

much so. The teeth require examination on account of the age, and, at the same time, will inform us if there is any defect or disease. If the neck is too thin and straight, or if the curvature is in front, and he has thrown up his head during examination, there is danger of poll evil occurring, and such animal should be rejected. This used to be a fault of many of the Suffolks, but they were then generally kept back from the shows. The legs—fore-limbs will next engage our attention. The elbows must not be too closely pinned to the sides, as that usually gives faulty action; the fore-arm should be muscular, both flexors and extensors, and the sinews below the knee will usually be found to correspond. Shoulders that may be condemned in a hack as being too heavy, may very well pass muster in a cart horse. The knee, which corresponds to our wrist, should be broad, and flat, and fairly projecting behind. The legs should be flat, and free from superfluous matter, so that the bone, the ligament, and the sinew may each be separately felt and seen to be free from splints and other enlargements. The fetlocks should be at the proper angle, not too long or oblique, or too straight or upright, the pasterns and cartilages tolerably free from ossifications, and the feet covered with sound horn, the crust being at about an angle of 45, and free from rings and cracks or seedy toes, and flat or pumiced soles.

All these points, if not looked at separately by the judges, should, at any rate, be noted separately in the book with which each judge is provided, who will then pass round the horse to examine the hindquarters, and will notice whether the tail is set on well, and not too drooping, a fault, at any rate, against symmetry which used to prevail very much with the old pack-horse breed. The angle, whose point is the stifle, should be filled up with abundance of muscle, which should project well on each side. This projection is very noticeable in all animals of speed—the race-horse, the hunter, and the greyhound, in whom it is of still greater importance than in the cart-horse; it corresponds to the calf of the human leg. This brings us to what we may call the most important joints in the body—the hocks—both as regards strength and speed, for all the weight of the body, the load, or the rider, are thrown upon these joints as on a pivot. Therefore, they should be broad, and clean, and free from the slightest semblance of curb and spavin, and by all means at the proper angle. The inspection of the parts below the hock require the same attention as in the fore-legs. Now, all these that we have noticed may justly be considered as important points, and the absence of any, or their great inferiority, can scarcely be overlooked in a prize horse; but they are not all of equal importance. The size, girth, barrel, back, and general symmetry must stand first; but they are all of more consequence than what we may regard as the minor points—the colour, the ears, the eyes (in other matters than soundness), the face, or Roman nose. But now an important question comes to the fore. Should the judges be informed of the pedigree, or should they regard it if they know? To the last question we reply, *Certainly not*. They should judge on what they see before them, not on what they don't see. If an animal has a good pedigree, the greater is his chance; if he has no pedigree, the greater is his merit.

The judges having separately noted the points we have noticed, they compare their books, and then frequently comes the tug of war. The advantage of having three judges is seen, for if there is a difference, there is also an umpire in the third judge. The minor points, and the action also for convenience, are often taken collectively. Does the horse walk well and trot sound? He must be a fast as well as a good walker. If his fore-legs are carried too wide, he may be slow or a stumbler; if too close, he may cut his fetlocks. If the hind-legs are wide apart he may, in ploughing, tread

on the land, and not in the furrow, a matter of much importance.

We remember the late Prince Consort asking us, at the first show he visited in this country, whether the horses were tried in harness? We, of course, replied in the negative. The staunchness of the horses—and, to a certain extent, their temper—must be taken on trust. With regard to colour, dark colours, and particularly dark legs, are considered the best. When the colour is white, the skin is usually thin, and there is more danger of cracked heels and grease; but there is more truth in the saying that a good horse may be of any colour; and certainly the white heels of Honest Tom and the Norfolk Wonder, and some others, support this idea. Although "the wind" is not overlooked by the judges, it, as well as the eyes, is rather relegated to the veterinary inspector. I find my critique has assumed a rather wandering and conversational form, but its length is a warning to close. *Ag. Gazette.*

W. SPOONER, F. R. V. C. (1)

(1) Mr Spooner, long retired from business, is about as good a judge of horses as they make them. A. R. J. F.

NON-OFFICIAL PART.

KNOW THYSELF, by reading the "SCIENCE OF LIFE," the best medical work ever published, for young and middle-aged men.

NEWSPAPERS OF TO-DAY.

People generally, and even those who may be termed steady readers and close observers, have but a faint conception of the magnitude and influence the press of this country has attained. From a careful examination of the advance pages of the 1885 edition of the AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY, issued May 1st, by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., New York, it appears that there are 14,147 newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and Canada; of these the United States has 12,973, an average of one paper for every 3,867 persons. In 1884 the total number of newspapers was less by 823 than at present, and while the gain this year is not so marked as in some previous years, it is still considerable. Kansas shows the greatest increase, the number being 78, while Illinois follows with a gain of 77. It is curious to notice that New York, the scene of so much political activity during the last campaign, should have only about one-third as many new papers as the State of Pennsylvania. As an index to the comparative growth and prosperity of different sections of the country, especially the Territories, the number of new papers forms an interesting study, and may well occupy the attention of the curious.

Nervous Debilitated Men

You are allowed a *free trial of thirty days* of the use of Dr. Dye's Celebrated Voltaic Belt with Electric Suspensory Appliances, for the speedy relief and permanent cure of Nervous Debility, loss of Vitality and Manhood, and all kindred troubles. Also, for many other diseases. Complete restoration to health, vigor and manhood guaranteed. No risk is incurred. Illustrated pamphlet, with full information, terms, &c., mailed free by addressing Voltaic Belt Co., Marshall, Mich.

The only Practical Swing Stanchion Invented, and the only one that is connected together at the top when open. C. D. BROOKS, PROP'R., Addison, Steuben County, N. Y. Manufactured and for sale by FENNEL & ANTHES, General Agents, Berlin, (Ont.) Canada.

A Liberal Discount to the Trade.

TO BREEDERS AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES. FOR SALE.

A few choice head of Thorough-bred Ayrshires, male and female, from the undersigned's celebrated stock, so much appreciated for its well known milking properties, and which, as such, obtained, twice, the 1st prize at the Ottawa Dominion Exhibition; also the 1st prize for the best herd at Hochelaga County Exhibition for 1884. For particulars apply to JAMES DRUMMOND, Petite Côte, Montréal.