

It is a great error to work horses under clothing, unless it is a sheet of light lincsey, with a view of hastening their condition. The best trainers of the racehorse in the North have discontinued the use of clothing when working, particularly young stock, two and three-year-olds. In fact, one of the ablest trainers, and who is most successful with two-year-olds, uses no clothing at all. When a horse is taken upon a tract, the presumption is that he needs work, and he is to be galloped two, three, or four miles, as the case may be. Now the object of that work or galloping upon the track is to settle his flesh, quicken and strengthen his muscles, and extract from his body a certain amount of sweat, but no more than will relieve nature or the horse's body of the heat brought about by the quickened action of the heart, producing an increased circulation throughout the body, and which, if not thrown off at the surface, will injure the entire viscera, or at least the brain, lungs and kidneys. To produce more than unnecessary, and it is all that can be done to the horse with safety at any one time. A horse worked in this manner every day can be brought to the post in proper condition; he is sure to feed well if trained thus, and take his work with life and spirit; whereas, if he is trained under blankets and hood, all girthed tight and pinned up close, and then worked three or four miles, at a rapid pace, which is the usual way of sending them, the result will be, if he is a young horse, that he will be reduced entirely too fast to retain his strength. From the excessive heat of the circulation the skin will become dry and sore, because the blankets are non-conductors of heat. The eyes become bloodshot, the arteries, veins, and cellular tissues become affected from the over-heating of the body, and the symptoms will manifest themselves in loss of appetite, slight cough, followed by a severe one. The eyes will assume a dull, glazed appearance, and the horse be indisposed to move unless touched with the whip, and lung fever is almost certain to follow if cooled out with cold water.

Besides the great injury done to horses trained under blankets or heavy clothing, it has caused the death of many good animals from excessive work when so treated. The celebrated horse Mercury was killed by the rupture of the heart from excessive work under blankets. La Vraie Reine by imp. Sovereign, dropped dead whilst they were un-girthing the saddle after a brisk breeze of two miles under blankets. Moonlight, by Lexington, dropped dead after severe work under clothing at Chillicothe, O.; and many others whose names I cannot call to mind at this moment. Who does not remember, in olden times, when all races were heats, of seeing horses between heats cramp, stagger, and sometimes fall during the process of what their trainers were pleased to call "cooling out?" The horses were already too hot, but instead of walking them about until they became cool, and then rubbing them off, the boy stood ready with any amount of blankets and heavy hoods to be thrown on the horse as soon as the saddle was removed, for fear that a breath of air might reach the horse. The horse at the same time was scarcely able to draw in sufficient oxygen to arterialize the venous blood with which his lungs were overcharged. But now, thanks to the humane improvement in the treatment of the horse during his training in dispensing in a manner with heavy clothing, and to the still more humane system of giving purses for dashes (which enables the clubs to utilize all the horses many times during the meeting, by having their programme consist of such dashes only, without injury to the horses, or disgusting their patrons and lovers of the horse from witnessing horses running six or seven heats to finish a race), these revolting scenes are never witnessed. The reform in the mode of racing, which has obtained in the North and measurably in the South and West, of ignoring heat racing, has done more to improve the speed of the horse than all that

Park and Saratoga.

Thus it will be seen, that the horse is seldom injured in his races, for if he breaks down in the race, in all probability it is from injuries received in his severe training; for it is running colts many trial runs, and often repeating them, that causes them to give way maturely. It is burden enough for a young colt to carry his rider and saddle, without being overloaded with blankets, hoods, and surcingles. It is very fatiguing, and worries the colt so that he loses, to a certain extent, his action. He will then grab his heel with his hind foot, or knock his pasterns, fetlock, tendons, or cannon bone with his forelegs, or cut his hind legs, just below the hock, with what are commonly called swift cuts, all of which a colt is liable to do when overburdened or fatigued, and all of which can be avoided by omitting the clothing and reducing his work. The colt would then be able to take his work without being covered all over with boots and bandages. I have heard it frequently remarked by trainers that no horse ought to be galloped without boots upon his legs, and I have no doubt the same class of trainers think that nature is very remiss in not forming horses with boots on. There is no necessity for boots or bandages if horses are reasonably and judiciously exercised, and more time taken to condition them. A horse should be walked and trotted at least two months before he is even cantered, much less galloped; for, if he is thrown at once into rapid work before he has passed through this long preparatory seasoning process, his muscles will become sore, his legs will stock up, and, instead of progressing on the road to condition, he will be going backwards, and it will require the best attention and good judgment to bring him round on the road to condition.

In preparing colts for their stakes, much more robust condition can be obtained by handling them entirely without clothing. Even in their stalls they are better without clothing, for if the natural hair of the untrained horse is a sufficient protection from the fiery sun of summer or the freezing blast of winter, why should not the natural coat of hair protect the horse when in the stall, which offers equal shelter against the burning heat and the winter's cold? The animal which is properly fed when roaming at large or unconfined is most generally found in good health, whereas the horse that is confined within the stall is often, with the best of treatment, afflicted with various diseases. When you come to add hot blankets in hot weather, in a stall poorly ventilated, never kept too clean, but oftentimes suffered to become very foul, is it any wonder that horses should sicken and sometimes die from such treatment, the pulse being kept up to near fever heat in a close stall, and the animal inhaling the poison which exhales from his litter, impregnated with ammonia. The nearest any animal can be treated in accordance with nature, the more robust and healthy it will become. Horses need no clothing when walking, unless it is something thin to keep the flies off in hot weather, for a walk, to a four-legged animal, brings into play all the muscles and ligaments of the whole animal. A horse can always keep himself warm by walking, and, of course, he needs no clothing for a quicker gait, such as trotting, cantering, and galloping. Those gaits will not only keep him warm, but cause him to perspire; but many trainers imagine that the horse is not worked at all unless he scrapes, and hence he must be blanketed so that the sweat will be sufficiently profuse for them to scrape it off with the scrapers. If the weather happens to be warm and close, the blankets will make him lose too much of the watery particles of the blood, which will make the venous blood thick and tardy and slow in circulation; and this dark venous blood imparts much of its poison to the nervous system, whilst being pumped back by the heart to the lungs, to exchange its carbon for oxygen, and become arterialized for healthy circulation. See and compare horses trained without clothing and those worked with clothing. The former will

off as often, with the glands and lungs subjected to those severe tests of excessive heat and excessive cold, must become more or less injuriously affected; and if it only results in a cold or cough, which may wear off in a short time, he is lucky. but if it should suppress the flow of serum, which lubricates the pleura, pneumonia will set in, and then your horse is lost, in nine cases out of ten. If his life is saved, it takes many months for entire recovery, and then his lungs may be so affected as to render him worthless for racing purposes.

(To be Continued.)

THE FOUR-MILE-HEAT RACE IN CALIFORNIA.

The four-mile-heat race, for a purse of \$5,000, to be run over Bay District Course, San Francisco, Cal., on the 22nd of February next, closed on the 7th inst. with seven subscribers, viz.: Theodore Winters, B. Tinnons, John Cutler, W. H. Barnes, W. Armstrong, Henry Walsh, J. Cairn Simpson and Mr. Krebs, of Oregon. Subscribers are allowed until the 14th of February to name what horses they will start. Mollie McCarthy will, in all probability, be the choice of Mr. Winters, and Lady Amanda that of Mr. Simpson, unless Three Cheers will have got well of his game leg by that time. Henry Walsh has Sherman, W. H. Barnes has Bradley, W. Armstrong will make a selection from some good stable in the Atlantic States, and should he not succeed will enter Mattie A.; Mr. Krebs, of Oregon, has Billy Bigham. The Sacramento subscriber has Waddill and Waterford. John Cutler will make his entry known on the 12th. From present appearances Mollie McCarthy has the inside track, but no calculations can be made until the starters are named.

THE SPRING HANDICAPS IN ENGLAND.

The entries for the great spring handicaps on the English turf closed on Jan. 6. They exhibit a slight falling off in numbers, as compared with the previous year, when the entries for the Liverpool Grand National Steeplechase, City and Suburban, Great Metropolitan, Newmarket Handicap, and Chester Cup aggregated 409, against 390 for 1877. This year the Grand National Steeplechase has 72 entries. Among them we note Disturbance, Reugny, and Regal, the winners of this race in 1873, 1874, and 1876 respectively, and all owned by one turfman—the lucky Capt. Machell. The City and Suburban Handicap has 127 entries, among which are Mr. Sanford's Mate; Lord Rosebery's Controversy, The Snail, Rosbach, and Brigg Boy; Prince Soltykoff's Balfe, Lord Dapplin's Admiral Byng, Mr. Saville's Earl of Dartrey; the Duke of Westminster's Dalham (the winner of this stake in 1875), Organist, Julius Caesar, and Forerunner. The Great Metropolitan Stakes has 62 entries, among which are Rosebery (the double victor of the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire Stakes), Woodlands, Lillian, The Wizard, Whitebait, and Pageant. The Newmarket Handicap has 47 entries, in which both Mate and Bay Final are included, as they are also in the Chester Cup, which boasts of 92 entries. Mate is also entered for the Newmarket International Handicap, a little over a mile and a quarter; in the Derby Trial Handicap at Newmarket, a mile and a half, along with Bay Eagle and Bay Final. For the Gold Cup at Ascot there are 31 entries, besides five sealed-up nominations, which will not be open until after the running for the Oaks, at Epsom. Among these entries are the Derby winner Kieber, the Two Thousand Guineas and St. Leger winner Petrarch, Rob Roy, Roseberry, Lillian, New Holland (the Goodwood Cup winner), and Camelia, the dead-beater for the Oaks.

English sparrows are being killed at wholesale and sold as snow-birds at Boston. Over one hundred were found in one basket, recently.

business, I will show him a trap and handle match in Chatham for \$100 or \$200 a side (I would much prefer the two hundred a side), the match to take place within 30 days from date; I could not shoot the match under shorter notice than 30 days. To shoot at 50 birds, 21 yards rise, 80 yards boundary, 1½ ounce of shot, Chatham Gun Club rules to govern. Mr. Pike should know by this time that I do not puff or boast, and I am astonished that he should make use of such language; however, I take it for what it is worth; let him show himself to be not what he thinks I am, by accepting the above. Please publish the above, and oblige, Respectfully yours,

WALTER MUMFERY.

P. S.—If Mr. P. accepts, I will send my forfeit to Mr. Riche, Rankin House, and will name the date of shooting.

SNOW BIRD SHOOTING.

A snow bird match took place last Tuesday, 28rd ult., on the Don Flats, for a case of birds, valued at \$10; at 18 yards rise, 10 birds each. The birds were furnished and trapped by Mr. Wm. Loane, and a better lot never left a trap. The match was won easily by Mr. A. Griffith. Mr. Jas. Barrett acted as referee.

E Tolchard.....	0111100011—6
A Griffith.....	1011111111—9
W Smith, Jr.....	1001010111—6
J Outcote.....	0110001010—4
E Reed.....	0110101010—5
G Watson.....	0001000100—2

Afterwards a private match took place between Messrs. Tolchard and Watson, for a Deer's Head, at 10 birds each, 18 yards rise, which was won by the former.

E Tolchard.....	0001101100—4
G Watson.....	100001001—3

Pedestrianism.

FOOT RACING IN THE SOUTH.

SAVANNAH, GA., Jan. 22, '77.

To the Editor of Sporting Times:

DEAR SIR.—A foot race came off here last Saturday, 20th, between Ike Harris, a colored pedestrian of this city, and John S. Barnes, of Toronto, Ont. The race was for \$50, 50 yards. Barnes won after a hard race by a foot, and not one of the contraband's either. Harris immediately challenged Barnes for the same amount and distance. This the Canuck won by a breast. These two sprints being so close, the colored man thought he could outstay Barnes, and for the third time they ran the course for another \$50, when the white man showed his superiority by beating the African four feet. The three races were all run inside of five minutes time.

McCaul, of Galt, Ont., another Canadian ped., is here, and has been matched to run a colored man, whose name I could not learn, 150 yards, for \$400. A forfeit is up, and the race will be run for sure. I will send you the result of it.

Barnes and McCaul have made many friends since their advent among us, and by their gentlemanly deportment are likely to retain them. They mean to stay in the South during the present winter, trying their fortunes among the colored citizens, many of whom claim astonishing powers of speed for themselves.

Thanks for SPORTING TIMES received, and I am glad to see the paper so rapidly making a name for itself. Mine is read weekly, I believe, by all the Canucks in Savannah, who take a great interest in the sports at home.

Yours,
NEW DOMINION.

WALTON AND O'LEARY.—Having arranged preliminaries and signed articles, besides putting up the necessary forfeiture money, these two eminent "footists" are to come together on the 2nd of April, Monday, with a view towards seeing how far each can beat the other towards Sunday morning services.

Lewis Jones' br in Maria Barnes, 5 yrs, by Asteroid, dam Black Rose..... 3
Rutledge not placed.

Time—2:22.

Same Day—Hampton Stakes, for four-year-olds; \$50 entrance, 25 if declared before Jan. 1, 1877; club to add \$400, if two or more start. Two mile heats.

W Wyche's b c Hatteras, 4 yrs, by Red Dick, dam by Planet.....	1 1
P M West's b c Courier, by Star Davis, dam by Lexington.....	3 2

Time—3:50, 3:51.

Same Day—Purse \$130, for all ages; \$100 to first, 25 to second. One and a half mile dash.

J F Wilson's b g Tom O'Neil, 6 yrs, by Lightning, dam Virginia.....	1
Lewis Jones' br h Brown Asteroid, 4 yrs, by Asteroid, dam Gazelle.....	2
C W Medinger's ch f Libbie L, 4 yrs, by Bay Dick, dam by Joe Stoner.....	3

Time—2:47.

Jan. 19—Purse \$125, for all ages. \$100 to first, 25 to second. Two-mile dash.

W Wyche's b c Hatteras, by Red Dick, dam by Planet.....	1
L Jones' b g Jim Hinton, aged, by Rodgers, dam Madam House.....	2

Time—3:54.

Same Day—Purse—

J W Wilson's b g Tom O'Neil, by Lightning..	1
C W Medinger's ch g First Chance, by Baywood.....	2
West & Hogan's br g Prang, 6 yrs, by Vandal, dam by Wagner.....	3

Time—2:48.

Jan. 20—Purse \$130, for all ages. \$100 to first, 30 to second. One mile.

Lewis Jones' br h Brown Asteroid, 5 yrs, by Asteroid, dam Gazelle.....	1
West & Hogan's Ascot, 5 yrs, by Enquirer, dam Hinda.....	2
W Wyche's b f Abdallah, 4 yrs, by Abd-el-Kader, dam Fanny.....	3

Rutledge not placed.

Time—1:51.

Same Day—Purse \$130, for all ages. \$100 to first, 30 to second. One mile and a half.

P M West's b h Courier, 4 yrs, by Star Davis, dam by Lexington.....	1
C W Medinger's ch f Libbie L, 4 yrs, by Bay Dick, dam by Joe Stoner.....	2

Time—2:49.

Same Day—Purse Stakes, for all ages; \$25 entrance; club to add \$100 if two or more start, second horse to save his entrance money. One mile.

Lewis Jones' ch f, by Lynchburg, dam by Eugene.....	1
W P Burch's ch e Main Brace, by Prussian, dam by Charley Ball.....	2

Time—1:55.

Same Day—Purse \$130, for all ages. \$100 to first, 30 to second; welter weights; two miles, over eight hurdles.

Lewis Jones' b g Jim Hinton, aged, by Rodgers, dam Madam House.....	1
West & Hogan's br g Prang, 6 yrs, by Vandal, dam by Wagner.....	2
L Cadie's ch g Dead Shot, aged, by Muggins..	3

Time—4:11.

The following are the weights carried by horses running under the Rules of the South Carolina Jockey Club: Horses 7 yrs, and upwards, carry 130 pounds; 6 yrs, 118 lbs; 5 yrs, 112 lbs; 4 yrs, 104 lbs; 3 yrs, 90 lbs; 2 yrs, 75 lbs.

WHITE STOCKINGS.—With the sale report of this fine trotting gelding is also going the rounds of the press the item which says that he is out of the dam of Kansas Chief. He is not out of the dam of Kansas Chief, and it is a hundred to one that the dam of Kansas Chief is not known.

SALE OF JACK TRIGO.—On the conclusion of the races at Charleston last Saturday, the chestnut horse Tack Trigg, 6 yrs, by Lightning out of Sallis Morgan, by R'veane, until then owned by Mr. J. F. Wilson, was sold to a colored "capitalist" for \$150.

Several parties in Stratford have recently lost valuable dogs, and from the thorough raid that has been made it is quite evident that the thieves understood their business. Nearly every hound owned in the town has been spirited away.