

been obvious, and invariably has been attended by improvement in the quality and soundness of the competitors:—

Year	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Stallions...	95	84	92	123	145	159	177	214	235	225	222	229
Mares.....	35	42	65	40	62	86	127	130	149	161	185	190
Geldings...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	24	33
Total....	133	126	157	163	207	245	304	334	384	407	431	442

The aged stallions were divided into three sections—the first for horses over 14 hands and not exceeding 15 hands, the second for horses over 15 hands and not over 15.2, and the third for horses over 15.2. In all three were a lot of first-class horses. In the smallest section Lord Lonsborough's Polonius (4931), a son of Ophelia, stood at the top, followed by Clifton II. by Danegelt. Polonius is a grand horse, a good goer, and full of quality. Clifton II. is a smooth, snappy horse and a goer all round. Other winners in this section were sons of Old Fireaway (249)—Danegelt, Connaught, and Rufus. In the larger section Sir Walter Gilbey's Hedon Squire (4908) by Rufus, out of a Fireaway mare, was awarded the first award. He is said to possess perfect formation and superb all-round action. Whittick & Usher's Gentleman John (3624) came second. Sons of Garton Duke of Connaught and Danegelt won third and fourth awards. In the large section, a former champion, the veteran Connaught (1453) by Denmark, now twelve years old, made a splendid show and was a popular winner. Rosador (4964), last year's winner in the three-year-olds, stood second on this occasion. Cannymen (2882), a uterine brother of Ganymede, stood third, while a son of Rufus and uterine brother to Polonius followed next in order.

In each of the younger stallion sections a keen competition was experienced. Noticeable among the winners were sons of Ganymede, Danegelt, Garton Duke of Connaught, Fireaway by Caxton, Lord Melton, General Gordon, and others.

Good mares were strong in evidence, and many fine ones were left out of the awards in almost every section.

The gelding classes contained some of the best movers in the show. Sons of Rufus won first and second for horses over 15 hands. In the smaller class, sons of Pioneer and Danegelt tied for first place, when a referee decided in favor of the former.

The champion and challenge cup awards resulted in a great victory for Sir Walter Gilbey, Bart. For the junior champion cup the victor was the two-year-old Royal Danegelt, with the three-year-old May Royal, also by Danegelt, as reserve. For the senior cup the contest lay between Connaught and Hedon Squire—a magnificent pair of horses. The latter never before appeared so well as now and he received the glory, as also did he in the final challenge competition, with Royal Danegelt reserve. The junior mare championship was awarded to Mr. C. E. Galbraith's Lady Helmsley; reserve, Mr. David Mitchell's Sabina. The former is a three-year-old daughter of Garton Duke of Connaught, while the latter, a mare of great "snap" and "dash," is by North Star (1317). The senior cup competition, restricted to the classes for breeding mares, brought out six great individuals. The winner was found in Mr. Waterhouse's Stella (7431), winner in the section between 15 and 15.2 hands. She is also by North Star (1317). Danish Lady by Danegelt followed her next in order. The mare Stella settled the tussle for the challenge cup and gold medal by bearing away the much-coveted premium.

"Blue-Grays"—Is a New Breed Needed?

SIR,—I have read with a good deal of interest, the correspondence that has been going on in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, regarding a proposed new breed of cattle to be called "Blue-Grays," to be founded by crossing Galloways with White Shorthorns. Having the pleasure of personal acquaintance with Mr. Wm. Kough, one of the writers, and having often gazed with satisfaction upon the comely herds of Galloways which he sent into our leading show-rings for years past, finally doing honor to himself and Canada by his World's Fair exhibit, I was certainly surprised to read his cordial endorsement of "Onlooker's" proposition. Though anonymous, the phraseology of some of the other letters indicated a Shorthorn source. If correct in my surmise, does it not imply that in the minds of these gentlemen there is a "long-felt want" yet to be filled in cattle breeding? Mr. Kough lead into the ring many an ideal beast, from a beefing standpoint, and some of his matrons carried udders that would do no discredit to a special dairy herd. The Shorthorn is steadily vaunted as the general purpose animal *par excellence*—the *ne plus ultra* of cattle breeding. Are we to discredit these high-sounding claims? I am free to admit that it is idle to set limits to the possibilities of human achievements. Many of the world's greatest advances stand to the credit of bold, progressive spirits, and the creative genius of a Bakewell may yet be abroad in the land. I have no objection to the Agricultural College, the Experimental Farm, or a private breeder—if he be so disposed and circumstanced—undertaking this experiment, but for the rank and file I would commend the Cruickshank policy of improvement within an existing breed as safer and more certain. The Old Country "Blue-Gray" heaves are a popular sort for the fat stock show and the butcher, but they

are, I believe, usually "first crosses," which is a long remove, with countless obstacles between, from the established "new breed" proposed by "Onlooker," friend Kough, *et al.* If the experiment goes on and is successful in evolving something superior to what at present exist, I, with other breeders, will join in crowning the experimentalist as a benefactor of the race. "STOCKMAN."

The "Hock" in Horse Breeding.

In the eyes of a good judge there is perhaps no defect that will condemn a horse quicker than bad hocks, no matter what the horse's destination may be—the dog cart, or the brewer's dray, the hunting stud, or the cab stable—it is most important that he have a sound, well-shaped pair of hocks, and it is well to note here that a well-shaped hock is generally a sound one, and *vice versa*. To be able to examine a hock properly, nothing can help one more than a knowledge of the different bones entering into its structure, and we propose, therefore, to give here a short description of the structure of the hock, and the conformation to be most desired. To begin with, the hock joint consists of six bones (vide fig. 1); of these, five—the astragalus, the cuneiform magnum, the cuneiform medium, the cuneiform parvum, and the cuboid—may be described as weight-bearing bones, while the sixth, the os calcis, acts as a lever for the tendons of the leg; but, although all these bones enter into the structure of the joint, and possess a certain amount of motion between each other, the true hock joint is formed by the junction of the upper bone, the astragalus, with the tibia, the bone extending from the stifle joint to the hock.

The bones of the hock should always be large and prominent, the outlines of the joint being clean and well defined. Small hocks are almost always weak, as they do not afford sufficient leverage and attachment to the various tendons and ligaments of the leg. The tibia, which we have mentioned as forming the true hock joint with the astragalus, should run well down into the hock, and the os calcis should be well developed and prominent; this will give all the necessary leverage to the muscles of the thigh, and produce what is known as a "well let down" hock (vide fig. 2); the opposite condition being shown in fig. 3.

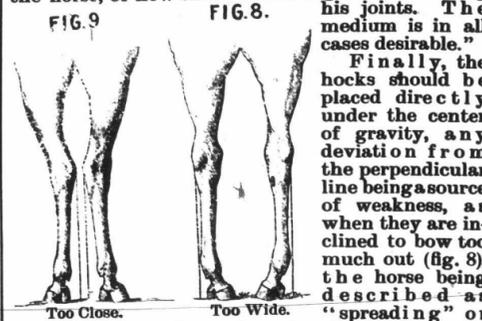
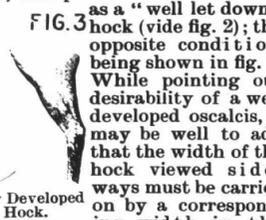
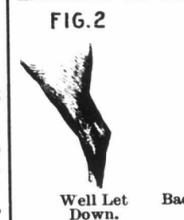
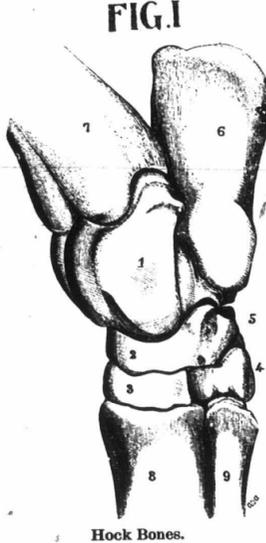
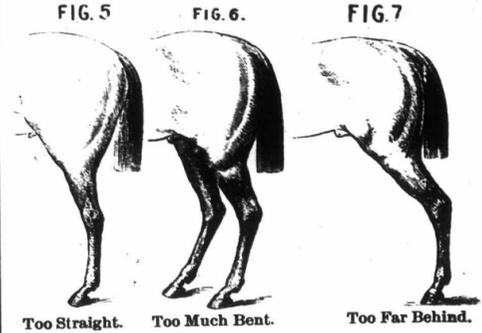
While pointing out desirability of a well developed os calcis, it may be well to add that the width of the hock viewed sideways must be carried on by a corresponding width in the metatarsal or shank bone, as if this latter is lacking in this particular there is much more liability to curb, owing to the extra strain thrown on the ligaments passing from the point of the os calcis downwards, the animal being what is known as "tied in below the hocks." That excellent authority, the late Geo. Sexton, claimed that in draught horses the measurement below the hock should be one inch at least greater than below the knee, according to the size and weight of the animal.

Briefly, then, the hock should be broad in front, deep behind, and wide both above and below when viewed sideways. It should also be absolutely free from all puffiness or meatiness, sure signs of weakness or disease.

According to General Sir F. Fitzwygram, from whose excellent work on "Horses and Stables" the accompanying plates are reproduced, the leg, from the point of the hock downwards, should incline slightly under the body, as in fig. 4, forming neither too small nor too great an angle at the joint. As in the first case, if we have hocks that are too straight (fig. 5), we find excessive concussion, and frequently spavin, bogspavin, and thoroughpin, while if over much bent (fig. 6) the hock is weak and very subject to curb.

If the leg inclines backward (fig. 7) there will be a decided lack of propelling power, as well as a predisposition to sprain, and the resulting bogspavin and thoroughpin. The conformation pointed out here will be found best adapted for jumping and speed,

as it allows the hind legs to be brought well forward, while in the draught horse it affords the leverage necessary for starting and moving heavy loads.



Treatment of Lambs.

The management of lambs from birth to weaning is a subject of great importance. If we go to the sheep counties of England we find many systems practiced, varying with conditions and custom. Wrightson, in his "Sheep Breeds and Management," says in Northumberland and Lincolnshire, so far as food is concerned, that almost all that is required is abundance. Lambs are dropped about March and April. After the usual care bestowed during the first three or four days after birth, lambs and dams are placed on fresh young "seeds" or permanent pasture. Our conditions will necessitate a later housing, but as soon as a "bite" can be secured about the fence corners of grain fields, etc., the ewe and lamb flock should have access to it. It is not good practice, however, to run the flock upon the "sheep pasture" before the grass gets a good start, or the close biting is apt to give the field a backset that will make it a poor field all summer. In the counties mentioned, and, indeed, anywhere that experienced shepherds have an opportunity of exercising their judgment, flocks are changed from pasture to pasture, according to the supply of food. It is better to have three small sheep pastures than one four times the size, as no other stock enjoys a change so much. A little grain fed with bran answers a good purpose while the grass is soft and scarce.

When the flock is finally turned out, a good shepherd will visit it from time to time, say once a day. The duty of the visitor is first to count the sheep, and this he does rapidly in twos and threes, as they dot the field singly, in pairs, and in triplets. The lambs are more difficult to count, as they are often hidden by the bulkier forms of their mothers and other obstructions. To notice if all are "full," to attend to any individual requiring a drop of cow's milk, a bottle of which, nicely warmed, the visitor carries with him; to see if the tails are all free and not stuck down with hard dung,—these are the principal objects of the inspector, who, having satisfied himself on these points, and seeing that no ewe is lying awkwardly in a furrow, and, in a word, that all is right, walks or rides away. These visits are made by the wise shepherd from day to day while the weeks pass by and the green foliage of May and June gives place to the browner pastures of the following months. If such care as is thus practiced in the large flocks of England were given by many Canadian farmers, we would have less mortgaged farms, better condition of land, and happier men and women than the much-talked-of hard times leads many to think will ever exist again in the pursuit of agriculture.

Old ewes that are seen to be losing flesh, or young ewes with two lambs, should be separated from the main portion of the flock, so that they may be better fed and cared for.

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