

STOCK.

THE TRAINING AND CHARACTER OF HORSES.

(Continued from last week.)

The manifestation proceeds from a condition of the brain just as mental phenomena in man arise, and this condition has been produced by erroneous treatment; and to secure the desired result of submission a method must be put in operation for the production of a different mental state; the fear of the animal must be checked and modified, and his confidence and good nature gained. In the meantime strong physical means of control are legitimate as a temporary expedient, so as to secure that mental state which will lead to success. If he has been unduly stimulated by fear, then the horse should be shown that there is no cause for fear; if through certain qualities of viciousness, then those qualities should be modified through measures which shall calm and soothe the



Fig. 6.—SLOW, DULL, OBTUSE.

brain excitement which produces them. Kindness will accomplish much even with a stubborn, wilful character like Fig. 3. We should always give a horse some credit for reason and allow him a little latitude as it were for reflection. Treating him much as a child whose disposition we understand, will have a similar effect.

The reader who is familiar with horses will recognize in the illustrations traits of horse physiognomy frequently met with. Fig. 1 shows the type of intelligence, high blood and docility; while Fig. 2 (from life) indicates the vicious and treacherous type, the animal that will tax the strength of his owner to keep in training. He is spirited, excitable, and "off the handle" often. Fig. 4 is a good fellow, docile, yet possessing spirit and intelligence—the horse for the family that will be kind to appreciative of him. Fig. 5 requires a gentle, but strong hand. A "high-strung," nervous fellow is he—needing no whip or spur, but will "go" while he can stand. Fig. 5 is a very sensitive animal; flies and mosquitos annoy him greatly; his skin is thin and his blood hot. In Fig. 6 we have a specimen of the heavy, dull, stupid horse; the one that "any one can drive," but is rarely driven off a walk, or a very sluggish infrequent "lopa." He's the horse to try the patience of a saint, when a little behind time for the train. Fig. 7 requires an exceptionally good driver to manage him; he must be watched or some dangerous trick of his may suddenly astonish his owner. He'll nab the unwary bystander on the shoulder, or perhaps seem disposed to make a brief luncheon of his hat. He has a wild looking eye, and the head-lock falls in an unsteady corkscrew way down over his forehead, in itself suggestive of untrustworthi-



Fig. 7.—VERY EXCITABLE AND INCORRIGIBLE. Compare Figs. 1 or 4 with Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7, and see how wide the differences of character shown even by engravings.

THE BEST FARM HORSES.

A prize essay by A. H. Sturdy.

If I were called upon to name the two requisites most necessary for a farmer to possess, in addition to a good farm, I should say a good wife and a good team; and when a young farmer becomes possessed of these he has made a good start on the road to success. While no industry of the farm pays better than raising good horses, none is more unprofitable than that of raising inferior ones. It costs but little more to raise a horse which, when six years old, will command a ready sale at \$400 or \$500, than one which can with difficulty be disposed of for \$100; or than it does to raise a heifer or a steer which, at maturity, is worth \$50 or \$75. The best team for the farmer is one which will best answer all the purposes of the farm; plowing, hauling, taking the farmer and his family to town, or his boys and their sweethearts for a lively sleigh-ride; and, in addition to all this, will give him a pair of colts every year, which will earn their keep from the time they are two years old until they are sold for \$800 or \$1,000 at five or six. The team to do this is a pair of handsome bay mares sixteen hands high, weighing 1,200 to 1,250 pounds each, with small, bony heads, large nostrils, broad foreheads; large, bright eyes; small, tapering eyes; long necks, nicely arched, deep as they spring from the shoulders and small at the throat-latch; long, oblique shoulder-blades; moderately high withers; short backs, and deep but not overbroad chests, because a horse with a very wide breast, although usually of good constitution and great strength, is seldom a graceful or rapid trotter; is apt to have a "padding" gait; and if used for road work will generally give out in the fore-legs from the extra strain put upon it by the weight of the broad chest. Our team must also have long, muscular thighs; large knee and other joints; short cannon (shin) bones; legs broad below the knees, and hocks with the sinews clearly defined; fetlocks free from long hair; long moderately oblique pasterns; rather small, though not contracted feet; broad loins; wide, smooth hips, and long, full tails. They must have plenty of nervous energy and good knee action; must be prompt, free drivers, capable of trotting a mile in four minutes; be fast walkers, and good, hearty eaters; must not "interfere," and must carry their heads well up without checks when on the road.

It will readily be seen that these mares are neither Clydesdales, Normans, Canadians, Arabians, thoroughbreds, nor trotters; but they are a team which will pull the plow through two acres of land in a day, will pull a ton, yes, two, if the roads are good, of produce to the village four miles in less than an hour, and trot back

with the empty wagon in half that time without distressing themselves or their driver. Should the farmer have a trip of twenty miles to make on business or pleasure, he can hitch them to his spring wagon, take his wife and children with him; and they need not be away from home more than three hours, or should he choose to go on horseback, he can mount one of the mares and enjoy a ride on a very fair saddle-horse. A team of Clydesdales may pull a heavier load at a dead drag; Canadians will stand more exposure and poorer fare; Arabians are better saddle-horses; thoroughbreds can outrun them; trotters, when hitched to a light buggy, can pass them on the road; but neither of these breeds combine anything like the desirable qualities for a farmer that the team which I have described possesses, and when it becomes desirable to dispose of their produce the colts of such mares will find a readier sale than those of any of the others, being exactly suited to the wants of the rich city gentleman for his family carriage, for which he must have a strong, handsome, showy team; and, as such teams are always scarce, he must pay a good price for them.

Large dray-horses usually bring remunerative prices; but few men will pay as much for a team to haul their bales of cotton or barrels of flour as they will for a team to draw their families on a pleasure tour.

TEXAS BEEF.

The great reservoir from which has been drawn the bulk of the cattle which are now becoming so abundant in all our Western Territories is the State of Texas. In 1870 one-seventh of the horned cattle in the United States was found within its borders, and it outnumbered the aggregate of those of all the other States and Territories west of the Missouri, California and the Pacific coast included. This ratio was slightly changed by the statistics of 1880, the State representing somewhat less than one-eighth of the whole number, while it still contained more than all the others mentioned above. From this source of supply has been drawn the great bulk of the range cattle now to be found on the public lands east of the Rocky Mountains—an industry which has grown to huge proportions, and yet dating back in these States and Territories a few years only. As an evidence of this we note that in 1870 the number given for Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado was a little less than 280,000. Ten years later Wyoming alone equaled this, while the three together aggregated nearly 800,000. We do not doubt that an accurate census taken to-day would more than double these figures.

To Texas, then, we must still look for the supply from which to draw recruits to further develop the capabilities of the northern ranges. Like the tide of immigration which is daily landing thousands of foreigners on the shores of the New World, more than equalling the relative birth increase, so the annual cattle-drive from Texas must yet be the base of supplies for all the country north.

WORMS IN HORSES.

Intestinal worms are parasites developing themselves in all domestic animals, each possessing its own varieties. Their presence in their digestive canal is first marked by an increased appetite, but the animal, no matter what food or how much he consumes, falls off; his skin is dry and hide-bound; his coat is rough, and is not shed

at the ordinary time. There is an annoying itching, causing the horse to rub his upper lip against the manger or on the wall. Sometimes there is considerable itching about the rectum indicated by the horse rubbing his tail or rump against anything within reach. The symptoms mentioned would lead one to suspect the existence of worms, but it is only when these appear among the dung that we can speak with certainty on this point, and especially when the worms have been developed in great numbers the symptoms are much aggravated, the horse becoming emaciated and suffering considerably from colicky pains; the flank is tucked up; the inside of the eyelids is pale; he walks unsteady, and a fatal termination sometimes ensues. A dose of aloes—four to six drachms—may be given to expel the worms. If this fails, divide 6 ounces of iron filings among 12 balls, and give one every morning until they are finished, then give a dose of aloes. This will expel any worms which remain in the intestine.

WARM WEATHER NOTES.

- Be kind.
- Improve.
- Don't overwork.
- Increase your stock.
- Milk at regular hours.
- Feed at regular hours.
- Tar your sheeps' noses.
- Be generous to dumb brutes.
- Give your pigs a clover-run.
- Give all stock pure cold water.
- Water horses frequently—cows too.
- Use sweat collars and prevent galling.
- Keep good calves and feed them well.
- Test cows and sell off unprofitable ones.
- Let animals in the field have some shade.
- Get rid of ticks among your sheep flock.
- Feed the calves regularly three times a day.
- Breed to the best horses—and the best bulls.
- Give animals a frequent change of pasture.
- Keep the stables scrupulously clean. It will pay.
- Have the hen house cleaned out and prevent lice.
- Salt the stock once a week, not necessarily on Sunday.
- Let working horses rest on Sabbath and after working hours.
- Keep your stable cool and thus make it comfortable for the horses.
- Bathe working horses' shoulders once a day with salt and cold water.
- When the corn gets tall and you are cultivating, muzzle the horse.
- Give your cows bran or other food. They will pay for it in extra milk.
- See that the sheep get water to drink. It is cruelty and loss to have them without it.
- Horses enjoy an evening's bath. If you have no river, lake or fresh stream near by give them a good washing from the cistern. Rub them dry afterwards.
- Protect your horses from bot-flies by making aprons of coarse cloth for their throats and breasts. These aprons can be attached to the bit-rings and collars respectively. They will save the horses any amount of worry and misery.