

It is not important to a man with which foot a horse leads. A lady's horse must lead with the off foot. To effect this draw his head a little to the near side, touching him with the whip on that side, and *vice versa*. A horse should never be turned, without first moving him a step forward.

Busy men often say that the time taken to dress for riding is an obstacle to the practice. But for road-riding a gentleman cannot be too inconspicuously accoutred. He is not out as a sportsman, but merely for a ride. The use of a wide double-buckled knee wrap of soft Russia leather enables you to ride in ordinary trousers and with the "feel" that you are in leather breeches. They are put on in two minutes. The old fashioned strap under the instep is objectionable. Leggings and long gaiters are admissible, but your get-up cannot be too distinctive from that of the man going fox hunting. Remember too that the horiest man afoot is very often the footiest man a horse, and don't emulate him. It may be deemed "horsey" to insist on proper terms in speaking of the horse: but all trades have their apposite phraseology. Thus, a horse has a near and off foot, a hind and fore foot. Right and left, and front are quite inadmissible; and only used by persons who speak of "the dogs barking" when they refer to hounds giving tongue. Similarly, the word ankle applied to the horse is out of place.

The stuffing of the saddle must occasionally be looked to, and worked over if lumpy or hard; for a sore back or a sit-fast is perhaps a very long job, and may throw a horse out of work for months; whether the trouble be on the withers or loin. Slide your stirrups up on the leathers, slacken the girths, and jerk the saddle up and down quickly for a minute or two, if you alight at a stable in the course of your ride; but don't take the saddle off. Rack him up short enough to prevent rolling. Take off the bridle at once, for the horse will not lose a moment in rubbing it along the edge of the manger, to the detriment of covered buckles.

When you come home dab a cold wet sponge over the horse's withers and saddle piece. This extracts inflammation and tendency to soreness. As to girth, the best, except in very hot weather, is the Fitzwilliam. It sits best and is kept more conveniently and more readily adjusted than separate girths. Very tight girthing is objectionable, and when you have learned to ride by