

joint liable to contract disease or become unsound, should be carefully avoided in the selection of breeding stock.

CANNONS, FETLOCKS, PASTERNS, FEET.—What has been said relative to these points in the fore limb, applies with equal truth to the like parts of hind extremity. The cannons of the hind leg should have the same wide, flat appearance desirable in those of the fore leg. On examining horses having hairy legs, care should be taken to search for evidences of grease, such as old scars and fissures, grape-like tumors, or discharge having a foul odor. Sidebones are not commonly found on the hind coronets. Ring-bones implicating the hind pasterns are as serious as those of the fore feet, from a hereditary standpoint, but the lameness due to them is more easily cured by puncture-firing and blistering.

In spavin lameness, the horse goes out of the stable lame, and works out of the lameness after going a short distance. On moving him "over" in the stall, he is apt to jerk up the affected limb, and the toe of the shoe will be found worn thin. The test for spavin lameness consists in lifting the foot of the affected limb, holding it up towards stifle joint for a few minutes to "shut" hock joint tightly, then dropping foot and at once trotting horse, when, if afflicted with bone spavin, he will go much more lame than was previously the case, and, in bad cases, go on three legs for a rod or two.

Chorea (shivering or St. Vitus' dance) is best seen when moving the horse from one side to the other in stall, or backing him out of stall. The leg is jerked up once or twice at these times, and the tail and muscles of flanks may quiver momentarily. These symptoms of the disease disappear when the horse is exercised.

Cribbing, wind-sucking and weaving, also, are best discovered when the horse is in his stall, and although not certainly hereditary, are highly objectionable and detrimental unsoundnesses.

The Hackney in England and Elsewhere.

In dealing with the above title, it is felt that it is well to clear the air of one or two misapprehensions which have arisen, or at any rate exist, in the minds of persons in this and other countries as to the exact meaning conveyed by the use of the word "Hackney". There are persons still in existence who are apt to err and to confuse the two words "Hack" and "Hackney". At the time of the Norman Conquest (1066) we find the first introduction of the word "haqueene" continuing uninterruptingly to the end of the thirteenth century at which time Robert de Brunne shows in his writings the use of the word "hackneye". Piers Plowman, too, who wrote a few years later, namely, about 1350, and Chaucer also each made use of the word "hachene" and each and all of these old writers invariably used the word as distinctive of a horse for riding as separated from the war horse and general utility slave. The Norman French word "haqueene" too, before referred to, also implies a horse for the purpose of riding. If we look further into the matter e.g. Taplin's "Rural Repository of General Information" published about 1803 the two words in question are again clearly distinguished and distinguishable. "Hack" is there shown to signify a horse appropriated to any and every kind of purpose and upon which no great estimation of value is placed. So much for "Hack". The same writer also defines "Hackney" thus:—A horse superior to all others upon the score of utility, and it is his province to carry his master twelve or fifteen miles in an hour; to encounter and overcome emergencies of every description; his constitution should be excellent, and his spirit invincible, and he must be able to go five and twenty or thirty miles at a stage without drawing it.

Thus I claim, persons are somewhat wide off the mark in their premises, and are egregiously out of their latitude when they make use of the word "Hack" as implying a good riding horse. Rather the reverse, I contend, as a general utility slave, and nineteen out of twenty men, will endorse that a "garrison hack" is a thing of—well, derision.

Here, in England, the original purpose of the Hackney was unquestionably for saddle work as instanced by the numerous records of our forefathers completing lengthy journeys over bad roads by that means of progression, and it will, I think, be admitted by all that in those days the Hackney was without doubt the saddle horse of this country, and recognised as one of the necessities of life upon which men spent a good deal

of their time when going upon business journeys from place to place. The general title of this article is of extremely wide dimensions, and is calculated to convey somewhat varied impressions brought about in a considerable measure to the minds of different readers by the theories held by the particular individual. What may or may not be the exact mission of the Hackney to-day opens up an extremely wide field. Few equine subjects have caused a broader divergence of opinions as expressed by numerous authorities—would-be and otherwise—than the status of the animal above named. It is not claimed that within the limit of these observations will be found anything beyond a general expression of opinion formed as a lover of the species equine in general, and also as a breeder of the Hackney in particular. Merits and demerits there must always be in every tribe, and whilst advocating the claims of one, it must not be taken that others are a fortiori to be consigned to oblivion, as this country is sufficiently wide, and it's own, and the needs of other countries are sufficiently great for the exercise of all penchants, in whatsoever direction the mind of the particular member of the community may trend.

There is no doubt whatever that Hackneys generally, and Hackney breeders in particular, have been subjected of late years to the somewhat fierce light of criticism. It is the fact that the popularity of the Hackney, outside of his own immediate breeding districts, has been of a varied quantity, but it is a popularity that when once thoroughly and genuinely established is not likely to wane. If the statement had been made a few years ago to members of the hunting fraternity that an exhibition would be held in London, whereat some 500 Hackney stallions, mares geldings, and fillies would be shown, and which would in itself, draw an attendance of some 7000 people, and maintain an unflagging popularity over four successive days, it would have been received with derision. But it is none the less the fact, and the genuine, continuing, and tried supporters of the Hackney as distinguished from the evanescent and twenty minutes commodity have to-day the satisfaction of knowing that they and their representatives have gradually lived down a great deal of the former public prejudice; and notwithstanding anything detractors may advance to the contrary, from being received some sixteen or eighteen years ago upon exhibition at any County Agricultural Show (OUTSIDE THE LIMITS OF HIS OWN NORTHERN BREEDING GROUNDS) with an apologetic shrug of the shoulders, this class of horse to-day, in no matter what department he may be shown, is the popular attraction at the ringside of all our greatest equine exhibitions. The Hackney of to-day, however, is a vastly different type of animal to that of twenty or thirty years ago, and is judged LITERALLY from a different standpoint. The competitors under this classification in former days were legion, and comprised all sorts and conditions, whilst those adjudicating, save in special districts seldom moved from the centre of the exhibition ring, and were content to give in their awards solely from the gyrations they beheld. But *NOUS AVONS CHANGE TOUT CELA*, and now-a-days both animals and judges are selected differently.

The Hackney of to-day is bred upon a different mould, and upon different lines. The judges at all the best practical, AS DISTINGUISHED FROM SOCIETY SHOWS, are chosen from practical breeders, instead of having the sole qualification of being Squires of the county, or possessing handles to their names. Years ago, so long as an exhibit in harness could pound away pulling a gig along, with high action in front, or at the end of a line, little else was looked for. The questions of a good look-out, wearing both ends, flexing the hocks up and down, high true action, and absence of rocking, were points seldom or never seen or looked for; but to-day at any of the best Shows, including minor Exhibitions in the north of England, where prizes are given for Hackneys either in hand, in saddle, or in leather, a far different state of affairs obtains. All the best and recognized characteristics of the breed must be correctly filled before there can be any expectation of obtaining the coveted red rosette.

Alford, England.

S. B. COMLEY,

The Claims of the Shire.

The breeders of Shire horses in England have been discussing the reasons why Shires do not commend themselves more strongly to the American public and what can be done to create a market for Shires on this side the water. The

breeders of Shires being Englishmen, naturally think the trouble is all with the other fellow and that the goods they have to offer can not be improved upon at the present time at least. Americans have not been buying as extensively of Shires as of Percherons, and Canadians have bought more Clydesdales than Shires but this does not prove that the shire as a breed is not as good as the others. It only goes to show that the Shire does not fulfil the demands of the Canadian and American markets as well as does the Clydesdale and Percheron. These two breeds have found favor on this side because they more nearly approach the farmer's idea of a draft horse than has the type of Shire, most largely imported.

Throughout the Englishmen's discussion of the question, there has prevailed a determination to stick to the type they are now producing and we think they should. The Shire to-day is the largest and most powerfully built of horses. He is also one of the most sound in body and bone and for these characteristics he should be invaluable for use where greater size, bolder spirit and deeper body are required. Excessive size and hairy legs have been the two great objections to the Shire in America, but we are assured by an English breeder that with line breeding the Shire will eventually be as clean and fine in feather as the Clyde. He does not say there will be any reduction in size or shortening of rib with the lessening of feather, but if there is a probability of this being the case, we should be sorry to see line breeding carried very far with the English drafters.

The demand for the Shires in America will come with the growth of cities which will necessitate more and bigger dray horses. Our opinion is that considerable Shire blood will have to be used upon the Percheron Stock so common in the States before that country will be able to produce a sufficient number of big dray horses for its cities. Every one going from a country where Clydesdales and Shires are used, to the cities of the States is at once struck with the inadequacy of draft blood in the horses moving heavy freight upon the streets.

But what the English breeders want is an immediate demand for their horses. To create and stimulate this, we could suggest nothing better than for them to make a display of draft geldings at provincial and Dominion fairs in Canada, and at state fairs and the International Show at Chicago. At the latter show there is usually a very creditable display of stallions and a few mares, but the horse breeding public want to see what the Shire breed produces in the way of draft geldings.

Stallion and foal show at Calgary, Alta., on May 7 and 8.

STOCK

A Stock Breeders' Association Formed in British Columbia.

At the request of F. M. Logan, B.S.A. of the Dominion Live Stock Department, over forty of the leading stockmen of the Province, assembled at New Westminster on Friday the 26th inst., and formed what is now known as the British Columbia Stock Breeders' Association.

Several came quite a distance to be present at the organization of this association, which promises to be of great value to the stockmen of the Province. The Constitution and By-laws submitted by Mr. Logan were adopted with but very slight alterations, and the meeting was enthusiastic as well as harmonious.

The board of directors consists of the following gentlemen: Hon. R. G. Tatlow, Minister of Agriculture; J. R. Anderson, Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Ex officio); President, J. A. Patterson, Ladner; Vice President, H. M. Vasey, Ladner; Secretary Treasurer, F. M. Logan, B.S.A., Victoria. Directors: A. C. Wells, Chiliwack; H. N. Rich, Ladner; G. H. Hadwen, Duncans; T. J. Trapp, New Westminster; S. H. Shannon, Cloverdale.

The question of holding a Provincial Auction Sale of Pure Bred Stock was discussed, and the scheme enthusiastically favored by all present. There are several breeders in the Province who have some good, pure bred animals to dispose of each year, and it is hoped it will be large enough to draw buyers from a distance.