

## HORSES AND CATTLE.

## MENTAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE HORSE.

Those who have had extended experience with the horse, not merely to use them as beasts fit only for the drawing of loads and carrying weights, but under circumstances where the horse, in order to perform certain intricate duties to the satisfaction of the master, required more than what is usually counted as mere brute capacity, have learned that horses are possessed of mental characteristics akin to those of the human being. If his moral attributes do not take in so wide a range as in the case of the human being—and in this some horses are on a higher plane than some men—he certainly is not devoid of the sentiment of benevolence, and he has approbation, firmness, and the sentiment of veneration for his master, and is strong in his attachments.

The brood mare has love of young in intensity not much short of that possessed by the human being. Of the elements of intelligence, mainly depending upon the perceptive faculties, the horse evidently is in possession of pretty much all that the human being can boast of, yet in a lessened degree. Thus the horse has perception and memory of localities, of form, colour, size, sound, memory of events; takes cognizance of kind treatment, and rebukes ill-usage. He learns the meaning of words, obeying the commands of his master with promptness. This is seen in a most striking manner in the troop of horses trained for parade, as they go through the evolutions with exactness not excelled by any company of well-drilled soldiers, and do this at the word of command, spoken in any ordinary tone of voice. In this and in other ways it has been proved that the horse can be taught to understand, not merely a single word of command, but a combination of words.

The susceptibility of horses to training is nowhere shown with more clearness than in the fire departments of our large cities. Thus, the following may be taken as one of the very many instances that the horse can become an expert in the line in which he is trained. A horse doing duty in the fire department of an eastern city, was eating his morning ration of grain, having had no feed since the night before, and upon the word, "Jack! come here!" being spoken in a mild tone of voice in a distant part of the stable, the horse instantly abandoned his feed and trotted to the place occupied by the man giving the order. The mate of this horse did the same thing on being called. Upon the words, "Go back!" both horses trotted to their feed. The harnesses were removed from both horses, and each one in turn being told to go and put on his collar, did so promptly, these being placed on end in a manner that made it possible for the horses to work their heads through the collar.

The body of the harness being suspended in such way that the horse could place himself directly under it, thus enabling the groom to drop it instantly to its place, each horse took his position in turn, placing himself exactly in the required position for the hames to drop into the collar. A horse, an old stager in military life, learned to slip his halter during the night and go to the grain bin. On a certain occasion he was heard in the act. The officer in charge heard the movement from without, and going to the door suddenly and unlocking it, heard the horse hurry to his stall, and there saw him thrust his head into the halter, standing as though no mischief had been done. The attendant, appearing to see nothing of the movement, retired, locking the door and walking away. The horse, thinking the coast was clear, again got clear of his halter and made straightway for the grain-bin. The officer

then returned, securing the animal with a halter he could not slip off.

In our own experience we had a horse entirely competent to comprehend everything relating to the harness, carriage, etc. On one occasion, when moving along at a brisk trot, he, without giving any warning, stopped suddenly from a trot to a dead stand-still, not going into a walk and then stopping. He looked around, as much as to say he knew what he was about, and had stopped for cause. Stepping out, it was discovered that the neck-strap, holding up the breast-collar, had become detached at one end, and that the breast-collar was down across his knees. Most horses would have plunged ahead, stepping over the collar, allowing the shafts to drop. The animal referred to above, seemed to unite his understanding with that of the driver, comprehending all the motives connected with being hitched to the carriage. If any strap happened not to be buckled, he would invariably stop after going a few steps, give his head a significant toss, and look back to give a hint that something was loose.

If water was offered this horse, when he wanted his oats, instead, he would touch his lips to the water, give it a slight splash, that the groom might know that he recognized the fact of the water being at hand, then raising his head in an impatient manner, would look in the direction of the oat-bin. Though safe and harmless under any and all circumstances, if the groom happened to be later than usual in coming around to give the regular meal, he would lay his ears back and make pretences of kicking, as much as to say come on time or I will punish you. If horses were placed in school, as children are, when young, and taught with the care that should be given them, those who now consider them mere brutes, with only intelligence sufficient to enable them to turn to the right or left, when guided by the rein, would be surprised to witness their mental capabilities under training.—*National Live Stock Journal*.

## FACTS ABOUT FEEDING.

The editor of *The Massachusetts Ploughman* contrasts farmers of his acquaintance in respect to the important matter of feeding all animals. Some with sixteen pounds of hay and four quarts of cornmeal per day to each cow keep their dairy herds in better condition than others on a ration nearly twice as large. Regularity is of great advantage, and the proper supply is the point to be most carefully considered.

"Over-feeding results in the derangement of the digestive organs, the loss of appetite, and finally the loss of flesh. An animal thus injured cannot be brought back to as good condition as can one that has grown poor by feeding half rations. A hog that has once been overfed is rarely ever brought back to a good, healthy condition. In fattening hogs great care should be taken to never give them more than they will readily eat up clean. Whenever a hog fails to eat at once what is placed before him, it should be taken away. While it may not be as important to make other farm stock eat up clean all that is fed out, it is never good policy to permit food to lay before any animal, after it has satisfied its appetite. We have always noticed that successful feeders of cattle are particular to clean out the crib as soon as the cattle have done eating."

From the *Germantown Telegraph* we take this advice about feeding horses, many of which are irreparably injured by mistaken liberality with rations.

"At times horses are habitually overfed, and their systems become so disordered by it that their health suffers and the power of digestion failing, they lose flesh instead of gaining it, and will re-

cover condition only by diminishing from one-fourth to one half the quantity of their allowance. Frequently old horses become thin on account of their teeth wearing unevenly, so that it is not in their power to masticate their food. In such case a farrier should be employed to file them; or the owner, if he possesses the particular kind of file used, can file them himself. In this case, much less food will soon restore the horse to a proper condition. Rock-salt should of course be ever present in the manger, as a horse was never known to take too much of it."

Mr. A. W. Cheever cites, in his *New England Farmer*, an incident in proof of the fact that "a great many animals are seriously injured by over-feeding" (and of course abused) and he refers to a point in his own successful practice:

"We know of a barn full of cattle that were fed almost nothing the past winter but good, merchantable upland hay, grown by high culture and liberal manuring. The cattle were kept warm, were nicely bedded, the stables were cleaned often, and water was freely provided, yet the cattle came out thin in the spring and made but little growth. The difficulty was that the good hay was given far too freely, or certainly too much at a time. There was plenty of hay in the barn, and the attendant wanted to make a good showing of his skill in stock feeding, so he filled the racks and mangers full at each feeding. At first the cattle, coming in from a short pasture, would eat heartily, but, with little or no exercise, there was less food called for, and the quantity given was greater than the system required. Of course a portion would be left uneaten after the whole had been picked over and the choicest portions taken out. The rest was breathed over till nothing would eat it, when it was hauled under foot, trodden upon and wasted. We have for many years made it a practice to feed cattle but two meals per day, one in the morning, the other in the afternoon, aiming to divide the twenty-four hours as nearly as convenient into two equal periods, though the time between night and morning is usually a little longer than the time between morning and evening. A cow's stomach is so constructed that she can easily take enough good food into it to last her twelve hours, and we have long been of the opinion that food is more thoroughly digested when but two meals are given."

## TO TELL A HORSE'S AGE.

At three years old the horse should have the central permanent nippers growing, the other two pairs wasting, six grinders in each jaw, above and below, the first and fifth level, the others and the sixth protruding. The sharp edges of the new incisors will be very evident, compared with the old teeth. As the permanent nippers wear and continue to grow a narrow portion of the cone-shaped tooth is exposed by the attrition of the teeth on each other. The mark will be wearing out and the crowns of the teeth will be sensibly smaller than at two years. Between three and a half and four years the next pair of nippers will be changed, the central nippers will have attained nearly their full growth, a vacancy will be left where the second stood, and the corner teeth will be diminished in breadth, worn down, and the mark in the corner of the tooth will become faint. The second pair of grinders will be shed. At four years the central nippers will be fully developed, and sharp edge somewhat worn off, and the marks somewhat wider and fainter. The next pair will be up, but they will be small, with a mark deep and extending quite across them. The corner nippers will be larger than the inside ones, but smaller than before and flat, and the mark nearly effaced. The sixth grinders will