

most important attributes in contributing to perfection in horsemanship.

There are many everyday evidences of the ill consequences of deficient quality in horsemanship. You hear a horseman say that a horse has soft legs, and he points out an individual inclined to fill about the skin of the fetlocks, to show windgalls which extend up to the sheaths of his back tendons, and whose hocks are inclined to be puffy throughout. If he gets a bruise or injury of any kind to the skin of his legs, the consequent swelling is apt to extend, and is inclined to remain. Abrasions, cuts, cracks and scratches heal rather tardily. Concussion and direct injury to bone are very much inclined to result in bony enlargement, such as splints, that spread out and have not well-defined limits. Standing in the stable too much rapidly produces stocking of the legs. There is a predisposition to greasy legs. Feet are inclined to be flat, large, and easily bruised.

These tendencies show coarseness of tissue and low organization, a meagre blood supply and inactive nutrition. Horses with "quality" also develop windgalls and splints, if subjected to sufficient cause, but their character differs from those of the coarse horses in being clean-cut and well defined, and not having the tendency to spread out. A horse with quality may have a bog spavin, but it will show as a well-defined prominence, and not as a round puffiness of the hock throughout.

Draft horsemen talk "quality" just as much or more than those who have to do with the light breeds. The difference in the "quality" of individuals of the draft breeds is just as well marked as in the light breeds. Take, for instance, a Clydesdale or Shire, either of which will have a considerable quantity of long hair on the back of his legs, which is often referred to as "feather." If this hair is found to be fine and silky, not coarse and wiry, you will find that it is possessed by an individual that shows "quality" throughout. His skin will not be coarse and beefy, his legs will be fluted, his bone will have a tendency to flatness, showing density of structure. The hair of his mane and tail will be fine, like that at the back of his legs. The eminence and depressions formed by the bones of his head will be comparatively finely chiseled. He, in fact, shows "quality," when compared to other members of the same breed that are equally well bred; as far as possessing the characteristics of the breed, and as far as the studbook is an indication of breeding. This is a further example of the fallacy of the view that "quality" and breeding are the same thing.

C. F. GRENSIDE, V. S.

#### CANADA'S GLANDERS POLICY ENDORSED.

It is a tribute to the common-sense merits of the Canadian method of dealing with glanders, instituted by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Veterinary Director-General, to find that, after noting the results of the work done in Canada during the past three years, Great Britain has adopted much the same procedure, viz., by the use of mallein as a diagnostic or discovering agent, then slaughter of the reactors, for which compensation will be paid. Half-hearted measures have been found of little or no use in dealing with such a disease. In 1906 nearly 2,000 horses were destroyed, at a cost for compensation close on \$150,000. The Western Provinces were the ones chiefly infected.

#### A WARM RECEPTION.

Enclosed find remittance to end of 1908. No paper that comes to us has a warmer reception. Haldimand Co., Ont. J. SENN.



A Typical Cheshire Farm Home (English). Champion Shorthorn, Ridley Alliance, in Foreground.

#### HANDLING COLTS.

The winter season now being with us, and the men and boys of the farm, not having much to do, can spend a short time each day profitably in handling the colts. That the old-fashioned method of "breaking colts" by hitching one either with an old horse, or two together, and without any previous preparation expecting them to go to work, is wrong, few will deny. With many colts this gives reasonable satisfaction, but with many, especially highly-bred, nervous animals, the results are not good, and with none are they as good as when some time and care has been spent in gradually preparing the colt for service. The ultimate value of a colt depends greatly upon his habits and manners, and these, of necessity, depend largely upon his early handling. Colts should not be "broken," they should be "educated." We do not mean, by "education," that they should be taught tricks, etc., but that they should be gradually taught and prepared to perform the functions for which they are designed. While we do not approve of working immature animals at either slow or road or saddle work, we think that they should be handled while quite young. The colt should be taught to lead, stand tied, have his legs or feet handled, etc., before he is six months old. Where practicable, he should be taught to lead behind a rig or drive beside a horse in single harness for exercise during the winter months, when he spends the most of his time in the stable, and unless turned out in yard or paddock daily, gets little exercise. All acknowledge that exercise is beneficial to growing animals, and, if given it in this way, it teaches the colt manners and obedience, in addition to affording the advisable exercise. If this be continued the second and third winters, with the addition of added education given gradually, he will be practically educated for service by the time he is three years old, when he may, with safety, be asked to do light work on the farm or light road work. We wish to speak now of our idea of the manner in which a colt that is practically green and unhandled at three or four years of age should be treated. We take it for granted that he has been halter-broken (we use the word "broken" because it is a term so often used and well understood). If he has not been halter-broken, this should be his first lesson. It must be understood that, whatever we are teaching him, we should have halters, harness, rigs, etc., that are so strong that he cannot break them, in order that the teacher, trainer, breaker, handler, or whatever we wish to call him, may, on all occasions, be in a position to gain the mastery. While it is unwise to have the will of the colt and the trainer to come in contact, if such should occur, the trainer should always be in a position to gain his point. The colt being halter-broken, the next thing to do is to give him a mouth, or, in other words, get him accustomed to the bit. This cannot be done quickly. If he be bitted, and an attempt made to drive him at once, he will fight the bit, plunge, etc., and make his mouth sore; and if the practice be continued, there is a danger of spoiling his mouth for life. A light open bridle, with an ordinary snaffle bit, should be selected. This should be put on and left on, with the colt in a roomy box stall or paddock, for a few hours in the forenoon, taken off for dinner, and again put on for a few hours in the afternoon, etc., for a few days. At first he will fight the bit, but soon becomes accustomed to it, and will be quite contented, and even eat and drink with it in his mouth. Then some pressure should be put on the bit, to teach the colt to yield or submit to its restraint. This can be done by the use of a dumb jockey, or by putting any ordinary surcingle on and attaching a strap to it on each side, passing along each side to the

withers forward, and buckling to the bit ring. If a portion of each strap be elastic, all the better. Gentle pressure should at first be exerted on the bit, and left so for a few hours once or twice daily, and the tension gradually increased until the patient becomes accustomed to reasonable pressure. It is good practice now to take him out on a long leading rein and exercise him, either in a circle or straight away. All this teaches him to yield to restraint and obey his trainer. Now, a set or part of a set of harness should be put on him for a few hours daily, and he allowed to run loose in stall or paddock. The straps should be allowed to hang so that they will come in contact with his legs, abdomen, hips, etc., but not low enough for him to step on them. When he has become accustomed to this, he should be driven on the road or in a field without being hitched to anything. He should be taught to go ahead when told to; to stand at the word "whoa," step backwards when told to back, etc. He should be made accustomed to the sights that usually frighten horses, as wheelbarrows, rigs, animals, trains, automobiles, traction engines, and, in fact, everything possible. Care should be taken to teach him that certain words of command demand definite actions; for instance, "whoa" means to stop and stand still, "back" means to step backwards, "steady" means to slacken the pace, etc. If we notice the average teamster or driver, we will be surprised to observe how careless he is of these points. He uses the word "whoa" when he wants his horse or team to stop. If the team is trotting, and he wants them to go slower, he again says "whoa," or often "whoa, back," and if the team does as told—that is, stop and step backwards—he will whip them for doing as they were told. In fact, he uses the same word or words to express many different desires, according to circumstances. This would prove confusing to a person, and, of necessity, much more so to a horse. If all horses were taught from the first that certain words of command demanded certain actions under all conditions, they would soon learn to obey readily; but when we use the same word of command to exact different actions, under different conditions, we can readily see why we are not always promptly obeyed. If, whenever we say "whoa," the horse knows that he is supposed to stop and stand still, he will soon learn to obey that command promptly, and stop under mostly all conditions, and we would thereby avoid many accidents. Hence, we may say that the failure of horses to obey commands is largely due to careless or ignorant training. After a few lessons in harness, he should be hitched. Many prefer hitching a colt with a well-broken, prompt-acting horse. We prefer hitching him singly to a two-wheeled cart, or to a cutter. Whatever he is hitched to should be strong, as should also be the harness, as a breaking of either, and a consequent runaway, teaches the colt very bad habits. The rig should be strong, and, if we are driving him in single harness, it is wise to put a strap over his hips and attach it to the shaft on each side, to make it impossible for him to kick. He should be hitched often, and driven short distances at first. This accustoms him to being hitched and unhitched. He should also be taught to stand tied while in harness. For this purpose a long, strong rope should be used. The rope should be passed around the neck and then through the ring of the bit, and tied to some solid object. It is wise to tie to a fence or the side of a building, so that he cannot walk around or partly around it, as he can if tied to a post. He should be so securely tied that he cannot break the rope or the object to which he is tied, even though he try, as, if he succeeds in getting loose, he will try all the harder next time, and easily acquire the habit of pulling. When once we commence to drive a colt, we should drive him regularly until he has become quite handy, as standing idle for a few days makes him too fresh, and harder to handle. When once he becomes handy, we may increase the distance, and probably do some driving that has to be done, and practically make him pay for the trouble he is giving us; but we must remember that he is not yet thoroughly educated, and that we must still consider him a colt and be very careful with him. Some may say that all this is too much trouble, and takes too much time, but, after all, little time has been spent until we begin to drive him, and the after results and the pleasure we will get out of a well-broken or well-educated horse will repay us for our extra trouble, without taking into consideration his extra value if offered for sale. Well-mannered and reliable horses are always valuable for family or ladies' use. "WHIP."

The stern hand of the law has descended upon some of the Manitoba stallion-owners who neglected to enroll their horses according to the provisions of the Provincial Horse-breeders' Act. The first prosecution took place at Dauphin, and resulted in a verdict of guilty. Other cases have been taken up, and it is expected that, by the time the judicial slate is cleared, there will be few stallion-owners in Manitoba disposed to ignore the provisions of the Act.