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## THE THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE. HOW TO BREED, REAR, AND TRAIN THEM. BY AN OLD TRAINER. CHAPTER XXVIII.

*The Errors of Training and the Pathological Treatment of the Racehorse.*  
[From the Spirit of the Times].

In continuing my remarks on the ignorance of pathological principles exhibited by many who profess to be trainers, I could give many instances—where colts have been ruined for racing purposes—where an almost continual blistering had been kept up from the time they were yearlings until they were three years old. Instead of curing the ringbone, it not only increased its size, but stiffened all the joints and ligaments from the hoof up to the neck, and in some instances it nearly destroyed the action of that joint. I will, in some future number, collect and publish the names of the horses who have been ruined by blistering, particularly for ringbone. The reader will, therefore, bear in mind that something cooling, with rest, is the only cure or preventive for an undue deposit of bony matter over a joint. If the horse is turned out in a meadow where his feet will be kept moist and cool, the same effect will be obtained, but in hot weather the horse should be kept in a cool, dark stable during the day, so he will not irritate the parts affected by stamping the flies off. To show the fallacy of blistering, we will suppose the flexor or back tendon is slightly bowed, but there is nothing the matter with the suspensory ligament, or middle tendon, as it is sometimes called, or the scissoid bone, or the cannon bone, or the periosteum. Yet, in order to produce an imaginary cure in the slightly bowed flexor, they fire or apply a blister, which extends and inflames all the above enumerated parts, for several months, and which were perfectly sound when the fire or blister was applied. The result is, the swelling extends to the joints, and stiffens and alters the entire action of the leg, when, with a little rest, coupled with cooling applications, the tendon would be straightened to its natural healthy condition. In nine cases out of ten rest and cool lotions will accomplish what blisters will never do. Where there is an injury upon the muscles, and they become morbid, a blister might be of some service, but even then a seton is far better, because a blister burns and cauterizes the skin, which is full of nerves spread all over it, and it not only creates intense pain in the parts blistered, but it extends its painful influence to the whole nervous system, often producing diabetes and sometimes death. Therefore, I warn all trainers and owners of thoroughbreds to beware of blisters.

I will give you an instance of the deleterious effects of blistering the horse, excepting under the peculiar circumstances which I have named above. Forty years ago, or thereabouts, a celebrated race nag, called *Beeswing*, broke down in a four mile race. After winning the first heat, it was discovered that the flexor tendon on the near fore leg was slightly bowed, and she was immedi-

ately swelled until farcy set in over the abdomen, so that her life at one time was despaired of. She had no covering, and the flies were eating her up. A remark to the person who had her in charge that it was shameful and cruel to expose her to the flies, called forth a reply that the Doctor wished to reduce her in flesh as much as possible without endangering her life, so that the firing and blistering would make a sure and permanent cure. She remained in that dreadful situation for five or six weeks, when they concluded to send her home to Selma, Ala., near where her owner resided. After the shoe was taken off the blistered leg her knee was stiff, and she could not straighten it, and it was with great difficulty that they could get her to the boat. She finally reached home in a sorry condition, but with grass, good feeding, and proper treatment, she recovered, in a measure, her natural action, and, by fall, she showed better form and was trained again, but, before the winter races came off, she broke down in both fore legs, so that all that cruel treatment to which she was so recklessly subjected—firing, blistering, starving, and torment—went for nothing. Had she been treated exactly the reverse, with application of cooling lotions, plenty of rest, and freedom from flies in the day time in a dark stall, and turned out at night on grass, nature and a cooling diet would have restored the parts, in all probability, to perfect soundness. Besides, the milder and more humane treatment suggested above would have enabled the persons having her in charge to have seen whether she was really broken down or not, for it might have been a kick stroke or grab by her other legs while running. But when she was fired, which was only a short time after the occurrence, no one could tell if it was a break down until the swelling subsided and then, because the ridges of the firing iron, and the scars of the ulcers, brought about by blistering the leg, leave the skin rough and the hair jagged, so that the leg can never resume its former beauty and smooth appearance. Blistering and firing, even allowing them to produce the favorable results claimed by their advocates, should never be resorted to until a proper diagnosis can be made of the parts affected. In nine cases out of ten they will see that a cure can be made without resorting to their barbarous mode of treatment. One of the most cruel cases of blistering that I ever knew, on account of it having resulted in the death of the animal, was a gray filly, by Lightning (I think her name was Nema), who, from overwork, became stiff in front, and galloped short. The trainer, not knowing exactly the locality of the affection, blistered her from the coronet to the withers, which caused the legs to swell to bursting. She cast her hoofs, and, after suffering for two or three days, died. I am told the spectacle was simply horrible: it occurred near Lexington, Ky. Another case of savage blistering occurs to me: The horse *Harland* became lame in the hock, which caused it to swell and puff up. In that swelled state, an ignorant negro who had him in charge, blistered him so severely as to take the skin off the hock, and the hair off the entire leg. The flesh upon the hamstring cracked open, and now bleeds every time he runs, and I assure you it is anything but a pleasant sight to see him after a race with a raw and bloody hock, walking around, to the disgust of everybody. Re-

however, discovered in this mole-hill mountain, and went to blistering, and blistered and kept the hock joint very much excited all that winter. He trained in the spring, but his hock being stiff from previous blistering, would weaken from exercise, and sometimes show lameness. It resulted, however, in the owner losing the use of his horse in his three-year-old form, but he left him still in the hands of this would-be veterinary trainer. He commenced in the fall the same treatment of blistering, and continued through the winter, so, by spring or the first of March, the horse, from excessive blistering, could scarcely walk. Cracks and ridges as large as your finger covered the entire hock. He was put to work, however, even in that situation, and walked and trotted and occasionally galloped during the spring; but the hock, being stiff, the stiff had to carry the weight of the paskin and leg, which taxed it beyond its natural powers, and which would naturally weaken and tire. He finally became so lame that the trainer concluded to give him up, and he was transferred back to the stable of the trainer who first handled him. He turned him out in a good grass lot five or six weeks; then he took him up, and commenced training him for the *Maturity Stake*, for which he was engaged, but he was taken up so late that he had scarcely time to condition him; notwithstanding which he ran a very good race, considering the condition he was in. This careful and judicious trainer then took him home, wintered him well, and let him run out in all fair weather. It so reduced the swelling in the leg and the thickening of the skin, that the hock resumed, in a measure, its normal form. He trained him in the spring, ran him, and won a mile and a quarter handicap in the fast time of 2:12, beating a field of twelve good horses. At the same meeting he won the *Jockey Club Handicap*, two miles, in 3:38, carrying 111 lb. Five or six weeks afterwards he won the dash of four miles at *Saratoga*; was then sent to California, where he ran four miles with ease in 7:25. He might have shown as well, or perhaps better, in his three and four year old form, as he did at five years old, but for injudicious blistering, which entailed upon his worthy owner the expenditure of a small fortune in paying forfeits, training bills, and other expenses; and, but for an accident, his horse would have become worthless to him forever, and that was from the solicitation of his first trainer, that he would give him the privilege of taking him home, to see what he could do with him, by letting him rest. His owner consented, but not until after his present trainer declared his leg would never stand a training preparation. The reader can see, therefore, how injudicious treatment and severe blistering almost prevented one amongst the very best colts ever foaled from exhibiting the great racing merits to the public. Another case was that of *Zigzag*, who was blistered and fired at different periods for over eighteen months, and during that time, more or less, was kept in training condition, and, after going to all that expense of training, keeping, and other expenses, after a short training, he gave way in the near fore leg, and was not trained afterwards. Another was the chestnut colt *Billy Conner*, who was blistered, more or less, during a course of years, but when put in training showed symptoms of breaking down again. He was then rested for about

## FLORA TEMPLE.

On the banks of the romantic Wissahickon, twelve miles from Philadelphia, is situated the celebrated Chestnut Hill breeding and stock farm. Here the famous trotting mare *Flora Temple* is quietly passing her declining years. A singular circumstance and the kindness of her owner has furnished her with comfortable quarters. A few years since the proprietor resolved to build an excellent stone stable, to be occupied by the justly celebrated thoroughbred stallion *Leamington*. This building, about twenty-five feet square, was erected on the lawn, one hundred yards southeast of the mansion, and two hundred yards from the main stables, containing the brood mares and colts. This was entirely too quiet and retired a place for a horse of high life and courage like *Leamington*. He almost refused to stay there, and it was deemed prudent to return him to his old quarters. *Flora Temple* was then assigned to the new building, and with singular perception seemed to think it was specially designed for her. The large inside room being lined with wainscoting nine feet high, and having panes of cast glass four feet long by two in width, for the admission of light, gives the entire place an appearance of a modern, well-appointed trotter's stable. She seems well-contented here, and is now in her thirty-third year, having survived her great preceptor, *Hiram Woodruff*, ten years. She eats well, and her ear and eye display the same flash and fire they did in her younger days. She has grown quite hollow-backed; has lost her plump, muscular appearance, and in the use of her limbs is very stiff and clumsy. It is not likely she can last many years longer. One year since *Mr. Budd Doble* and *Mr. Henry N. Smith*, of *Fashion Stud Farm*, purchased her, intending to exhibit her with *Goldsmith Maid*, at the Centennial Exposition; the *Maid's* coming out last spring in form and condition fit to trot for a man's life, changed all this programme, so that old *Flora* was not disturbed by curious crowds, but allowed to remain in her quiet retirement.

## THEATRES AND CHURCHES DESTROYED BY FIRE.

*Dr. J. M. Toner*, of Washington, has compiled a list of theatres, churches and other public buildings which have been destroyed by fire within the memory of man. He goes back to the year 548 B. C., when the temple of *Dolphus* was burned, and the year 856, when "the aspiring youth" fired the Ephesian dome. The table includes the following notable conflagrations, with the dates of their occurrence and the number of lives lost in certain cases: *Church of St. Sophia, Constantinople*, 532 A. D.; *St. Paul's, London*, 1137; *St. Paul's and 60 other churches, London*, 1666; *Drury Lane theatre, London*, 1672; *the Flemish theatre, Amsterdam*, 1772, 700 lives; *Trinity church, New York*, 1773; *the Saragossa theatre*, 1678, 400 lives; *the theatre at Montpellier*, 1783, 500 lives; *London Bridge*, 1812, 3000 lives; *Chestnut street theatre, Philadelphia*, 1820; *Park theatre, New York*, 1821; *Bowery theatre, New York*, 1828; *theatre in Canton, China*, 1845, 2,300 lives; *Niblo's theatre, New York*, 1846; *church at Santiago, Chili*, 1863, 2,000 lives; *Niblo's garden, New York*, 1872; *Saragossa theatre*, 1872, 600 lives, and *Fifth avenue theatre, New York*, 1873. The latest report gave the number of the lost by the Brooklyn

## Billiards. A RUN OF 417!

The fact that *Sexton* and *Slosson* had both been in New Orleans for some weeks without crossing cues suggested that, as *Sexton* was about to depart and *Slosson* would shortly follow, they could not more nily bid adieu to the Crescent City than by playing publicly together. It was accordingly proposed to institute an 1800 point game for a purse of \$150, the winner to take the receipts, and to this both players consented. Those who proffered the purse subsequently thought that it would cost them but little more to virtually double it, and they proposed to increase the purse money to \$200 or \$250, and back *Slosson* with it provided *Sexton* would back himself. To this *Sexton* consented, being fortified with a confidence derivable from his not having lost a game during his sojourn of two months in New Orleans. A match for \$200 a side was accordingly made. There was no other change in the programme, the original stipulation as to a game of 1,800 points, played on three nights at the *Globe Theatre*, the winner to take all the receipts and incur all expenses, being still adhered to. The dates chosen were Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 6, 6, 7. The telegraph reports that *Sexton* closed the second night with a run of 311, thus equaling *Slosson's* achievement in the fourth inning of his game with *Garnier* at *Irving Hall*, in New York, on June 16 last. This brought *Sexton's* score up to 1,200, and play for the night had to cease with an unfinished run. Resuming on Sunday night, he made 106 more, thus recording a run of 417, which is 106 greater than ever made before, and 205 greater than had been made up to May 17 1876, when *Sexton* himself, running 251 in *Horticultural Hall*, Philadelphia, superseded *Maurice Daly*, whose run of 312, made at *Tammany Hall*, New York, March 3, 1874, had for more than two years been high. On May 25, 1870, in Philadelphia, *Sexton* ran 287, since which time his best of record, until last week in New Orleans, had been 177. He won the New Orleans game by a score of 1,800 to 976, his average being the astounding one (for so long a score) of 24. *Indulgence* alone has averaged anything like it, but it has been in games of 100 and 600 points, but 25 by *Rudolph* against *Sexton*, is the best that has been made in any other game of 600 points or more.

## VIGNAUX vs. SEXTON

In the case of *Maurice Vignaux* against *Win. Sexton*, the American billiardist, in which *Vignaux* seized *Sexton's* billiard table and brought an action against him, the French tribunal had decided that *Vignaux* was not justified in seizing the table and demanding payment of the expenses, and condemned *Vignaux* to pay 100 francs fine and the costs.

## HICKEY vs. WM. JAKES.

An exhibition game of billiards 300 points. French caroms, was played at the North American rooms, Cobourg, on Monday evening, between *Mr. John Hickey* and *Mr. Wm. Jakes*, the Canadian champion. *Hickey* was the winner by a score of 300 to 210. Winner's average, 84, best run 63, loser's average, 52, best run 33. After the game *Mr. Hickey* gave an exhibition of some very fine fancy shots.—*Cox.*

*Mechanics' Institute*—Such is the success the recreation-room of the *Mechanics' Institute*, that the managers think of adding several more billiard tables. *Mr. John Donohue*, of *Movitto's Billiard Rooms*, Montreal, was presented with a handsome gold ring by a number of his friends on the eve of his undertaking the management of the billiard room at the *St. Lawrence Hall*.