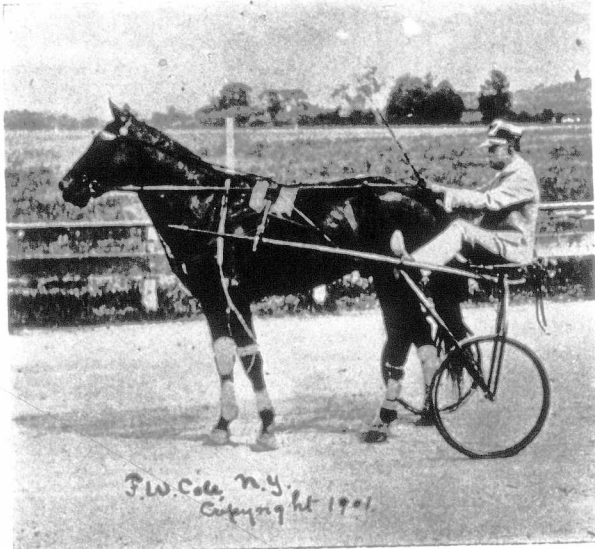


Some Stars of the Trotting Turf.

BY J. HUGO REED, V. S.

The marvellous speed attained by trotters and pacers during the last few years, and especially during the year now drawing to a close, is worthy of more than a passing notice, and makes us wonder what is the limit of speed attainable at these gaits. The American has reason to feel proud of this class of horse, for he certainly is of American production. While many fast horses—fast



CRESCEUS, 2.02½.
The World's Champion Trotting Stallion.
(By courtesy "Horse World.")

enough to win in good company on American tracks—have been bred, raised and trained in Canada—trained and driven by Canadians—yet if their history be traced it will be seen that their progenitors were, with few, if any exceptions, of American breeding. Horses of this class have been bred for generations with the one idea of producing extreme speed at the trotting or pacing gait, and the inheritance of speed at these gaits has become so marked in many cases that the animal appears to have little tendency to gallop, and can trot or pace faster than he can run.

STARS OF THE TURF.

If the pedigrees of the stars of the trotting and pacing turf be followed back for a few generations, it will be seen that in nearly all cases the ancestors, both immediate and remote, have shown their ability to go fast, and if followed still further back, we will soon reach Thoroughbred blood, which, of course, is the foundation. The law of heredity shows itself in the inheritance of speed as plainly as in other characteristics. Again, while we have many so-called families of trotters, as the Wilkes, the Electioneers, the Bashaws, the Pilots, the Morgans, etc., most of the horses that have gained eminence trace (in many cases often) to old Hambletonian 10, foaled in Orange Co., N. Y., 1849. He was strictly in-bred to Imp. Messenger (Thoroughbred), his great-grand sire, barring the one cross with Imp. Bellfounder, the famous "Norfolk Trotter," sire of Hambletonian 10's dam.

Judicious inbreeding has probably given better



ALIX, 2.03½.

results in the production of the trotter than elsewhere. This class of horse has been bred for so many generations with the one object in view that he has attained such individuality and prepotency as to render him capable, if intelligently mated, of transmitting his own peculiarities to his progeny with reasonable certainty. It will be noticed, however, that a very small percentage of Standard-bred colts distinguish themselves on the turf. The breeding, rearing, training and racing of trotting or pacing horses is essentially the province of the rich man. While there are a few instances of men of only moderate

means producing a world-beater, the percentage of such prodigies is so small, and the expense of rearing and training so great, that unless the aspirant to fame has a good bank account he is likely to come to grief financially if he persists in his efforts. The development of extreme speed and the art of keeping an animal fit for racing is a profession by itself, and few men become proficient. It requires great experience, combined with good judgment and a natural adaptability on the part of the trainer. When speed comes down near the two-minute mark the risks from the slightest derangement in the horse's mechanism are perilous. To keep a horse in physical condition for a season's campaigning, after his speed has been developed, requires great care and judgment; the driver needs to understand thoroughly the individuality of the horse, must know just what and how much to feed him, just the proper amount of exercise to give him between races, etc., there being great differences in horses in this respect. If a horse meets one or more horses in a race that are nearly or quite as fast as himself, split heats will be the result, and the race may be drawn out to seven or eight or even more heats (under the rule that a horse must win three to win a race), and unless the horse be in proper condition and have staying powers he stands no chance of winning, and may be distanced after winning a heat or two and thereby be outside the money altogether.

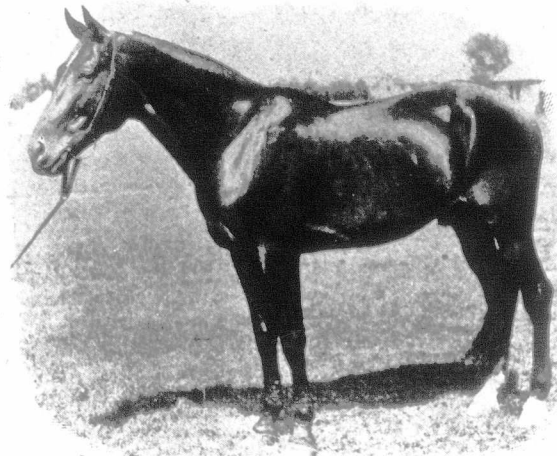
THE NOTED CRESCEUS.

The most noted horse of the year is Cresceus, a son of Robert McGregor, out of Mabel by Mambrino Howard. This horse was bred, raised, trained and driven by his present owner, Mr. Ketcham. He is a horse of peculiar conformation, and at first glance looks very plain. He stands 16 hands and half an inch high, but does not look it, and when in harness looks smaller still. His body is smooth, round and long, chest deep and broad, shoulders long and heavy, hips and quarters massive; his legs are straight, broad, flat and clean, with the exception of a slight enlargement on the off hock, where he was fired for curb at three years old. His head is rather small, ears fine, and eyes large and expressive. His general muscular development is excessive. The only part of his anatomy that does not show quality is his neck. It is short, perfectly plain, with little development of the crest, and entirely without character—not in any way resembling the neck we expect in a highly-bred stallion. Both when standing and in action he is low-headed. From what source he inherited this plebeian feature is hard to say. He is not a high knee or hock actor, but his gait is as near "the poetry of motion" as can be imagined. He holds the world's record for a trotting stallion, of 2.02½, and also the world's stallion record of 2.09½ for a mile on a half-mile track, made on the Kansas City Driving Club's Park on Oct. 24th. His owner expects he will reduce his present record if given a chance. He has not been used extensively in the stud, but it is reported several mares with very low records are booked to him for the next season. It is said that B. F. Keith, who manages a string of vaudeville theatres throughout the country, has offered Mr. Ketcham \$30,000 for a 30-weeks engagement in the leading theatres on the Keith circuit. The contract simply calls for the appearance on the stage of Mr. Ketcham and Cresceus for a few minutes during each performance. A contract has been prepared and submitted to Mr. Ketcham for his signature, and if the offer be accepted it is probable that Cresceus will earn more money next season than any other horse, as he will probably earn another \$30,000 in the stud.

A FAMOUS LITTLE MARE.

Alix, the late famous little trotting mare, holder of the world's trotting record (2.03½) from 1894 to 1900, was by Patronage by Pancoast; her dam was Atlanta by Attorney, a son of Harold, sire of Maud S. (2.08½), to high-wheeled sulky), once queen of all trotters. This great little mare, "Alix," was chloroformed in October last, on the farm of her owner, ex-Mayor Sayles, of Providence. She had a stroke of paralysis about a month before, and there was no hope of her recovery. It is reported she was booked to Cresceus, and had she lived, the career of the progeny would have been watched with interest. This mare supplanted Nancy Hanks (2.04) during 1894 in a trial against the world's record, at Galesborough, Ill., and until The Abbot cut it down to 2.03½, at Terre Haute track, in 1900, she was the champion trotter. She began her turf career in 1891, as a three-year-old, being owned by Morris A. Jones, of Red Oak, Ia., and was driven to a record of 2.16½, by Charlie Williams, at Independence, Ia. In 1893, Curry won the \$1,500 free-for-all at the World's Fair meeting of the North-western Breeders' Association, at Washington Park. This was a hard-fought, nine-heat race, and Curry, with Alix, was in trouble in the first heat. A collision at the clubhouse caused the mare to break to a standstill, and the field was nearly at the half-mile post when Curry got the little mare back to her stride. It was not thought he could do more than save his distance,

but he gave the game little mare her head, and when he reached the distance-flag she was leading, and she won the heat in 2.07½. Some claim she trotted the middle half of that mile, from the quarter to the three-quarter pole, in a minute. One man showed his watch, which he declared was correct, yet it registered but 58 seconds for the half. She won the seventh and ninth heats, the last in 2.09½. Of the nine heats, 2.11½ was the slowest mile trotted. In 1894, Alix went into Andy McDowell's stable, controlled by the Californian horseman, Monroe Salisbury. She defeated all comers, and was then taken west to



STAR POINTER, 1.59½, PACING.
Fastest Harness Horse in the World.

lower Nancy Hanks' record of 2.04. After she did this by trotting in 2.03½, Mr. Jones asked \$5,000 for her, but was unable to find a purchaser. In the spring of 1895, McDowell was to start her at Denver. She trotted a fast mile (about 2.07½), but pulled up very lame behind. After treating her for a time she was tried at Springfield, Ill., where she again pulled up so lame she was sent home to Red Oak and retired from the turf. Mr. Jones always thought she would round to with rest and care, and doctored her for two seasons, refusing to breed her. He meantime became involved in some speculation that caused him to mortgage the horses, and the local bank held Alix as security for a considerable sum. Hon. F. C. Sayles, of Pawtucket, R. I., wanted Alix and her dam, and in 1898 completed the purchase, at about \$5,000 for Alix, and \$1,500 for Atlanta, her dam. Alix stood about 15 hands, but was very strongly developed, and her gait was perfect; and but for her untimely injury, hopes were entertained of her reducing her mark to 2.02 or better.

The American pacer, "Dan Patch" (2.04½), the unbeaten son of Joe Patchen, has this year performed a feat which few horses have ever equalled, in going clear through the grand circuit without losing a single race. His ten races and the time of his heats are as follows: Windsor—2.07½, 2.10½, 2.09; Detroit—2.08½, 2.08, 2.09½; Cleveland—2.10½, 2.11½, 2.11½; Columbus—2.10, 2.11½, 2.12½; Buffalo—2.11½, 2.10½, 2.14½; Brighton Beach—2.04½, 2.07½, 2.05½; Readville—2.07½, 2.08½, 2.10½; Hartford—2.08½, 2.08½, 0.12½; Providence—2.04½, 2.07, 2.06½; Cincin-



HAROLD H., 2.04.

nati—2.09½, 2.07, 2.11; Memphis—2.05, 2.06½, 2.08. In nine of the ten races he beat 2.10, and during the summer he has been nine heats in 2.07 or better, pacing twice to his record of 2.04½.

THE WONDERFUL MEMPHIS TRACK.

The world's records held by the Memphis, Tenn., track are:

Fastest mile by a gelding pacing in a race—2.00½; made by Prince Alert, b. g., by Crown Prince.

Fastest half-mile heat, pacing, in a race—1.00½; Audubon Roy, ch. s., by J. J. Audubon.