

## BREED FOR MERIT AS WELL AS PEDIGREE.

In every man who has a regard for the truth were to nail a lie when he catch it the more would he be respected in the world. The trouble is, however, that we are prone to carelessness in such matters. The error repeated often enough comes at last to be accepted as truth, especially so if it contain a kernel of truth, but that is quite another thing. The sad saga during the last twelve months it has been asserted that the bottom has dropped out of the breeding business, and in some quarters this statement has been accepted as a self-evident truth, to the detriment of an important industry. While it contains some truth it is far from the whole truth. It is a fact that the bottom has dropped out of boom prices for trotters, but that is quite another thing. The sudden collapse in boom prices was the inevitable result of fictitious values.

With the adoption of the standard an artificial condition presented itself, and was the sole guide of heavy breeders for some years without regard to individuality. With the big prices in sight to be had only for the breeding of an animal by a standard horse out of a standard mare, thousands of subjects went into breeding with the hope of enriching themselves. They bred indiscriminately, without a thought to the eternal fitness of things. The prime object was to get an animal that would conform to the standard. The stallion owners who were fortunate in having a horse fairly successful as a sire reaped rich harvests in exorbitant fees, and mares were attracted to studs of every kind of breeding, no breeding at all, size and quality.

Now what is the result? To-day we have thousands of worthless animals actually eating their heads off. The industry is in the doldrums, and the standard out of the standard boom. Mark you, the standard, not the breeding industry. It is important to remember, and this fact cannot be too strongly emphasized, that it is no time for any one to depend on a horse that has shown his ability to win money with reasonable prospects ahead failed to command a good price, and why should he not? There is more money in sight each year, his earning capacity is certainly increasing, and his market value should be correspondingly enhanced.

The conditions to-day are different from what they were ten years ago. Now a 2,300 horse cuts no more for a figure than a 3,000 horse did then. The business of breeding the trotter is reduced to a system, and only the fittest will survive. Haphazard methods will no longer do. It requires the best thought, training work and constant attention to detail. There are now thousands to throw away who may afford the expensive luxury of breeding horses for his health or the fun of the thing, and leave the details of management to look after themselves, but who are less fortunate than he, who are looking for the profit, cannot afford to pursue such methods. The successful man must be alive to the needs and requirements of the times. He must be well informed about the different lines of breeding. He should be well up in all the arts of developing speed, naturally and artificially. He should have a natural liking for horses, and be a good judge of horse flesh.

Individuality is, in our opinion, one of the most important essentials of the business, and the utter lack of regard for the fitness of things in the past in this respect explains, in a great measure, the number of unsalable horses to be found to-day.

Study well the combination of blood lines. Don't select a horse to breed to simply because he has been successful as a sire. See with what class of horses he has been most successful. Study the individual characteristics and those of

your mare. Compare the strong and weak points of both. If they have defects in common don't breed that way, but look elsewhere. If the mare have good body conformation but light bone, and the stallion the same, you may be sure that this deficiency will be more strongly emphasized in the offspring. "Like begets like."

All other things being equal, with these conditions reversed the foal will be better. It is generally thought of course with absolute certainty. Chance, or rather atavism, plays an important part in the breeding process. This is an important factor, upon which too much stress cannot be laid in the matter of breeding, for the seeming disregard of natural law in the past has placed us where we are to-day.

There is probably an part of the world where horse breeding is reduced to a finer art than in England. With the Englishman individuality is one of the most important factors in the problem of breeding thoroughbreds. A horse with constitutional defects, he has ever so good as an individual, is religiously avoided, while if he have a weak point physically, no mare with a like defect is ever mated with him. The result is noted in the splendid specimens of thoroughbreds we have in that country. Breeds that have become so fine an art there that to mate a thoroughbred mare with a thoroughbred stallion is to assure a running performer with a capacity for 1,500 speed at least. It is not reasonable, therefore, to expect that in time, with proper regard for natural laws, we may expect to get a 2,500 performer with as much assurance—*American Horse Breeder*.

## THE TERM "THOROUGHBRED."

A CORRESPONDENT living at White Earth, N. D., sends the following inquiry, which is interesting in the extreme: "Kindly give me the definition of a Thoroughbred horse. Is there a distinct breed of that name, or does the word apply to any breed of horses?"

The English standard breed of running horses, the oldest and most purely bred race of horses in England. Thoroughbreds are bred almost exclusively for racing purposes. Some of the larger, stronger, and better made Thoroughbred sires are used for getting hunters and the blood of the Thoroughbred is at one time or another entered into all our breeds of coach horses. The term "thoroughbred," "full blood," and "pure-bred," are generally used in this country as practically synonymous, but as a matter of fact the word "thoroughbred" should not be used except as the name of the breed of running horses, and when written it should be spelled with a capital letter, thus, The thoroughbred just as Clydesdale, or Shire, or Suffolk, or Short-horn, or the name of any other distinct breed is spelled. It is a very loose use of the term "thoroughbred" to apply it to other breeds to indicate their purity of blood, as the word has for years stood as the name of a distinct breed of horses.

Its use in England is properly confined to the running horse, but in this country it has been carelessly employed as indicating pedigreed or registered animals of all breeds. The term "pure-bred" or "pedigreed" should be used in such cases instead of "thoroughbred." A name bred, in the ordinarily accepted meaning of the term, is an animal eligible to record in the pedigree register of its breed. Strictly speaking the term is more or less a relative one. The basis of registration varies, but that most generally accepted is the one adopted by the English Thoroughbred stud book—the first register of the kind established—namely, five top crosses of Thoroughbred sires.

In establishing pedigrees records of course foundation stock had to be agreed

on, and in early volumes a less number of recorded sires has been accepted by breed societies, and at this time nearly all pedigrees registers for cattle, sheep and swine accept for record only the descendants of recorded sires. In the case of the stud books still adhere to the old Thoroughbred standard—five top crosses of recorded sires—but comparatively few horses are recorded under this rule. It is generally assumed, however, that five crosses will serve to fix the type so that it will be transmitted with reasonable certainty; and when the type is thus fixed the animals may be called pure-bred, in accordance with the generally accepted meaning of the term. But do not call animals of the pure breeds "thoroughbreds"—leave the term to the race horse as its distinct name, and refer to the others as "pure-bred," "full blood," "pedigreed" or "registered." The most careful and intelligent breeders long since discriminated properly in the use of these terms, but farmers generally have fallen into the habit of using all the registered stock as "thoroughbreds." The use of the term is objectionable for the reasons stated, and it should be superseded by the other terms which we suggest.—*Breeder's Gazette*.

## THE SADDLE HORSE.

In an article on the saddle horse, which appeared in the *Louisville, Ky., Post*, John Dunan, a well known breeder of that State, says: "As with man, so with the animals under him which he has domesticated and bred and trained with special objects in view. No need of more than referring to the experiences attained in connection with the hiring of a driver of labor; and so in like manner we have harness horses, running horses, saddle horses and draft horses; cows superior as butter-producers, others for the yield and quality of milk, others for the beef they afford; thus they are chickens for eggs, some being chosen for the number of eggs they produce, and others for the size and quality of their eggs, while some are recognized as good for the superiority of their flesh. It is thus all a matter of performance, pedigree being founded in performance; and therefore when we start to form a breed we lay our foundation with the materials demonstrably most fitted to do what we want done. Where men have recognized pedigrees they originate thus and not otherwise; and where a country has a nobility it will be found that the families ranking as of this class trace back as a whole to people of marked parts of some sort.

The making or fixing of a breed, the steps on the way toward getting an animal to the point where it is a pure-bred or purely bred, is a very simple matter, and may be regarded as by any means easy. Even with the subject or material all right on one side to begin, it requires five pure crosses—such is the established English ruling on the subject—to take any strain or taint from a scrub or other starting point. That is the rule in the country where most of our established breeds of domesticated animals originated, and the rule is none the less severe. Of course in commencing a breed with nothing but raw material to work with it is different; and then the entire outlook is for the material best adapted for the purpose intended.

The conditions thus outlined, as lying at the basis of all breed-making, and so they are proceeding. What they are to do in the way of a test, answering to that which determines rank from year to year on account of earnings of get in the case of thoroughbreds, or in that of trotters by way of contribution to the 2,500 or standard list, does not appear to be yet fixed upon, yet certain points of such governing law must first recog-

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tion, the operation of the effect of which will be to eliminate wholly the non-essential and conduct on to the making of a breed that will neither need nor admit of the introduction of outside or uncertain elements so that each individual meritorious performance will be alone good registerable rank.

The standard-bred saddle horse of to-day out to be predominate approach the way to the highest class in the breeding of the horse—the horse above all horse exercise and in pleasing the eye of the refined of our civilized life of to-day. In filling such a bill high spirit and intelligence must ever be found together, and there must be good size without the slightest trace of coarseness anywhere. The gait called for as a prime condition precedent to registration are those Walk, trot, canter, rack, and running walk, or fox-trot or slow pace. Then there are what are known as foundation stock, the descendants of which are as first families in the history of the breeding of the horse ranking in the class of foundation stock are Denmark, Bruker's Andes, Sam Booker, John Dillard, Tom Hill, Coleman's Korak, Vanmeter's Way, and the Lexington, Copperbottom, Stamp the Dealer, Texas, Horse Agent, Peter's Halsion, Vernon's Redback. In the struggle for supremacy that always sets in in such cases the fittest of these survive, and already the foremost place under this title is accorded to Denmark, so that he is sure to be to the saddle what Rysdyk's Hambletonian is to the trotter. A broken descent to foundation stock, whether to the stock of Denmark or to that of any of the other if they are with him in the select foundation company, will always make a good one for eligibility or registration.

This thought of forming a breed of saddle horses has grown, hardly on out of a long experience in Kentucky and Tennessee in making saddlers from the best material that offered, and with much of that material naturally first class. The business is under the control of a definite purpose results the best ever seen for breed to be expected, and it is confidently believed that as a mind-refering force in this relation, in connection with the high race track basis of the life in our large cities, he is entering upon a great new era for the saddle horse.

Thus in the well-bred American saddle horse we have fancy and art, the field and the road, working together; and just as the English race horse is far superior to the Arab and the Barb from which its essentials he has descended, so will our saddle be as much about anything else in his line. It is the evolution to which he is related and of which he is the product in advance of all the past. In no previous age of the world was the animal life under human care protected and considered as he now, and it is the very nature of things that the horse, the highest conception of that life, should take the position to which he is thus every way entitled. It is in this regard that we have to be sure, and it is in Arab that he is to an Anglo-Saxon.

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