

poses, and it is hardly probable that the prevailing fashion, absurd though it may be in some respects, will ever take a turn in the direction of hairy legs and big flat feet. The cleft rump, a most objectionable feature in anything but a draught horse, is also almost sure to follow the Clydesdale blood through the first and second out-crosses.

The Cleveland would of course be one of the best strains to cross with the thoroughbred to produce the general purpose horse, but in the absence of these almost any large stout mare in good health and of sound constitution would serve better to cross with the thoroughbred stallion than would the Shire or Clydesdale.

BREEDING FOR PURPOSE.

Any intelligent breeder in these days need not be reminded of the value of breeding from pure-bred animals in preference to grades, and therefore stud-book registration must always be duly appreciated. There is a danger however of running into extremes in these days, when the country is being deluged with stud books. For the sake of multiplying facilities for registration, it is to be feared that the conditions for entering, in many of the more recent stud books, have been made altogether too lax, and it is to be feared that mere registry will too often be allowed to take the place of the pronounced characteristics of the breed to which the animal is supposed to belong. Of course it is necessary at the outset to admit animals having very short pedigrees, as the record must begin somewhere. The form and leading characteristics of the breed should invariably be found in the animal accepted for registration. A correspondent of an English exchange makes some very sensible remarks upon this subject, which we cannot do better than reproduce. He says:

"Nowadays, in the rage for stud books, it behoves breeders to look well about them and consider: What is my object in breeding? What special characteristic of this special breed or that do I wish to intensify, and what special feature do I wish to efface? I say 'the rage for stud books,' because several have been recently started and still more are talked of. My opening remarks are intended to apply to all breeds of cattle and horses. I do not wish to cast any unfavorable reflection on the stud books of our various breeds, which have been the making and redeeming point of our best breeds, but I would give caution to the abuse of pedigrees and stud books. Let all kinds of stock by all means be bred with pedigrees, and let that pedigree be as good as it can possibly be; but let those animals at the same time have pedigrees which every good judge could read written in clear letters on their backs, and say 'That is a good specimen of this or that particular breed.' People are too apt to be led away by pedigrees alone, without having in their mind's eye a clear picture of the object and stamp of animal which they wish to produce. What looks nicer than a lot of animals of the same breed matching in color, if possible, but of the same stamp, so that any good judge inspecting such a lot can see the breeder's object throughout them? This object can only be acquired by length of time and a critical and keen perception and devotion, with a

great deal of patience combined, and by always receiving the best females and at once discarding those not up to standard, and by using sires well bred and of the stamp wished for. How frequently catalogues of pedigree stock are taken up and marked before the intending purchaser goes to the sale or has ever seen the animals. A would-be successful breeder must make up his mind to discard any animal, of whatever pedigree, provided that in such animal he cannot find the good points and characteristics which are or should be his aim."

Correspondence.

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SHOEING.

BY C. W. GREGORY, MEDALLIST AND PRIZE ESSAYIST ON "ANIMAL HEAT," "THE SKIN AND ITS DISEASES," "THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM," &C.



FIG. 1.—Section of Foot—A, Wall or Crust; B, Sole; C, Frog; D, D, Sensitive Foot; E, E, Sensitive Frog.



FIG. 2.—Ground Surface of Unshod Foot—A, A, Wall or Crust; B, B, Sole; C, Frog; D, D, Bars.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER, from the Author.

PARING.

Many years since it was the universal practice to pare the sole and frog to an even, neat-looking surface, and considered a work of art, but which practice was the chief cause of those painful chronic lamenesses, "laminitis," and navicular joint disease. The tendency of the

present day is the opposite extreme, although by far the safer plan; yet there are objections to totally abstain from paring, owing to the liability of moist and decomposing manure becoming lodged in the crevices of the sole and frog, and not easily cleansed. I prefer the medium course; to remove all loose scales, rag, and shelly parts, but on no account cut into sound horn or frog, this will not in any way diminish the strength nor resistance to injury, but will permit easy cleanliness and avoid accumulation of dirt.

RASPING

requires more care than is generally bestowed. A bad or careless workman uses his rasp at an angle, removing the outer or weight-bearing edge of the wall, and forcing the shoe to be fitted too close, or even to bear on the sole, which is liable to cause tenderness, or after a few days' wear the softer horn may yield sufficiently to loosen the shoe, or sound as if loose; it is also liable to cause seediness. The rasp should be worked as level on the foot as possible, to secure a good level bed for the shoe, and not on any account rasp the outer rim until after the shoe is fitted, so that the shoe may fit the proper outline of the foot. Whilst rasping the wall, if the sole be full or projecting, it may be pared just sufficient to prevent its bearing on the shoe, but not cut any of the inside of wall, which should remain at its full strength and bearing surface.

TREAD.

One of the most important and least observed points in shoeing is the tread; by that I mean the proportion of weight thrown on different parts of the shoe. On a well-balanced foot the wear of shoe is tolerably even all round, except the toe, where there is naturally an increased friction and wear; but how few horses there be in which this exists after two or three times shoeing! In something like nine out of ten the inside of the foot, and especially the heel, is cut down, and consequently, the outer being the longest side of foot, receives the greater and sometimes nearly the whole weight of body, so that the horse is compelled to stand, more or less, on one side of his foot in proportion to the difference between the length of the two sides, as evidenced by the wear on the shoe; and in the same ratio the muscles, tendons, ligaments, and bones have to bear an unequal strain in all positions of the body, at rest as well as in all paces. The shoe should be evenly worn, and the farrier on taking off an old shoe should observe this and prepare the foot accordingly; that is, to lower the side of foot receiving most wear until he gets a balance of wear precisely as the horse would wear his foot if unshod. This is of vastly greater importance than crotchets as to totally abstain from paring the sole or frog, or rasping the hoof, or any particular style of shoe.

THE SHOE.

Numerous patents and designs have from time to time been advocated as to advantages of some particular shape or style. In some of these there is a manifest improvement; but the chief thing to be accomplished is the manner in which a shoe is put on, rather than the pattern. The weight of a shoe would vary from the racing tip of four ounces to the ponderous draught horse carrying five pounds, or even more; but a fair average weight may be estimated for a pony at two pounds per set of four shoes; for cob or hack, three pounds; for stout hack or carriage-horse, four to six pounds; cart-horse, seven to ten pounds; and heavy draught horse, fourteen to twenty pounds. In choosing a shoe the points to be aimed at are lightness and narrowness of iron, consistent with the class of horse and work; it interferes less with