

out regularly, and the mane trained to fall evenly to one side or the other.

As regards removing hair from around the fetlocks, nicking (setting the tails up), docking or banging the tails, must be governed largely by fashion.

GETTING THE FEET INTO SHAPE.

The feet should be kept in proper shape by trimming and shoeing. They may be greatly benefited by means of foot baths or applications of wet swabs (pieces of wet felt buckled around just above the top of the hoof, so as to fall down over the wall of the foot, keeping it moist). Any slight malformations of defects of the feet should, as far as possible, be obviated by proper trimming and shoeing, thus changing the contour of the feet and limbs. Thus, in the case where the tendency is to stand toeing out, or nigger-heeled (standing with the toes turned out and the heels close together), the tendency should be to obviate the defects as much as possible by removing more horn from the outer wall and keeping the toe-clip of the shoe towards the inner wall. When opposite defects or pigeon-toe (base wide, standing with toes turned inwards and heels wide apart) prevails, the remedy would be the opposite to the above.

TRAINING ON THE HALTER.

Handling would consist in proper haltering, biting, driving and riding. The main point to be kept in view in haltering for show purposes is to have the horse so that when in the show-ring it will walk or trot up freely, as the case may be, instead of having to be pulled or dragged along. Nothing acts so detrimental to a horse's looks in the show-ring as the defect of being a sluggish leader on the halter. In the event of the animal being a sluggish leader, as a result of improper haltering, the "horseman in the ring" has an opportunity to show his skill in handling, and if the horse fails to lead or walk freely, he does not get away ahead and drag or pull on the halter to hasten him up, but, instead, walks in his proper place beside the horse, keeping the halter rope just tight, suiting his pace to that of the horse, and walking along perfectly at ease, with an air of indifference, as if everything was to his own liking and arrangement. Again, some horses when being led have the habit of continually throwing the head from side to side, and not keeping it in the proper pose to show to the best advantage. It is in cases of this kind that a side-line may be used, extending from each side of the bit to rings on the back-band, to good advantage, especially with entire animals. When horses are being shown on the rein, the aim is to have them appear to the best advantage at all stages of the judge's inspection. When entering the ring, the horse should be induced to carry the head well and appear on the alert. This is attained by having the attention of the horse fixed upon something at a distance if possible. If there is any tendency towards being ewe-necked, the effort while showing must be directed towards holding the neck so as to arch the crest. To do this, a good strain should be maintained on the halter, so as to depress the muzzle towards the breast, causing the neck and crest to arch upwards. A great many horsemen in the ring appear to aim at "stretching" the horse; that is, keeping the head forward, with the hind limbs extended backwards. This is a mistake, especially in horses inclined to be upright in the pasterns. The horse should at all times be made to stand squarely, and if upright in the pasterns they should be depressed backward a little, causing more weight to be placed on the front limbs.

ACTION.

Showing the action of his horses is one process that will tax the skill of the horseman, either when being shown on the rein or driving. Action is an important factor in judging. Action not only reflects a horse's temperament, but also proves the balance of his conformation and indicates soundness. With action, therefore, there must be a dash and zest present, making light of the hardest effort, and adding grace and smoothness to every movement.

HOW TO WALK AND TROT.

The walk should be evenly timed and nervy, showing snap and energy, increased correspondingly with increased speed. When being walked for the judge's inspection, he should be taken in a straight line away from and returned in a straight line towards the judge (never shown going round in a circle), and when being turned enough space should be taken to make the movement easily. A horse should never be pulled suddenly around when at the turn. The same routine is also followed when showing at a trot.

In showing team in harness always try and have the manes fall to the inside. It will frequently be found that one horse is a little "freer" than the other, in which case the slow horse will very often drive up better if placed on the off side (right hand side), especially when the driver sits on that side. To induce false action (an artificial showiness as result of extravagant and exaggerated action), take a firm hold of reins, as if to restrain the team, and at a given signal (previously cultivated in them) they will manifest

a transient false action very pleasing to the eye of not a few people. If, on the other hand, however, they are too restive, the reins must be held lightly, or else it will give them the appearance of being luggers or pullers.

GOING ON THE BIT.

As regard biting and driving horses, it is one of the most difficult problems with which the horseman has to contend, and but few of us are endowed with the proper touch of hand and skill requisite in an expert horseman. In biting



Holmer.

Hereford bull, second prize and reserve champion, Royal Show, England, 1904.

horses for show purposes, the main point should always be towards cultivating a responsive mouth and have them bear on the bit. If the horse has an unresponsive mouth he will be awkward, unwieldy, imperfect in gait, and balky in action—the worst defects carriage or driving horses could have.

With regard to the adornment of horses for show purposes, it is perfectly admissible to do so, if by so doing it adds to the appearance of the exhibits, only do not have them gawdy or too conspicuous. But one thing must not be done, and that is embellishing with prizes, etc., previously won by the team or their ancestors. It is not in good taste, and will not be tolerated by any competent judge.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE JUDGES.

The exhibitor should do all in his power to meet with the judges' approbation at all stages of the inspection, only answering questions addressed to him and acting according to instructions while under the judges' inspection. The "horseman in the ring" should also be attired in keeping with his surroundings. The days of the uncouth and slovenly showman in the show-



Ronald (29775).

First-prize and champion Shorthorn bull at the Royal and the Highland Society's Show, 1904. Property of His Majesty the King.

ring are over, his place having been taken by the enlightened and intelligent "horseman in the ring."

From the foregoing it will be seen that the successful horseman will have had his hands and mind fully occupied for some time prior to entering the show-ring, but when in the show-ring we expect of him and his charges the zenith of their achievements.

Care Helps the Breed.

The farmer is not going to make a success at raising any particular breed of horses until he first learns to correct some of the many mistakes which most farmers make. In the first place, they expect too much of the stallion; it matters not how good the individual is or what his breeding is. Men are too apt to point to a poorly-shaped, half-starved, ungainly-looking colt, and say that he is by such a stallion, giving the sire the credit of all the colt's failings, without ever

stating that the colt was out of the poorest mare that he ever owned, and that the only reason he bred the mare was because she was not fit to use, and that the reason the colt was not any larger was because it had never had enough to eat since its birth. The stallion cannot do more than his part. You must feed the foal and its mother, then feed the colt after the same has been taken from its mother, and continue to care for and protect the colt until he is four years old, and then you will have a horse worth owning.

Remember that "like begets like," and never breed an unsound horse, male or female, unless you want to take chances on producing a colt that will show some unsoundness before it is ever developed. Do not use animals with spavins, ringbones or any other constitutional trouble for breeding purposes. And, above all, never breed to a blind horse, or allow a blind mare to be bred, unless you know that the animal lost its eyes from a mechanical cause. See that your brood mares are not roughly treated. A good driver is a man who loves his team, is never willing to see them overloaded, or go without a feed at the proper time, and do not let them suffer for water.—Ex.

Points in Horse Buying.

A horse is considered practically sound when it possesses no disease, deformity or vice that will interfere with its general or special usefulness. Soundness is important, not only to those who deal in horses, but to those who raise and own them, because its soundness, together with the general appearance of the animal, indicates its relative commercial value.

A person who contemplates purchasing a horse, if he is not thoroughly familiar with the subject, will usually find it a matter of economy to employ an expert to assist in the selection, or he will purchase of some well-known dealer whose judgment and whose "word" are worthy of dependence.

The ordinary individual is likely to pride himself upon his ability to judge horses and to determine their soundness or un-

soundness, and yet there is probably no one experience in which individuals are more likely to be deceived than in this. Horse dealers of wide experience usually make allowance in their judgment of a horse for defects which cannot be determined by an ordinary examination, but are likely to show themselves only after a thorough acquaintance with the animal.

As a general thing, the purchaser sees a horse