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THE THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE. HOW TO BREED, REAR AND TRAIN THEM. BY AN OLD TRAINER. CHAPTER XXX.

Overtraining of Two and Three-Year Olds—
Treatment of Colds and Coughs in Horses.
[From the Spirit of the Times].

It is a great error to work horses under clothing, unless it is a sheet of light liney, 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 gutted 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

has been done for him in the last century; and if trainers would use the same humane treatment as is now adopted by the clubs of Jerome Park and Saratoga, viz., of making their programme of dash races only, their horses would last much longer. Racehorses are usually trained for their first running from three to five months, and I will venture to say that they received more rough treatment, and harder work (frequently when unprepared to receive it), and which will of course injure them, than they would receive at the four meetings held at Jerome 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 a burden enough for a young colt to carry his rider and saddle, without being overloaded with blankets, hoods, and surcingle. 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 stick 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

have a smooth, glossy coat of hair, bright and dappled, and when he sheds his coat he sheds all over alike, legs and all; whereas the horse trained and burnt up with blankets will present an unglossy, dull coat of hair, shedding off in spots, sometimes prematurely and sometimes too late for the season; the hair will remain long upon the legs, unshed, until some time in the summer. The one trained without clothing will be almost entirely exempt from colic, coughs, etc., while the others trained with blankets, heated up every day, and, of course, cooled 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 Welch, 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 Welch 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 73 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 Contrivance, The Snail, Roebach, and

The Trigger.

MUMMERY TO PIKE.

LONDON, Ont., Jan. 26th, '77.

To the Editor of Sporting Times:

DEAR SIR,—I see by this week's Times, Mr. John W. Pike thinks my challenge a mere puff. To show him that I mean what I say, and mean business, I will shoot 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 boundry, 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 MUMMERY.

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, 23rd 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 Oulcott.....	0110001010-4
E Reed.....	0110101010-6
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.....	1000001001-3

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 contrabands either. Harris immediately challenged Barnes for the same amount and distance. This the colored won by a breast. These two sprints being so close, the colored man thought he could easily win a mile, and for

American Turf.

CHARLESTON (S.C.) RACES.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 18—Purse \$120, for all ages. \$100 to first, 20 to second. One mile and a quarter dash.

C W Medinger's ch g First Chance, 6 yrs, by Baywood, dam Dot.....	1
West & Hogan's br h Ascot, 5 yrs, by Enquirer, dam Hinda.....	2
Lewis Jones' br m 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 Lick, dam by Planet.....	1
P M West's b c Courier, by Star Davis, dam by Lexington.....	2

Time—3:50, 3:51.

Same Day—Purse \$130, for all ages; \$105 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 \$120, for all ages. \$100 to first, 25 to second. Two-mile dash.

W Wyche's b c Hatteras, by I. L. 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—2:43.

Jan. 20—Purse \$120, for all ages. \$100 to first, 20 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 Abdulkader, dam Fanny.....	3

Rutledge not placed.

Time—1:51.

Same Day—Purse \$120, for all ages. \$100 to first, 20 to second. One mile and a half.

P M West's b c 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—Post 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 Lurch's ch e Main Race, by Prussian, dam by Charley Ball.....	2

Time—1:55.

Same Day—Purse \$120, for all ages. \$100 to first, 20 to second. Weighted, two miles, over eight hurdles.

Lewis Jones' b g Jim Hinton, aged, by Red Lick, dam by Madam House.....	1
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