

## THE HORSE.

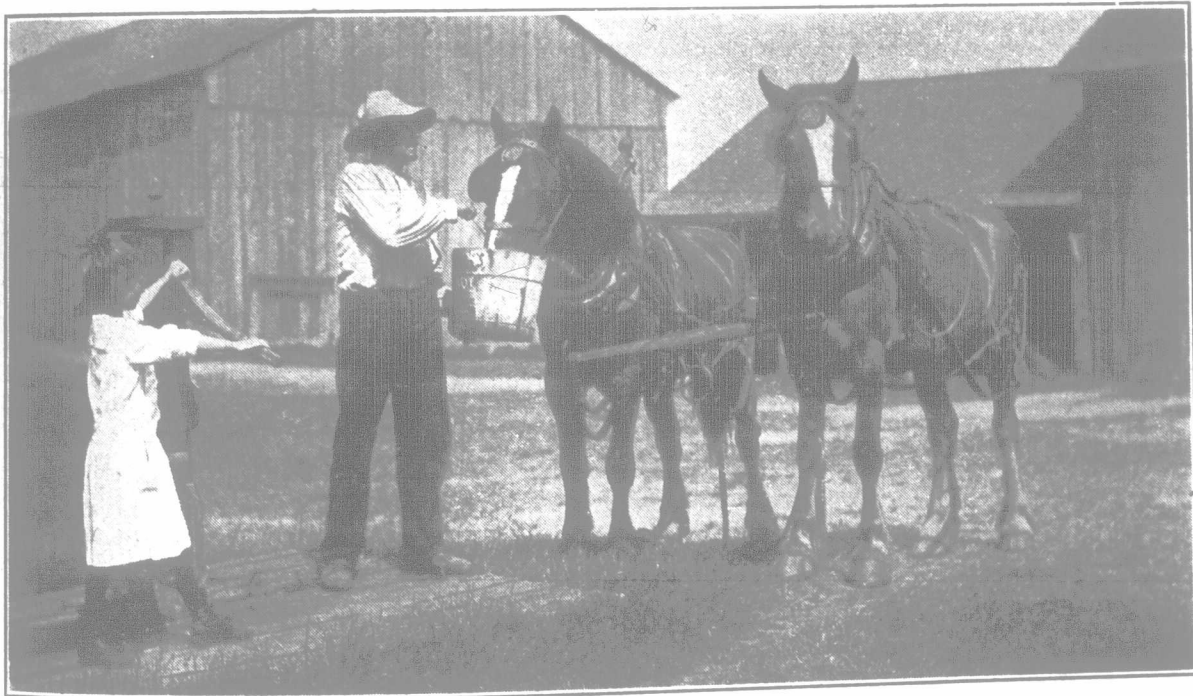
### How to Handle the Bad Horse.

By Dr. G. H. Conn.

While it is a fact that most draft and work horses are very tractable and easily handled, yet there are times when due to some disease or injured condition affecting them that it becomes necessary to restrain them. In restraining the horse it is done for the purpose of ensuring safety to the attendant and to enable the attendant to perform the necessary duty, whatever it may be; in other cases animals must be restrained to prevent them injuring themselves. There are many special methods and appliances for restraining the horse, but for our purposes there are several methods that can be utilized on any farm or in any stable. No method of restraint should be used that is liable to injure the animal. Methods of restraint that produce pain should be employed as little as possible.

There are three methods of restraint in common use; the use of an implement producing pain, thus occupying the animal's attention during the period that the pain is caused; the use of mechanical means to render the animal immobile, and the use of anaesthetics which renders the animal unconscious. The first two only concern us, and various methods are in use. In far too many instances methods of restraint are used that are not really necessary. It should be the policy of the good horseman to use such means just as little as possible. There is a very noticeable difference in men's ability to handle animals during a variety of circumstances and under a wide range of conditions. The horse is a creature of memory and quite often a firm hold of the reins and a stern command from the attendant is all that is needed in a great many instances.

The Use of the Twitch—This is the most common and the most widely used method of restraining the horse. It is very successful, and the ease and rapidity with which it can be used no doubt accounts for its being universally adopted by horse men the world over.



Horses Should Be Watered Frequently During Warm Weather.

It is used too many times when it really isn't needed due to the reasons just mentioned. It consists of a small rope or a piece of latigo leather, tied so as to form a small loop, just large enough to fit over the horse's upper lip; to this there is a handle fitted for twisting this loop after it has been put into the proper position. This handle can be of any material just so it accomplishes the desired results. Usually it is a short piece of wood, say from 12 to 24 inches long, that has a small hole in one end just large enough for the rope to pass through. The rope is placed through this hole and then fastened to form the loop.

The loop should be placed around the wrist of the left hand, and the operator grasps the halter of the horse with the right hand, if he is working alone; but if he has an assistant he permits him to hold the animal; in such a case his right hand is placed across the animal's nose to steady the head. With the left hand grasp the upper lip; release the hold of the right hand and slip the loop over the left hand and over the lip. With the right hand grasp the handle of the twitch, tightening it up by twisting it. It is best to make twitches small for if they are made too large the operator is quite likely to injure the animal by using too much force.

The twitch can also be used upon the ear in cases where for any reason it is not desired to use it on the nose. In no case should the twitch be used unless it is necessary and then never apply enough force to injure the animal. If the twitch is to be used for any length of time it should be removed often or it may produce an injury to the parts, and it will prevent the animal getting restless.

The War and Pulley Bridle—These like the twitch are instruments of torture, and are much used in the control of mean or vicious horses. They should never be used unless it is absolutely necessary. There are several ways that these two bridles can be made, but the

principles are the same, and for that reason we shall give you these methods that are easiest and permit of the cheapest construction. For making either of these a piece of 3/4 inch rope about 25 or 30 feet long and a small pulley is needed. This rope should be strong and of good quality. To make a pulley bridle take the rope and fasten the pulley on one end and then pass the loose end through the pulley until a loop about the diameter equal to the length of the horse's head remains. Put the loop in the animal's mouth as you would a bridle bit and then over the top of the head. The pulley should rest on the side of the head below the ear or any other location down to slightly below the eye. The pulley, should be on the piece of rope passing over the top of the head, for then, when traction is applied, the loop will tighten and remain in position. This is a very effectual method of holding a mean or vicious horse. It can be used very successfully for a horse that has the habit of breaking loose while being led.

The war bridle works on about the same principle. The simplest way is to loop the rope about the animal's neck and fasten by tying just as snug as possible without interfering with the movements of the neck. Then take the loose end of the rope and pass it through this loop around the neck until the loop resulting is about 12 to 15 inches in diameter; place this loop in the animal's mouth the same as a bit and draw taut. There are not many horses but what can be controlled by either of these devices. Neither of them should be used unless it is absolutely necessary.

Taking up the Fore Leg—This may be done in one of two ways. First, by taking a broad, strong strap and holding up either of the front feet, while it is looped once around the fore arm; the long end is then passed around the cannon in the region of the fetlock and passed through the buckle and drawn quite snug. Another method is by taking a long rope and passing over the horse's back and around the body (thus making about 1 1/2 turns about the body) and by fastening the loose end of the rope to the foot in the region of the pastern and then pulling it up against the body by traction on the end of the rope on the opposite side of the body; rope

applied upon the loose end of the rope and the foot is drawn upward and forward. To eliminate pressure upon the windpipe the long end should be passed between the fore legs before it is placed about the hind foot. This is a very useful way to handle horses that kick while being harnessed. Care should be taken that the heels are not chafed by the rope. The longer the rope the less liable this is to happen.

There are many other methods of restraint, but when it is not possible to control the animal with the methods outlined here, it is advisable to secure a competent and experienced man that has the necessary apparatus for handling such animals.

## LIVE STOCK.

A stunted calf seldom catches up with the well-fed ones.

Does the bull you purchased this spring come up to your ideal of a herd sire?

The first six months of a calf's life either makes or mars its future development.

Better a good steer than a poor bull. Use the knife on the plain or mediocre calves.

If there is danger of pasture being short, sow a few acres to oats for summer pasture.

The undocked ewe is not a sign of good shepherding. Dock all the lambs when ten days to two weeks of age.

Selling the best animals will never enable a breeder to bring his herd to the highest rank. One cannot sell the best and continue to breed the best stock in the country.

Heavy milkers are seldom developed by allowing the calves to run with the cows. The pail fed calves are usually better rustlers than the suckling calf even though they do not look so sleek.

Feeding too heavy grain is one cause of growing pigs crippling. Too much corn in the ration of the growing pig confined to the pen tends to cause trouble unless used by a careful experienced feeder.

The amount of flesh an animal carries makes a big difference in appearance. A plain individual when thin oftentimes looks attractive when in flesh. It doesn't pay to allow an animal to get very thin even when feed is high priced.

At time of writing there are a lot of cattle on grass, although there is but scant picking. This is good for neither stock or pasture. Better to wait a week longer and give the grass a chance than have short grass all summer through injudicious pasturing in early spring.

Cut an opening in the corner of the farrowing pen large enough for the pigs up to weaning time. The exercise the pigs obtain running through the stable or out into the yard will help develop health, bone and muscle. Have a trough outside the pen for milk. It is surprising how much they will drink.

Feeders with sloping mangers to the passage have frequently been annoyed by the stock pushing the feed out. G. C. Burt of Wellington County overcomes the difficulty by having a wire stretched tightly from one end of the manger to the other. This wire is about three inches from the wall of the manger and prevents the cattle pushing the hay and straw beyond reach.

American breeders are opening a market for their surplus breeding stock in the Argentine. Wm. Hartnett has seventy-eight head of choice Shorthorns purchased for export to the Argentine, that great meat producing country. Breeders in that far off land are very particular as to breed type, quality, finish and breeding, consequently it is some of the best individuals from the herds that have been picked for export. As the Old Land has been the breeding ground for Americans' choice breeding stock so America, including Canada, is fast developing stock of the calibre desired for her sires or breeding females.

### Irish Dairy Shorthorns.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Notwithstanding the turmoil of murder, arson and general disorder, afflicting Ireland for months past it is reassuring to find farmers there still able to keep their heads level. They recognize that the production of milk must go on as the staple business of the country, and wish to see the average milk yield brought up toward 600 gallons per year instead of the present average of 400 gallons. Their efforts to promote the milking Shorthorns are stimulated by sales in England lately such as one where non-pedigreed dairy Shorthorns made an average of over £100 each for 50 head while pure-bred bulls from dams of that type always command fancy figures. Consequently at a recent congress of South of Ireland, Cow-Testing Associations held at Cork it was resolved to form a South of Ireland Dairy Shorthorn Breeder's Association with the following objects:

1. To promote the breeding of deep milking dual-purpose Shorthorn cattle in the South of Ireland.