

faulty and predisposed to weakness, avoid the animal. For instance, a mare may not have a curb, and yet have a hock so formed that a curb may be sprung under a comparatively slight strain. So with spavins and certain kind of hocks, ringbones and certain kinds of coronets, etc., etc.

The joints should be large, the bone strong. The knees should be broad, the tendons well defined and the bone flinty in texture and covered with very fine hair. Bones that are thick with coarse wiry hair are necessarily soft and their increased size does not make them so strong, or so desirable, as those of finer, better quality. Trials performed with the dynamometer have proved that the bone of the thoroughbred would bear a much heavier strain, in proportion to its size, than the bone of the common work horse. Hence, the quality of the bone must be considered as well as its size. The hocks should be broad, clean and neither too crooked nor yet too straight. There is happy medium that blends well with a well set supple pastern, and gives the maximum of propelling power, with a minimum of predisposition to unsoundness.

The pasterns must be slanting. Short pasterns are generally straight, and their very straightness means hard usage for the feet—a deadly fault when it comes to work on the paved streets of the city. The feet should be large and round, the hoof tough and strong in texture; the heels open and neither too low nor too high, the pasterns gliding smoothly into the foot. Avoid narrow contracted heels and stiled, steep-up-and-down built hoofs. This sort of foot is always giving trouble, the formation being unnatural, and either the result of ill care, and the consequent disease, or inherited from parents similarly afflicted. Poor feet are transmitted with deadly certainty, and on the old, wise principle, "no foot, no horse," whatever else we lose, we must be sure to start with a good foundation.

There is an old Scotch saying, relative to the draught horse of that country, which runs thus:

"Give me feet, legs and feather,  
Top may come, but bottom never."

which upon being applied means that in buying a horse, a man should always see to it that the foundation is there to start with. The feather is, of course, the hair peculiar to the British draught horse, and of itself an excellent indication of the quality of the bone beneath it. When it is silky and fine, the bone will be hard and of fine texture; when the hair is hard, coarse, curly or wiry, the bone will be spongy and soft. Mares designed to produce carriage and coach horses should have large feet, strong bone, big joints, clean, well defined tendons, and the nearest possible approach to the texture of the thoroughbred limb.

"Top may come," that is true; but it is better to have the frame of such shape and proportion that the animal will not have to be fed pig-fat before looking smooth and well.

W. R. GILBERT.

(To be continued.)

### SOUNDNESS OR UNSOUNDNESS OF HORSES

(Concluded.)

My second lucky escape was on examining a hard puller. After looking at his mouth (and I must admit I had plenty of time that day), I was on the point of writing a certificate passing him sound, when I thought I would have another look at his mouth to make sure of his age. This time I noticed what I had failed to do before, which was that the muscles of the tongue were atrophied, almost two-thirds through. I think a good pull with one hand would have removed that tongue. I have always carefully examined eyes and tongues since. Having taken a glance over the subject from a veterinary surgeon's point of view, let us look at the different ideas of other horsemen on the subject. There are many classes