

can rouse a horse to lift his knees and avoid inequalities of surface, and stumbling-blocks of all kinds ; but you are earning your passage and your ride is not enjoyable. If a horse will lob along the side of a road taking all the inequalities as they come, shortening or lengthening his step to meet requirements, never get rid of him.

The steadier a man is in the saddle, and the more he accommodates himself to the movements of his horse, and becomes in fact a balanced part of him, the less likely he is to give him a saddle sore either fore or aft. There is not the slightest need for either. Yet look at the number of horses with white patches on their backs ; saddle galls they are called ; they are really evidences of bad horsemanship. A breast-plate is regarded by some people as setting off a horse ; and there are horses so shaped as to require one. You might say the same of a crupper. But as a general thing don't use one unless you have found it to be required. Spurs may be dispensed with till the rider knows his business thoroughly. In some cases they are more useful than any other stimulus, but are generally superfluous, if your hack is a good one.

Accustom your horse to the frequent change of the whip from one hand to the other, and to the laying it on him gently and in a friendly way "all over." It will be useful in fly-time. Young men should ride young horses. It is only by practice and experience that a lad can learn to be a good rider. A troublesome horse is a good teacher. An actual "plug" is likely to get him into idle habits, and will teach him absolutely nothing, after he has learned the first rudiments, as you have already done. Dexterity will serve a man nearly as well as courage ; but he should have both. There is nothing a horse finds out sooner than the rider who is afraid of him ; and nothing he recognizes sooner than the magnetic touch of a master hand, and a masterful seat.

Of cross-country riding I say nothing. It comprises all I have written, and something more, which can be discovered by trying.

Remember it is easy for a good judge to recognize a good rider, the moment he is in the saddle. It does not need any difficult problems of equestrianism to determine a man's riding ability. He shows it, or the want of it, the moment his right foot is in the stirrup and the reins in his grasp. When you expect a horse to swerve throw your body the way he will go. There is a natural inclination the other way. If taken quite unawares the retention of your seat will depend on the grip at the knee and on your power to change your balance instantaneously. If a horse is given