

Variation from the type anticipated is also occasionally brought about in a way but seldom taken into consideration, viz., through the nervous impression produced on a female at the first service, stamping her subsequent progeny in a greater or less degree with the characteristics of her first mate. This phenomenon, termed scientifically *Telegony*, is, as most dog-fanciers know, frequently observed in the bitch, being, of course, more noticeable, owing to the remarkable divergence of canine types; but it is also, recent pronouncements to the contrary notwithstanding, patent to the close observer of horses. Frequently, in the Middle States, I have noticed horses which, at a short distance, strongly resembled mules, and, upon inquiry, have invariably found such animals to be the progeny of mares which had first been used in breeding that useful but unpretentious hybrid. Though too generally entirely disregarded, the possible occurrence of this form of variation should be taken into consideration by the careful and ambitious breeder, especially when a pure type is sought to be attained.

Variation may also be due to extrinsic causes, as when monstrosities are borne by females injured or frightened during pregnancy, causing violent nervous shock; or in a less marked form by an impression produced upon the imagination of the dam by some unusual sight not necessarily of a frightful or terrifying nature. Most of us have read of the smart trick which Jacob played upon his father-in-law; and in somewhat more recent years Mr. Warfield, the eminent cattle breeder of Kentucky, relates that an Alderney heifer grazing in the same field with a number of army horses, produced a heifer calf with the letters U.S. distinctly marked in white hairs on the left shoulder, which peculiarity was also noticeable in her heifer calf. While variations of this description are interesting, they are not so frequent among the domestic animals as they are in the human species and may therefore be held to scarcely affect practical breeding operations. The two last mentioned variations are, needless to say, much more likely to occur in animals of a highly sensitive, nervous temperament than in those of a more lymphatic and lethargic nature.

Having now briefly mentioned the laws which govern the science of breeding, it may be well to devote a few words to their application. By the careful selection of good individuals of proven prepotency all the varieties of the horse now known as pure breeds have been brought to the present standard of excellence; and by using the standard thus made ready to his hand, I believe it is possible for the modern horseman to breed any kind of horse he may fancy. While I do not propose to advise farmers as to the particular kind they ought to breed, I may here formulate a few brief rules, the observance of which will, I am certain, take no money out of their pockets:—

1. Use only pure-bred sires; or, at least, such as have sufficient line breeding to insure prepotency. In this way an amount of certainty in experiment, so to speak, is obtained, and the danger of reversion to an inferior type is greatly lessened.

2. Do not club your mares, even at greatly reduced rates, to any one horse; but carefully study the good and bad points of each, with the object of stinting her to the horse best adapted to improve her good points and remedy her defects.

3. Watch carefully the horse markets of the world, and study the questions of supply and demand in horse-flesh, so that you may be able, in the near future, to command the highest price for the produce of your labor and skill.