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## THE THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE HOW TO BREED, REAR AND TRAIN THEM.

BY AN OLD TRAINER.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Errors in Training—Continued.

[From the Spirit of the Times].

In my experience I have found it dangerous to feed horses wet feed, unless it has been cooked, and hence I have always taught and advocated that horses, especially young stock, should have placed within their reach, when eating dry food, plenty of water; in winter time, when grass cannot be had, they must have plenty of hay, which is the next best substitute for it; in fact, it is only dried grass, properly cured, containing a great deal of phosphate of lime, which enters into and makes the bone of the whole animal frame. An animal will only eat a certain quantity of dry hay before he wants water, because the dry hay, when it enters into the intestines, absorbs all the mucus which was intended by nature to lubricate the bowels, and constipation and sometimes colic is the consequence. Whereas, if they were allowed to drink water at will, they would eat of their dry food and then take a few swallows of water, which, with the heat of the stomach, would swell the food out and prevent it from producing the bad effects described above. Horses fed upon dry feed, and especially colts, without sufficient water, are liable to become wind suckers and cribbers, particularly in cold weather. It is useless to say that the groom is ordered to water them three times a day, for the best of them will neglect doing so, and if he should offer him a bucket of water three times a day, it is usually done at about the time of feeding, which reminds the horse that his oats are coming, and at that moment he will forego the drinking, because his mind is upon the feed. He will feel the want of water before he is half done his feed, but the groom never thinks of offering it to him again until the next feeding time, whereas if a bucket of water was kept in his stall he could drink at will either whilst feeding or afterwards, and I assure you from experience that no horse will show as well in vigor and strength who has been deprived during his wintering of water, salt, and hay; for he cannot eat as much good hay as he should do, unless he has plenty of water and plenty of salt. Let any one try the experiment of wintering a horse for running purposes upon oats and corn alone; they will, when they come to train their horses, see the difference that the want of hay makes. My experience is that horses must be fed a great deal of good hay; it is like grass, for it cools the system, and creates an appetite for grain. No horse will eat as much grain without hay as he will with it, but he must have water, or he will eat but little of the latter. Of course horses, especially young stock, should be fed with carrots, beets, or any other juicy food you can get them to eat. In the absence of these roots, you will feed them two or three times a week on scalded mash, of which bran should form the major part, in order to keep their bowels cool and regular, which will prevent worms. Of course great care must be taken by the trainer who has charge of a stable of racehorses in observing and ascertaining the disposition and peculiarity of the horses under his care, for perhaps no two of them will

ter, but not trotted, because it would teach them the use of the bridle, saddle, and rider, and having plenty of time to prepare them for their next spring exercise, they could be handled slowly with great care and kindness, while in a more hurried preparation, with less time, they may be spoiled and made bad tempered, but they should never be allowed to go out of a walk during the winter.

I know two or three trainers who kept their horses going all winter, walking and trotting around the stable and under the shed in wet weather, and out on the road and in the fields in dry weather; horses, too, that were stale from their previous campaign. In the spring some of them were found, when they came to run them, to have been overworked, and had no energy or vim in them. Having lost all their first races, they were then let up and rested for a while, and some of them came round in the course of a week or two, while others remained stale and out of form the whole season, owing principally to their not being allowed sufficient rest and time to fill up, grow, and spread, or they will not show any improvement, or perhaps not as good, although a year older, as they were the season before. I have experienced the fact that almost all horses receive too much work either at one time, or too frequently; the majority of trainers work their horses every day. This might be well enough in the early part of the season, as the changeableness of the weather is then so manifest, and the chances of having good weather continually up to the day of racing is so uncertain, that necessity compels them to work every good day, and sometimes to overwork them for fear of a bad day; that is, they will give them more work than they would, if they had assurance of a continuance of good weather. But when the weather becomes good, and when a bad day is the exception instead of the rule, they continue to work every day, although the season is advanced, and the horses are measurably conditioned, and the younger ones really wanting rest. Still they are brought out, day after day, and sent a rattling pace around the track, and brushed in every stretch, until they can scarcely stand from fatigue. Now, every trainer of common sense and observation must have noticed that after severe work, such as breezing and sweating, his horse would settle and shrink for two or three days, and perhaps mince his food the second or third day. If so, he should be walked and grassed for two or three days, until the soreness has left him, which will be manifest by his disposition to play, when he can be taken to the track and galloped again. Whereas, if his work had been continued while he was shrinking and mincing, it would have been a positive injury, and might have knocked him off beyond recovery, more especially if it should have been a two or three year old colt. The reason many trainers overwork their horses is that they go out to the track without any fixed purpose or idea of the amount or kind of work their horses really need; but they imagine they must be worked, so they are taken to the track every day. Most of them are like the boys and the frogs in the fable; they like to see their horses run, for it is fun for them, but it is death to the horses. When they are started to gallop, they are worked by either whim or circumstance. If some trainer had just run his horse a fast run any distance, they would try to beat it, and as his horses are forced to run a trial-run, instead of ordinary exercise, to gratify his own conceit, which, in most trainers, is sufficiently large to make them think that the horses they train are better than horses trained by others; at least they are in better condition, and in that way many young

work should be increased as they become seasoned, but always without clothing. Blankets will deplete him too rapidly, and he will soon become languid and weak, whereas, if he is trained without clothing, and judiciously treated in his exercise, he will attain the highest form of robust health, which is the same of condition, and without which, he cannot carry his allotted weight, and run a good race. There is another trainer in New Jersey who trains without clothing, and who brings to the post more highly conditioned two-year-olds than any other three trainers in America. He runs them often all through the season, and you cannot perceive that they have shrunk twenty pounds at the end of the campaign, all because he does not overwork them or continue to run them trial runs after they are in condition, and does not burn them up with blankets. There are other good young trainers I could allude to, who bring their horses to the post in high condition in the early part of the season, but from the use of blankets as the season progresses into warmer weather, and their frequent trial runs, they go amiss, and during the heated term their running is in and out. There is, however, a wonderful improvement in the training of horses in the last ten years, and, as training is a profession, it requires the best of judgment as well as long experience to free our minds of errors and prejudices; so we may hope that, from constant contests upon the turf, in which everybody must learn something, the day will come when horses will be trained and treated rationally, so that they will race and last from season to season, seldom going amiss, improving after every race, until breakdowns will be the exception instead of the rule. That kind of treatment, to the trained horse, if he has been well fed from foalhood up, will go farther to insure the improvement of the thoroughbred than any other treatment that has yet been devised by man.

It seems to me, that I cannot dwell too long upon the error of training. It is often said, that "the racehorse makes the trainer," and to some extent it is too true, for if the horse is successful the trainer receives more reputation than he oftentimes merits. I heard the late A. J. Minor once say, that "he was afraid to meet a certain racehorse." Some one who was present remarked that "he need not fear him, because he was in bad hands." Minor replied, that "he was afraid of a racehorse in anybody's hands." The horse Ten Broeck is a clear illustration of his remark. See what he has done in the hands of a youth who never trained but two seasons. Success is not always the true measure of merit in a trainer, for the man who trains an inferior horse, and brings him to the post in condition, deserves more credit, although he may lose, than the man who trains and wins with a horse out of condition. I know a party in New York who has within the last year expended near \$40,000 for colts and fillies, trainer's salary, entrance-money, forfaits, and other expenses; who has in his stable fifteen or twenty head of stock, and during that time has tried three different trainers, and the season closed without his winning a heat. Some of his stock were, perhaps, a little trashy; at any rate none of the best, but some of them, in good hands, brought to the post in good condition, should have been winners; but they were so roughly handled in the spring, and so jaded and reduced, that it took the young things all summer to recover from the savage treatment they had received in the spring.

with Hannah. He also says if our American friends are not satisfied with their defeat they can be accommodated for as much money as they please, and that the Saints hope to hear from the "kickers." Messrs. H. T. Fulton and J. Reilly acted as Judges, and Mr. D. Isaacs, referee. The following is the detailed score:—

### CANADIANS.

George Rodgers..... 111101111101011—12  
A Grobb..... 101011101111110—11  
J C Woodruff..... 111001110011100—9  
32

### AMERICANS.

J M Whitmer..... 111100101111110—11  
S T Murray..... 11011011011011—11  
R O Fulton..... 111001010100011—8  
30

After this match a trial shoot for \$20 a side took place between Walker and Dalton, at 11 birds, the former winning by a score of 10 to 8.

TOURNAMENT—At present it is intended that the St. Catharines tournament will commence about the 21st or 22nd inst.

Fox hunting is active around the Niagara River.

### A BRACE OF CHALLENGES.

The annexed challenges will, in all probability, excite considerable comment in shooting circles, and no doubt will meet with acceptances:—

LONDON, ONT., Feb. 17, 1877.

To the Editor of Sporting Times.

SIR,—We, the undersigned, challenge any two men (barring James Ward, of Toronto,) living in any one town or city in Canada, to shoot a Pigeon Match, 25 birds each, ground traps, Chatham Gun Club Rules to govern, for \$100 a side, the match to be shot at the city of London any time within 30 days, the match to be a find, trap and handle for each other. The Editor of the Sporting Times to be stakeholder. Each party to choose a judge, and the judges to choose a referee.

Respectfully yours,

WALTER MUMMERY,  
JAMES GLEN, JR.

LONDON, ONT., Feb. 26th, 1877

To the Editor of Sporting Times.

SIR,—We, the undersigned, hereby challenge any two men in Detroit to shoot a Pigeon Match, for \$100 a side, i. e. each shooter to put in \$50. The match to take place in Chatham, Ont. To shoot at 50 birds each, the shooters to find trap and handle for each other. Chatham Rules to govern. Or, we will shoot a home and home match—the first to come off at Chatham, the next in Detroit. Now, E. G., show yourself.

Respectfully yours,

A bear was killed in the Township of Thornbury last week. When dressed it weighed 420 lbs.

In the pigeon shooting match at Chatham, on Wednesday of last week, \$100 a side, Mr. W. Mummery, of London, defeated Mr. Pike, of the former place, by a score of 48 to 40.

Noticing the southward migration of the Snowy Owl, the Montreal Witness says that the tribe are invariably accompanied by flocks of white grouse or ptarmigan, and it has been observed that when either or both of the birds have been unusually abundant around Montreal and Quebec, the winter has been more than ordinarily severe to the northward.

Mr. F. B. Farnsworth, of Paris, has sold the last whelps out of Rose, by the imported dog Carlowitz, to the following named gentlemen: Blue belton bitch Forest Rose to J. H. Caniff, Detroit, Mich.; white bitch ticked with chestnut, Countess, to E. Bennett, Dexter, Mich.; lemon belton dog Frank, to A. C. Rogers, Detroit, Mich.; white and chestnut bitch Guess, to Fred Stearns, Detroit, Mich.; white with chestnut ears bitch Vynnie, to J. N. Dodge, Detroit, Mich.; white dog Bute he retain himself.

### Miscellaneous.

FOOT-BALL.—A Canadian Association was formed on the 21st ult. Mr. Robert Laddell, President, Mr. Wm. Loury, Sec. Treas., and Messrs. Ross, Goldie, Kennedy, Haislin, Shaw and Scully, Ex-Committee. \$3 was adopted as the entrance fee for each club. It was determined to offer a cup for annual competition, together with eleven bad set for members of the winning team.

BOWLING.—The Bowling tournament at the Toronto gymnasium, which has been in progress since the middle of December, and in which a great number of members participated, was brought to a termination on Friday evening with the following result: Francis J. Taylor, gold medal; Walter S. Andrews, silver medal; T. F. W. Ross, bronze medal.

SNOW-SHOOTING.—A telegram report in forms us a spirited snow shoe race took place at Montreal, on Saturday last for a gold medal, which was won by Mr. G. R. Starke, doing the distance 2½ miles in 18 m. 50 sec., and adds this is the very best time on record. Kerarowwe has a three mile record of 18.50, which rather surpasses it, and in 1871, Kerarowwe ran three miles in a four mile dash in 17.52, accomplishing the entire distance in 24.04.

### Base Ball.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

At the meeting of the International Base Ball Convention, held in Pittsburg, Pa. the following resolutions were adopted: