

Shoeing the Colt.

The crisis in a colt's foot, says Harold Leeney, M. R. C. V. S., in the Live-stock Journal, is the first visit to the smithy. All the circumstances are usually unfavorable. The youngster has seldom been handled, perhaps never, if a filly, and, after much shouting and rough usage, is brought to the shoeing shop, already alarmed before the smith blows up the fire or attempts to lift a foot that should have been many times so raised by others. Only the phlegmatic get through this ordeal without a painful recollection and a dread of the forge, which in a few instances never passes away. No subsequent kindness and gentleness can ever overcome the fear of a colt that has been hit over the head with a rasp for the offence of not knowing what was wanted of him. Some very good-looking horses change hands for no other reason than that they cannot be shod without casting or trammelling in a travis, and this is no small objection to a horse requiring to be shod or, at least, have shoes removed or nailed every two or three weeks. The first shoes should be plain stamped ones, and not thick, and no portion of hoof should be taken away that is not done so in order to seat the shoe. If owners would not try to economize in shoes, they would save much in horseflesh, which is dearer than iron. The colt should get accustomed to a shoe which does not extend one fraction beyond the crust, but slightly within it, and he will be less likely to brush or cut or trample off one shoe with the other. The first set should not be for business, but for education, and then the wear will tell the smith how best to use him for breaking or real work. On no account should frog or sole be cut away. The health of the foot cannot be maintained in full functional activity if, by the rim of iron we call a shoe, we lift all other parts of the plantar surface out of action. If the two-year-old is merely shod for breaking in, then, when his lesson has been learned, he should have the shoes removed, if he is to be turned out again. The agricultural horse generally wears out his first set of shoes, as most breeders demand some service from the two-year-old, which they hold is favorable to development, or they prescribe it because the youngster must contribute something towards his maintenance if he is to pay his way; but the rule of removal of shoes and turning out again may well apply to light horses, whose tissues prove so much more capable of standing work, if not put to it too early.

The best hoof-dressing is water. The hoof should be constantly taking up and parting with water, if it is to retain its tough as well as elastic qualities. Ointments, tar, oil or grease are not necessary to keep healthy feet healthy, but greasy dressings help to keep in moisture of hoofs that have been poulticed and swabbed to give expansion.

Feet should grow during the entire life of the animal. On low-lying pastures and in moist seasons they may easily grow too much, and we should not fear to shorten a toe because we have seen or read of the evils of too much interference and of disastrous effects of cutting off the sole and bars and trimming away the frog, all of which structures should take their proper place in bearing or sustaining the weight of the body, if they are to remain functionally active and take their part during the entire life of the horse. The toe is thickest, and grows most, and all broken or turned-back crust on the foot of the unshod colt should be removed, and the rasp used to form a round edge which will not break again for some time.

Be Careful in Purchasing Collars.

Sore shoulders are a source of annoyance in many farm stables, as well as in the stables of transportation companies, liverys, and all places where horses are kept for heavy work. Nothing could be more painful to the horse than a constant drawing upon a raw surface in an ill-fitting or neglected collar, and nothing is surer to pull the animal down in flesh than this trouble. O. M. Olson, of Minnesota Agricultural College, in discussing the subject, says:

"If indifferent and careless drivers were compelled to endure a fractional part of the suffering borne by horses with sore shoulders, it is certain that much better care would be taken of the horses of the country. It is certain that a man would pull few loads if he had a pair of sore shoulders."

"In nearly every instance the sore shoulders of the work horse can be traced to an improperly-

fitted collar or hame, or, still worse, to poor care of the collar, which may fit the horse. The collar worn by the horse should have a bearing surface that is smooth and pliable, and that fits the shape of the shoulder accurately. Over this collar the hame should be adjusted so as to properly locate the draft of the load. If, in addition, the collar and the shoulders of the horse are cared for, the chances of sore shoulders have been reduced to a minimum. Care should be observed in the use of sweat-pads. They should be used only when the horse loses flesh and the neck shrinks. In that case, another collar may be advisable.

"A collar, to fit accurately, should conform to the shape of the shoulder, and should be neither

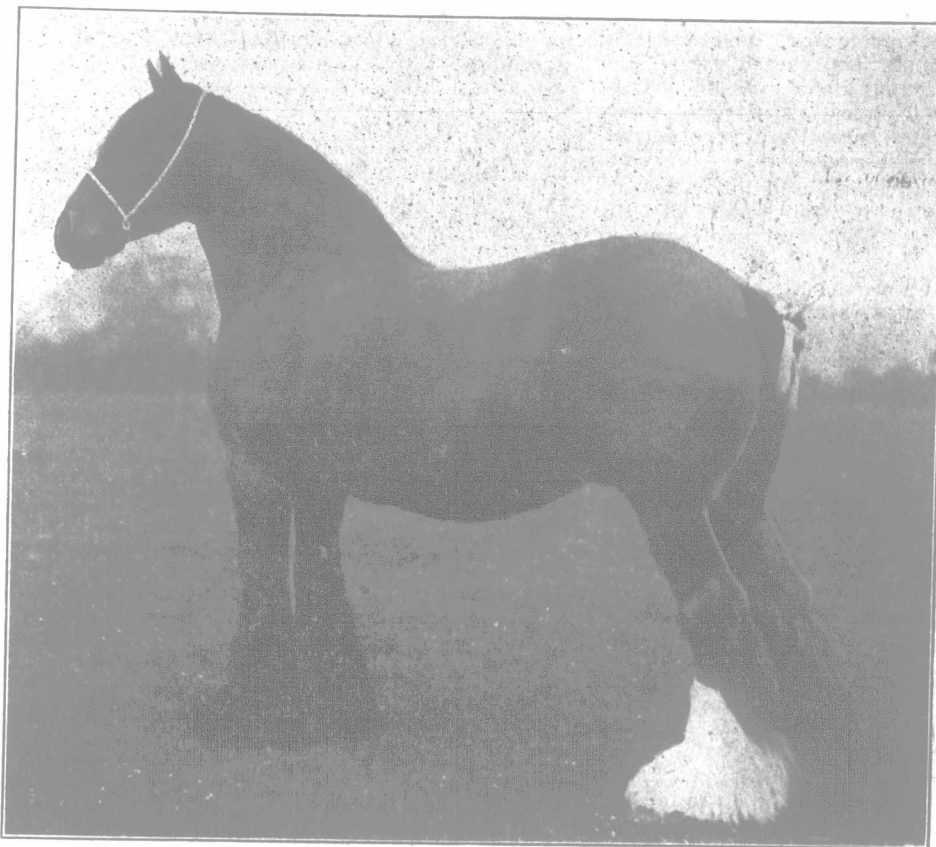
Examining a Horse for Soundness.

Horse-breeders, buyers and dealers all recognize the importance of soundness in horses, and also the importance of being able to detect unsoundnesses, no matter what means have been taken to obscure them. It is necessary to follow some system in going over a horse, to ascertain whether or not he is sound. Experienced horse-men follow a system almost unconsciously, but, to further bring this point before them, and for the benefit of those of our readers who may not have had much practice in selecting or judging horses, and who feel the lack of experience, or who are desirous of becoming better judges, we publish the following outline, by Professor Charles Gresswell, M. R. C. V. S. L., of the San Francisco Veterinary College.

If possible, see the horse in the stable before the owner has a chance "to warm him up."

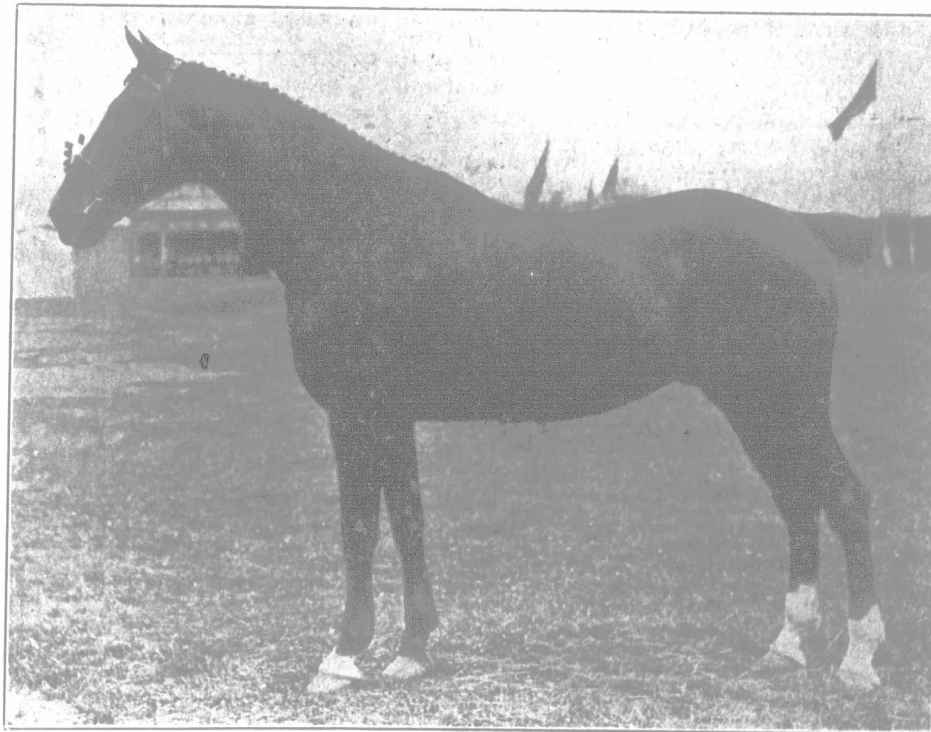
In the stable, look for evidence of "crib-biting," "wind-sucking" and "night-kicking." Watch the animal for signs of "weaving." Notice the character of the excreta, to see if the grain is properly masticated, if there are any worms or bots, or for signs of urinary sediment, etc. Notice if there are any extra appliances in use for handling the animal—throat straps, or hobbles, etc.—or, if the animal for any reason is stabled alone, away from other horses, examine the manger to see if the food is all cleaned up, or if there are evidences of his eating the bedding. Look around the stable for proofs of medical treatment.

Then have the horse bridled or brought to the stable door with the halter on. Notice if there is any trouble during this attention. Have the horse brought quietly to the door, allowing no bustling or excitement. At the stable door, examine the eyes carefully, using a black hat to cast the proper shadow over the eye. Look for any difference in the convexity of both eyes; examine the cornea for opacity or cloudiness, and the lens for cataract; notice the contraction of the pupils to determine the effect of light. Examine the eyes and breath for signs of opiates or other drugs. Listen to the heart. At this time give the horse a drink of water, and watch the process of drinking and swallowing. Have the horse then taken out of the stable into the open. Examine the nostrils for color, character of discharge, ulceration, abrasions, chancre and polypi. See that the orifice of the lachrymal duct is freely open. Examine the outside of the face for nasal gleet. Examine the ears for warts or any abnormal tenderness, and also for deafness. Examine the teeth and mouth, and smell the breath. Determine the age, and make note of this, and also at this time of any distinguishing marks and color, and sex of the animal. Examine the glands under the jaw and the glands in and around the throat, especially the parotid gland.



Pailton Sorais.

Shire mare; sold for 1,200 guineas. First and champion, Peterboro, Eng., 1912.



Beckingham Lady Grace.

Champion Hackney mare, Royal Show, 1912.

too large nor too small. The opening at the bottom of the collar between the collar and the neck should admit the flat of the hand, and no more. The collar should fit the sides of the neck without pinching. A new collar may be fitted the first time by soaking the face of it in water. It should never be used generally on any other horse.

"The draft of the tug should lie about one-third way up on the front of the collar, and, in every case, the hames should fit the collar when buckled snugly. The mane of the horse should not be permitted to work in under the collar, and accumulations of sweat on the collar should be removed carefully each morning. In the case of sore shoulders, the owner should always remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."