

In my experience I have found it dangerous to feed horses wet feed, unless it has been cooked, and hence I have always taught and advocated that horses, especially young stock, should have placed within their reach, when eating dry food, plenty of water; in winter time, when grass cannot be had, they must have plenty of hay, which is the next best substitute for it; in fact, it is only dried grass, properly cured, containing a great deal of phosphate of lime, which enters into and makes the bone of the whole animal frame. An animal will only eat a certain quantity of dry hay before he wants water, because the dry hay, when it enters into the intestines, absorbs all the mucus which was intended by nature to lubricate the bowels, and constipation and sometimes colic is the consequence. Whereas, if they were allowed to drink water at will, they would eat of their dry food and then take a few swallows of water, which, with the heat of the stomach, would swell the food out and prevent it from producing the bad effects described above. Horses fed upon dry feed, and especially colts, without sufficient water, are liable to become wind suckers and cribbers, particularly in cold weather. It is useless to say that the groom is ordered to water them three times a day, for the best of them will neglect doing so, and if he should offer him a bucket of water three times a day, it is usually done at about the time of feeding, which reminds the horse that his oats are coming, and at that moment he will forego the drinking, because his mind is upon the feed. He will feel the want of water before he is half done his feed, but the groom never thinks of offering it to him again until the next feeding time, whereas if a bucket of water was kept in his stall he could drink at will either whilst feeding or afterwards, and I assure you from experience that no horse will show as well in vigor and strength who has been deprived during his wintering of water, salt, and hay; for he cannot eat as much good hay as he should do, unless he has plenty of water and plenty of salt. Let any one try the experiment of wintering a horse for running purposes upon oats and corn alone; they will, when they come to train their horses, see the difference that the want of hay makes. My experience is that horses must be fed a great deal of good hay; it is like grass, for it cools the system, and creates an appetite for grain. No horse will eat as much grain without hay as he will with it, but he must have water, or he will eat but little of the latter. Of course horses, especially young stock, should be fed with carrots, beets, or any other juicy food you can get them to eat. In the absence of these roots, you will feed them two or three times a week on scalded mash, of which bran should form the major part, in order to keep their bowels cool and regular, which will prevent worms. Of course great care must be taken by the trainer who has charge of a stable of racehorses in observing and ascertaining the disposition and peculiarity of the horses under his care, for perhaps no two of them will be satisfied with the same quantity or like the same kind of feed; therefore it is his duty as well as his interest to select good feed, as well as a variety of it, so as to suit the appetite and organization of each horse; and by attentively feeding these horses in person, he will be enabled to feed them more intelligently. Each horse, if properly fed, will improve up to his own form; whereas if they should be fed alike from the same kind of food, some would improve, while others would not, and some would be too fat, while others would be too poor.

Another great error obtains in wintering horses; the trainer imagines that, in order to have his horses in condition to run in the spring or summer, he must keep them going walking, trotting, and galloping all winter. Those who have just come out of a long and severe campaign, as well as those who are being trained for the first time, are continued under work as though they had not been trained or run last season. A man who has trained horses with common observation, must know that horses which have been run often and at all distances for six months, besides having been three months in training previously, must need rest; for their muscles are drawn tight from excessive work; their joints have settled, the skin thickened, and the feet and ligaments more or less contracted. Instead of continuing their work when stale from previous labor, they should be turned out into small paddocks at proper periods, both as regards hours and weather; they would then soon become supple and sprightly as ever, and that is all the exercise that requires until the first of March. The younger stock that are being broken for their first engagements may, with benefit, be walked all winter, and out of the road and in the fields in dry weather; horses, too, that were stale from their previous campaign. In the spring some of them were found, when they came to run them, to have been overworked, and had no energy or vim in them. Having lost all their first races, they were then let up and rested for a while, and some of them came round in the course of a week or two, while others remained stale and out of form the whole season, owing principally to their not being allowed sufficient rest and time to fill up, grow, and spread, or they will not show any improvement, or perhaps not as good, although a year older, as they were the season before. I have experienced the fact that almost all horses receive too much work either at one time, or too frequently; the majority of trainers work their horses every day. This might be well enough in the early part of the season, as the changeableness of the weather is then so manifest, and the chances of having good weather continually up to the day of racing is so uncertain, that necessity compels them to work every good day, and sometimes to overwork them for fear of a bad day; that is, they will give them more work than they would, if they had assurance of a continuance of good weather. But when the weather becomes good, and when a bad day is the exception instead of the rule, they continue to work every day, although the season is advanced, and the horses are measurably conditioned, and the younger ones really wanting rest. Still they are brought out, day after day, and sent a rattling pace around the track, and brushed in every stretch, until they can scarcely stand from fatigue. Now, every trainer of common sense and observation must have noticed that after severe work, such as breezing and sweating, his horse would settle and shrink for two or three days, and perhaps mince his food the second or third day. If so, he should be walked and grassed for two or three days, until the soreness has left him, which will be manifest by his disposition to play, when he can be taken to the track and galloped again. Whereas, if his work had been continued while he was shrinking and mincing, it would have been a positive injury, and might have knocked him off beyond recovery, more especially if it should have been a two or three year old colt. The reason many trainers overwork their horses is that they go out to the track without any fixed purpose or idea of the amount or kind of work their horses really need; but they imagine they must be worked, so they are taken to the track every day. Most of them are like the boys and the frogs in the fable; they like to see their horses run, for it is fun for them, but it is death to the horses. When they are started to gallop, they are worked by either whim or circumstance. If some trainer had just run his horse a fast run any distance, they would try to beat it, and so his horses are forced to run a trial-run, instead of ordinary exercise, to gratify his own conceit, which, in most trainers, is sufficiently large to make them think that the horses they train are better than horses trained by others; at least, they are in better condition, and in that way many young horses come to grief, by being overworked, and their usefulness to the owner is lost for the season. In addition to this crude and erroneous way of training horses, the animals are heavily clothed, both in the stable, when walking, and on the track; so that the horses are doubly depleted of their natural vigor, both from their severe exercise, and the heavy clothing under which they are compelled to take their work. A trainer of good sense will find from experience that the worst thing he could put upon his horse is a blanket, but a conceited fool will never learn. I know an amateur trainer, near the City of New York, who works his horses entirely without clothing, and came out last spring with three little two-year-olds and a four-year-old. He brought them to the post in a robust condition, and won a race with every one of them, and was often second and third during the whole season, sometimes carrying upon his two-year-olds as high as 110 lbs., beating, with his little homebred stable colts and fillies, which had cost their owners from one to two thousand dollars when yearlings, and at the end of the campaign they were sent home to winter quarters, as sound in limbs and wind as they were when they left in the spring.

Thus it will be seen, that horses, without the aid of blankets, can be conditioned, brought to the post, run good races, kept in condition all season, and retire in the fall sound in every particular, and ready after a good wintering for another campaign; whereas, young stock trained under clothing often go lame, or break down before the season is half over. Young stock, I will admit, require a great deal of work to enable them to run a good race, but it should be given to them moderately, and their

trainers in America. He runs them often all through the season, and you cannot perceive that they have shrunk twenty pounds at the end of the campaign, all because he does not overwork them or continue to run them trial runs after they are in condition, and does not burn them up with blankets. There are other good young trainers I could allude to, who bring their horses to the post in high condition in the early part of the season, but from the use of blankets as the season progresses into warmer weather, and their frequent trial runs, they go amiss, and during the heated term their running is in and out. There is, however, a wonderful improvement in the training of horses in the last ten years, and, as training is a profession, it requires the best of judgment as well as long experience to free our minds of errors and prejudices, so we may hope that, from constant contests upon the turf, in which everybody must learn something, the day will come when horses will be trained and treated rationally, so that they will race and last from season to season, seldom going amiss, improving after every race, until breakdowns will be the exception instead of the rule. That kind of treatment, to the trained horse, if he has been well fed from foalhood up, will go farther to insure the improvement of the thoroughbred than any other treatment that has yet been devised by man.

It seems to me, that I cannot dwell too long upon the error of training. It is often said, that "the racehorse makes the trainer," and to some extent it is too true, for if the horse is successful the trainer receives more reputation than he oftentimes merits. I heard the late A. J. Minor once say, that "he was afraid to meet a certain racehorse." Some one who was present remarked that "he need not fear him, because he was in bad hands." Minor replied, that "he was afraid of a racehorse in anybody's hands." The horse Ten Brook is a clear illustration of his remark. See what he has done in the hands of a youth who never trained but two seasons. Success is not always the true measure of merit in a trainer, for the man who trains an inferior horse, and brings him to the post in condition, deserves more credit, although he may lose, than the man who trains and wins with a horse out of condition. I know a party in New York who has within the last year expended near \$40,000 for colts and fillies, trainer's salary, entrance-money, forfeits, and other expenses; who has in his stable fifteen or twenty head of stock, and during that time has tried three different trainers, and the season closed without his winning a heat. Some of his stock were, perhaps, a little trashy; at any rate none of the best, but some of them, in good hands, brought to the post in good condition, should have been winners; but they were so roughly handled in the spring, and so jaded and reduced, that it took the young things all summer to recover from the savage treatment they had received in the spring.

The Trigger.

AN INTERNATIONAL SHOOT.

A match took place at Clifton, on 15th ult., between three gentlemen representing the American side, and three from St. Catharines for the Dominion. The pecuniary consideration was \$120. to shoot at 15 birds each, ground traps, trap and handle for each other. Messrs. Fulton, Witmer, and Murray represented the American side, and Messrs. Rogers, Grobb, and Woodruff carried on the war for Canada. The match resulted in favor of the latter by two birds. The Niagara Falls Gazette gives a "sore-head's" account of the match, accusing the Canadians of improper practices, such as picking their birds, pulling tail feathers, &c., and endeavors to let "our cousins" down easily by saying they were shooting at a disadvantage, as they were unused to ground traps, &c. A correspondent writes us that this is all bosh, that there was and could be no sharp work, as the pigeons were all put in one box, and each party trapped and handled for the other. The cocoanut milk is to be found in the fact that before the shoot the Americans were the favorites at long odds, one newspaper quoting the betting at 10 to 1 on the Jonathans. Sure things don't always win, and "that's what's the matter

AMERICANS.

J. M. Whitmer 11110010111110 11
S. T. Murray 11011011011011-11
R. O. Fulton 111001010100011-8

After this match a trial shoot for \$20 a side took place between Walker and Dalton, at 11 birds, the former winning by a score of 10 to 8.

TOURNAMENT—At present it is intended that the St. Catharines tournament will commence about the 21st or 32nd inst.

Fox hunting is active around the Niagara River.

A BRACE OF CHALLENGES.

The annexed challenges will, in all probability, excite considerable comment in shooting circles, and no doubt will meet with acceptances:—

LONDON, ONT., Feb. 17, 1877.

To the Editor of Sporting Times

SIR,—We, the undersigned, challenge any two men (barring James Ward, of Toronto,) living in any one town or city in Canada, to shoot a Pigeon Match, 25 birds each, ground traps, Chatham Gau Club Rules to govern, for \$100 a side, the match to be shot at the city of London any time within 30 days, the match to be a find, trap and handle for each other. The Editor of the SPORTING TIMES to be stakeholder. Each party to choose a judge, and the judges to choose a referee.

Respectfully yours,
WALTER MUMMERY.
JAMES GLXN, Jr.

LONDON, ONT., Feb. 26th, 1877.

To the Editor of Sporting Times:

SIR,—We, the undersigned, hereby challenge any two men in Detroit to shoot a Pigeon Match, for \$100 a side, i. e. each shooter to put in \$50. The match to take place in Chatham, Ont. To shoot at 50 birds each, the shooters to find trap and handle for each other. Chatham Rules to govern. Or, we will shoot a home and home match—the first to come off at Chatham, the next in Detroit. Now, E. G., show yourself.

Respectfully yours,
WALTER MUMMERY.
JOHN PIKE.

SHOOTING AT WOODSTOCK.

Woodstock, Feb. 21.—\$50. Four-handed match. 10 birds each, 21 yards rise, ground traps.

W. Mander 1111011001-7 } 18
G. Hazwood 0010111101-6 }
J. Pascoe 1101100011-8 } 11
J. Forbes 0111001001-5 }
Same Day.—\$50. Match. Same conditions.

J. Forbes 1111111111-10
W. Mander 1111010110-7

SMALL SHOT.

WINDSOR SHOOTING CLUB.—Windsor has a shooting club, with the following officers: President, D. G. Revall; First Vice-President, J. Cornish; Second Vice-President, F. Howson; Secretary, J. Lewis; Treasurer, J. Water. The club starts with a large membership.

On the 14th ult. two boys, named Harry Darke and Calvin Mann, left home at Belle Ewart for the purpose of rabbit hunting, and have not been heard of since. It is feared that they may be frozen to death in the woods.

Mr. F. R. Farnsworth, of Paris, has sold the last whelp out of Rose, by the imported dog Carlowitz, to the following named gentlemen: Blue belton bitch Forest Rose to J. H. Cauff, Detroit, Mich.; white bitch ticked with chestnut, Countess, to E. Bennett, Dexter, Mich.; lamou belton dog Frank, to A. C. Rogers, Detroit, Mich.; white and chestnut bitch Queen, to Fred Stearns, Detroit, Mich.; white with chestnut ears bitch Wynne, to J. N. Dodge, Detroit, Mich.; white dog Buto he retain himself.

Miscellaneous.

FOOT-BALL—A Canadian Association was formed on the 21st ult. Mr. Robert Laddell, President, Mr. Wm. Louny, Sec.-Treas.; and Messrs. Ross, Goldie, Kennedy, Haldin, Shaw and Scully, Ex-Committee. It was adopted as the entrance fee for each club. It was determined to offer a cup for annual competition, together with eleven badges for members of the winning team.

BOWLING—The bowling tournament at the Toronto gymnasium, which has been in progress since the middle of December, and in which a great number of members participated, was brought to a termination on Friday evening with the following result: Francis J. Taylor, gold medal; Walter S. Andrews, silver medal; T. F. W. Ross, bronze medal.

SNOW-SHOOTING—A telegraph report informs us a spirited snow-shoe race took place at Montreal, on Saturday last, for a gold medal, which was won by Mr. G. R. Starke, doing the distance 2 1/2 miles in 18 m. 50 sec., and adds this is the very best time on record. Kerarone has a three mile record of 18:50, which rather surpasses it; and in 1871, Kerarone ran three miles of a four mile dash in 17:52, accomplishing the entire distance in 24:04.

Base Ball.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

At the meeting of the International Base Ball Convention, held in Pittsburg, Pa., the following Canadians were elected officials: Mr. H. Gorman, of the Tecumseh, London, Vice-President; and Mr. Geo. Sloeman, of the Maple Leaf, Guelph, one of the judiciary committee. The convention adopted the Mahn dead ball. The entrance fee was fixed at \$10, with \$15 additional to clubs competing for the championship. The admission to games was fixed at 25 cents, and the visiting club to receive one-half the gross receipts whenever they shall exceed \$75, and should it not reach this amount, the resident shall make up the deficiency. The by-laws and constitution, with a few exceptions, of the League were adopted.

THE CLIPPERS.—The Clippers, of this city, are re-organizing, and expect to put a strong nine in the field next season.

PENKANOUSHKNE.—The Young Canadians have engaged Vail, said to be of the White Stockings, Chicago, for catcher. The Maple Leaf, of Guelph, is expected to visit them early in the season.

Fair charmer (who thinks she knows every thing about Collego affairs)—"Is it possible, Mr. Tomkins, that you are not acquainted with my brother at Harvard? Why, he sings second base on the University base-ball crew."