

THE HORSE.

Management of the Stallion.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In standing a stallion for profit a man should regard it as a business, with so much capital invested, and the rate of profit may be as accurately fixed as in any other business. Naturally when contemplating engaging in any new line of work the first question one should ask himself should be: "Am I competent for that branch of business?" If the answer is "no," then either one must make himself competent or leave the new activity alone.

In the stallion business the above is just as true as in any other business. If one does not consider himself to be good enough horseman to safely handle a stallion, he should either leave the animal alone or first make himself competent to handle him. To my mind the caretaker of a stallion should be of a quiet temperament. Nothing is more trying to a nervous, high-strung stallion than the loud spoken commands of a noisy person. The caretaker should also be a person who would only use the whip as a last resort. Too free use of the whip is one of the most prolific sources of vicious stallions.

It is very important that the stallion be trained to walk and stand well. Particularly is this true of the draft stallion. A prospective patron on looking over the horse for the first time forms his opinion of the desirability of the stallion as a breeder. If he is taught to stand with his feet squarely under him and to put some action into his walk, these things will aid greatly in securing favorable mention from the public, and the success of many a stallion is partly due to the good appearance he makes.

A stallion used only for service requires unusual care, so that his bodily vigor will be kept at a high standard. A horse used regularly for work requires only his feed and grooming to keep him in good condition, but a stallion, often unbroken to harness, may receive no regular exercise, and consequently means must be employed which will secure daily exercise for him. If the stallion is a driving animal some short daily drive can usually be given, which affords him the exercise he requires. But in the case of the draft stallion, in the winter time long periods may pass, in which no use can be found for him. Then, if the animal is unbroken to harness, the problem is still more complicated, for very few stallion owners feel they can afford to give the time necessary for a three or four-mile walk with the stallion, let alone the fatigue of the walk.

This lack of regular exercise can be overcome by giving the horse a pen of sufficient size that he may secure his own exercise. A neighbor of mine built an outside pen about 80 by 40 feet in size for his stallion. The sides are built of heavy posts cut in the woods, with 2 by 4 pieces spiked securely in them. Planks one and one-half inches thick are spiked to the height of eight feet. This makes a thoroughly tight and safe pen. While the horse, by rearing, can show his head above the top of the sides, yet he can secure no foothold on the smooth surface. In this pen he tramps and tramps all through the day. This exercise is secured each day, as the animal is left in this pen all the time, except in very bad winter weather. The bottom of the pen is made solid by the use of stone to the depth of one foot, which was cracked on top and then covered with clay. When the weather is wet the pen does not become sloppy as the horse tramps around. That the stallion must be given this exercise is imperative. All authorities agree that the cause of the failure of many stallions is simply lack of exercise. Their organs are clogged with poisonous waste matter.

After the question of proper exercise is satisfactorily answered, the next problem is one of feed. Authorities agree that the stallion should have a balanced ration. An excess of either nitrogenous or carbonaceous matter will render the stallion practically useless. Of course, it is possible to make many combinations of feed which will give the desired result. The following ration can be used with good success: In the morning, two quarts of bran and two quarts of oats, with a pinch of salt. For the noon feed, two quarts of oats. The evening feed is the same as the morning feed. The animal is given hay twice daily, morning and evening. The hay is fed before the grain. No corn in any form whatever is fed. A good quality of mixed clover and timothy hay, about two-thirds of the former to one-third of the latter, cannot be much improved upon as the hay portion of the ration for the stallion. Alfalfa can be used instead of clover, in the absence of the clover, but alfalfa in too large a quantity is said to render a stallion impotent. The proper quantity of mixed clover and timothy to feed per day is about one pound per cwt. of horse. Stallions are not infrequently fed hay more liberally than economy or healthfulness require. A warm bran mash about twice a week is good in cold weather. Needless to say,

the water supply for the stallion must be good and pure.

Regular grooming of the stallion is very beneficial. A first-class groom is very methodical in his work. He ties the horse securely in a well-lighted place where the dust will blow away. He goes over the entire surface with a blunt tooth currycomb, moving it in a circular manner. Next he uses a heavy broom-bristle brush which knocks out the coarse particles. With this brush-brush which removes most of the finer particles is then used. For finishing the coat a soft flannel cloth gives the desired gloss, which is not absolutely necessary except where the horse is to be shown. The mane and tail should be kept in order. The uneven mane should have the long, ragged hairs pulled out by twisting them around a heavy comb and pulling hard. A mane that is too thick may be thinned the same way.

In handling the stallion, it is necessary to be quiet as possible, yet firm. As far as possible, only one person should have anything to do with the horse, as he becomes accustomed to the ways of his groom and knows what is expected of him. While the animal should be so trained that anyone accustomed to horses can handle him, yet his care should be confined to one person.

Johnson Co., Ill.

W. H. UNDERWOOD.

Crossing With the Thoroughbred.

Our English correspondent, in this week's article among other things, discusses the use of the Thoroughbred sire on farm mares in the production of horses. A great deal of what he says about the stamina and hardiness produced by such a cross is true. Of course, many of his remarks, no doubt, are based upon conditions which have arisen since the war broke out. The class of horse which would result from such a



Pulling the Shoe—An Old Country Smithy.

mating is one that could be used in many phases of the army service, and we must not overlook the fact that there is likely to be in the near future, at least, a growing market for this class of horse. However, we would not have our horsemen led away by the idea that the best horse for them to produce would be a light-legged animal by crossing the Thoroughbred horse upon the heavy, chunky, farm mares which are common in Canada, most of which carry considerable blood of some of the draft breeds of horses.

In the first place, we have in Canada very few real good Thoroughbred stallions. The Thoroughbred stallion that would be best suited for this purpose, is one of the big, strong type, and not the little, pinched-up horse which is so often seen in Canada. The business of breeding Thoroughbred horses has waned considerably in this country, and unless good sires are available such a system of crossing would be detrimental to horse interests. Even were they available we doubt whether such a system would be extensively carried on in this country. The war must end in a few years at least, and the horse that will be in greatest demand will be the one that can do the most heavy work, either on the farm or in heavy teaming in the cities. We agree that a light-legged horse, what we, in this country, generally call a general-purpose horse is a very handy horse to have on the farm to do the running to the mill, to the station and other work on the road, but as a breeder's proposition nothing has yet been found equal to the heavy draft classes for the farmer.

Horse Barn Construction.

A bulletin has recently been issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture which discusses ventilation of farm buildings, and in which J. H. Grisdale, Director of Experimental Farms, and E. S. Archibald, Dominion Animal Husbandman, put forth some ideas on ventilation, which should materially aid in improving the condition of many stables in this country. The bulletin is in three parts, dealing with cattle stables, horse barns and pig pens. For the benefit of our readers, not only as far as ventilation is concerned, but in the construction of a horse stable we are taking the following from this bulletin.

The construction of the walls of the new stable erected at the Central Experimental Farm in 1906 was, starting at the outside, as follows: vertical inch dressed lumber, battens over joints; two building papers, rough lumber, horizontal; 6-inch studs and air space; rough lumber, horizontal; building paper; V-joint inside finish. The ceiling or upper floor was similarly constructed, joists supported by two beams resting on stall posts. The foundation of the building was built of concrete. The floor, regular cement, was built rather strong; a good depth of stone was laid on the ground, then a layer of about five inches of rough concrete (1 of cement, 3 sand, 8 of gravel) this was followed and finished off with a second layer (1 part of cement, 2½ parts coarse sand, and ½ part crushed granite). The surface of all passages was cut by inch-deep grooves into six-inch squares. The main passage is twelve feet wide and is about three inches higher in the centre, descending with a slope to immediately behind the horses. The stand for the horses is four inches higher than the gutter or lowest point of the twelve-foot passage. The stands are nine feet long, the first three feet being level, and a fall of one inch in six feet at the rear.

Stalls vary in width from five feet to six feet one inch, and the centre of each stall floor is ½ inch lower than the outer edges. The horses stand on the cement. Feed chutes begin at the plate, and end in the horse's manger. The chutes are slightly bell-shaped, so that hay once started drops to the manger. This plan of feeding long timothy hay has been found very satisfactory. The mangers extend clear across the stall in each case, the hay chute falling in one end. Grain or meal is fed in the manger, there being no especial position arranged therefor. There is a tank at the end of the twelve-foot passage behind the horses, to which they may be led for water when desired.

This stable is equipped with two distinct systems of ventilation, either one of which may be operated quite independently of the other. The two are the well-known King system and the Rutherford system. In the King system fresh air is allowed to enter at the ceiling, and foul air leaves at or near the floor. In the Rutherford system the fresh air enters at or near the floor, and leaves at the ceiling. The two systems tried out in the same barn have convinced those in charge that the Rutherford system, in freeing the stable of moisture and foul air, is decidedly ahead of the King system. These systems have many times been described in "The Farmer's Advocate," and it is not necessary to repeat them here. Either is good, but for ventilating a horse stable the Rutherford system has won out with the experimenters at Ottawa.

Horse business is booming in Britain; reports state that it is picking up in the United States; the Canadian horseman will be next to feel the effects of coming better times.

Buyers should look up the good stallions early. There will not be too many of them next spring.

A comfortable box stall is better than the back field for the colt's sleeping quarters now.

A good horseman never abuses his horses.