

THE HORSE.

The Horse as a Lunatic.

The latest treatise on the reforming of dangerous and useless horses sets out from the premises—probably correct—that few horses are born vicious. An old friend of mine, Mr. W. Leng, the well-known Yorkshire buyer of Thoroughbreds, is often heard to say, "God sends the horses, and the devil sends the men to look after them." There is no doubt much truth in the inference that many, if not most, horses which are dangerous and vicious are made so by ill-treatment or mismanagement, which has soured them. That is the argument of the treatise I have just finished reading, and the remedies suggested are not mysterious, but simply sound common sense, which so many of those connected with horses to-day seem to lack.

But the author of the book to which I am referring makes no mention of the equine lunatic—the "mad horse" of which we have all heard the old type of stableman speak. Not a single reader of the Live-Stock Journal who has had many horses through his hands but will agree with the thesis that just as there are men and women so mentally deranged as to be incurable and a danger to the community, so are there certain horses which are *non compos mentis*. This is not necessarily due to in-breeding or confined to high-bred animals, though one more often finds lunacy amongst light than heavy horses. This may not be so much a matter of breeding as temperament and nerves. The heavier-built, stronger-boned European nations are invariably found to be more phlegmatic and less excitable than the lighter, more versatile people, and so it is with horses. One finds more cases of degrees of madness (and badness) amongst half-bred and thoroughbred horses, for instance, than amongst Clydesdales, Shires and the nondescript car horse. It is not a question of feeding, of early environment or handling, but of breeding and hereditary temperament. Most of us can point to certain progeny as being "hot," given to savagery, kicking or bolting—not because they were mismanaged, ("mistreated" they call it in Yorkshire) when being "made" or broken, but because there is a strain of madness which has come down to them in common with other family traits. Sometimes the strain may "nick" with a similar characteristic on paternal or maternal side, and then it is that we occasionally get what is to all intents and purposes an equine lunatic. Such horses may have their quiet, lucid days; they may be so amenable to human control and discipline that they are restrained to a certain degree as is a deranged man or woman in charge of a keeper, but they watch for opportunities and are not slow to seize them.

"Vicious," says one; "highly strung," says another; "a horse of uncertain temperament," says a third; "humoury," suggests a fourth, and so on. In many cases a lunatic or semi-lunatic, say I. This is perhaps the exception rather than the rule, but what I am venturing to suggest is that there are horses which are verily and indeed "mad" not merely in name, but in fact. I well recall one thoroughbred horse which was a lunatic; if ever there was one. I rode him regularly when he was in training, and he won several steeplechases for me, but had periods of imbecility, when he became absolutely unbalanced and was a danger both to himself and his rider. Five days in the week he would possibly conduct himself like a lamb, and on the sixth he would make sudden bolts into or over stone walls or fences, and, if one was "ready for him" and could stop him, would throw himself down and scream or kneel on the ground and tear up sod and soil in unprovoked and unaccountable frenzy. Now, I maintain that the cleverest horse trainer, from Rarey downwards, cannot find a cure or preventive for a horse with a kink in his brain of this character.

You may teach a vicious horse that man is master, that certain causes produce certain effects, or you may by patience and kindness reassure him that all men are not his enemies, and that man is the superior being, to whom it is a more comfortable thing to knuckle under. Again and again there have been men, successful men in their own line, too, who have made a close study of unmanageable and dangerous horses, and who have been heard to say that they have never yet seen the horse they could not ride or control or handle. Possibly they are correct in their somewhat conceited claims. The doctors at an asylum would tell one the same—aided by attendants and with certain appliances of restraint. They will operate upon or minister to the most violent and dangerous patient. They may exhaust him in their endeavors, or they may temporarily pacify him to achieve a specific purpose, but to-morrow or the next day he will still be a violent and dangerous person. I repeat there are such animals amongst horses—neither kindness, patience or severity will ever make them anything else. The number is small, perhaps, but most of us have had experience of at least one of these mad-brained creatures whose conduct has been quite distinct and apart from the excitable, "hot," bundle-of-nerves, easily terrified or vicious bolter amongst horses. Madness, like vice or temperament, can be curbed under the restraint of strong will, bridle and the God-given gift of "hands." There are cases in which by long treatment it may be entirely eradicated, but I maintain that there are certain horses which are never certain and never dependent, and by which the most astute horse master and reformer would be defeated.

I have never yet heard of an officially certified mad horse, inasmuch as such a diagnosis could only be given after long acquaintance. The line of demarcation between vice, nerves, temperament and disorder of the brain never yet seems to have been drawn with regard to horses, despite all the thought and careful study of past and recent times.

It is because the characteristics of blood stock are made more public and because a varying degree of interest is centred on them that their vices, virtues and idiosyncrasies are made known to all men. We have watched certain racehorses in the paddock and on the course, and have wondered if they were quite properly balanced mentally. We have heard jockeys speak of their peculiarities and describe some of them as "going clean mad," but it is probable that amongst Hackneys, Dales ponies, or any other breed, we should discover a certain, if much lesser, number of equine lunatics if their peculiarities were made known. The subject is an interesting one, and would be more so if after death the brains of some horses with marked peculiarities could be examined by a pathologist. It would also be interesting to obtain data as to whether moods, lack of sleep, or other conditions were in any way responsible for the awakening of latent equine lunacy or making it more pronounced.

I had hoped, as I have said, to read someone else's views on the subject in the most recent treatise on vicious unmanageable horses, but it is not so much as mentioned. Walsh, in his book on "The Horse" (1862), gives a page on horse madness, but he refers to rabies, though he concludes his paragraph thus:—
"There is only one disease (phrenitis) with which it can be confounded, and in that the absence of all consciousness, and in milder cases of fear, so that no normal control whatever can be exercised, marks its nature and clearly distinguishes it from rabies, the victim to which is conscious to the last, and, though savage and violent in the extreme, is aware of the power of man, and to some extent under his influence."

J. FAIRFAX-BLAKEBOROUGH, IN THE LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL



Brummels Chance.

Junior Hereford bull, champion of the breed at Guelph, 1919. Shown by O'Neill Bros., Denfield, Ont.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.—XI.

NASAL CATARRH OR COMMON COLD.

Nasal catarrh may occur in an acute or sub-acute form. It occurs more frequently in horses than in other classes of stock. This is mainly due to the numerous causes of "taking cold" to which the horse is exposed, and to the large size of his nostrils, which more freely exposes the mucous membrane to external irritating agents. Among these may be particularly mentioned street dust and dusty feed, smoke, fungi and spores, which are flying in the air when the feed is distributed, and the ammoniacal atmosphere of ill-ventilated stables. The epizootic character the disease sometimes assumes points to the intervention of infectious elements, but no real evidence of infection has been discovered. When the disease attacks a large number of animals living under the same conditions, it is much more probable that the same causes are operating than the disease is due to infection.

Young or weak, delicate animals are predisposed to an attack. A strong predisposition to colds exists during the process of changing the coat, in either the fall or spring. In the fall, after the young animals have been on pasture for several months, and are brought into warm stables, the change, in many cases, appears to act as an exciting cause, as also do alterations in temperature, hot, ill-ventilated stables; exposure to wet and cold; allowing an animal that has been subjected to sufficient exercise to cause perspiration to stand in the cold, especially facing draft, without protecting him by adequate clothing. In some cases an attack becomes complicated with laryngitis, or other disease of the respiratory organs, and in all cases that are neglected and the animal exposed to aggravating conditions, the catarrhal inflammation is liable to spread from the nostrils and involve other respiratory organs.

Symptoms.—Acute nasal catarrh is indicated in the early stages by a diffuse injection and dryness of the mucous membrane of the nostrils, usually accompanied by a dry cough, and the expired air usually appears to be a little warmer than normal. The animal is dull, the appetite is impaired, he usually sneezes, there is a discharge of tears from the eyes, increase in temperature and more or less marked dullness and debility. In a few days a discharge from the nostrils is noticed. The mucous membrane is shiny and somewhat swollen, the discharge is at first serous, clear and of a watery nature. In mild cases it sometimes preserves this character, but when the inflammatory process is lengthened it becomes mucous-like, and later on purulent. The patient sneezes frequently, or a well-developed cough may be

noticed, and the edges of the nostrils become coated with crusts formed by the drying of the muco-purulent discharge. In some cases, the glands in the space between the arms of the lower jaw (the inter-maxillary space) become enlarged, hardened, and in rare cases adherent to the bone and tender to pressure. The average duration of acute catarrh is eight to fifteen days. In most cases recovery takes place without the appearance of any secondary trouble. The discharge gradually diminishes, and later disappears. There are cases in which the symptoms are somewhat alarming from the first, as chills, inappetence, well-marked increase in temperature and acceleration of the pulse.

Treatment.—In mild cases good care and careful nursing is all that is required. The patient should be placed in a well-ventilated stall, even if it be necessary to move him to colder quarters, and clothe him and bandage his legs in order to keep him comfortable, as in this as in practically all respiratory diseases, pure air is necessary, even at the expense of heat. He should be fed on laxative, easily-digested feed of good quality, as rolled oats, bran, a little linseed meal, a few raw roots and hay.

In more severe cases the nasal irritation can be relieved by causing him to inhale steam, by holding his head over a vessel containing steaming water to which has been added a little carbolic acid or tincture of benzoin, and stirring the liquid with a wisp of hay. This should be repeated two or three times daily, as the symptoms indicate; one-half ounce of nitrate of potassium should be given twice daily for two or three days. If debility, weakness and loss of appetite be well marked, tonics should be given, as a tablespoonful 3 times daily of powdered sulphate of iron, gentian, ginger, bicarbonate of soda and nux vomica. If the bowels become constipated, the condition should be combatted by giving rectal injections of warm soapy water and the administration of 8 to 10 oz. of raw linseed oil. Drastic purgatives, as aloes, should not be given, as they tend to excessive action. Gentle exercise in the open air, when the weather is fine, and under cover in rough weather, is beneficial. If the cough be troublesome, mustard mixed with warm water should be rubbed on the throat, which should be kept well wrapped with woolen bandages.

WHIP.

LIVE STOCK.

Forty-six Scotch Shorthorn females recently made an average of £575 12s. 1d. at an auction sale in England.

Hog feed is still high priced and hard to buy, but there is an indication that the price of finished hogs is also ascending.

The Shorthorn Breeders' Association of California made an average of \$418 on fifteen females and forty-seven bulls at a public auction.

The quality of our commercial cattle depends upon the quality of sire and dam. Is everyone working to improve our cattle industry?

It is a good practice to cure a quantity of pork for summer use. If the meat is properly cured and smoked it can be used any time during the summer.

Breeders should answer all inquiries for stock whether they have animals for sale or not. It is a courtesy due the inquirer, and may bring business later on.

At least twenty-five per cent. of the registered bulls now in service would have made better steers than sires. The knife should be used a good deal more than it is.

High-quality pork cannot be produced from unfinished hogs. There has been a tendency all winter for producers to market hogs before they are prime. As a rule the last twenty-five pounds is produced the cheapest.

Mr. Edward, of Lambton County, writes that he recently had a Leicester ewe give birth to four smart, healthy lambs. This is a high percentage increase and a good deal above the average.

Milk fed at normal temperature, clean stalls, utensils and feed boxes are essential in raising thrifty calves. As soon as the calf will eat it should be given rolled oats, bran, oil cake, cornmeal and clover or alfalfa hay.

At the Brandon Winter Fair, held early this month, the Shorthorn steer that won second in the Boys' Calf-feeding Competition sold at public auction to R. A. Wright, Drinkwater, Sask., at \$1.31 per pound.

At the Brandon Winter Fair and Fat Stock Show, Aberdeen-Angus cattle won first in car lots, groups and single entries. An Angus, 13-months-old steer won first in the Boys' Calf-feeding Competition for G. Campbell, of Manitoba, and was later made grand champion of the show, and sold by auction for 50 cents per pound.

The following figures forwarded by the Live-Stock Commissioner shows the number of good to choice steers weighing twelve hundred pounds and over marketed at public stock yards in Canada during 1919, and indicates what percentage these were of the number marketed: Alberta 33.95 per cent., number 34,161; Saskatchewan 20.13 per cent., number 20,252; Manitoba 8.78 per cent., number 8,345; Ontario 36.01 per cent., number 36,232; Quebec, 1.13 per cent., number 1,145.