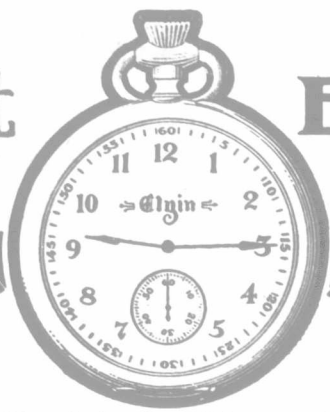


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Loaded with greatest  
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## FITTING FOR HORSE SHOW

\* The horse found, let us say, is a good color, preferably without markings, sound and broken to common use. He stands the proper height and gives evidence of quality more or less strongly. The old days of picking up a good one for a song are no longer in vogue, for the prices of horses are increasing very rapidly. After the long tailed mare or gelding has changed hands and has left the country paddock for more commodious city quarters, the first important step in his career is having his tail set. This "setting" or "nicking" is done by a skilful veterinarian and is nothing more or less than the severing of the depressor muscles at the base of the tail. This operation is performed by inserting a nicking knife on either side of the median line of the tail and cutting the muscle, guiding the point of knife with finger, from the outside. The tail is then plaited and attached to two ropes which run through pulleys on either side of the top of the stall, in which position it remains until the wounds heal. The time consumed in allowing the wound to heal is generally two or three weeks. Weights are attached to these ropes which extend nearly to the ground, permitting the animal to have natural freedom in moving about. As the animal lies down the weights go up and vice versa. If he carries his tail sideways the curvator muscle is severed and the tail tied around to the opposite side. If a pair of horses are being mated, the tails of both should be at the same elevation. Few show horses nowadays go into the ring with their tails natural.

After the operation of setting up is complete the animal is docked. In some places laws prohibiting the docking of horses happen to exist. Docking is said to be painless. The sideline, also the twitch, is put on, the hair of the tail is turned back cleanly from the point where the docking is to take place, "mainly dependent upon the size and sex of the animal, but usually taken off nine inches below the base." A tourniquet (tight elastic bandage) is applied to upper portion to prevent hemorrhage (bleeding). The tail is then severed with the docking knife or shears, and immediately cauterized with hot iron and then allowed to heal. As horses are frequently docked one day and taken into the show-ring the same night, without giving evidence of inconvenience, the pain must be largely in the first feel of the knife and cauterizing iron. Then the feet are looked to, hoofs shaped and trimmed and the animal properly shod. The horse must then wear a dumb jockey and mouthing bit to school him to the use of a bit and to step properly backward and forward. The dumb jockey is an apparatus fitting on the back and reacting on his mouth; furthermore, it aids in the proper development of the muscles of the neck. The animal is often stepped over obstacles placed at regular intervals to get him into the idea of lifting knees and hocks. He is taught how to stand, with hocks well out from his quarters, instead of on a level with them, as the old custom used to be. This new trick in order that he may gain by posing stylishly when not in action, and to give the driver the signal when he is about to step forward. In a lady's carriage it gives her time to get in and out of her turnout, without the possibility of her being thrown forward while doing so. It brings out conformation beautifully, when not exaggerated too much, and one can always tell the show horse by this particular way of holding himself. This carriage is taught by hitting the animal gently but smartly under the knees until he learns to step well forward and leave his hocks behind him.

The next important step is biting. Before this can be done the teeth must be looked after and put in proper shape. Biting is a delicate and much abused art. It is generally recognized by experts as a factor greatly affecting action; an ambitious horse with a responsive mouth, urged gently in an appropriate and comfortable bit, going much higher than if unrestrained by its leverage. The green horse must be bitted gradually. The rigor of a curb bit can not be put on his unaccustomed mouth at once. He should first get used to an elbow or Liverpool bit with curb strap. This

strap is less severe than the chain, which the wearer would pull against vigorously in his ignorance of its use. The strap is next supplanted by a chain covered with chamois, cloth, or leather, to educate him gradually to it; after this has made him familiar with its feel, the chain is used plain. Some animals go better in one bit than another; the secret is in finding out what best suits each particular case, more especially in the adjustment and fit. Wise biting often prevents "lugging" or pulling, helps to set the horse's head easily and properly and makes him give of his best instead of fuming, showing restlessness and the strained, abnormal look about the eye some show when in action. A light hand and an easy bit are vital requisites in the show animal.

Meanwhile the mane has been "pulled"—literally so—of long, straggling hairs and to thin it out if too thick for correct form. Cutting the mane would make it grow out again coarser than before and the hair would run "wild" and not lie well. Pulling is always done from the under side, so that when finished the hair falls evenly and gracefully over the crest. The forelock is treated the same way, the same length as the mane, and should never be cut. The ears and fetlocks are trimmed, straggling hairs under the neck being roughed the wrong way with a brush and singed evenly. Hoofs are oiled and dressed. He is fed properly to fill out his frame and give him proper substance. He is carefully exercised daily, rubbed, groomed to give him a skin of satin. He is driven and made acquainted with trains, automobiles, trolley and elevated cars, steam rollers, etc. He must learn to stand under the glare of a "Dutch band" and endure sights and sounds in the most distracting phases, to give him nerve and manners so he won't lose his head in the show-ring, where the lights and music are enough to turn an individual dizzy if he has never met them before. After he has come into his manners, his is fitted to harness made expressly for him. No two horses are exactly alike, and to act well he must look the part and feel that he "fits his clothes," to speak. And so he goes into the show-ring after months of preparation.

For his ribbon he must also depend upon his driver. There are ethics of show-ring driving; little points to be taken advantage of, times to go slowly, times to push ahead and stay there if possible, times to draw back to get rid of some adversary who shows more quality and action and against whom you do not want to contrast your horse.

## WHEN TWO ARE JOINED.

Good Minister (a married man).—Do you wish to marry this woman?

Man.—I do.

Minister.—Do you wish to marry this man?

Woman.—I do.

Minister.—Do you like the city as a place of residence?

Man.—No, I prefer the suburbs.

Minister.—Do you like the suburbs?

Woman.—No, indeed; I prefer the city.

Minister.—Are you a vegetarian in diet?

Man.—No, I hate vegetables. I live on beef.

Woman.—I can't bear meat. I am a vegetarian.

Minister.—Do you like a sleep-room well ventilated?

Man.—Yes, I want the window down summer and winter.

Minister.—Do you like so much fresh air?

Woman.—No; it would kill me. I want all windows closed.

Minister.—Do you like a light in the room?

Man.—No; can't sleep with a light; want the room dark.

Minister.—Are you afraid in the dark?

Woman.—Indeed, I am. I have always had a bright light in my room.

Minister.—I hereby pronounce you man and wife, and may every blessing and happiness in life be yours!