

## HORSES.

## The Thoroughbred.

Every improved breed of light horses is indebted to a more or less degree to the influence of the Thoroughbred or running race-horse, which is the oldest of the pure breeds of the equine race in existence, the inception of its improvement dating well back into the seventeenth century, while its studbook started in England in 1791. The foundation of the breed consisted in crossing stallions of Barb and Arabian blood with the native English mares, used for the chase and other sports where speed was required. Authorities, writing of Thoroughbred pedigrees, invariably refer to the blood lines of the three great horses, Herod, Matchem and Eclipse. These were three great progenitors of speed in the early days—all of Eastern origin. The Herod line traces in male ascent to the Byerly Turk, the Matchem line to the Godolphin Arabian, and the Eclipse line to the Darley Arabian. Though he played an important part in the evolution of the Thoroughbred, the Arabian horse is not now of much account. He still has his admirers, but for every purpose to which he can accommodate himself, the Thoroughbred is greatly his superior. To the Thoroughbred may be accredited all the different coach, carriage, hunter and trotting breeds, in greater or less measure.

That the Thoroughbred and the Hackney breeds trace their origin in large measure to the same source, is undeniable, as the same sires, in many instances, figure in the lineage of both, as recorded in the studbooks, the difference in the two breeds to-day being accounted for to a considerable extent by the purposes to which they have been put, the Thoroughbred being bred and trained specifically for speed under the saddle, while the Hackney has been bred to combine beauty of conformation, style and high-stepping action in harness, as a coach or carriage horse, of which he is the ideal type. The American trotting-bred horse owes its origin, undoubtedly, to the English Thoroughbred as foundation stock in the paternal line, the horse that played the most important part, and that figures most in the ancestry of the greatest sires and performers of the breed, being imported Messenger, a grey English Thoroughbred, foaled in 1780, of handsome conformation and phenomenal prepotency, whose blood transformed the type of the horse stock of the United States and Canada, wherever used, to the third and fourth generation. The most famous son of Messenger was Mambrino (named after his English-bred grandsire, the sire of Messenger), and his son, Abdallah, foaled in 1823, was the sire of Rysdyk's Hambletonian, from whom many of the best trotters are descended.

The chief claim of the selected Thoroughbred sire to the favor of the average horse-breeder, as well as that of the connoisseur, is his prepotency in refining and improving the offspring of mares of every class, no matter how mixed their breeding, on which he is crossed, handsome and stylish carriage horses frequently being produced by grade mares of the heavy breeds mated with the Thoroughbred sire, owing to his prepotency, the result of the purity of his breeding in unbroken lines.

## Only Sound Horses Acceptable.

Recent issues of "The Farmer's Advocate" have contained accounts of an organization called the National Bureau of Breeding, the object of which is declared to be to disseminate throughout Canada high-class, pedigreed Thoroughbred stallions, in a healthy condition, and free from hereditary taint, for use by farmers, at a moderate service fee, with a view to improving the character of our light-legged stock. These articles have been written by our own staff, largely on the strength of information and assurances received from an unusually reliable source, our informer having, we are certain, no interest in the Bureau other than that of a well-wisher.

There seems to be no reason to doubt that the enterprise is bona-fide in its aims and intentions, and, if the right class of horses are brought in and distributed, it should do a vast amount of good. It is with much regret, therefore, that we give publicity to a letter just received from a Quebec subscriber, who has seen several of these horses. "All three of them," he says, "were anything but of the conformation and type desired in a high-class Thoroughbred. One of them had a well-developed ringbone, another a curby hock." After referring to several other well-known horsemen, who endorsed this opinion, he proceeds: "As these three horses appear to be perhaps the best known of those now owned by the Bureau, I fear they are not making a good start in their work. While not at all having the intention of criticising their proposition, I cannot but feel that, if such is the type of horse that they are going to use and recommend, anything that they may do will work toward the

harm, rather than the benefit, of the horse-breeding industry in the country."

It is to be hoped that none of the other horses owned by the Bureau are of the class described; but, in view of this criticism, we can only caution our readers to inspect very critically any horses, whether belonging to the Bureau or not, before breeding to them or interesting others therein.



Scotch Sign.

Thoroughbred stallion. Winner of Premium, Hunter Show, London, Eng., 1909.



Bonnie Buchlyvie (14032).

Clydesdale stallion, bay, foaled 1906. Winner of first in class, and the Cawdor 50-guineas Challenge Cup, Scottish Stallion Show, Glasgow, 1909. Sire Baron o' Buchlyvie.

## Indigestion in Horses.

(Continued from April 8th issue.)

## CHRONIC INDIGESTION.

Chronic indigestion is sometimes caused by food of poor quality, or by weakness of the glands of the stomach and intestines. In these cases a purgative of 8 to 10 drams aloes and 2 drams ginger should be given, and this followed up by tonics, as 1 dram each of sulphate of iron and gentian, three times daily, and a change to food of good quality. The acute forms of indigestion in horses are known as spasmodic colic,

flatulent colic and acute indigestion. Some class enteritis (inflammation) of the bowels as indigestion, but while it is a disease of the digestive organs, we think it is hardly correct to call it indigestion; it is rather the cause than the effect of indigestion. All these forms of digestive troubles are classed under the name of colics, of which there are many; but the three forms already mentioned practically include all. Any or

all of these are caused by food of poor quality, or in too large quantities; change of food or water; working or driving too soon after a hearty meal, or a heavy feed of grain too soon after a long drive, or many hours' work; when the horse eats too greedily and too much; allowing large quantities of water after long abstinence and when the animal is still very warm; giving a full feed of grain to a horse not accustomed to it, in order to fortify him for unaccustomed work; a weakness of the digestive organs, etc. In fact, we may say that a very large percentage of these diseases is due to errors in feeding and care, and while we occasionally meet with cases without well-marked cause, doubtless due to a temporary weakness of the digestive organs which cannot be suspected or explained, we notice that the horse owner or caretaker who has an intelligent idea of the proper methods of care and feeding has few cases of indigestion in his stable. We have stated that the diseases under discussion are due to the same causes, and we may state that, while they vary greatly in character and in probable results, unless skillfully and promptly treated the symptoms, especially in the earlier stages, are so similar that it is often difficult for the most expert and experienced to make a correct early diagnosis. In a typical case of any of these diseases, a person who knows the symptoms can easily diagnose, but it is seldom the symptoms are strictly typical, hence the difficulty in diagnosing. When the first symptoms have passed, diagnosis is not difficult to the person who has made a study of them. These facts are, after all, not so serious as it first may appear, as during the early symptoms the same treatment may be said to be correct for all. That is, the administration of an ordinary colic drench is indicated during the first stages of all, such as  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. each of laudanum and sweet spirits of nitre, and 1 oz. of the fluid extract of belladonna in a pint of cold water, given as a drench. This is given to relieve pain and spasm. Some will find fault with this statement, as in either flatulent colic or acute indigestion there is a danger of constipation, and laudanum tends to constipate. They claim that it should not be given, while it is correct in cases of spasmodic colic, but a little consideration will convince the student of materia medica that, while laudanum may be contra-indicated, the con-