

## HORSES.

## Fitting Colts for Show—Sore Navel

1. I have two good colts which I wish to fit for show purposes next fall. Their mothers are fair milkers. How should I use and feed them? I am told that cow's milk is good. If so, how much should I feed?

2. I also have a colt with a sore navel that exudes a yellowish matter.

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Ans.—1. It would not be wise to give the colts cow's milk until after they are weaned. You say that their dams are fair milkers, hence the foals will get all the milk that is necessary in the natural manner, and thereby obviate the danger of digestive troubles that always exists when quite young foals are given cows' milk without great care being taken to dilute it and add sugar. After they are weaned, if you still wish to do all that you can for them, it will be safe to give cows' milk, and as to the quantity to give, I may say that this will largely depend upon the supply, as a colt five or six months old can safely be given all a cow will yield if it be given warm, and at least four times daily, and the digestive organs of the colt will have gained sufficient strength to enable it to digest the milk without dilution. In order to do the best you can for your foals to make them winners at the fall fairs, you will need to look after both them and their dams well during the summer. In the first place, good pasture, with a plentiful supply of good water, is essential. The mares and foals should be turned out to pasture every fine day. While the nights are still cold they should be taken to the stable, and, of course, each pair should be given a roomy, clean, well-bedded and well-ventilated box stall. The mare should be fed, say a gallon of rolled oats, night and morning. The colts should be taught to eat as soon as possible. A colt will eat a little rolled or chopped oats at about two weeks of age. If the mare appears greedy, a small box should be arranged for the foal, and it should be fed separately, the dam being tied until it has had an opportunity to eat all it wants. It is safe, except probably in very rare instances, to allow the foal all it will eat. In the meantime, it is wise to have a halter that will fit the foal well, and lead it to and from the pasture. There is very little trouble in teaching a colt to lead under these circumstances, and it will soon become so well halter-broken that it can be led off by itself without trouble. This early training has a two-fold advantage. A colt which in the show-ring will behave itself and go well in hand will easily win over a colt equally as good which has not been taught to lead, but follows its dam in a very unsatisfactory manner, and takes great chances of being kicked or otherwise injured by other horses. In addition to the immediate advantage for show purposes, the early training teaches the young thing to submit to control, and will be much more easily handled when further education is necessary.

So soon as the nights become warm, the mare and foal should be left in the field both day and night, but the regular supply of grain must not be forgotten, and care should be taken that the foal gets its share. Shade of some kind must be provided, in order that they may be able to avoid the extreme heat of the sun during certain hours. So soon as the flies become troublesome they must be taken to as cool a stable as is available during the daytime. If necessary, the stalls should be partially darkened. They, of course, must have their regular ration of grain, and as grass will be plentiful, should be given cut grass. They should be turned out at night. This trouble is necessary, as during certain months, especially from the first of July until the middle of September, it just about keeps a horse busy fighting flies if at large, and neither dam nor foal can thrive well under these conditions. If it be necessary to work the mares, the foal should be left in the stall, which must be so arranged that it cannot get into trouble in mangers, over doors, etc., in its endeavors to get out. Under no conditions must the colt be allowed to nurse when the mare is warm, and if the mare be quite warm a little milk should be drawn by hand and she allowed to stand until she becomes cool. Of course, the best results are obtained when the dams are not worked, but with the exercise of reasonable intelligence a moderate amount of work can be done with the mares without materially influencing the thriftiness of either themselves or foals. It is probably not necessary to mention that both should have free access to salt.

2. Dress the navel three times daily with a ten-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid until healed. If there be an escape of urine, send for your veterinarian.

"WHIP."

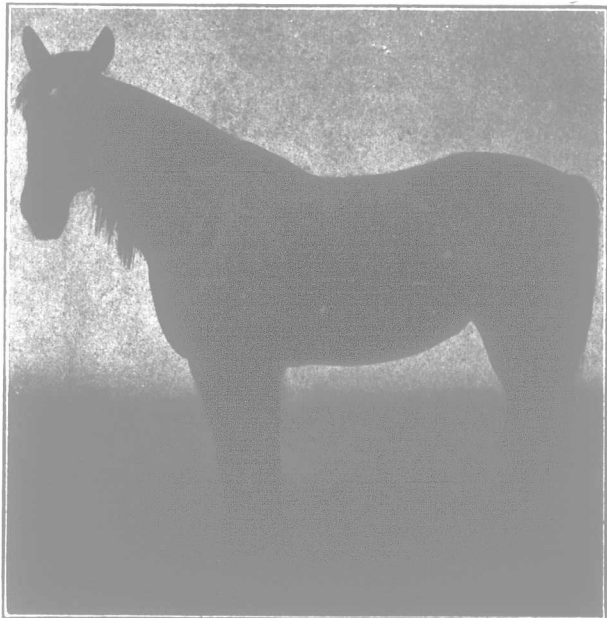
## The General-purpose Horse.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The veterinarians and professional stockmen say there is no such thing; but the general-purpose farmer, and there are many of us in the Maritime Provinces—though it is not within the limits of this article to describe us—are still of the opinion that there is a general-purpose horse. They are all striving to get them; they all know pretty well what kind of a horse it is, and they all have slightly different opinions. Take twenty-five farmers and combine their opinions, and the writer confesses to being as opinionated as any of them, and probably as far astray. Shake these opin-

and able to do ten if urged a little. We want lots of intelligence. There is as much difference here in horses as men. A strong loin, good spring of rib, well muscled on thigh and forearm, full shoulder, ample chest and heart girth. I think a horse within this description would suit nine-tenths of the farmers in the valley.

How will we get him? "Aye, there's the rub!" Some say grade mares of a stocky build, with some so-called Barrister blood or Morgan blood, bred to light Clyde horses. The fact that all sorts of crosses are being made to get it shows that there is a great diversity of opinion. Like breeding for the general-purpose cow, for one hit a score of misses. R. J. MESSENGER.  
Annapolis Co., N.S.



A General-purpose Mare.

ions all up together, and cast them in a figurative mould, and you would get a general-purpose horse, and it would certainly be an interesting-looking animal.

However, the farmers of the Annapolis Valley who produce a few apples, potatoes, pigs, cows, eggs, butter, etc., have what they consider a good idea of the above animal, and are in some degree uniform in these opinions.

The accompanying illustration is of a mare pronounced by everyone who has seen her a good type of general-purpose brood mare, and perhaps the following description will approximate what we are after: Height, 15 to 15½ hands (we like them pretty low-set to work in our orchards con-



Barnsfield Forest Queen.

Shire mare, three years old. First in class, and junior champion mare, Shire Show, London, England, 1909.

veniently); weight, 1,200 to 1,400 lbs., with a good coat of flesh. Legs clean, flat, hard bone, with very little or no hair, and not too big feet. Disposition or temperament, sanguine, but not nervous; not too ambitious; a horse that has sense enough not to get frightened and try to run away at every little noise; one that will work along steadily and quietly without worrying flesh off unnecessarily, but still one that can wake up in a light wagon and road at a seven-mile test,

matched pairs at four years. The average price obtained for geldings and fillies at the ages mentioned runs about \$200. Matched geldings have brought us \$650 for the team. Of course, these horses are bred from mares fit to go into a show-ring. After being used for breeding purposes until they are twelve years old, we can sell them readily at an average price of \$100."

These figures are worthy of serious consideration. With a mare producing an average of, say,

## Money in Heavy Horses.

The number of men in Canada who make handsome cash returns from raising heavy horses is on the increase. In the northern part of Wellington County, Ontario, in the district surrounding Erin and Hillsburg, are to be found farmers who claim that no branch of farming is so remunerative. Their winnings at fall fairs and horse shows have been creditable, and the long prices obtained for fillies and geldings for several years past have justified them in holding such a high opinion of the heavy-horse industry. The outcome of the enthusiasm of a few farmers has been a gradual increase in the number of men who undertake the raising of this class of stock and a general improvement in heavy horses throughout the northern part of Wellington and the southern part of Dufferin.

With the object of finding out something about the views and methods of prominent horsemen in these districts, a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" recently spent a few days among them. It was evident that success rested chiefly on intelligent care in feeding, combined with an absolute refusal to breed to any but stallions of superior quality. Fillies of suitable type are kept for breeding purposes only on condition that they make good mothers, and all brood mares are sold before they have become so broken-down that they command inferior prices.

In the show-ring and among horse dealers, the name of D. McKinnon & Sons is well known. High-class fillies and geldings, frequently in matched teams, have been produced for many years. No detail is considered too trivial in connection with feeding or breeding. Illustrations and descriptions of superior animals appearing in "The Farmer's Advocate" and other prominent live-stock journals are studied and kept for reference.

"There are two reasons," says Neil McKinnon, one of the sons, "why men lose foals each year, and are not successful horse-breeders. One is that they themselves are not bred to take care of horses, and the other is that they do not keep the right kind of mares. A great deal depends on the feed and care of a mare, and also of the stallion. In the past twenty years we have had very few cases in which the mares prove not to be in foal.

"As a rule, satisfactory brood mares are kept until they are about 12 years old. At that age, we prefer, to cease breeding them, as we can dispose of them at a fair price. Young mares always are coming on to take their places. On the average, a brood mare, at the age of 12 years, has raised five or six foals. Our mares are all pretty-well-bred Clydesdales, and we use none but the best Clydesdale stallion. Fillies, as a rule, are sold at three years, and geldings, generally in