Clacking and Over-Reaching in Horses.

Common as are these two faults, they are frequently misunderstood. An over-reach is looked upon as an unavoidable accident, and clacking treatedby irrational alterations of the hind feet shoes. We couple them together because they present some common features. Both consist of interference with the fore foot by the hind one, both are due to some temporary defect in the action, and both can be prevented by altering the form of the shoe.

Clacking or, as it is sometimes called "forging," is the name given the sound produced by the hind shoe striking the fore one in progression. It is usually heard at the trot, and seldom noticed in adult horses. It is most common in young horses out of condition and especially noticed when they are tired. The noise is produced by the hind shoe striking the under surface of the fore one just behind the toe, not at the heels. When the blow has been repeated so as to leave an impression, the marks are found on the inner edge of the fore shoe. This is important, as it shows us that the length of shoe is not at fault, and it suggests the removal of the part where striking occurs. Removal of this edge is equivalent to making a shoe concave instead of flat on the ground surface, and such a shoe is found to effectually prevent a recurrence of the objectionable noise.

The ordinary hunting shoe, especially the narrow one made in a "cress," in the best possible form. For harness horses, where more substance is required for wear, the ordinary shoe seated on the outside instead of the inside is usually sufficient. A case may be met with in which this alteration is not effective. We must then alter the hind shoes, making them square at the toe, with two clips—one on either side—and set back a little on the foot. The wall at the toe should not be raised off, but allowed to protrude a little.

Too often the hind shoes are the first to suffer alteration, sometimes of a very objectionable kind; for instance, we have seen the toe of a hind shoe made diamond shape and prominent, so as to come in contact with the sole of the forefoot instead of the shoe. This is a most irrational and somewhat dangerous expedient. It leaves the offending part of the fore shoe untouched, and favors the infliction of injury to the foot. Even when the hind shoe is only made short and placed back on the foot, there is a risk of the horn at the toe being unduly worn, and there is a shortening of the leverage of the foot which must more or less affect the powers of progression.

If a horse "clacks," rest contented at first with altering the fore shoes as we have described; improve his condition, and ride him up to the bit, but not past his pace. "Over-reaching" is an injury to the heel of the fore foot. It is sometimes merely a bruise, but more often a lacerated wound, a small round portion of skin being left hanging, nearly detached from the heel. The offending part of the hind shoe is its inner circumference or edge, so that the injury must be caused by the hind foot being in the heel, and the skin caught as the foot is retraced. The inner edge at the toe of a hind shoe becomes very sharp after a few days' wear, and will cut like a knife.

As in "clacking," the indication for prevention is to remove the offending edge. This cannot be thoroughly done with a file but when the shoe is hot, the edge behind the toe can be cut out with the "fuller" so as to leave the shoe concave. Off over-reaching is an accident peculiar to the gallop, it is well always to shoe hunters so as to guard against the occurrence. The neatest and best hind shoe for a hunter is made, like the fore one, in a "cress," and presents a concave ground surface and rounded edges.

When a heel is injured, it is always well to try and save the piece of skin. It should not be cut off until it is certain that it will not reunite to the tissues beneath. One good fomenting on reaching the stable is enough; after that use the simplest water dressing, and under no circumstances use poultices, which only increase the chances of a slough and retard the healing process. Should healing seem slow, apply a mild stimulant, such as a piece of lint wet with a mixture of carbolic acid, one part, to glycerine, twenty parts.—*Scientific American.*

Desirable Qualities in a Pig.

Of all the desirable qualities in a pig, a vigorous appetite is of the first importance. A hog that will not eat, is of no more use than a mill that will not grind. And it is undoubtedly true that the more a pig will eat in proportion to size, provided he can digest and assimilate it the more profitable he will prove.

The next desirable quality is, perhaps, quietness of disposition. The blood is derived from the food, and flesh is derived from the blood. Animal force is derived from the transformation of flesh. The more of this is used in unnecessary motions, the greater the demand on the stomach, and the more food will there be required merely to sustain the vital functions—and the more frequently flesh is transformed and formed again, the tougher and less palatable it becomes.

This quality, quietness of disposition, combined with a small amount of useless parts, or offal, has been the aim of all modern breeders. Its importance will be readily perceived if we assume that seventy-five per cent. of food is ordinarily consumed to support the vital functions, and that the slight additional demand of only one-sixth more food, is required for the extra offal parts and unnecessary activity. Such a coarse, restless animal would gain in flesh and fat, in proportion to the food consumed, only half as fast as the quiet, refined animal. To assume that a rough, coarse, savage, ill bred mongrel hog will require only one-sixth more food than a quiet, refined well bred Berkshire, Essex or Suffolk, is not extravagant.—*Harris.*

Hitching Horses with the Lines.

Many of our exchanges have published the following very improper manner of hitching a team with the lines: "When there is no hitching post handy a horse may be safely tied in the following manner:—Take the reins and pass them round underneath the hub outside of the wheel and give them a hitch to one of the spokes. If the horse starts the reins are drawn up, instantly checking him, and as soon as he commences to back they are as instantly loosened. If in addition to this, when there are a pair of horses, one of the traces is loosened the team will seldom move far enough forward to start the waggon without being checked by the bits."

When a small lad, we saw a farmer with a two-horse waggon loaded with barrels of cider hitch his horses by wrapping the ends of the lines once around the hub, then tying to a spoke. Thus the team was left standing in the street, which ran along the brow of a steep hill. When the man returned he found his horses—one dead—waggon and cider all at the foot of the hill badly smashed up.

After having stood until they became restive they started forward, when the lines brought them up with such unusual roughness that they balked back with all their might, and before the loaded waggon had stopped moving the lines began to wind around the hub so as to draw the horses back. The hind wheels were cramped in the right direction to go down the bank, and sooner than one can tell the story, team, waggon and all went rolling and tumbling down the steep bank more than one hundred feet distant into the creek. This impressive lesson taught us never to fasten the lines to a wheel, which we never have done. Rather than do it we have often unhitched the team and tied the halter to a wheel.—*New York Herald.*

Experiment in Feeding.

In the April number of the *American Farm Journal*, I notice an article on the nutritive qualities of timothy hay, which makes 100 lbs. of timothy hay equal to 355 lbs. of rye straw, 220 lbs. of oat straw; 51 per cent. of corn, 59 of oats, and 49 of rye. Now, who can believe that? Let one of our Pennsylvania farmers take 350 lbs. of rye straw and 98 per cent. of rye chop (which according to the computation, would be equal to 300 lbs. of hay,) and feed and work one horse on hay and the other on the rye chop, giving each all they want, and when the stock is exhausted replenish it and continue to do so for two, three or four months, keeping a strict account of the amount of both kinds fed, and then ask him which horse has done the best according to the value of feed fed, or rather the amount of feed, according to the computation. My opinion is that the rye straw and chop would be equally as nutritious, pound for pound, as the hay. And if I am right, the straw and chop would have over one-third more nutrition than the hay, for you have 300 lbs. of hay and 453 lbs. of straw and chop. If you feed the horse 30 lbs. of hay each day the hay would last ten days and the straw and chop a fraction over fifteen days. I do not believe there can be a possible doubt of the straw and chop being more nutritious, pound for pound, than the hay. If anyone thinks so, let him try it. Just so as to the oat-straw and corn. Let anyone take three pounds of corn-meal and twenty of good oat-straw, and feed it against thirty pounds of hay during the winter, and he will find his stock will do the best on the straw and meal, giving the hay the benefit of the two and a-half per cent. thrown off on the straw. I have seen the same computation as to the relative value of timothy hay as compared with other food for animals; but I don't believe it will hold water.—*C. J. Moore, in Germantown Telegraph.*

Tact in Feeding.

As an excuse for the wretched looking objects to be seen on some farms, and as a reason for not obtaining better animals, it is often said, what would be the use of having anything well bred on such land? The best stock in the world would soon be no better. This is partly true, for poor feeding will cause degeneracy in each succeeding generation; but however bad the soil may be, tact would force some forage crops for summer, and roots for winter, to assist the thin herbage for the warm season, and to help the dried-up, old, withered hay through the cold winter.

It is astonishing to see the good effects produced by judicious management of stock of all varieties, each generation becoming superior to its ancestors, if fed and treated in a better way, and if a wise discrimination is brought to bear on the proper mating of the parents; as witness the sheep of the present day, compared with those of forty years back, and see how very much finer the descendants of the Arabian horses are in England, in spite of the pernicious practice of over early training.

It is not altogether the liberality in feeding, that tells on the colts, the calves and the tegs; there is a certain watchfulness and care combined with a nice perception of what is required, which none but an experienced person knows how to exercise to benefit the young animals from the time they are born, till perfect in their full growth and beauty. It is useless for people who think they know everything, to cavil at this statement, for I assert that there shall be, say 20 colts, 20 calves and 200 tegs, put under one man's supervision, and a like number under another's, each having facilities in every respect, growing what they please, and choosing whoever they like to wait upon them; yet there shall be double or treble a superintendant's salary difference in the value of the two lots when they come to be a year old. Last spring I saw colts and calves which staggered from weakness, and were naught but a frame of bones, when there was everything at hand to have made them fat, if there had been any tact on the premises. It is so in many instances. The animals want a change in their lodging, in food, in air and exercise; require to have some sunshine on them; or there are some simple laws of nature neglected, through ignorance, probably, for the manager may be excellent in his way; he may know how to mend everything on the farm, but the live stock; he may say "come along," to every man that works with him, but not get along the young animals which ought to be in a continual thriving state; in short, be totally deficient in knowledge of the proper treatment of cattle, &c., excepting in cases of "hollow horn" and "tail evil."—*G. G., in Country Gentleman.*

Is Pea-Straw Good Fodder?—A correspondent says he has not found pea-straw as valuable for fodder as good oat or wheat straw.—Very likely. And yet good pea straw may be so cured and fed, as to be worth far more than any other straw, unless it is choice bean-straw. It is more nitrogenous than wheat, oat, barley, or rye straw, and should be fed, to get out its full value, in connection with a small quantity of corn. Sheep that have a pound of corn each per day will fatten more rapidly on pea-straw than on wheat or oat straw. The better plan is to let them have all they will eat of both pea and wheat straw—say pea-straw morning and noon, and wheat or oat straw at night. But we apprehend the trouble with our correspondent is not so much in the way of feeding, as in the method of cutting, curing, and preserving the pea-straw. If the peas were allowed to grow till dead-ripe, and after cutting were allowed to remain in heaps in the field day after day without turning, and were exposed to rains and dews until nearly all the soluble matter was decomposed or washed out of the straw, and half the leaves were knocked off them before they left the field, and they were stacked in a damp condition, it is not difficult to understand why "the sheep and the chemist do not tell the same story" in regard to the value of the straw. On our own farm we have found pea-straw from a luxuriant crop of peas, cured without rain, nearly as valuable as clover-hay.—*American Horticulturist.*