

In the *Sportsman* of Saturday last I observed an exceedingly good comment upon the "Care of horses in winter," and it involves a "point" upon which I had felt inclined to insist, in connection with the ideas expressed herein, but I will pursue this theme a little further, and confine it to young horses, not attempting to add anything to the suggestions of your extract from the *Stock Breeder*.

The young horse, having passed the autumn well, in the enjoyment of good, succulent aftermath, with a right allowance of oats, will come to the first wintering like a strong man armed, and will be entitled to "the most distinguished consideration" of the man who is charged with the responsibility of it. There may not be allowed any penurious economy in the matter of how much they shall be fed. The colt must have all he can eat, and oats enough, perhaps advancing somewhat upon the weanling's portion, and these now, as always, should be of the best quality. There should be provided a well constructed paddock for its occupation each day, and every night should give it a warm, snug, comfortable house, where it may be thoroughly protected against the biting or stormy weather. Particular attention should be given to the regularity with which the colt's wants are attended to, for a great deal of future usefulness will have been builded upon the regular, timely formation of the powers and capacities of the organs of digestion, a "much larger deal than careless observers of good horses can conceive." A certain invariable form for every feeding and every watering, and for the formal exercising; horses are in as an extraordinary degree "creatures of habit," and thrive under "a rule of life" as well as men.

Slowly the baby trotter comes forward to his full maturity, which is endowed with powers such as belonged to "the undying horses of the immortal gods," but it is not so very long in reaching the period when it must be broken; then the grain allowance can be increased, and a well-bred yearling will have no difficulty in "putting where they will do the most good," daily rations amounting to four quarts of oats, and all the hay it will eat cleanly.

These are simple ideas, but they are the result of the experience of many men who have led the lists of the Republic's successful breeders and trainers; and they will apply to horses intended for the coach, or for the road as well as to those which are destined to "contest the wager of battle." Every breeder for market wants to get all the money out of his sales that he can, and if he be parsimonious while his stock is young, and leave it to the roughing for a living, he will himself pay for his own shortsightedness in not getting so much money as he would have obtained otherwise. That there is "economy in feeding young horses well is undoubtedly true." Look at the prices which coachers brought at Mr. Eaton's autumnal sale week before last, ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per pair. There isn't a farmer in the United States, if he breeds with proper caution, who cannot get fine returns from his colts, and earn a very handsome bit of money every year, by simply attending "well and truly" to the necessities of his young stock, for he will find himself realizing, frequently, a fair \$500 for the sort of colt which, because of early neglect, he formerly was compelled to sell for a fifth or a fourth of such sum.

This is the week of Thanksgiving Day, and I shall be glad if any words of mine written here may be instrumental in giving some poor colt a reasonable Thanksgiving dinner, but trust it will not be confined to the one day in the year.

An Arab proverb says: "The two greatest enemies of the horse are rest and fat." The average cross-roads stallion contains these two elements in perfection. Hence, "weedy and washy" colts.

GOOD BLOOD TELLS.

Chicago Farmers' Review.

Taking a retrospective view of the events of the past year, as they have influenced the markets for live stock, there are a few things noticeable which we shall speak of.

It will be remembered that the pleuro-pneumonia scare, as it was called, came upon the stock-breeders early in the season, and for months acted almost as an extinguisher on that trade. The direct consequence of this, and the prevailing quarantine against the introduction of bulls into most of the Western States, led to great stagnation in the fine stock trade. The ranchmen, instead of coming east for stock bulls, were almost forced to depend wholly on the stock farms in their immediate vicinity for range bulls. Thus an immense source of revenue to eastern breeders was cut off, and hundreds of bulls which otherwise would have gone west were left for home use. The natural result of this cutting off of the ranch trade was a surplus of fine bulls of the different breeds which the owners at once found difficult to dispose of, the consequence being that auction sales were held all over what may be called the middle west. Prices fell off almost fifty per cent., and farmers who had their wits about them took advantage of the low prices and secured fine stock animals, while those who let the chance go by begin to see, with chagrin, that in all probability such an opportunity will never again be offered them. The quarantine against Texas breeding stock caused an unusual number of animals from the Texas ranches to be forwarded to the beef markets, competing seriously with common grade beef animals from the farm.

The prices for second-class beef animals fell seriously, and at that time we took occasion to advise our readers to purchase bulls and grade up their stock. All through this depression in the cattle trade prime beef remained steady and brought remunerative prices, and those who held high-grade cattle had no difficulty in disposing of them, and experienced no loss from western competition.

There are lessons to be learned from these facts. Not new lessons, but those which we cannot help reiterating, feeling that it is our duty to readers of the *Review* to keep before them what we consider the plainest and best path for the future. We still find that in many parts of the country farmers believe in the fallacy of breeding from half-bred bulls, thinking by this to gain almost the same results as those who use animals of pure blood. Once more we desire to enter our protest against this "false practice," and would draw the attention of all to the subjoined extract from one of our articles published last summer:—

"Starting with a thoroughbred Shorthorn bull, for instance, the farmer breeds him to a scrub cow, and the resultant progeny is one-half Shorthorn and one-half scrub. Again using the thoroughbred to his half bred cow, and the calf is three-fourths Shorthorn and one-fourth scrub. Breeding in this way the next cross would be seven-eighths pure, one-eighth scrub, and the next fifteen-sixteenths pure and one-sixteenth scrub, or in other words, an animal not eligible for record as a Shorthorn, but pure enough in every sense of the word as a breeder for beef. Now, suppose on the other hand that the farmer had used a half-bred bull, the result would be very different.

"The first cross in breeding the half-bred bull to a scrub cow would produce a calf one-fourth Shorthorn and three-fourths scrub; next cross breeding in the same line would give an animal whose blood would be three-eighths pure and five-eighths scrub. Next would be five-twelfths pure and seven-twelfths scrub, and at the end of four generations an animal seven-sixteenths Shorthorn and nine-sixteenths scrub, or, in short, only one-sixteenth better than at starting, whereas in breeding to a thoroughbred

bull an animal was produced but one-sixteenth from being pure bred."

We sincerely hope that every man who reads the above may at once discard his half-bred bull and replace it in his herd by a pure bred one, we care not of what beef breed, for they are all good, and will give him stock admirably adapted for the purpose of producing prime beef, a staple article ever commanding a steady remuneration. If the above be true, and we think no one will deny it, there is a lesson for the breeder of dairy stock also.

The best results in beef production can only be attained by the use of a pure bull, and so it is in the manufacture of milk, butter and cheese. Breed from pure bulls of any established dairy race and the grade progeny will give better results than those usually bred on the farm, but think not to compete successfully with other dairymen, if the bull used is but half-bred.

The times are changing fast. Exclusive grain farming is dying out slowly but surely; western lands are filling up; the large holdings are being split up among the boys; the general public are no longer content with second-class beef, mutton, pork and dairy products, and the farmer who would make the greatest success of his vocation must recognize these facts, and alter his methods of farming, improve the quality of his products, and bear in mind Darwin's theory of the "survival of the fittest."

UNITED BREEDERS.

National Stockman.

It is probable that more stock breeders' meetings have been held in the past two or three months than in any preceding fall season, and it is certain that the opening winter will be marked by an increased frequency of such gatherings. In fact this is an era of association and combination among stockmen, and in this particular it differs very materially from any which has preceded it. Every well-known breed of stock in the country is now presented to the public by organized effort, and by combinations of men who understand each other and the advantages of concertedly pushing their favorites upon popular attention. It has come to be the case that any variation from this plan of action is exceptional, and regarded as evidence of failure to carefully study the drift of the times.

The tendency of thus associating together for the purposes for which breeders' clubs are formed is to benefit all concerned, for obvious reasons. Many points of vantage are gained—such as the creation of warm fellowship, counsel upon mutual needs, the establishing among members of a more thorough understanding of their business, and the dissemination of much practical information among the people—all of which could otherwise be secured with difficulty if at all. The character and purposes of the average association point to the accomplishment of just these things, together with serving other ends productive of good to both breeders themselves and the public with whom they have to deal.

Breeders' associations differ from ordinary business combinations and trades unions in at least one essential particular—and that is, that they do not usually create fixed schedules of prices and attempt to arbitrarily control the markets. They are organized on a broader and more liberal basis, transact little if any business which is not open to public inspection, and come nearer and nearer to the people according as their organizations are solid and their policy vigorous and aggressive. The breeders' association is no "striking" institution, but its tendency is in an exactly opposite direction. We congratulate stockmen and farmers upon the increased number of these societies, and believe that all this means greater progress in the early future in our live stock interests than we have ever before enjoyed.