

## CARE OF BROOD MARES.

Most of our farmers, says an exchange, are expecting some of their mares to drop foals at this season of the year. They consider a good mare a very profitable investment if she regularly produces a foal every year, but although this is the case, they do not care for her as she deserves. We do not refer to pedigreed mares at present, but to the average work mare of the farm, for as a rule the former receives all the care and attention possible. With the farm mare it is different. At this busy season of the year every available horse is required, and the mare, heavy in foal, is often made to do work which is far too hard for her. We have known of many a case where the mare and foal were lost by this over-exertion. The mare should do no work for a period of at least two weeks before her time, but should be well exercised or allowed to exercise herself in a suitable grass lot. When the time of her foal is up, she should be placed in an airy, snug, roomy loose box, supplied with a proper amount of clean straw for bedding, where she can lie down when she pleases. A man should visit the mare every hour at night when she is expected to foal, as where this is neglected we often find in the morning a dead foal, and mayhap the mare also. 'Tis often said: "No man ever saw a mare foal," but this is not correct. Doubtless

when a mare is in good health, and especially if she has had previous foals, the birth is accomplished very quickly, but from the symptoms, a practical man can always manage to be present when the event happens. It is best when this can be done, as even in easy cases of labour, a little assistance may often be beneficial both to the mare and foal. After birth the foal should be assisted to drink for a time or two, as weakness frequently makes standing up difficult.

If the weather is comfortably warm the mare may be turned out, after say three days, into a small field where good grass is plentiful.

On no account should she be worked in harness before two weeks have elapsed since foaling, and even after that period, she should only have light work for a short time daily. When the mother is at work the foal should be left in a loose box, and must never be allowed to follow the mother to the field, as bad results may follow from drinking her milk when she is heated, or receiving a kick or tread when, as is usually the case, the foal gets in the way.

In the West, farmers allow the tender foal to trot to

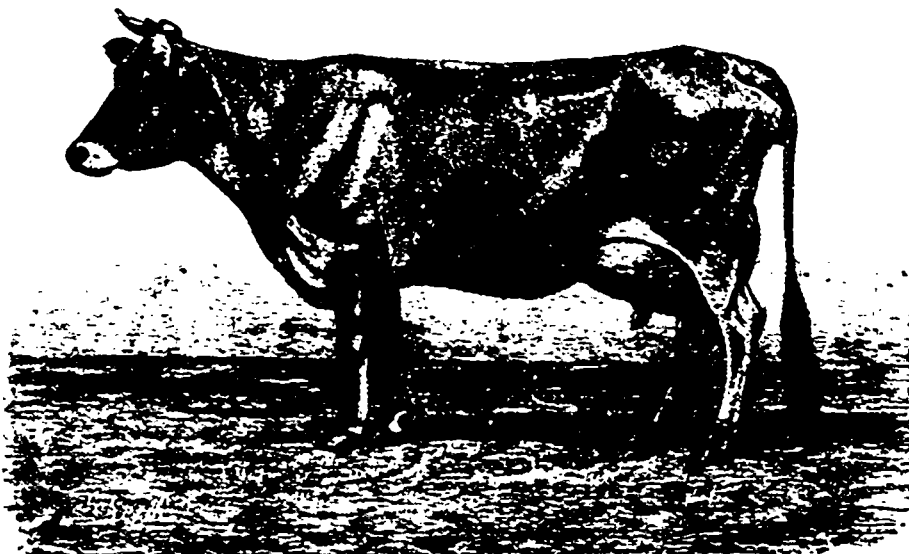
town beside its mother when she takes the waggon or buggy to market. This is bad management, and will do the foal harm that can never be got over. When it is absolutely necessary for the mare to work in harness, she should be quietly walked to the barn after she has been working for two hours or so, that the foal may have a meal and the mare a rest.

The above precautions are only necessary in cases where the mare must work, for the most natural and proper management is to turn the mare and foal to grass where her whole strength will be concentrated on the work of raising her colt.

## SCRUB COWS AGAIN.

A visit to any of our stock markets, or a drive in the country, no matter in what direction, will astonish any person at the number of farmers who will persist in raising and keeping scrub stock, much of which is of the very poorest description. It would almost lead

many people to suppose that there were no thorough-bred bulls in the country; and yet, go into any locality and thoroughbreds can be found; but the prices charged for their services are invariably so high that the ordinary farmers, sooner than pay such exorbitant charges, content themselves with breeding inferior animals, arguing that if the calf is a male, it



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most likely will go to the shambles, and the butcher will give no higher price for a well bred calf than for a common one; and if a female, well, the cow is a good milker, so the heifer is sure to turn out the same. Whereas, they overlook the fact that a sire may have come from very inferior stock. Then, again, probably there is no good bull in the immediate neighbourhood; and sooner than trouble taking the cow any little distance, they will use the services of the nearest bull, no matter how poorly bred. Our farmers should remember that in breeding stock, no matter of what description, the prepotency of the male is greater than that of the female; and the offspring are more likely to take after the sire than the dam.

To make a mare own her colt, take some milk from the mare and rub it on the colt's nose; then let the mare smell it, and she will own her colt at once. I knew this to be tried several years ago, and it acted like a charm. My father had a mare that would not own her colt, and on consulting an old German neighbour, he told him of this remedy, and it brought the answer at once.