

Veterinary Department.

Baulky Horses.

In this country the most prevalent and troublesome of vices in the horse is that of baulking. It may be very fairly classed as the worst feature of our Canadian horses. But it is not so common in the Eastern as in the Western Province. In the neighbourhood of Quebec, one of the hilliest spots of the Province.

Baulking is very little known; and the foremost of questions accompanying the purchase of a horse in Western Canada is, "Will you warrant him good to draw?" is in the vicinity of Quebec omitted.

Two of the principal causes are here selected, though in direct variance with each other;—that of overloading, and injudicious treatment with only a light waggon. Curious and incredible as it may seem to many readers, all horses have been taught to baulk. The first, most common and most effectual mode of teaching is that of overloading. The practice of cheering or whipping up to the collar a horse, after he has had one fair trial to start the load, and has come back of his own accord, is bad, and will, if continued, result in producing obstinacy and baulkiness. It is very easy to baulk a young horse with a light waggon. The better bred, the higher spirited, the more willing generally become the bad drawers. The young horse, eager to start, is checked by a cruel jerk of the mouth, which so bruises it that he is forever after afraid of so severe a punishment. Perhaps immediately after one of these jerks his driver chucks to him to start. He is about to start, when against his wounded mouth, the bit is pulled. He flies back in sheer trepidation. Then, most likely, the whip is vigorously applied, and the poor beast is flogged and rated until, with fear, pain and exhaustion, he becomes dull and heavy; and the unreflecting driver fancies he has made a conquest. The next time that horse is in good spirits and starts of his own accord, the chances are, if the reins are not tightened, he starts off at full speed, and thus becomes a runaway; or if the reins tighten, he flies back from the pressure of the bit, stamps and paces in his excitement and nervousness, and ultimately looks round at his load and master. From the moment that he has once thrown his head round he has become a baulker. The more he is flogged the more stubborn he becomes. The driver who has ever had a baulky horse under his care, must be aware that flogging will not make him draw. Nay, if he is knocked down, and the blood, as he staggers to his feet, flows freely from his nostrils, still he will not start. If the barbarous practice of setting fire to a bundle of straw beneath him is resorted to, he will not. Harsh treatment will not cure a baulky horse.

According to the temperament of the horse will be found his willingness or reluctance to draw. All draft horses have been taught to draw. The horses of a circus would never have gone through the figure of a quadrille if they had not been taught. The horse at plough would never have moved to the right when the ploughman cried "Gee," or to the left when he said "Haw," if he had not been taught. Conclusively, a horse in his artificial life, when there are no reacting causes, does only that to which his master has accustomed him, be it baulking or drawing. Many people are surprised to see a horse suffer the most severe punishments and yet persevere in baulking. But still they only do what they have been taught. The horse, with all his nobleness and docility, is ever subservient to the will of man; but it is questionable if man is true to his subserviency.

"It is more difficult to cure than to prevent." Man, with his power of reflection, is enabled to leave alone or not practice the things he has been taught; though even with him custom becomes second nature. To the horse, which does not reflect, what he has learned cannot be untaught him by any other means than disuse, or that which will produce forgetfulness; if that which a creature under certain circumstances has been accustomed to do, he can under the same recurring circumstances not perform. No horse baulks until he has been baulked, neither does he draw till he has been broken in. He is no more willing to baulk than he is to draw. Taught by man, he does both. He is as often flogged for drawing as he is for baulking. From careful observation, it can truthfully be said, by flogging and other abuses good workers are as often taught the vice of baulking as a baulker is made a trustworthy drawer. When a horse baulks, a careful and observant man will immediately see where lies the difficulty and cause:

and in the future he will studiously avoid it. The first time a horse baulks he is very nervous; afterwards, as too often happens, he—as the good drawer—bears with dumb-like sullenness and resignation the application of the lash. If neither the whip nor any harsh usage was practiced to the horse that baulks, ultimately, with loads in keeping with his strength, he would not baulk. Before he has to work, he should know what is required of him. How can he know this if he tries to pull a waggon that will not follow him when he is told to go on. If at first he is not willing to pull, he should be encouraged with light loads or an empty waggon. To the place whence he has refused to start, he should be brought and started from, until he has gained not only confidence in himself, but in his ability to draw the waggon, and assurance in his master's command. When he understands what he is to do from his master, rest assured that as certain as he is a horse he will do it if it is within the bounds of reason. But if he is cowardly and bullied until he is thoroughly confused, he will not, as he has no alternative.

With patience, gentle treatment, good feeding, comfortable collar and harness, fair loading, with words of command kindly and distinctly spoken, we would have no baulkers. It is impatience, unkind treatment, poor feeding, pinching collars and harness, overloading, harsh, abrupt voices, and the cruel lash that produces what is here complained of in the horse.

Treatment of Wounds in Horses.

A CORRESPONDENT recommends the following remedy for the healing of wounds upon horses:

"Salt-petre should be dissolved in warm water, in such proportions as to be moderately strong to the taste and blue-stone added until the solution is slightly tinged. This, and nothing else, is to be used as a wash, two or three times a day. It purifies the wound, destroys the proud flesh, produces granulations immediately and heals the wounds in a surprisingly short time. I have had a horse badly kicked and otherwise hurt, in midwinter and midsummer and their cure was equally rapid, and afterwards no scar was visible. The wound requires no covering—flies will not approach it, and dressing it with a mop of rags tied to a stick, is very little trouble. Wounds do not require to be sewed up under this treatment, at least I never saw any advantage from it, as the stitches have uniformly torn out."—Michigan Farmer.

SWELLED LEGS IN HORSES.—This disease takes on several forms. Sometimes it is simply a slight enlargement of the legs, consequent upon standing on a hard floor, with lack of exercise. This often occurs when a horse is first taken in from pasture and confined in the stable. The obvious remedy is a little hard rubbing of the affected parts, feeding with grass or other light food, and plenty of daily exercise. A worse form of this is when a horse, somewhat feeble and diseased in other parts, suddenly develops swollen limbs. This is apparently the shifting of disease from the other organs. It is accompanied with a lack of healthy circulation, with fever, soreness, and lameness. Sometimes abscesses are formed, and the heels are affected with "scratches." The treatment required is a mild physic and bleeding, if the horse is not much reduced. Warm bathings should be used, and bandages. If this trouble arises from weakness and low living, the horse should have better food, and all means should be tried to improve the tone and vigor of his system.—American Agriculturist.

The Apiary.

The Wants of the Bee.

WE have knowledge of no animal in whose nature are embodied the elements of self extermination to so great an extent as the bee. Since the instinct for gathering and storing honey predominates over all else with the workers, they very soon fill any ordinary cavity in which they are placed. Indeed, so strong is their determination to work when honey is abundant, that if they enter the hive laden with the product of nature's richest store of sweets, and there find all the cells filled, either with honey previously gathered or with young brood, they vacate cell after cell containing newly laid eggs, larvae, or sealed bees, till the entire hive is filled with honey; in consequence of which breeding is wholly suspended, and since the life of the worker is of short duration during

the season that honey is most abundant, the colony suddenly becomes reduced in numbers, and not unfrequently are they entirely lost, leaving a hive almost, and sometimes wholly, filled with honey and bee-bread. Hence were it not for the swarming instinct imparted to them at certain periods, they would in a few years become extinct.

The fact that workers are short-lived having been but recently discovered, may require some demonstration to satisfy the minds of many who are just beginning to give practical bee culture the place of importance that it demands. This matter is considered at some length in the *American Bee Journal*, 1861, page 9, also the same, page 148, where we find the following: "We may estimate that during the height of the honey season, they do not on the average live longer than five or six weeks."

Also see *Taylor's Manual*, London, 1860, page 15. He says on the authority of Dr. Bevan and his own experience, that "there is no doubt that every bee existing after Christmas was bred during the latter part of the summer or autumn." And on page 150, "They are short-lived and periodically renewed; a large proportion of the bees at the close of the season are those produced in the latter months."

Many other references are at hand, but the fact must suffice for the present. An Italian queen was given to a vigorous stock of native bees on the 13th of July, and in sixty days after I could not find any native bees in the hive, but it contained a numerous colony of Italian bees. This, with many other facts, coming to my knowledge, satisfies me that the life of the worker, during the height of the working season, is less than fifty days. Hence, we may conclude that the excess of honey stored early in the breeding chamber of the hive is quite fatal to success in bee culture.

A large majority of bee keepers not being familiar with the habits and instincts of the bee, depend wholly upon luck for success with their bees. And many suppose if they can get their bees into some new fangled notion for a hive, that has been patented by some one who has studied much more on bee hives than on the habits and nature of the bee, then their luck is favourably turned, and their fortune secured. But let it be fully understood that no hive in existence can make a man a bee-keeper.

Hence we must conclude that bees require the intelligent care of the apiarist bestowed upon them at the right time.

Moths may infest a weak colony. They must be removed from the combs where they do their mischief.

A stock may be reduced in numbers so as not to be able to generate heat enough to keep up a hatching temperature in the hive. They must be strengthened by supplying bees or maturing brood from strong ones.

They may lose their queen and can be saved only by giving them another, or supplying them with comb containing newly laid eggs, or young larvae from a hive that has a prolific queen.—Valley Farmer.

Italian Honey Bee

This new species of honey bee is highly commended by those who have had the opportunity of observing and experimenting upon its habits. Its superiority over the common bee seems to be well established. Its chief peculiarities and excellencies are said to be the following:—It is a tough, hardy creature, will stand the cold of Northern winters better, collect honey much faster, work earlier in the morning and later at night, than our native kind. The queens are more prolific, and will brood much faster than the common species. They will collect honey from flowers which other bees pass by. Their proboscis is a trifle larger, and as they are strong and more active, they will frequently tear the anthers of flowers open to obtain the sweets, which the common bee will never do. Their size depends on the size of the cells in which they are reared. If the comb of the common bees' make is used, they will be about the size of common bees; but if allowed to build their own brood comb, they will be considerably larger. They differ somewhat in colour and shape from the common bee. They are larger, and their bodies taper nearly to a point. The workers are marked by a series of gold bands, encircling their bodies just under the wings. The drones are not so strongly marked. The queens vary in colour, some being dark brown, and others quite light, approaching to near a gold-colour.