

vicinity of Simcoe, Ont., for his colts, no less a sum than \$32,130. A few years since, The Breeder's Gazette, Chicago, referred to him in the following terms: "This is one of the phenomenal breeding horses of the present day, and will rank in the history of the breed in this country with the great ones of England, such as Triffit's Fire-away and D'Oyly's Confidence."

Undoubtedly, the most successful cross for the Hackney is the half-bred Coach or Standard-bred mare of quality (never the draft-bred animal), but the stallion must be of the highest type and breeding to produce carriage horses of the modern kind, the demand for which is not affected in the slightest degree by the automobile.

Hackney-breeding can best be carried on by farmers in the vicinity of large towns, where the services of well-tried stallions are already available, where horse shows are held, and where colts can be accustomed to autos, etc., in early life. It is half the battle for a district to establish a reputation for any one kind of stock; and of all the good sorts that have come out of the wonderful little Island of Great Britain, the highest type of superlative beauty, combined with usefulness, is found in the Hackney.

Viciousness in Colts.

I am asked by a neighbor to criticize your essays on colt-training. What he particularly objects to (and I agree with him) is the lack of any instruction in handling a vicious animal. He reasons that we frequently find in any neighborhood a horse that will leave a lot of evil-dispositioned progeny, which are otherwise desirable in action, conformation and endurance. In fact, we usually find one of that kind "nervy, tough and gritty," but they are hard to manage. They have to be "broken." No amount of training and coddling and chirping will teach them to work. They usually have a great dislike for work of any kind, unless they can be allowed to do it in their own way and when they like. Consequently, with them heroic measures have to be adopted in persuading them to do work, and it is here that the use of handy hitches and contrivances would be valuable information. It is easy enough to train the ordinary colt, such as your essayists describe, but the vicious, high-spirited animal is a different proposition, but they usually are the most serviceable beast when carefully handled. They balk and kick, and try to throw themselves, and when they do go, they try to imitate Jehu the son of Nimshi. Now, we would like someone to rise and tell us how to counteract these evil tendencies. We are convinced that the methods advised by your essayists would be like giving candy to a child to get it to do anything. Such children or horses never amount to much. Both are naturally evil, and prone to act contrary, and have to be broken and forced to be of use in the world's work. I remember one colt in particular which this neighbor had. It was well broken and carefully handled, but after every period of idleness was apt to act contrary. At such times it would have to be taken out of the harness and thoroughly subdued by any means which would show it that the man was its master. Then it would go off like a lamb. But it was afraid of nothing else, and no amount of coaxing or petting had any effect. It sold for a high price, and I am told soon became boss of its purchaser. Such animals are not uncommon, and we want to know how best to manage them.

J. H. BURNS.
Perth Co., Ont.

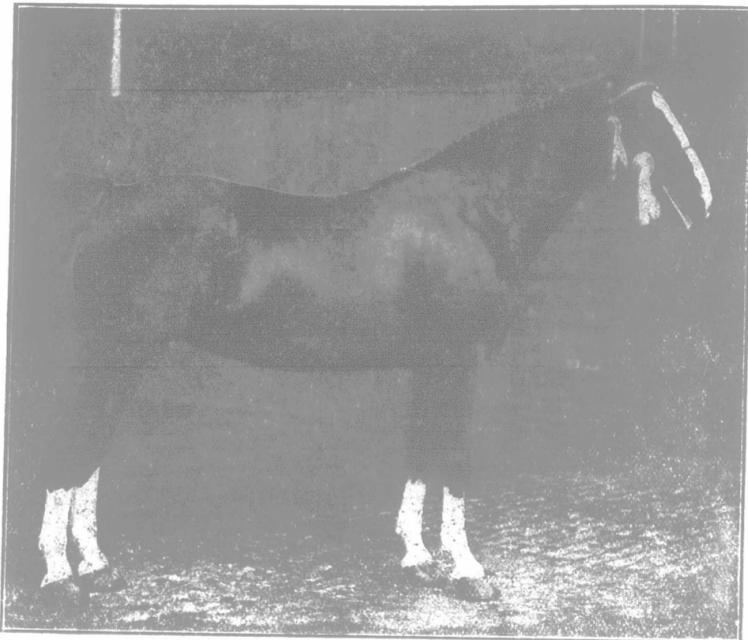
[Note.—In answer to the above letter, I may say that I have never known a colt that was handled when young, and whose education was gradual, as described in the prize essay, or by other methods on the same line, that turned out a cranky, vicious brute, as your correspondent describes. It, in my experience, has been horses that have been "broken" that would "break out afresh" after a period of rest. Of course, we find all sorts of dispositions in horses, but, as your correspondent speaks of training a child, so in training a colt—one with a nasty or vicious disposition can usually be made a good-mannered horse by careful and gradual training, but not by "breaking." There may be rare exceptions to this rule, but I have never met with any, and I have handled many that were inclined to be nasty. Horses of this kind, when met with, must, of course, be handled according to their form of viciousness. The ingenuity of man must overcome the brute strength of the horse. No set rules can be laid down, as no doubt no two vicious horses would act in just the same manner. Where severe punishment as your correspondent states, is occasionally necessary, and where kindness has no effect, I can see no other plan but to do as he says. "It would have to be taken out of the harness and thoroughly subdued by any means." I suppose this is a case in which "the end justifies the means." It appears to me that those who are complaining about the awards have lost sight of the fact that the competition was for essays on "Training Colts," not on "Handling Vicious Horses," or "Broncho-busting," and while it is possible some colts cannot be successfully trained without violence or punishment, the gen-

eral principle of the best way to train the average colt was the standard by which the essays were judged—"Whip."]

Another Remedy for Kickers in Harness.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

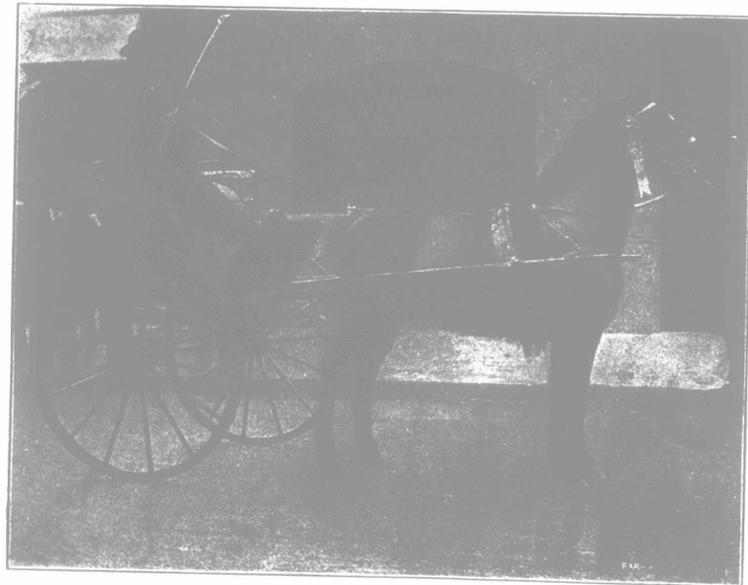
To stop a horse kicking in harness, my plan is to hitch the kicker along with another horse, and when he starts to kick, get out of the rig and



Countess Clio.

First in class and reserve champion, London Hackney Show, 1909.

strap the nigh front foot up to the bellyband; get in the rig and start. Keep him going with the whip as long as he can go, then let down the foot. Start him off again, and as soon as he starts to kick again, strap up the other front foot and keep him going as long as he can. When you let down the foot, he will be very glad to go without kicking. Hitch him up again next morning, and if he starts to kick, go through the same performance as on the preceding day. When he stops kicking, give him a ten-mile drive before you take the harness off him. I have trained



Hackney Stallion, Hillhurst Sensation.

some of the worst kickers that ever had on harness by this plan.

A. JOHNSTON.
Huron Co., Ont.

In answer to A. W.'s question in your January 27th issue, would say that if he looks closely he will find that when his colt hangs its tongue out of its mouth, the tongue is on top of the bit, instead of under, as it should be. Now, if he takes an ordinary curved bit, with no joint in the middle, and buckles that bit upside down on the bridle for that colt, it will keep the tongue where it should be.

A. J.
York Co., Ont.

Clydesdale Origin.

D. H. Messenger, of Wellington County, Ont., a staunch friend of the Shire horse, writes: "In your issue of February 3rd appeared a communication from Prof. Duncan McEachran, re the Clydesdale horse. I was pleased to see such in your paper, coming from the pen of Dr. McEachran, who is generally admitted to be good authority on the Clydesdale horse. His statement fully corroborates what I have contended to be the case,

viz., that almost all of the best specimens of the Clydesdale horses are rich in Shire blood." Mr. Messenger encloses a letter from Arch. MacNeilage, Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland, dated in 1892, in which Mr. Messenger claims the same thing is admitted, and referring to Prof. McCall, who used to stand high as a breeder of Clydesdale horses. The letter is addressed to a Wellington County man, and reads as follows:

"The final opinion of the Council of the Clydesdale Horse Society regarding the pedigree of Prince of Wales (673) is shown in the second edition of the retrospective volume of the Clydesdale

Studbook. There is no opinion expressed regarding his gr.-dams, nor does the information lodged by Mr. Fleming help in arriving at a decision as to the parentage of the two gray mares, his gr.-dams. They may have come from England, or they may not. Reliable information regarding them ends in their purchase in Dumfries market.

"The pedigrees of the fillies that we saw at Prof. McCall's are mixed Shires and Clydesdales, the latter predominating. The sire was three-quarters Clydesdale, one of the mares was a Shire; two, I think, were half Shires, and the remainder were three-quarters or full-blood Clydesdales."

Objection to Low Back.

An Alberta correspondent asks: "When a horse or mare is low in the back, is the defect likely to be reproduced in their offspring?"

Defects of this kind seldom make their appearance immediately in the produce, but it often follows that wherever there is a defect in a parent, there will be a tendency to that same defect in the offspring, and when the part is put to a strain, its weakness will become evident. This also applies to diseases. The produce of a spavined horse does not come with spavins fully or in part developed, but a considerable percentage of them will probably have spavins if they live long enough. One has only to have an experience of this kind to be impressed with the tendency of diseases to reappear, and the predisposition to diseases or defects.

If the Thoroughbred is so necessary to the best interests of horse-breeding as his champions claim, it is a blue outlook for the future of other pure breeds. Have we proved yet what selection and systematic breeding can do for the light-legged breeds, along with energetic exercise, but without racing?