

Brittle Feet—Forging—Knee Action.

1. Four-year-old mare has very hard, brittle feet, and they are contracting at the heels. She is not lame, but lies a good deal. Her mother has been tender in her feet for years.
2. Roadster clicks or strikes fore shoes with hind shoes when trotting.
3. How can knee action be increased?

G. W. M.

Ans.—1. This filly inherits the predisposition to foot trouble from her dam. The contraction of the feet is due to an inflammatory action within the hoof, and it will require great care to prevent ultimate and permanent lameness. If you do not require her for work, remove her shoes and get the heels pared and rasped down as low as possible without reaching sensitive tissue. The inferior border of the wall will, of course, need to be rasped off, too. Then apply a blister to the coronet. Clip the hair off all around the hoof for about two inches in height. Make a blister of 2 drams each of biniodide of mercury and cantharidies, mixed with 2 ounces vaseline. Tie so that she cannot bite the parts. Rub well with the blister once daily for two days, and on the third day apply sweet oil. Turn her into a loose box now (one with an earthen floor preferable), oil the parts daily until the scale comes off. Then tie up and blister again, and after this blister once monthly, as long as you can give her rest. In the meantime, keep the heels, etc., well pared down. The blistering stimulates the secretion of horn, and tends to prevent contraction; also allays internal inflammation. If you cannot give rest, all that you can do is to keep the feet as soft as possible, by applying poultices of linseed meal every night, and, of course, having the shoeing-smith keep the heels as low as he can safely do. In the summer time, it will be wise to wear bar-shoes. We may say that the principal points are to keep the feet moist, avoid standing on hot, dry surfaces, and keep well shod.

2. This is called "forging," and in many cases is very hard to check. The manner of checking or preventing depends considerably upon the kind of action. In some cases, shoeing the fore feet with rather heavy shoes, without toe calkins, and the toe of shoe rounded off, so that he will lift the feet more promptly, and get them well up before the hind shoe comes forward, will succeed. In other cases, very light shoes in front, without toe calkins, do better. As regards the hind feet, the same may be said; that is, in some cases heavy, and in some cases light, shoes are needed. The shoeing-smith must experiment, and, when he finds the peculiar method of shoeing that suits the horse, he will continue to shoe him in that manner. The habit is a very disagreeable one, though not dangerous. Few horses forge when driven sharply at a good speed; but few men care to drive this way all the time, and when jogging the horse will forge. Some young or weakly horses forge, but when full-grown and stronger the habit ceases.

3. The manner of increasing knee action, like forging, depends to considerable extent upon the individuality and peculiarity of action. On general principles, weight of fore shoes and rolling toe action—that is, an absence of toe calkins, and the toe of the shoe rounded off—tends to increase action. The weight of the shoes that give the best results can be ascertained only by trying shoes of different weights. Some horses go better with 1½-pound shoes, others with 2-pound shoes, and other with still heavier. Except in winter time, when heel calkins are necessary, it is better to have no calkins—simply the shoes slightly swegged at heels. The horse should be driven with a little curb on bit, the head checked up fairly high, and driven smartly, with reasonable tension on bit, and at whatever gait he will go highest. I might say that the development of action, and, at the same time, a reasonable speed, is, to some extent, an art, and requires special adaptability and experience. It requires not only a man who has an intelligent idea of the mechanical actions of the limbs and feet, but one who has good light hands and knows how to use them, as the extent to which natural or developed action in a horse is exercised depends to nearly as great a degree upon the mouth of the horse as upon his limbs and feet, and a man with what a horseman knows as heavy hands will worry a horse's mouth to such an extent that he cannot act well with either fore or hind feet. At the same time, any horseman who understands the principles of action, and has ordinary observation, should be able to develop action to a reasonable extent, provided he has the time and patience to devote to it. "WHIP."

Plans Worth Twice Subscription Price.

I like your paper very much, and think the plans of those plank-frame barns worth twice the subscription price to anyone contemplating building, besides all the other excellent information we get from week to week.

Kentville, Ont.

CHAS. WHITMAN.

Fault in Hoof Grown Out.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Two years ago we purchased a heavy mare that was very lame in front foot, at times crippling her almost entirely. The cause of the lameness could not be found, as her foot appeared to be normal, except being slightly feverish and not making very rapid growth. She was shod with a low-calked shoe and a leather sole packed with tow and tar. Black oil, which we knew to be a good hoof application, was applied freely around walls of hoof before she went to work in morning. This treatment started a healthy growth of hoof. In about three months there was noticed on the inner side of the hoof a depression about a quarter of an inch deep and an inch and a half long, running parallel with the top of the hoof. Of course this could not be noticed until it had grown down from above with the growth of the hoof. The mare foaled in May, and then had her shoes removed, and she did nothing but suckle the colt all summer. By fall the depression had grown entirely out of her hoof, leaving it smooth and straight. The lameness, which was undoubtedly due to this spot in the hoof pressing inward upon the foot, has now entirely disappeared, thanks to the black oil which started the growth in the hoof, and I believe that many such cases could be cured, or, at least, helped by the use of this simple remedy, as it starts a healthy growth of hoof, which in such lameness is what is needed to effect a cure.

TRIX.

[Note.—I am of the opinion the writer is correct in his idea of the cause of lameness, which, no doubt, was a calk or wounding of the hoof near the coronet, and as is usual in such cases, the edges of the hoof surrounding the calk dried up and turned inwards, causing pressure upon the sensitive part of hoof. The lameness could have been prevented by paring this away periodically, so as to remove pressure. So soon as this portion of the foot grew down, or, rather, was forced down by the growth of new horn from above, the cause of lameness ceased. The writer's



Source of the Horse Supply.

explanation of the cure is incorrect. There is no special virtue or hoof-growing properties in any kind of oil, whether black or white. Then, again, he applied the oil to the hoof. Now, the hoof does not produce hoof. The hoof is formed by the coronary band, which is situated just between the skin and the hoof, and in order to promote growth of hoof this band requires stimulation, which is best done by blistering. The facts are that nature removed the cause of lameness, and he gives the black oil the credit. Lameness lasted about a year, and that is about the length of time it requires for a new hoof to grow; or, in other words, for a wound received near the coronet to be forced down to the lower margin of the wall.—"Whip."]

Why Russian Horses are Unusually Intelligent.

A member of the American Society for the Protection of Dumb Animals, who has spent a good deal of time in Russia, and who is a great lover of animals and a close observer of their condition and treatment, remarks the entire absence of check-reins, blinders and docked horses in that country. To this fact she attributes the unusual intelligence which the Russian horses display. This lady brought back with her to America a large number of photographs of Russian work horses, and they are certainly splendid animals. In Russia it is not the practice to blanket horses except in extreme cold. The horses are driven hard without blankets, and do not appear to suffer when left to stand in a heated condition. When the thermometer falls to a certain point, indicating extreme cold, a flag is raised on a public building notifying drivers that the horses must be blanketed. It is easy to make these rules in a monarchy, and, of course, they are rigidly complied with.—[Our Animal Friends.

LIVE STOCK.

Walls with Tar Paper and Shavings

Ready response has been made to the request for pigpen plans, published in our issue of Jan. 14th. A number have been published, but space will not permit the reproduction of all that have been sent in. John Irwin, of Hastings Co., Ont., submits the plan of a pen built by him in 1905, which he says is giving perfect satisfaction. The plan, in its details, does not differ very essentially from some that have been already printed, but we note especially his description of the insulation of the walls:

"My pen is 30 x 36 feet, built of scantling frame, 9 feet high, set on stone foundation. It is boarded up and tar-papered, then boarded on outside with matched lumber. Inside is boarded up and stuffed with shingle shavings, they being pounded down tight to prevent circulation of air. The feed-board is a plank set into the trough; scantling are 6 feet apart in cement of trough, to nail front boards to. It is boarded down to about 6 feet of bottom of trough, to prevent hogs from bothering when being fed. There are six windows in pen, of six lights each. Under each window is a slide door, to slide up when cleaning pens out. Loft above for straw, with trapdoor for each pen. Stairway is set in over the trough, and takes up no room. This house has six pens, and room for about 45 hogs.

Facts of the Case.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The editor of the Weekly Sun makes the following statement in his report of the annual meeting of the Swine-breeders' Association, held February 3rd, 1909, in Toronto:

"Some of the statements made during the discussion which occurred in connection with these proposals, indicate that at least some of those

present were not conversant with the facts of the case, and that others have not fully considered the effect that must be brought about if some of these proposals are carried into effect. For instance, D. C. Flatt, President of the Swine-breeders' Association, declared that half the pork consumed in Canadian cities was of American origin."

The editor of the Sun says it would be interesting to know where Mr. Flatt derived his information.

In the first place, I would like to inform the Sun that such a statement was never made by me, and that other reliable newspaper men were present when I made my remarks, and they do

not quote me as saying any such thing. Now, for the special information of the Weekly Sun, I will state the facts as they were at the convention: "That a certain packer had said that 'Half the pork consumed in Canadian cities was of American origin.'"

It looks to me that the Sun does not feel friendly toward the present move of the swine-producers of Canada, asking for a duty of 4 cents per pound on all American hog products coming into Canada.

The Sun, in presenting its case, says that the total exports of bacon and hams from the United States to all British-American ports, including Newfoundland, for the eleven months ending November, amounted to a little over \$600,000. Now, I can see no use of the Sun trying to mislead the people. Why does it not give the last official report of American hog products coming into Canada? Possibly it has some special reason for not doing so, and I will give the figures of the last official report, and let the men who are producing the hogs of the country judge for themselves as to whether the amount of American hog products coming into our country is not having an influence on the fluctuation of the market values for live hogs. I will quote from March 31st, 1907, to March 31st, 1908:

	Pounds.	Value.
Pure lard	11,691,325	\$1,063,553
Compound lard	698,850	64,828
Bacon and hams	7,307,949	852,301
Pork in barrels	8,966,365	704,779
Pork, dried & smoked	1,318,151	148,850
Pork products	29,983,640	\$2,834,311

It might be interesting to know that, during this same period, our exports of hog products to the United States amounted to about \$5,211.

The above comparison shows the effect upon