

transmission of it to all breeds. We know that the ancestors of the thoroughbred horse have always been well cared for, well fed, and well attended. I have thought that perhaps the first horse ever domesticated was probably a very young colt whose mother had been killed for food, the offspring remaining as a pet of the children of primeval man. Since that early time horses have been slain in battle and worked to death, but the ancestors of the thoroughbred, although developed by severe test, have been nurtured and their energy conserved by careful feeding, careful attention, and scientific breeding.

The good qualities of the sire have been transmitted for hundreds of years. The foals have been carefully reared, and the wants of even the unborn colt have been studied and supplied to the mother. As far back as the sixteenth century we have records to show how a mare in foal was fed with sifted grain and with sweetened, well cured hay. The thoroughbred has been saved from the most tremendous battle of life—the struggle for food.

Nurture has combined with nature to make him the embodiment of energy, and now it may be well to discuss briefly how this quality of the thoroughbred is transmitted. We know that Germany, for example, by mating thoroughbred sires with all sorts of mares finally produced a magnificent national type of horse. This national type shows energy for all sorts of work, which gives expression in the ability to use weight and power to the utmost, whether in pulling a plow, or drawing a gun carriage.

These qualities are first introduced by the germ cell of the thoroughbred. The germ cell in any living animal comes nearer to being immortal than any other thing which can be seen under the microscope. It is a self-propagating cell, which multiplies by dividing itself, and so far as we know, it goes on for ever. Some germ cells surpass others. Nature is always trying to improve. Life always demands expansion and expression. By careful selection, animals become more and more perfect, and the perfection of any animal is, to a large extent, a visible proof of the perfection of the germ cell in that animal. To use the common expressions: "Blood will tell", and: "like begets like." **Environment counts for much. But the sire's environment is not the colt's heredity.**

A thoroughbred horse is the most perfect living thing on earth to-day, next to man. In the wisdom of nature, he is able to pass his gifts along. In every country on earth