

### Nail Wounds in Horse's Feet.

It has long been known that nail pricks and other similar injuries in the horse's hoof may lead to an infection followed by the formation of pus under the horn of the hoof, and a serious general disease of the horse, or, at least, the loss of the hoof. In a bulletin of the South Dakota Station, Prof. Moore has recently reported results obtained in a number of cases from applying a strict antiseptic treatment to injuries of this sort. The method consists in paring away the horn of the hoof from the affected part until the blood oozes out. The hoof is then thoroughly washed in a solution of bichloride of mercury, at the rate of 1 part to 500 of water, after which absorbent cotton saturated in a solution of the same strength is applied to the wound and the whole hoof is packed in cotton, surrounded by a bandage and well coated with tar. This prevents any further filth from coming in contact with the wound. The operation must usually be done by a qualified veterinarian. Subsequent treatment, however, can be applied by the average farmer, since all that is necessary is to pour a little of this solution of bichloride of mercury upon the cotton which projects from the upper part of the bandage. The cotton will absorb enough of the solution to keep the wound moistened and hasten the healing process. If a remedy of this sort is not adopted in the case of foot wounds in the horse, the owner runs considerable risk of serious infection, either of blood poisoning or lockjaw.

### The Breed of Men More Important than the Breed of Horses.

In World's Work for August is a remarkable article dealing with the question of horse-racing, from which we take the liberty of making a few excerpts:

"Betting is necessary to draw the crowds—at least big crowds. The average race-goer cares little for the individual horses; there's no reason he should.

"Betting is a high-powered excitant—a multiplier of interest.

"The undeniable attractiveness of a horse-race, plus the added excitement that is given by the bet, plus the hope of getting 'easy money'—it is this sum that draws the crowd. If there were no betting, the last two incentives would be wiped out. The crowd would not attend, or at least the far greater part of it.

"The bookmaker, pure and simple, is not strictly a gambler. He risks nothing. He and the keeper of a gambling house are certain of their profits, no matter how the horses run or the cards fall. The bookmaker takes the laws of chance into account, but he does not depend on chance; he depends upon a cold business principle.

"The bookmaker, so long as he sticks to his system, cannot lose. He has the percentage with him.

"The public can't beat the game, but the chief loss is far more serious than the monetary one—the loss of character of men.

"There is a grain of truth in the ancient fiction that racing improves the breed of horses; but the greater truth, the more important truth, is that racing lowers the breed of men.

"Betting on races should be made as difficult as possible; it should be forbidden by law.

"The result of such laws may be the death of racing; but the breed of men is more important than the breed of horses."

### The Horse as Xenophon Knew Him.

It is interesting to note with what care the early writers described the animals with which they came into contact. Xenophon was born 434 years before the birth of Christ, but even at that time the points of a horse were discussed, and the description is not far from being applicable

may be, if the foundation is imperfect, the horse is of no value if he has not good feet. Look first to the horny portions of the hoof, for those horses with thick hoofs are superior to those horses with thin hoofs. Next, it should be noticed whether the hoofs be upright before and behind, or low and flat on the ground. The high hoofs keep the frog at a distance from the ground, while the flat hoofs press equally with the soft and hard part of the feet. Strong-footed animals can be known by the sound of their tramp on the hard earth, but the hollow-hoofed foot rings like a cymbal when it strikes the earth.

"It is desirable that the parts above the hoofs and below the fetlocks (the pasterns) be not too erect, like those of the goat, for legs of this kind, being stiff and inflexible, are apt to jar the rider, and are more liable to inflammation. The bones must not, however, be too low and springy, for in that case the fetlocks are liable to be chafed and bruised when the horse gallops over clods and stones.

"The bones of the shanks should be thick, for these are the columns that support the body; but the veins and flesh on them should not be thick. If they are thick, then when the horse is galloped over rough ground the veins will fill with blood and will become varicose, so that the shanks will be thickened and the skin become distended and free from the bone. When this happens the back sinew gives way and the horse becomes lame.

If the horse, when walking, bends his knees flexibly, he will also have flexible knees when going at a faster pace. Horses increase in the flexibility of the knees when they increase in age. Flexible goers are highly esteemed, as they should be, for such horses are less liable to stumble than when they have rigid, unbending joints.

"If the arms below the shoulder-blades be thick and muscular, the horse appears handsomer and stronger than otherwise, as in the case of men. The breast should be broad, as well for beauty as for strength. This also causes better action of the fore legs, which do not then interfere, but are carried well apart.

"The neck should not be set on, like that of a



Baron's Best (11597).

Son of Baron's Pride; foaled, 1901; first in aged class, Highland Society's Show, 1906. Owned by Wm. Clark.

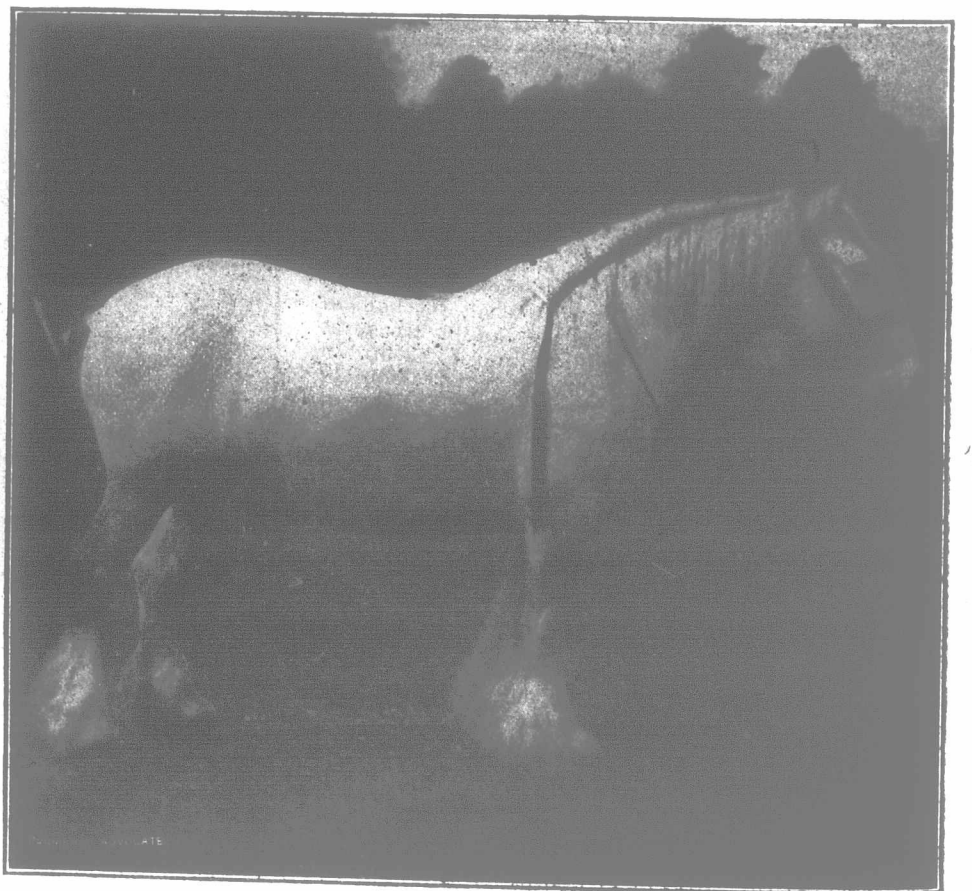
in the present day. Xenophon, who was in the memorable retreat of the 10,000 Greeks from Cunaxa to the Black Sea, and who was one of the most noted writers of that day, evidently thought it would be a good thing to write out a careful description of the points of a horse for the sake of the uninitiated. He says:

"I write how not to be deceived in the purchase of a horse. If the horse is an unbroken colt, one must judge him by the construction of his body, as, if he has not been ridden, one cannot know from experience what his disposition is. It is first necessary to examine the feet; for, as in the case of a house, where it does not matter how fine the superstructure



Pyrene.

Champion Clydesdale female, Highland Show, 1906.



Sussex Blue Gown (40352).

First prize Shire mare in aged class, Royal Show, 1906.