

cessful thoroughbred sires, is nineteen years old and as good for the stud as he ever was. Harper is twenty-six years old, Thunder is twenty seven. Judge Curtis was sold to go to Illinois when seventeen or eighteen years old. Imported Reveller, now on Mr. John Carroll's Clandeboye Stock Farm, near St. Catharines, is one of the most popular sires in Canada, and is still getting first-class stock, though he is eighteen years old. Indeed the number of old thoroughbred stallions in Canada is much greater than that of the young ones. In the light harness classes old and young horses are both in the stud, but there is nothing to indicate that they are as a rule a short-lived race. The St. Therese Blackhawk, one of the best trotting sires ever bred in Canada, was still comparatively brisk and vigorous when he was thirty-six years old. Clear Grit, though some 23 or 24 years old, was showing no signs of decay when he met with the accident which put an end to his long and useful career in the stud. Grey Eagle was still useful after he was upward of twenty years old, and scores of the best trotting and racing stallions in the United States have proved of the greatest value in the stud after they were upward of fifteen years old. The lesson to be learned should not be hard to learn. The warm-blooded light harness and thoroughbred horses live longer than do the heavy draught stallions. Why this should be is not difficult to determine. In the draught horse every other consideration is subordinated to early maturity and the accumulation of mountains of flesh. The regular draught horse fancier will tell you that it is hard to get an animal "wide" enough to suit him. He must be a moving mountain by the time he is three years old, and he must at all times have flesh enough to cover up anything like ruggedness of outline. On the other hand the thoroughbred or the light harness horse is neither pampered nor starved in colthood. He is liberally fed, but the object in his case is to make him grow and not to fatten him. He has too much exercise to permit him to become a shaking mass of fat. If he is not active he is of no use, therefore he is reared with the view of making him light of foot. Even if he be destined for the stud he is not allowed to eat the bread of idleness. If he is a thoroughbred he is almost sure to have some sort of a career on the turf. If he fails on the flat he is put to steeplechasing, hurdle-racing, or perhaps ordinary saddle work. If unsuccessful both on the flat and across country he will hardly find his way into the stud, for while blue blood is highly valued by practical horse-breeders, its most enthusiastic admirers do not care for it if it is not accompanied by an ability to perform at least respectably on the flat or else over sticks. The same thing is true in a somewhat less degree in the case of the trotting sire. Though much importance is attached to blood lines, a trotting sire that has distinguished himself on the turf has an immense advantage over an equally well-bred horse whose abilities as a trotter have never been developed and proved. In fact the trotting or racing sire usually retires to the stud after having passed through at least two or three years of tolerably active life in the way of training and racing. Besides all this, as great size and weight are not sought after

in the case of warm-blooded colts, their growth is not forced by rich feed that is wholly unsuitable for animals of their age. In short, while the trotting or racing sire is reared in a natural way, and one that should be conducive to perfect health, soundness and longevity, the heavy draught stallion is too often forced in his early growth to a pernicious extent, and afterward encouraged to live a life of sloth and gluttony, well calculated to shorten his own life and seriously impair the constitutions of his offspring. Early maturity is all very well for beef animals, where the only object is to produce the greatest quantity and highest quality of meat at the least possible cost, but in the case of the horse the case is altogether different. Every stockman likes to see his colts, calves and lambs of good size and well developed, but no thoroughly rational horseman will induce the early development of his colts by injudicious feeding.

If our farmers and horse-breeders would take care to breed only to sires that are sound and healthy, and that come of long-lived parents, we should soon cease to hear about early decay among our horses.

The breeding is not all, however. Not only should the sire and dam be fed rationally, but the colt should be treated in the same way. Generous feeding is perfectly proper for any young thing, and freezing and starving are at all times most objectionable as applied to live stock, but there is a medium which the man who would succeed in handling horses profitably must strike. A horse, to live long and retain his powers, must be liberally fed, properly protected from bad weather, and regularly and briskly exercised.

HOW TO FEED YOUNG TROTTING-STOCK.

Alban Wye, in *New York Sportsman*.

The money which horses shall yield their breeders and owners has the utmost dependence upon that care to which the animals in their early youth are subjected. From the outset of life it is of the first importance that feeding receive constant and diligent attention, and this not alone in regard to its quantity, but its quality as well. For upon these conditions rest the price which the market-place may set apart for the seller's purse, and the physical powers of the horse when demand is made upon him for "all that there is in him."

The British custom of graining thoroughbred colts from earliest infancy is not one which should have observance in this country by breeders of horses destined for the road, or for the trotting course, because trotting-stock is not under necessity of such early maturity and perfect development as is the destiny of the thoroughbred racer, and the former is designed to endure and be available for arduous service long years after the latter has passed away from public view. Yet the trotting colt must not be permitted to live upon short allowance of feed, his stomach requires toning and distension, as—aside from any suggestions of humanity—it is to act an indispensable part in the animal's career, when the future shall have come. On this subject Hiram Woodruff has declared his own belief and practice in a very graphic and powerful manner, and no one has any further right to a hearing than he, for his whole life was one long devotion to the interests of American trotting horses.

Woodruff says: "As to early feeding their method (of breeders of thoroughbred racers) is one which

I advise breeders of trotters not to follow. It is that as soon as the colt will eat bruised oats, which he will at less than two months old, he is to have all he can consume." I say to the reader of this, do no such thing with the colt that is to be a trotter, or rather, do it with great moderation. Never mind oatmeal gruel, never mind bruised oats while he is with the dam. The milk of the mare, she being kept in good heart, and the grass, will afford the colt all the nourishment he needs or ought to have. This is nature's plan. Besides all this, I have other reasons against giving young colts much grain. The physiologists argue that in order to thrive, the horse, young or old, must not only have the stomach supplied with a sufficient quantity of nutritious food, but also with enough matter, not so highly nutritious, to distend it.

A horse or a colt, fed only on the substances which go to make up his substance, would stand, though you gave them to him in the greatest abundance. Why this is they do not seem to know, and I am sure I don't, but it seems to me that it is a reason for not cloying the young animal with all the nutritious food he will eat. If his appetite is satisfied with oats he will not be likely to eat the grass and hay that nature requires. There is another thing on this point which has occurred to me, but I will throw it out only as a suggestion. While the animal is young, a good distension of the stomach is calculated to produce that roundness of rib which we see in so many of our best horses. Now, this capacity of carcass, if it proceeds in part from proper distension of the stomach, and by that I do not mean the paunch, is not going to be obtained by the feeding of food in the concentrated shape.

Bulk is required, and the pulp and essence need not be given in large quantity until the organization is formed, and extraordinary exertion is required of the horse.

This is common sense, and its reasons lie deeply laid—like truth at the bottom of the well—in the revelations of physiological science. The way to reach the colt's substance, while he continues a suckling, is through the system of the dam. She should be kept in the veriest "heart," and her milk maintained at its maximum capacity of supplying the colt. Therefore, the breeder should be circumspect of his brood-mare's condition, and whenever there is even the slightest indication of lessening quantity, or of deterioration of the nutritive quality of her milk, she should have her feed "reinforced" by the means which will restore her powers. She always should have the best of pasturage, and grain never will come amiss for her, while she drains her own strength to supply the demands of the growing and promising colt or filly at her foot.

When the time for weaning the young trotter shall have arrived, then there should be allowed it a reasonable feed of grain. Above all things, it must be let go upon "short commons." Two quarts of prime oats each day can be allowed the homesick youngster, but generally not more than this quantity, for the rich grasses of the pasture still continue the "roast beef" of the diet. However, it is impossible to lay down an absolute rule in regard to this allowance of grain, for colts will differ so radically in their form and constitution. One will be loosely organized, and stand high upon long legs; another will be laid together as correctly as a lady's muff in its little round box, and of these styles of animals, the former will take and dispose of to advantage a quantity of grain which would be injurious to the latter. So, the breeder's judgment must be exercised, for he is engaged in a most important and lucrative business, and the possibilities of fancy are strides of advancement in the development of the American trotting-horse, and the fame of himself as a promoter thereof. Besides, he is doing his duty by the priceless servant of which humanity may boast.