in preference to giving powerful astringents, which may stop the trouble for a time, but give way to more violent purging in the end. If indigestion is present, a teaspoonful of powdered charcoal, mixed with a beaten egg and a little water, is a good home remedy, and may be given two or three times a day. The milk of the mare may be rendered less laxative by feeding her on dry feed in preference to grass or mashes. Enemas of starch and laudanum are also safe remedies, and if the colt is suffering pain and straining often, a teaspoonful of laudanum may be given by the mouth.

But the object of this paper is rather to advise the breeder how to avoid some of the common causes of mortality among young foals than to discuss the treatment of their diseases, and we will conclude by advising the owner of a sick colt not to put off sending for the veterinary surgeon until he thinks the colt is going to die, or he will then often find, too late, that the surgeon will coincide in that opinion.

FARM.

Building With Concrete.

BY G. A. LACEY.

One of your subscribers brought me your last issue, as to me having some knowledge and likely to give a satisfactory reply to James Munro's query as to the building of concrete houses and walls. I have had some little experience with concrete, and I give you the result:—

Twenty-three years ago I built a house, 24 x 30, story and a-half; put up 2 x 4 scantling frame, boarded it inside, and filled the space, four inches, with concrete; tacked three feet of boards on outside, taking them off and raising them as soon as the concrete set. I carefully measured the lime and gravel, thoroughly mixed it three or four days before using. My mixture was one shovel of fresh slacked lime to three shovels of gravel. The gravel was pretty sharp sand and stones as large as would go in the space, with plenty of smaller gravel stones as taken from the pit. The house stands to-day, and the concrete has become as hard as glass.

Eleven years ago I bought a lot in this village, and, as there was plenty of gravel in the cellar, I built my house of concrete, 32 x 34, two stories, with bay windows, eighteen feet walls—the higher I got my house the deeper I got my cellar. I mixed my concrete nearly in the same proportions, though employing laborers it was difficult to make them believe that such mud would make good concrete, and when not closely watched would make the concrete richer with lime. The house stands to-day as perfect as it was built, except where the concrete was made richer than a fourth, it shelled a little, but nothing to hurt. My cellar was 18 x 30, with good strong foundation walls. The foundation under the other portion of the house was a trench two feet wide down to the gravel—about two feet. I filled the trench with small stones, pounded them down, and built stone on the small stones above the surface from a foot to eighteen inches. The idea of the trench filled with small stones was to prevent moisture. On the stone wall I put a two-inch plank, ten inches wide all round, to carry the weight of the superincumbent mass of mortar evenly, in case of any weakness in the foundation trench cracking the wall. No crack came in it. Walls one foot thick, bond timber, strapped and lathed.

Last summer I put up a building of concrete for a store, with offices over, 28 x 60, 25 feet walls. As before, I took the gravel from the cellar—the cellar is seven and a-half feet to joists. After taking the surface soil from the space to be covered by the building, I dug to the depth intended for the cellar walls, throwing the gravel to the centre. Having built the cellar walls, laid the sleepers, and made platforms of plank to mix the concrete on inside the building, three on each side, threw the gravel from the cellar to the platforms for mixing. After the cellar walls were completed I laid a two-inch plank ten inches wide on the wall, and put up a 2 x 4 scantling frame, setting it fourteen inches in so that the walls, twelve inches thick, would go two inches in the scantling—the scantling answering for bond timber, and leaving two inches for air between lathing and plastering. I used one and a-half inch plank, fourteen inches wide, to hold the mortar, lapping two inches, raising a foot at a time. The advantages of the scantling frames are: The walls can be carried up perfectly true, and the cost is about the same as bond timber and strapping. The corners should be of the plank, three feet long, clamped with iron to prevent spreading. I found that mixing the concrete on the floor and raising it with shovels the cheaper plan of getting it up. When it got too high for the man on the floor to shovel it in, I had a movable platform made to which he could raise it, and another man to raise it from the platform. It took no longer to put up the twenty-fifth foot than the first, and the concrete was the better from the additional handling. As it really is building a house in moulds, blocking or other ornamentation of the outside is simply a question of the taste of the builder. To be more minute as to my way of building would necessitate your making an untimed story of it in your valuable and interesting publication. I will give any of your readers, should they desire, such further information as I can, by letter. To sum up, I believe concrete made from good gravel and lime to be as durable as stone or brick, and considerably cheaper. If good gravel and lime are used properly and thoroughly mixed age only hardens it, and a house built of it should be better in a century than when built. It would become a perfectly solid stone.

A subscriber writes us:—I think your plowing match man, W. A. Hale, is a little off. What a pity he had not been born a hundred years ago; he might have suited the times better. I hope the boys of Ontario are learning to plow for profit, and not merely past time, or rather to potter away their time. Think the ADVOCATE should not only advocate better plowing, but better plows also, because, as a rule, they are far behind the American plows.

Distribution of Seed Grain.

Wm. Saunders, director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, has long interested himself in the good work of distributing samples of the most promising varieties of grain among the farmers, believing that only in this way could new varieties be tested properly, and their fitness for all the varying conditions of soil and climate of the Dominion be shown. With this end in view, last year 16,905 sample bags of promising sorts of grain, weighing 3 pounds each, were sent free through the mail to 9,114 farmers residing in different parts of the Dominion. This large quantity of grain, over 25 tons, was all of first quality, and consisted of the most promising sorts which have been tested on the several experimental farms. By instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture a similar distribution is now in progress for this year, and already over 3,000 samples have been sent out, and a large number are being mailed daily. The object of this distribution is to place in the hands of good farmers in all parts of the country samples of the best varieties of oats, barley, wheat, peas, etc., so that they may shortly be available for seed in every district in the country, and eventually result in the displacing of poor, mixed and enfeebled sorts with varieties possessed of greater vigor and fertility. The number of samples sent to one applicant is limited to two in each case, and on this basis a very large number can still be supplied. With careful and judicious handling, these three-pound samples will generally produce from one to three bushels the first year, and at the end of the second season the grower usually has seed enough for a large field. The advantage resulting from this large distribution of the best sorts of grain obtainable will no doubt in a few years be generally manifest in an improvement in the quality and an increase in the quantity of the average grain crops of the Dominion. A circular is sent with each sample which the recipients are expected to fill up and return at the close of the season, with particulars as to the character and growth of the grain. The request is also made that a sample of not less than one pound of the product be returned to the Central Experimental Farm, so that information may be had as to the measure of success attending its growth. Samples are sent to applicants as long as the supply lasts. Letters can be sent to the Experimental Farm at Ottawa free of postage.

Bromus Inermis.

This new Russian forage plant is being introduced by the Steele, Briggs, Marcon Seed Co., of Toronto, who speak very favorably of it for the Northwest, Manitoba and British Columbia. It has also been highly recommended by the Experimental Farms at Ottawa, Brandon, Indian Head, and elsewhere. They state that they have a large amount of evidence in support of their claim that it is unequalled by any other grass for its power of resisting drought, its nutritive qualities and productiveness. One of the members of the firm saw it growing on the Experimental Farms in Iowa and Kansas, and also at Brandon, and in all cases it has given the best of satisfaction. Messrs. Steele, Briggs & Marcon have received the following reports, which speak for themselves:—

PROF. SAUNDERS reports as follows:—Bromus Inermis.—"Of all the grasses not in general cultivation which we have tried, this is by far the most promising. The seed germinates readily and the young plants soon become established. It is conspicuous for its free leafy growth and tall stems, which bear an abundance of seed. It flowers here in the last week of June, and has produced nearly four tons of hay to the acre. It is very hardy, early, and a heavy cropper, and produces a heavy aftermath of succulent leafy shoots."

GRASS EXPERIMENTAL STATION, Garden City, Kansas:—Bromus Inermis.—"This is also nearly related to the fescue grass, but endures the summer heat and drought much better and will grow on a much harder and poorer soil. It produces a great amount of long and tender leaves near the ground, while the culms are rather slender and are not produced in very great abundance, so that it is better fitted for grazing than for hay. It is one of the few species which remains green through the entire year, and bears grazing well. One plot of this was sown three years ago, and, so far, it has held the ground to the complete exclusion of all other grasses and weeds."

BRANDON EXPERIMENTAL FARM REPORT:—"Bromus Inermis is a very promising grass here. This did not winter-kill the least; grew thirty-two inches high, and yielded two and a-half tons of excellent leafy hay."

SUTTON & SONS, Seedsmen, Reading, England:—"It is a perennial, and in our experiments has proved to be one of the earliest grasses to start in the spring. It grows with remarkable rapidity, and yields an immense quantity of succulent herbage, equally suitable for soiling or for ensilage. All kinds of stock eat it greedily, and the analysis made shows that it is richer in flesh formers than the Italian Rye Grass."

VILMORIN, ANDRIEU & Co., Seedsmen, Paris, France:—"It is a native of the black lands of Russia, but is extensively grown of late in Austria, where it yields large crops of hay even in the most unfavorable and driest seasons. It is a perennial, spreading rapidly by means of its underground roots; the stalks are very numerous and leafy, attaining a height of from five to six feet."

This firm declare they are willing to stake their reputation on these assertions.