

The Horse.

The Horse and his Treatment.

At a meeting of the Boxford Farmer's Club, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 19, a lecture was delivered by David Stiles of Middletown, on "The Horse, His Needs and Treatment." The lecture opened with an apostrophe to the horse, or a statement of his qualities, powers and uses; also to his condition in various countries, and especially in our own. The history of the domestication of the horse, and the development of his powers for the uses of mankind was clearly stated, and the changes wrought in the horse, and the society, both good and evil, were duly noticed, particularly regarding diseases incident to horses in our times. Several rules were given for the treatment of the horse in the stable and on the road.

The duty of the farrier, or horse shoer, was treated in a strictly technical manner. The suggestions upon this subject seem to have been born of the blacksmith's anvil, so intensely practical were they, and so eminently adapted to the consideration of the shoer of horses. To an innate love of the horse, the lecturer has added nearly a half century of study, and familiar acquaintance with horses, in the intimacies of furnishing their feet with the iron shoes. These garnered observations, experiences the results, and keep lively his interest in the noble animal he prizes so highly and loves so much. At the same time it appears to elevate his trade into a great art, and a commanding science. A long procession of horses pass before him, suffering from elongated hoofs, or corns, or contractions of ringbones or spavins, or sprained tendons, or interfering, or all these combined, the result of bad shoeing. Take up the foot of one of these injured horses, and it is seen that the frog has almost disappeared between the contracted heels; the bars have been cut away; the sole and crest scooped out with the buttress to a thin edge, while the toe is barely touched. So many of these injuries are due to bad shoeing, that the lecturer is a reformer, and he takes the working tools of his profession to the audience and explains the whole.

When the foot is unshod and the horse at liberty, the growth of the hoof is barely sufficient to provide for a constant wear and tear of the sole and toe, and consequently no part is wanting or superabundant. But when the horse is put to work on hard roads, and to stand in dry stables, the foot becomes inadequate to the wear, and to save it the iron shoe is put on. This shoe prevents the wear, without checking the growth of the hoof; and to compensate for this, every time the shoe is off, the hoof should be brought as near as possible to the form and size that nature gave it. To prepare the hoof for shoeing, the crust should be levelled, the toe made as short as will admit of, and the bars and frogs left full.

Very full directions were given regarding the art of shoeing. In this connection there was a pointed criticism upon articles upon the horse often found in the issues of the printing press, but which possess little merit, and much false science.

Good advice was given to all owners of horses as to the driving of their animals. A horse with the natural capacity of trotting five miles an hour, would probably be able to work well until thirty or forty years old, if driven within his capacity. But by the application of a whip or urging, the horse be forced to go eight miles an hour, he soon is worn out and goes "where the good horses go."

The lecture was listened to with rapt attention. At the close many questions were proposed and promptly answered. The club unanimously voted thanks for the interest and instruction furnished. — *From the Massachusetts Ploughman.*

Harness Chafing.

Harness that is much used generally become rough on the inside surface, particularly at the edges, with a collection of moisture, perspiration, dust, and dandruff, which, if not removed, may very soon roughen up and wear off the hair and chafe the skin, making it very sore. Although it may have the appearance of a fresh gall, it is very tender and painful, and may be found to be composed of a number of small, watery pimples. Great care should be taken, in currying, not to come across these sores. "Prevention of cruelty" being our motto, we will suggest that the harness be kept soft and from this accumulation of dirt,

by scraping and washing often, and by shifting the harness so that it will not come in contact with these tender spots.

Rules for Purchasing Horses.

1. Examine the eyes in the stable, then in the street; if they are in any way defective, reject.
2. Examine the teeth to determine the age.
3. Examine the poll, or crown of the head and the withers or top of the shoulders, as the former is the seat of poll evil and the latter that of fistula.
4. Examine the front foot, and if the frog has fallen or settled down between the heels of the shoe, and the heels are contracted, reject him; as he, if not already lame, is liable to become so at any moment.

Next observe the knees and the ankles of the horse you desire to purchase, and if cocked, you may be sure that it is the result of the dispensations of the internal organs of food, a consequence of neglect of the form of the foot and injudicious shoeing.

5. Examine for interfering, from the ankle to the knees, and if it proves that he cuts the knee, or the leg between the knee and the ankle, or the latter badly, reject.

Speedy cuts of the knees and legs are most serious in their effects.

Many trotting horses which would be of great value were it not for this single defect, are by it rendered valueless.

6. Carefully examine the hoofs for cracks, as jockeys have acquired great skill in concealing cracks in the hoof.

If cracks are observed in any degree, reject.

Also both look and feel for ring bones, which are callouses on the bones of the pastern near the foot; if apparent, reject.

Examine the hind feet for the same defects of the foot and ankle that we have named in connection with the front foot. Then proceed to the hock, which is the seat of the curb, and both bone and blood spavins.

The former is a bone enlargement of the posterior and lower portions of the hock-joint; the second is a bony excrescence in the lower, inner and rather interior portion of the hock, and the latter is a soft enlargement of the synovial membrane on the inner and upper portion of the back. They are either of them sufficient reason for rejecting.

8. See that the horse stands with his feet well under him, and observe both the heels of the foot and shoes, to see if he forges or overreaches, and in case he does the toes of the fore feet are low, and the heels high, and the heels of the front shoes a good thickness, and the toes of the hind feet are of no proper length, reject him; for if he still overreaches with his feet in the condition described, he is incurable. If he props out both front feet, or points them alternately, reject him.

9. In testing the driving qualities, take the reins while on the ground, invite the owner to get into the vehicle first, then drive yourself. "Avoid the display or the use of the whip, and if he has not sufficient spirit to exhibit his best spirit without it, reject. Should he drive satisfactory without, it will be proper to test his amiability, and the extent of his training, in the use of the whip."

Thoroughly test his working qualities first, as that gift is more important in the horse of all work than great trotting speed. The value of a horse, safe for all purposes without blinds, is greatly enhanced thereby.

10. Always purchase of the breeder of the horse, if practicable; the reasons are obvious. — *Maryland Farmer.*

Rubber Overshoes for Horses.

Rubber overshoes for horses are a recent invention, which promises to be a boon to the equine inhabitants of the paved cities. The shoe is made and lined in precisely similar manner to the articles of apparel worn by the human race, and, in fact, presents no points of difference save in its shape and its manufacture of the best quality of India-rubber. It is designed as a substitute for the iron shoe, and as a means of preventing the many maladies to which horses' feet are subject. Horses suffering with cracked or contracted hoof, and similar painful hurts, it is said, are quickly cured by the substitution of the rubber covering for the unyielding metal shoe. The elasticity of the former allows the hoof to remain in its natural shape, while protected from abrasion against pavements by the heavy rubber sole beneath. The device is easily

removed from or put on the hoof, and hence, while standing in a stall or turned out to pasture, the horse may be left barefooted. In winter time the covering serves as a protection against illness due to the common practice of mingling salt with the ice and snow in city streets, while the roughened surface of the rubber beneath serves to the animal a foothold in slippery weather. As compared with iron shoes, the cost of the rubber ones is about one-third more, and their weight is some 40 per cent. less, while they are very durable. Sixteen sizes are manufactured, so that accurate fits may be obtained.

Balky Horses.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals put forth a set of rules for the treatment of balky horses, which rules, unfortunately, do not always work. The best way is to have nothing to do with balky horses. But, nevertheless, some one of these rules, as well as a hundred others, do work in particular cases. They are as follows:

1. Pat the horse upon the neck; examine the harness carefully, first on one side and then on the other, speaking encouragingly while doing so; then jump into the wagon and give the word go; generally he will obey.

2. A teamster in Maine says he can start the worst balking horse by taking him out of the shafts and making him go around in a circle until he is giddy. If the first dance of this sort doesn't cure him, the second will.

3. To cure a balking horse, simply place your hand over the horse's nose and shut off his wind until he wants to go, and then let him go.

4. The brain of the horse seems to entertain but one idea at a time; therefore continued whipping only confirms his stubborn resolve. If you can, by any means, give him a new subject to think of, you will generally have no trouble in starting him. A simple remedy is to take a couple of turns of stout twine around the fore-leg, just below the knee, tight enough for the horse to feel, and tie in a bow knot. At the first check he will generally go dancing off, and after a short distance you can get out and remove the string, to prevent injury to the tendon in your further drive.

5. Take the tail of the horse between the hind legs, and tie it by a cord to the saddle girth.

6. Tie a string around the horse's ear, close to the horse's head.

Kindness Does It.

An experienced horse trainer in California thus writes:

"In reply to your letter. I would say that the education of my colts has in a great measure been accomplished by kind treatment. The horse is so constituted that by proper management and kind treatment his confidence and affections may be acquired to such a degree that his will becomes completely absorbed in that of his friend and trainer. I will say, further, that the horse naturally possesses a far greater degree of intelligence than he has ever been given credit for."

CRIBBING GIVEN.—Dr. Cook, Elmira, O., writes the *Scientific American*:—"Cribbing is caused in the first place by some foreign substance being pressed between the teeth, or by the front teeth growing too close together, thus causing pain. The horse, to avoid this, instinctively pulls at any hard substance, thus spreading the points of the teeth, and by that means affording temporary relief. To remedy this fault, it is only necessary to saw between the teeth with a very thin saw; this relieves the teeth of all side pressure, and effectually ends the trouble. The gulping of wind and the gurgling in the throat are effects that will cease with the removal of the cause."

HORSE'S MANE FALLING OUT.—The *Country Gentleman* says:—"The shedding of hair from a horse's mane and tail can be prevented by washing the parts affected a few times in carbolic soapsuds. Or a wash made of lard oil, one pint, and aqua ammonia, one gill, well mixed and rubbed in, will prevent the falling of the hair. We have found it effectual."

SORE THROAT.—Symptoms: The horse hangs his head down, chews, but cannot swallow, throat swollen and feverish. Apply a poultice of bran wet up with a strong decoction of red oak bark. Give him tepid water to drink, with moderate exercise. If he is feverish bleed him two gallons from the neck.

A New D.

Oleo-margarine has been a success since Tompkins' patent. The establishment of the count of the after being it is heated the rennet. the Brooklyn can be made melted, like milk with in about eight dants keep garine will curd as it f. While the and as much possible, w next batch. that the m parts bein sembles the. The edito the factory surprised a "There was way in whi produce a r is wonderf cheese by t material of worked w have been difficult to skim mill mers. Th in full crea themore pe oil and the product. average of spected th butter whi creamery a creamery p. The dairi ter returns ever before of cheese, farmer rec fancy price The busin season.

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