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and correct slow pace into a plainly-defined pace and then there is sure enough trouble. The fox trot is a slow trot or a jog trot. It is a rather peculiar gait and not so desirable as the running walk or the slow pace. Some horses cannot acquire either of these two gaits and so their trainers pull them down into a very slow trot and seek to pass that gait off as a fox-trot. It is a broken time gait in a measure, somewhat easier than a pure trot and when cleanly performed it will answer as a business gait.

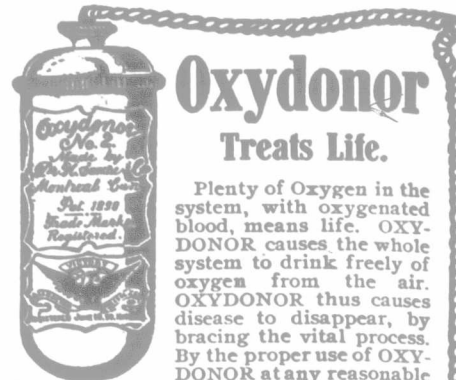
The trot is the diagonal gait. The off foot and the near hind foot strike the ground at the same instant and the bounds off them to hit the ground again with the near fore and the off hind. This gives a two-beat gait. The impact of the feet on the ground is one, two, one, two. The pace is the lateral gait. The off fore and the off hind foot hit the ground at the same interval, and the other pair on the near side follow. This is also a two-beat gait. The rack is a four-beat gait. Each foot hits the ground at a separate interval in a one, two, three, four beat. The rack can be distinguished by ear as far as the foot-falls of the horse may be heard; each foot rings clear its own note on the hard ground. In teaching the rack the horse is forced forward by the spur and restrained by the curb. His diagonal gait is thereby broken up and he flies into a four-beat gait. The rack is easy for the rider, hard for the horse. It is a showy gait and is performed at great speed sometimes. The trainer who has a fast-racking horse will generally keep him on that gait when in the show-ring, hoping to dazzle the judges by the flashiness of the performance. Unfortunately this trick succeeds many times, as some judges are too ignorant or too unbalanced to demand the other requisites of a saddle horse. Many a horse has racked his way to fame through the connivance of half-baked judges who proceed in the apparent belief that the rack is the only accomplishment demanded of a saddle horse. This gait has been officially named the rack by the American Saddle Horse Breeders' Association, and hence the name single-foot should not be used, as it merely leads to confusion among the uninformed.

The five gaits recognized by that association are the walk, trot, canter, rack, and the running walk, or slow pace, or fox trot. Either one of these three slow gaits will answer. Some horses can only go one of them, some can show them all. When a horse can show these five gaits he is called a gaited horse.

Saddle horses are differentiated by their gaits into two classes—the walk-trot-canter horse and the gaited horse. The gaited horse can do all that the walk-trot horse can do and more. Therefore he is the more useful and the more valuable.

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