

THE THOROUGHBRED RACE HORSE.— HOW TO BREED, REAR, AND TRAIN HIM.

BY AN OLD TRAINER.

CHAPTER XIII.

The Training of Two-Year-Olds.

From the Spirit of the Times

Since I commenced the present series of articles I have received many letters of enquiry respecting the "Short Rules for Training Two-Year-Olds," published by that distinguished horseman, Mr. W. J. Minor, in the Spirit of the Times, many years ago, and earnestly requesting their republication in connection with these articles. I think the present a good opportunity for doing so. It is now just twenty-three years since Captain Minor, at the earnest solicitation of a young friend and turfman, drew up for the latter's guidance the following concise rules, valuable as being the result of his long and practical training experience.

CAPTAIN W. J. MINOR'S SHORT RULES FOR TRAINING TWO-YEAR-OLDS.

First Week.

Take a mile after walking a mile. Take the boys off on the track; if sweating, scrape the colts and rub lightly and quickly. Careen the colts, lead to the stable and rub dry; lead around the ring for twenty minutes; give water. In the afternoon, five minutes between each draught, wash legs, lead into stable, rub and clean off, rub legs very lightly with soft cloths, just enough to get the legs dry; no hand-rubbing of legs. Colts are frequently buckshinned by too much rubbing. At twelve o'clock walk for half an hour; water whilst walking; brush off and feed.

In the afternoon, walk under saddle for an hour after returning to stable, in the same manner as in the morning; it is a good habit to get into. Wash legs and clean off as in the morning. Feed and shut up the stable for the night. If it is very dry, and you cannot stand them in the water, stuff feet with a mixture of two quarts tar, two quarts molasses, one quart lard; wet tow or cotton with mixture, and stuff it into their feet. Continue this work for a week.

Take great care not to alarm the colts in any way. Allow them in their trots to pass and repass each other. Such weather as this (August 20th) you cannot clothe too light. The clothing, however, must be changed with the weather, and must be done promptly. Suppose it is very warm, and your colts are standing under sheets, a slight change takes place, put on another sheet. It gets colder, put on a linsey and take off one of the sheets; still cooler, add another linsey. If it gets cold, take off the sheet and replace it with a blanket. It becomes very cold, add another blanket; your colts will then have clothes on for coldest weather. As it begins to moderate, take off a linsey and replace it with a sheet, and as it continues to moderate, reduce the clothing, as you put it on, by substituting one piece for another, until you can get down to the usual quantity for the ordinary state of the weather.

In summer, a thin sheet; in early fall, a sheet and linsey; later, two sheets and a linsey; still later, a sheet and blanket; still later, linsey and blanket; which will be the quantity required in our ordinary winter weather. In fall and winter an extra piece at night is almost always required; varying according to weather, from a sheet to a heavy blanket.

The stable should be well ventilated by having plenty of openings five feet or more above the heads of the horses; and in fine, warm weather, the air should be admitted through large windows. In winter and fall, the windows should be opened on the side and end of the stable opposite to the quarter from whence the wind comes, so as not to expose the horse to a draft. There should be no cracks under the doors, or in the sides of the stable, through which the air would blow on the horses. The proper temperature of the stable will be indicated by the appearance of the horses' coats. If they are soft, glossy, and pliable, the temperature of the stable is about right, and the temperature of the horse must be kept up to that point by clothing, as it cannot be well done by artificial heat. Every care must be taken to prevent the horses from taking cold, and it can be done only by a most judicious change of clothing.

The feed should be mixed, two parts of hominy to five parts of oats. The colts should eat from eight to twelve quarts of feed a day, that is, in twenty-four hours, to be regulated by the form, quantity of flesh, work, etc. From a quart to a pint should be given at daylight, two or three at nine o'clock a.m., two at twelve o'clock, from a pint to a quart at three or four o'clock p.m., and from two to four quarts at night. They should have, with a few exceptions, as much hay and fodder as they will eat given to them three times a day—at nine a.m., at twelve a.m., and at night. They will generally eat from four to seven pounds in twenty-four hours.

The overcoat should be noticed constantly; and whenever it appears dark and lumpy, bran washes should be given until it becomes light colored and somewhat soft. A little salt should be put in the mash.

Second Week.

Feed as last week. Get colts out a little after daylight, if the track is not a half mile from the stable, walk for fifteen minutes. Trot a mile

take care there is no draft on them; scrape if sweating, and rub dry briskly. When rubbing head, neck, and shoulders, keep a sheet, linsey, or blanket (according to weather) over the back and loins. When rubbing back, loins, and quarters, cover the shoulders and neck, and so on until the horse is nearly dry, then throw off the covering entirely. The object in covering one portion of the body while another portion is being rubbed, is to prevent the horse from cooling too rapidly by evaporation. If the day is cold, and the skin of the horse begins to get cold before he is quite dry, brush him off and clothe pretty warm and walk him out. Have the air taken off the water, put enough meal in it to make it white, and add salt sufficient just to make it taste. Let them drink a little when they come out of the stable, as they will be very thirsty. They walk for fifteen minutes, and give them water as before directed. Wash legs in warm water, clean off; feed with mash and fodder as usual. Next morning walk about half a mile, then gallop a mile, put on over-pieces; walk about ten minutes, and gallop another mile; put on over-piece, walk about quarter of a mile, scrape and rub as before directed. Continue this work for a week—letting the colts pass and repass each other in the gallop.

At the end of the week, prepare for another sweat. In the afternoon after the sweat, give only thirty swallows of water and half the usual quantity of fodder, with usual feed of grain.

Fourth Week.

Give the same work in the morning as last week, and at the end of second gallop let the colts stride along a little the first morning after the sweat, and again about the middle of the week, taking care the track is in good order. Continue in this work for one week, and sweat at the end of it. Feed and water as before directed.

Fifth Week.

Work the same as fourth week as to distance. First morning after sweat, let the colts move through the stretch every other morning. In the afternoon when you do not move in the morning, give a light gallop of a mile after walking and trotting as in the morning. If after you begin to move the colts in this way, you find they become fretful at the start, have no particular place to start from, but commence the gallop at one point and then at another. Sweat again at the end of the week. When you intend to move in the morning, always shorten the feed and water a little the previous night.

Sixth Week.

The colts that have the most flesh should be made to go a little farther in their work than the others. Give the same work in other respects, but let them move a little, say three hundred yards at the end of the first gallop, and through a stretch at the end of the second gallop, at about half speed, keeping them well together. Continue this work during the week, and sweat as before.

Seventh Week.

In the afternoon, give about thirty swallows of water, half the usual quantity of fodder, and only half the usual quantity of grain. After the colts have finished eating, muzzle them. Next morning walk and trot as usual, then gallop a mile slow; walk for ten minutes. Take all the clothes off—direct the boys to go a mile, and tell them when they get to the half-mile post, to ease the colts off, and let them stride along the last half-mile, going the last quarter at half speed. The rest of the week give the same exercise as before directed, unless you find some of the colts losing flesh too fast, then omit, with them the afternoon gallop. The second brush morning, after a move of half a mile omit the fast work at the end of the first gallop, and let the colts in the second gallop stride a little up the backstretch and through the front one at about half speed. Next brush morning, move as usual, and give the same work. Sweat as usual.

Eighth Week.

After the sweat, prepare the colts as after the last sweat. Next morning, walk, trot, and gallop a mile, then strip; and in the next gallop let the colts move from the half mile post at about half speed; when they get into the front stretch make them run through at the top of their rate. This move will give you some idea of the speed of the colts. Every brush morning this week, let the colts, in their last move, go nearly up to the top of their rate. At the end of the week, sweat as usual, and prepare for a run next morning. Steam the fodder, and give only a handful, give only two quarts of feed and only twenty swallows of water. Muzzle immediately after they have finished eating. Next morning walk, trot, and gallop a mile, slow; then strip, put up the riders, and direct them to gallop slow to within twenty-five or thirty yards of the half mile, and break at a run the half mile. Direct them to keep a good pull on the colts, but to make them do their best. If you have not already done so, now put spurs on the riders. As the colts will probably be frightened by the run, the day after gallop very slow; and on the brush mornings do not let them go more than half speed, but let the brush be longer. Continue this kind of work through the week. Sweat as usual, and prepare for the brush only. The morning after the sweat, give a good strong brush in each gallop; that afternoon prepare for a run next morning, by giving twenty swallows of water and a handful of steamed fodder, and two quarts of feed. In the morning give a pint of feed; walk, trot, and gallop, as before directed; then strip and saddle for a half-mile run. Direct the boys to break and run half a mile as before directed. In twenty minutes repeat them, and you ought to be able to determine which of the colts is the best.

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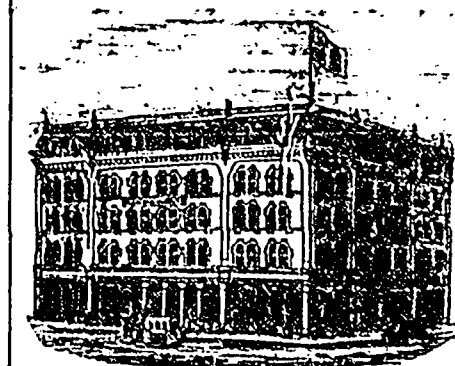
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