

blacksmith; who, by the daily use of his sledge hammer, has made the muscles of the arm that I have been describing, swelled to nearly the size of an ordinary man's; and it will also be found so hard, compact, and tough, as to be scarcely more sensible to pressure than a deal board. This distinctness and prominence of muscle, which is meant by being well developed.

Sickness of condition is not occasioned by a healthy enlargement of the muscle, but by an increase of the fat which covers and lies between the muscles to protect the blood vessels. When a horse is very fat, the softness of the body will show that his apparent condition is to be ascribed to that cause; but where the muscles are well developed, they will be found to be hard instead of pulpy to the touch. It is in the arms and legs that the character of the muscle is best ascertained, and the distinct and projecting form of it most perceptible.

The appearance of the joints is the third characteristic that I am given of strength. It is usual to consider a 'bony' horse, as necessarily of great power. It is not altogether a mistake, for I have examined several of our most distinguished racers, Smolensko particular, and I have generally found great size of bone in the legs; but it is a great error to imagine that thick, clumsy, and prominent joints, imply power. They far more frequently show a tendency to disease. The hock should be broad and flat, and what the writer describes as 'clean,' both to the touch and in appearance. The knees should bear the same character, though from their structure they must be circular rather than flat: for anatomical reasons, it is particularly important that the fore-legs should be broad, or deep, immediately under the knees. These ought to be in every part a compactness and neatness of shape: none of the processes, or points of the bones are called, should be too prominent and thick, though if the hind-bone of the knee is not sufficiently so, if the limb is 'tied in below the knee,' it is a bad fault. The shanks ought to be broad and flat, and free from all protuberance or excrescence: the head should hang lightly on the neck, as if flexible, and quick in its movements. The shoulder-blade should rather incline backwards, allowing fair room for the play of the shoulder.

These are the essential points to be observed about the frame of a horse, so far as it is connected with the joints and bones, and in reference to its power; though were it not necessary to condense my remarks as much as possible, it would be proper to enumerate several others of inferior moment.

My pupil may read this over and over again, till he has learnt it by heart, and he will remain about as wise as he was before, if he does not assist himself by attentively considering the horse with his eyes: it is also clear that he must not confine his observation to one or two only, that he may chance to find in his master's stables; for man who had never seen but one in his life, though that would be enough to tell him the difference between a horse and a cow, would be quite incapable of judging whether it were well or ill made; even if his head were as large as a mule's, and its legs as slight as an antelope's! It is by comparing one horse with another that we are enabled to detect the difference of make and shape; and it is by looking on one that we have good reason to believe is excellent in all its qualities, as the standard of comparison; that a correct judgment is formed. When therefore we happen to fall in with any celebrated steed, or hunter, or a fast-trotting cob, or any hackney that habitually carries great weight and carries it well, we should make a practice of studying it closely; we should examine it in detail; feeling its limbs and joints with our hands; measuring its bones with the span of the fingers; marking the distinctness of his muscles, and when standing a little distance from him, we must take a view of his whole figure, and impress on the memory a correct idea of his proportions. If you can bring out a horse that you know to be weak and faulty, and place him by his side, the differences will be easily perceptible, and not easily forgotten; but if this direct comparison cannot be made, we must trust to our recollection to make it, as soon as the opportunity of seeing the other arrives.

I am at present only on the subject of strength; when we come to activity and safety, there will be many other points to be noticed. It is a very good rule to have a horse above his work; that is to say, of greater power than is just sufficient to do the work. This may be carried too far at times, because it is needless extravagance to give a high price for a horse, merely because he can carry sixteen stone, when one fairly equal to twelve would equally answer the purpose, and probably cost thirty or forty pounds less: nor is there any wisdom in buying a huge lumbering horse because he is strong, when his pace is rough and heavy, and the seat uncomfortable, in

consequence. Avoiding these extremes, it is prudent to lean to the side of strength, for the work will be more safely done, and the health of the animal will be more certainly preserved.

For a barouche or other carriage of heavy build, horses not less than sixteen hands high should be selected, and about three-parts bred. It is not merely because the power is generally greater, at least for draught, in a horse not thorough-bred, but they are usually more quiet and temperate in their work; and heavy work will very soon run an impatient, fretful horse. Some delicacy of judgment is requisite to decide the limits beyond which 'eagerness to go' becomes a fault; but it is a fault, if carried too far, in heavy work. No work of any kind, whether of man or brute, should be done in a fast; and very high bred horses certainly do not often go through their work so coolly as they should do. Hence they come home in a sweat, and a state of excitement that takes them off their feed, and soon spoils their condition, though the same work, quietly done, would hardly have caused them to turn a hair. Half-bred horses are very often high couraged and fretful, but it is much less frequently their case than with those of pure blood.

I may here notice that purity of breed can rarely be pronounced with certainty without an authentic pedigree, but there are many signs of it that enable us to make a pretty accurate guess. The lightness of the head, the springy activity of the limbs, the breadth of the arms, the perpendicular line of the leg from the hock to the knee, the full development of the root of the tail, the silky character of the mane, and small and sprightly ears, and, above all, the gay and showy character of the whole horse, which is rarely observable except when the symmetry approaches perfection, are decided indications of high breeding: to be 'thorough-bred' means, in strictness, that the horse is descended, both by sire and dam, from some stock of acknowledged Arabian or Barbary origin; and all these stocks are carefully recorded in the stud-book; but many thorough-bred foals are dropt that never are entered for the turf, and therefore do not find their way into the stud-book; so that the omission of the horse is no decided proof that he is not of pure descent. To return from this digression.

A light britcha, or chariot, may be well served by horses of fifteen hands and a half in height; especially if they are what are called 'short-legged' horses. This is not a correct expression, though commonly used. If a horse really were short-legged, that is, if his legs were disproportionately short for his body, I doubt if it would improve even his strength, while it would most assuredly injure his action: but when the limbs are very muscular, and the shank bone very strong, the legs do appear to the eye, substantial in proportion to the size of the horse, and this gives him the appearance of being short in the legs, though, in fact, they may be just as long as any other horse's of the same height and description.

A yet smaller class of horse will be sufficiently strong for a phaeton, where a pair is driven; fifteen hands, or even less, will indicate sufficient power for this work; and as it is usually driven at a faster pace, and often used for summer excursions, a phaeton is horsed better by active, trotting cobs, than by any other kind of horse; but they should be well-bred, for the daily journey in summer travelling is generally long enough to require bottom; and this is rarely found in a coarse horse.

Any carriage in which only a single horse is used, requires one of great power and high breed: the exertion in single harness is more unremitting; if it has only two wheels, the pace is always more severe and the journey commonly longer; and as a fall is always more or less dangerous to the driver, safety demands that the power of the horse should greatly exceed the duty imposed on him; a fall is more frequently occasioned by being over-weighted, than by dis-ease. In a four-wheeled carriage with a single horse, speed should never be considered a necessary, nor even a desirable quality: for let the carriage be as light as it may, I never yet saw one that was not overloaded by woman, children, and luggage, to a degree that no horse could draw if with ease; for more than a couple of miles at the rate of six miles an hour, a family one-horse carriage should never have a horse in its shafts capable of much greater speed; and then he cannot be killed before his time.

All draught horses ought to be full in the shoulder, and compact and inclining to a square form in the body; they should excel in the trot, and if wanted for state occasions, ought to have what is called grand action, that is, high bold action in the fore-legs, with a lofty carriage of the head. These latter points are unnecessary if they are only used for speedy travelling on the road.

A saddle horse's power should be equal to at least two stone more