

tice to put a bridle on with a good large bit, and let him stand with it on for an hour or two each day for a week, to harden his mouth, as, without this, the mouth usually becomes chafed. Two weeks would be better to learn him to drive. A surcingle should be put on, with rings half way down his sides, or a little lower, to put the reins through. In this way, a driver can turn a colt whether he wants to or not. Take him into a paddock, and see that there are no colts within sight to annoy him. Be sure to have a whip, and be also sure to use it as little as possible. A very few lessons should learn him to drive very nicely, after which he should be hitched up double, if convenient, as colts always break better to harness with company. A short drive should be sufficient at first, increasing each time as the colt becomes hardened up. It will depend on the size and strength of the colt as to when he should be put to work. Colts that were big and strong I always put to work regularly at three years. I have found it most profitable to break colts this way, as they take to their work more kindly, and are ready as soon as they are big and strong enough to work. It also prepares them for the market sooner.

There need be no difficulty breaking the average colt at any age, but anyone who raises two to four colts a year for market, and picks up a likely horse or colt and prepares him for sale, is sure to find some with undesirable characteristics. This has been my experience. I rather enjoyed breaking horses, and did not mind if they were difficult to manage, but have sometimes had more than I wanted. Sometimes I knew what they were when I got them; sometimes I got them the way David Harum got his, and, may say, have had quite a few bad characters—the sulky, the cross and vicious, and the rattle-brained. They are all hard to manage when they are over five or six years, and their habits become settled. They are sure to give trouble. I will give a couple of instances of sulky, or balky, horses, as they are sometimes called, which came my way. One was eight or nine years old, and the other six; neither had ever earned its board up to this time, and both had changed hands many times. The former, when he got into his temper, would stand with his head up, his ears hanging, and his eyes half closed, and deaf to all entreaties to move on. It was very evident that the whip and all other extreme measures had been used, but kindness, with firm and gentle training, had been omitted from the beginning. I must now go back and teach him what he should have been taught before he was put into harness. It was not that he would not work sometimes, but he only worked when he liked, and a horse, to be serviceable, must do his work when wanted, and willingly. After allowing him to stand in the stable a couple of days, until I knew he would be pleased to get some kind of exercise, I began by taking him out night and morning for a drive around the paddock for half an hour, as a colt, and, when put into his stall, gave him a rub-down and a handful of oats before I left him. He seemed to enjoy the little exercise he was getting. After a couple of days I put the harness on and drove him around the paddock, being very careful not to ask him to do anything I could not compel him to do, for this was the mistake that had been made with him from the beginning. I always carried a whip, and, although I did not punish him, it was useful in making him obedient to the reins and the word of command. In this way I taught him to go around the paddock without reins anywhere I wanted. He now needed more exercise than he was getting, so I put the riding saddle on him. He did not like it very well at first, but got him going after a little twisting and turning, only allowing him to walk, always finishing up with half an hour in the harness, the rub-down and the handful of oats before I left him. He was doing all right. It was now time to increase his work, so hitched him to a pair of shafts and attached them to a stone-boat and drove him around the paddock around which he had been well accustomed to go, and where I knew he would not refuse; also driving him a short distance out of the paddock when the opportunity presented itself, standing on the stone-boat sometimes, and always rewarding him when put into his stall. In addition to his training, I began to give him a little work around the buildings, such as drawing manure to the field, loading very lightly at first, and giving him another vehicle to follow, for great care must be taken with a horse of this kind to make haste slowly, so that everything he does is a lesson for the better. Now it took fully three months of careful training of this kind before he was reliable, after which he would do any kind of work when wanted. It will easily be seen that this kind of breaking is not profitable, even though it gives satisfaction; I think I will give another instance of a horse of the same kind giving good satisfaction; I think I may say by accident. He was a fine big chestnut, of the Hackney type, with a dash of the Thoroughbred; over sixteen hands, looking like a hunter, six years old. He took very unkindly to harness, and it was very evident he had never been taught any manners. The owner told me all about him, and let me have him very reason-

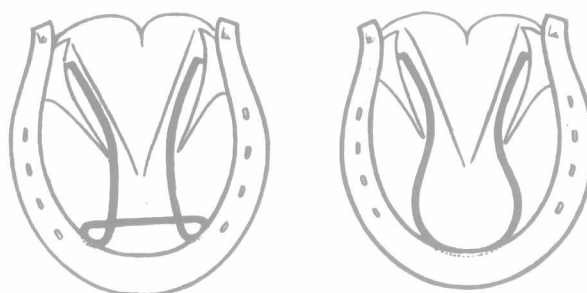
ably. After giving him a few lessons around the paddock, and learning him to do as he was told, I put the saddle on him, as he was a likely horse for that purpose. He took very kindly to the saddle, and seemed to be in his element when exercising. In this respect he needed no breaking. I then began trying him at hurdles, and, to my surprise, he took to them very easily, and in two or three weeks had developed into an excellent jumper, and I had no trouble placing him as a hunter, where he gave good satisfaction to the purchaser. It sometimes happens that a horse which is not serviceable in one line of business, can be very good in another. It is a good idea, when a horse difficult to manage turns up, to commence by giving him anything he will do. After, with good judgment and care, he will work into anything he is wanted to, and be a very serviceable animal.

Quite a few cranky and undesirable characters have come my way, and, on the whole, would say they are unprofitable, as they take up too much time, and they demand the strictest attention and care, which is often not convenient to give them. I would, therefore, say to the amateur, beware of the horse that stands with his head up, his ears hanging, and his eyes half closed; it is a sure sign of trouble. Am glad to say the cross and vicious are not often met with, but are sometimes dangerous. The big, strong, healthy, even-tempered horses and colts were always the ones that I found the most profitable.

SPREADING A CONTRACTED HEEL.

Do you approve of spreading the shoe after it is nailed on as a way of enlarging a contracted heel on a horse?

W. B.



Something may be accomplished in this way if gone about judiciously and moderately, not attempting to spread it too much at a time. A better plan, however, is to have the blacksmith make a steel spring to lay in the foot in such a way as to exert a gradual outward pressure on the bar. The accompanying diagrams show two kinds of springs, both constructed on the same principle, except that one has a sort of double spring. The construction and application are explained by the cuts. In Fig. 2, for instance, the corners of the bent portions lie between the sole and the inner edge of the shoe. When applying, the two arms are pressed together, and when released they spring outward, the little spur on the end of each being pressed into the bar, which is purposely left rather prominent. This exerts a constant pressure of about ten to twenty pounds, which gradually spreads the heel in the same way as it is supposed to be naturally spread by the frog. From a mechanical, and more particularly from an anatomical standpoint, this is much better than merely spreading the shoe, as the latter method tends to spring the wall of the hoof away from the tender tissues, in much the same way as pressing against the inner edge of one's finger nail would tend to crowd it away from the sensitive tissues with which it is intimately related.

LIVE STOCK.

PROPOSED STANDARD FOR SHORTHORN RECORD OF PERFORMANCE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your communication of recent date to hand, requesting copy of resolution forwarded to the Secretary of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association. Owing to being indisposed, I was unable to attend the meeting in the Temple Building, as I had expected to do, to present the motion to the meeting.

Your editorials of a recent date, touching on the subject of a Record of Performance for Shorthorns, are timely and thoroughly up-to-date, and I desire the privilege of saying a few words along that line.

A large proportion of the men on the average farm (who are not directly interested in dairying or breeding show cattle) are discussing the raising of Shorthorns with a view to a more liberal milking strain of cattle, and this is the result of some orator stirring up the people's mind, but of dire necessity. The time has come when the cow must prove her worth, and the breed we require to meet the dual purpose of supplying milk and beef, must be able to produce those two commodities, and produce them at a profit.

The Shorthorn has been the rent-paying animal of the past, and must not be allowed to lose her

position in the farmer's estimation. Farmers have required in the past, and will even more in the future, a cow that can produce a calf that should weigh, at one year old, about 700 pounds, and, in addition, should be able to make \$40 or \$50 worth of butter. But someone says it is impossible to raise a good calf unless it can suck. This is not at all necessary, and, for example, take that yearling steer, the champion at the fat-stock show a couple of years ago.

Milk we must have, and, on high-priced land around cities, where a large percentage of the milk supply must be raised from a cow that can produce large quantities, and, at the end of her career as a milk producer, she must be able to replace herself with another cow from the price realized from her beef, in order to conduct a milk business at a profit. The milkmen of the East, in the United States, were paying large figures for good cows of Shorthorn breeding last fall.

quote the following from the Breeders' Gazette of October 16th, 1907:

A DEMAND FOR LARGE COWS.

"Eastern buyers are clamorous at Western markets for good cows. A Pennsylvania man bought several head of big Shorthorn cows, weighing about 1,400 pounds, at \$100 per head. They were shipped to Buffalo, and promptly turned over at remunerative figures. 'I can sell a thousand of that kind in a week,' he said. 'Eastern buyers want big cows that can be milked seven or eight months and then beefed; and the bigger they are, the better they like them.' Never before has Eastern demand for good milkers and forward springers been as strong. There is no scarcity of the kind of cows dairymen do not want, but anything with sufficient quality to justify bids in excess of \$50 gets a prompt call. A bunch of Shorthorn cows invariably find Eastern buyers in keen competition."

In advocating a Record of Performance for dairy Shorthorns, the idea must not be allowed to become mistaken as an attempt to place the breed as dairy cattle and nothing else, but as an advancement from the present condition. We are all proud of the sweeping victory that Shorthorn steers accomplished at the fat-stock show last Christmas at Chicago, Smithfield and Guelph, and we desire to see the victories repeated as often as possible, but we must not forget that the steers we see and read of did not occupy their pre-eminent position because they were Shorthorns, but because they had a liberal allowance of nature's food—milk. Now, if the Shorthorn men were to establish a Record of Performance for their cows, with the large number of Shorthorns in the country, there should be no reason why we could not show as many cows in the official milking records as the dairy breeds, with a smaller number of animals; and once it can be shown that the dairy breeds have no advantage over the Shorthorn cows, the latter with their undoubted abilities as beef producers, the trade for breeders would be better than ever, as a man would then not have to sacrifice his calves on the altar of milk, as he must now do.

Now, the reader may say, How do the dairy Shorthorn cows pay? and, for answer, we will refer briefly to the herd of Mr. Geo. Taylor, of Cransford, near London, England. Mr. Taylor is a tenant-farmer, having 500 acres, for which he pays about \$26 per acre in rent and taxes; and, with his herd of 150 cows, can pay his way and make a profit. Some will say, But can he sell them? Well, at his sale, he sold a large number at about \$300 per head, one cow bringing \$1,000. Again, the question is asked, Will they compare favorably as dairy cows with others? and we will, for convenience, take Lord Rothschild's herd at Tring Park, where we find 57 Shorthorn cows, giving an average of 6,708 pounds; 36 Red Polls, 6,743 pounds, and 21 Jerseys giving 6,919 pounds, and, considering the number in the herd, this is very creditable; and, in Mr. Taylor's herd, he will not keep a cow that cannot produce 700 gallons a year.

Now for the motion sent by me to the Secretary of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, which was as follows:

"That we, the members of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, in annual meeting assembled, do hereby establish a Record of Performance for Shorthorns, and that the standard of registration be the same as for Ayrshire cattle, which is: All cows admitted must equal or exceed the records specified below: Two-year-olds, 5,500 pounds of milk, 198 pounds butter-fat; three-year-olds, 6,500 pounds milk, 234 pounds butter-fat; four-year-olds, 7,560 pounds milk, 270 pounds butter-fat; aged class, 8,500 pounds milk, 306 pounds butter-fat. The per cent. of butter-fat should be determined by Babcock test."

Now, in making the requirements for the records to equal the Ayrshire, it might be said that it is too high, but if we make it the same as for French-Canadians, which is, for two-year-olds, 4,400 pounds; three-year-olds, 5,700 pounds; four-year-olds, 6,000 pounds, and aged class, 6,800 pounds, with the same number of pounds of butter-fat as required by Ayrshires, it would