

horses for its working, the brood mares doing most of the work.

The conformation of the Irish Hunter, as it is known to-day, may be described as: Height, from 15.2 to 16.1 hands, with long, lean, well-shaped head; good neck, the underneath formation of which in the best type of Hunter is short from the throat to the chest; long, sloping shoulders, with good withers running well into the back; long, slightly-drooping quarters; strong second thighs and hocks, with the hind legs slightly inclined under the body; good arms, and cannon bone rather long. Irish Hunters, as a rule, are noted for their evenness of temper. Much of their stamina and intelligence in the hunting field is attributed to their being bred and raised on land on which, in the majority of cases, the fences are far from perfect, and some of the youngsters become self-educated jumpers by negotiating the fences before they are taken up to be trained.

Mare Losing Colt.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

From the experience of others much is to be learned, let it be good or bad, and I might say in the outset that I have received many material benefits in this way through "The Farmer's Advocate." If I might remark, too, there does appear once in a while in its columns a question which sounds somewhat silly, to my mind, and would never be printed, and much less answered, if it were not for policy's sake; and should this item appeal to you, Mr. Editor, in such a light, just pass it over to the waste basket, and oblige.

Under the heading of "Mares losing their milk before foaling," and, "If there is any remedy for or preventive," and, "The results" in cases of this kind, I have noticed in "The Farmer's Advocate" quite a number of write-ups, and it is along this line that I would ask a little space.

Three years ago I bred my mare to a pure-bred imported Percheron stallion, and was particularly careful, while she was carrying her foal, to see that she was properly handled in the way of exercise, feeding, etc. The mare worked every day up to the time of foaling, but was never overtaxed, and was fed her allowance of grain regularly. Some six or seven weeks previous to foaling wax formed on her teats, followed in a day or two by a flow of milk every little while. This continued until foaling. The colt came along all right; was a little weak, but was soon able to help itself. Its bowels and kidneys were acting all right till the third day, when it seemed to lose ambition, get sick, and only lasted about 12 hours. The trouble, to my mind, seemed to center in the stomach and bowels.

As this was the first colt the mare had, I ventured another trial, breeding her to the same horse, and the results in every particular were the same, only that the colt this time lived a day longer.

I do not profess to be a horse doctor, but it is my opinion that there is no preventive in a case of this kind, and have come to the conclusion that the cause of death in the above instances was due to the milk being too old, and things would have been different had the colt got the first milk, or what nature intended.

R. J. GREEN.

Leeds Co., Ont.,

Prayer of the Horse.

(Translated from the Swedish.)

To Thee, my Master, I offer my prayer: Feed me, and take care of me. Be kind to me. Do not jerk the reins; do not whip me when going up hill.

Never strike, beat or kick me when I fail to understand what you want of me, but give me a chance to understand you. Watch me, and if I refuse to do your bidding, see if there is not something wrong with my harness.

Do not give me too heavy loads; never hitch me where water will drip on me. Keep me well shod. Examine my teeth when I fail to eat; I may have an ulcerated tooth. That, you know, is very painful. I am unable to tell you in words when I am sick; so watch me, and I will try to tell you by signs.

Pet me sometimes; I enjoy it, and I will learn to love you.

Protect me in summer from the hot sun. Keep a blanket on me in winter weather, and never put a frosty bit in my mouth, but hold it in your hands a moment first.

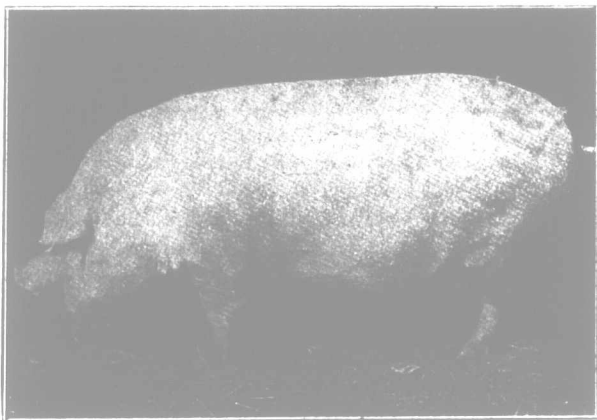
I carry you, pull you, wait patiently for you long hours, day or night. I cannot tell you when I am thirsty; give me clean, cool water often in hot weather.

Finally, when my strength is gone, instead of turning me over to a human brute, to be tortured and starved, take my life in the easiest and quickest way.

Distinctive Character of a Good Horse.

"The horse in the ascendancy," is the heading of an editorial in the Horse World, commenting on what it construes as a remarkable trend towards the horse as a source of recreation and pleasure, noticeable in New York, Chicago, and Kansas City. In explanation of the greater appreciation manifested for a certain first-class horse outfit, in comparison with the most elegant automobiles, the editor quotes the opinion of a man who owns both motor-cars and horses: "You can buy an automobile almost anywhere you wish, and can duplicate the purchase most any time if you choose to do so; but it's different with a horse. He is like man himself. A high-class, good horse is hard to find, and always attracts the attention of the people and buyers. A good man and horse are alike, as one commands a good salary, and the other always commands a good price when sold. They are both always scarce, and always exceedingly hard to find."

This is very true. The horse is an individual with a character of his own. No two are exactly alike. Individuality contributes a large part of the fascinating interest in human nature; so, also, in equine nature, the infinite variation in form, temperament, in short, the individuality of the horse, renders him an object of study, interest and affection, such as no machine can ever be. The difference between the music produced by a skillfully-played piano and that of a pianola, is a slight suggestion of the difference between a horse and a machine. Besides individuality, the horse possesses vitality, life. He feels, knows, responds, is an object of affectionate regard. A car is an automaton, unresponsive, unfeeling, valuable chiefly for the service it renders. The horse is a creature, one of the miracles of creation, endowed with impulse, character, life. Who would not own, and, owning, love a horse?



A Chester White Yearling Sow.

The demand for horses has been beyond the expectations of the most sanguine horseman. Many drafters have been sold to go West. To price a good drafter was to make a sale. We regret, though, that so many splendid fillies and young mares have been taken. To keep these for breeding purposes would have been a better asset to our district than the money left.—[W. F. Stephen, Huntingdon Co., Que.]

In selecting a brood mare, the character, symmetry, style, constitution, soundness and type are possibly of greater importance than pedigree. But, at the same time, it is well to know as much as can be learned of her ancestors. Knowing the kind of stock she has sprung from, one may forecast with some degree of confidence the kind of stock she will produce. Pedigree stands for a good deal, and the more known about each animal's line of ancestry, the better, but seek individual merit first.

Work the in-foal mares, but work them judiciously. It is poor economy to misuse a mare heavy in foal, to make twenty-five dollars' worth of work out of her in the seeding season, and risk losing a foal that will be worth seventy-five or a hundred dollars by fall. If there is work to do, and the mares have to do it, a little care in handling, and a little reason in the amount of work expected, helps. Don't expect an in-foal mare to do as much work as a gelding or a mare not in foal. You may take the work out of them all right, but you are taking some chances on the foal.

I think that answers to questions are splendid. I also enjoy reading those articles and letters written by Mr. Rice.

A. B. VAN BEARICON.

Northumberland Co., Ont.

LIVE STOCK.

Chester White Swine.

By R. H. Harding.

The Chester White breed of hogs, known to Canadians as an American breed, is, like most of the other breeds of swine, made up from crossing, but the exact out-crosses are somewhat difficult to determine. That their place of origin was Chester County, Pennsylvania, no writer attempts to contradict. While all the Chester Whites are looked upon as one and the same breed in this country, the Chester Whites and the Ohio Improved Chester (known to us as the O. I. C.'s) are referred to as two distinct breeds in the United States, the champions of each breed claiming certain preferences for their favorites. But, according to the best authority obtainable, they both trace to the Chester County Whites. About 1820, Capt. James Jeffries imported into Pennsylvania two pigs known as the Bedfords (large, spotted hogs), which importation was followed later by others, which were crossed upon the native sows of Chester County, and are, no doubt, responsible in some degree for this breed. Nevertheless, a Mr. Barnitz, writing in the American Farmer, in 1833, says they are made up of crosses of the Suffolk (a large white breed), the English White, and the common hog. The Chesters were originally a large, coarse hog, the Ohio Improved being much longer and leaner, and harder feeders, than the Chesters, growing until they were three years old; but they have been considerably modified during the last quarter of a century, until now they rank medium as to size among the breeds.

As the name indicates, they are white in color, occasionally, blue spots are found on the skin, which are objectionable, but do not disqualify. Black spots in the hair are disqualifications. The breed is noted for being hardy and vigorous. The most modern specimen should be long and deep, straight, or a trifle arched on the back, with full hams, well let down on the hocks, with shoulder and jaw as light as is consistent with a strong, vigorous constitution, and standing up well on short, straight legs. Ears fine, and drooping somewhat, but not lopping; face slightly dished, but not too long; broad between the eyes; heavier bone preferred in the males than in the females.

As a utility breed, I consider the best specimens (and that is the only kind in any breed that should be kept as breeders) compare most favorably with any other breed, for both the feeder and the consumer. Their chief claim to preference is for crossing with the more discontented breeds. Being naturally very quiet, they produce pigs very suitable for grazing (a system of feeding which must be more generally adopted, if the best returns in hog-feeding are to be attained). The reasons why I consider Chesters second to none as a farmer's hog, are: First, they are very quiet, not given to roaming; second, the sows are excellent mothers and good milkers, and almost always produce large litters that can be finished early as desired. If I were asked to advise anyone as to what I think is the best course to pursue in breeding pigs for the ordinary market, I would say: Select a good lengthy, deep Chester sow, with not less than twelve teats, and cross her with a good Yorkshire or Tamworth boar, and he will, or should, get a type of pigs that will be reasonably easy feeders, and at the same time be suitable to command the highest price in any market. To anyone breeding for a special market, such as for local consumption, at 90 to 120 pounds, dressed weight, a top cross of the Berkshire, or with the same breed (Chester), will produce a better finished carcass for the weight. At the same time, I would say that pure-bred Chesters of good type will produce A-1 packers' stuff if intelligently handled, and do it at reasonable cost to the producer. Chesters would be more plentiful in Canada to-day, I believe, if farmers had consulted their own interests, but the cry, a few years ago, for a purely bacon hog was made so loudly and persistently that several Fair boards were influenced to strike them off the prize lists, the consequence being that farmers discarded them (generally), which probably accounts to some extent for the famine prices that are being paid to-day for both pork and lard.

North of Ireland farmers are agitating for dairy qualities in the bulls in common use. The Shorthorn is the breed that is in most favor there, but complaints are heard that not enough attention is being paid to their milking qualities. At a meeting of farmers in Belfast, held during the Shorthorn Show and Sale there, a resolution to the effect that pedigreed bulls of this breed, to be eligible for premiums, must be from dams that are registered or qualified for registration as dairy cows, was seriously and ably discussed, though action was deferred.