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most difficult to judge, chiefly on account of one or other of your colleagues either being impractical, or not able to decide for himself. In either case if they find out, as they generally do, that there is one good practical fellow in the ring, they usually get around him and try to find out which animals he prefers, and act accordingly; or, again, such men may have been put there by some particular exhibitor, and will fight for his friends' entries every time. A good judge is "born, not made," and "would-be's" are the worst that "ever happened"—they only hamper a man who does know. To arrive at a satisfactory decision, it is absolutely necessary to satisfy yourself first, and then the probabilities are the bulk of reasonable exhibitors will be satisfied. We are all liable to have differences of opinion, and no judge is infallible anyhow!

I like to be in the ring when the horses come in, believing that first impressions are generally correct ones, and after marking off the numbers of those absent, keep them parading around me until I can by close comparison select the ones which, at that "stage of the game," look like the winners. Against these I make my private mark in the order I want them; then have them "lined up" to go over their conformation and see they are free from blemishes or objectionable points; after this I weed out those which are distinctly "out of it," and if I have any doubts in my own mind about the order in which those already selected should be placed, I have them paraded again, and after viewing them in front and behind, to see that their action is straight and true, I have them called in and the ribbons tied. I might mention, incidentally, that all horses should show their ability to "back" if required. In making awards close attention should be given to the way a horse is bitted and shod. I have seen many judges never get either in front of or behind a horse, and many faulty decisions are made in consequence. It makes no difference to me how handsome a horse is, or how high he can "go"—he must go straight to win, and "go" behind as well as before. I also think it very necessary to always keep in mind what the class calls for, or the use to which the animals before me have to be put, and govern my decisions accordingly.

There is at present a great call for a little "speed" in all heavy harness classes, and, other things being equal, I should always prefer a horse with it than without it, although I am no advocate of the "break-neck" style of driving all the time, but to be up-to-date you have got to have a certain amount of speed.

Another and very general cause of complaint is that a horse can win one day and the next be "turned down" in practically the same company. This is easily explained. A horse is not a machine, and one day he feels "good" and makes the best of himself, whereas on the next day he may be "clear off" and not make a "show" at all. Some men get awfully "sore" on this point, but they should ask themselves, "Do I always feel the same?" It is unpleasant to be beaten, especially by one that your horse has beaten the day before, but this will always happen as long as horse shows continue. Or, again, it may be a combination of circumstances; for instance, a case comes to my mind which occurred at one of the large Western shows last fall—it was in a class for a special prize for "gig horses." My choice was decidedly a certain gray mare, with good style, lots of action and substance, and everything that goes to make up an ideal "gig horse." My two colleagues preferred a bay gelding, owned by the scion of one of America's wealthiest families. I "hung out" for the gray as long as possible, but was finally obliged to submit (much against my will) to the ruling of the majority. Two nights afterwards the same two horses, amongst others, came in to compete in the open class for "gig horses." My colleagues approached me to see where I stood. I answered, "I am for the gray mare, and if she don't win I do no more judging at this show." She won!

Tell me where the advantage of having three judges comes in, in such a case? I proved to my own satisfaction before the end of the week that, although owner of a large stable of horses, one of my colleagues was totally impractical in a show-ring.

Close comparison and attention to details is essential in all cases. If you are judging draft horses, let them be drafty in character; if coachers, smooth and of good style and action; if roadsters, speed is of paramount importance. Satisfy yourself that you are right, then go ahead and fear no one. There always will be kickers, although most unsportsmanlike, and if asked a judge can generally give reasons.

Horse shows have done more than anything else to show the people what is needed for certain uses, and breeders have tried to raise what is required, but there is still room for improvement, and ideals cannot be set too high. Horse shows have certainly helped breeders, and been a God-send to both them and to the dealer. Long may they continue.

R. P. STERICKER.

Orange Co., N. Y.

Light Horses.

THE STANDARD-BRED.

The Standard-bred—the American trotting or pacing horse—is purely of American production. The studbook, called the American Trotting Register, was originated by Mr. J. H. Wallace, and the first volume printed in 1868. Eligibility to registration consisted, not so much in purity of blood as in the ability of the animal or of his ancestors to trot or pace fast. There were and still are several rules under which an animal becomes eligible for registration. The standard rules for registration of trotters are somewhat as follows:

(1) The progeny of a Standard-bred stallion out of a Standard-bred mare.

(2) A stallion sired by a Standard-bred stallion, provided his dam and grandam were sired by Standard-breds, and he himself has a trotting record of 2.30 or better, and is the sire of three trotters with records of 2.30 or better out of different mares.

(3) A mare whose sire is Standard-bred, whose dam and grandam were sired by Standard-breds, provided she herself has a trotting record of 2.30 or better, or is the dam of one trotter with a record of 2.30 or better.

(4) A mare sired by a Standard-bred, provided she is the dam of two trotters with records of 2.30 or better.

(5) A mare sired by a Standard-bred, provided her first, second and third dams were each sired by a Standard-bred.

For the registration of pacers, the same rules apply, with the exception that the time limit is 2.25 instead of 2.30.



Oro Wilkes 30347.

Standard-bred stallion in stud of Cruickston Stock Farm, Galt, Ont.

The different gaits are not transmitted with certainty; a trotting stallion and a trotting mare may produce a pacer, and vice versa, hence an animal of either gait may be standard at birth under rule 1. These rules at first were not nearly so stringent, and have been changed many times, each change making it more difficult for an animal not Standard-bred by birth to become eligible for registration. Thus it is easily seen that speed is more necessary than breeding as regards eligibility for registration, but there are few, if any, cases in which an animal not well bred, on either sire or dam's side, has earned his eligibility to appear in the register or studbook. The horse under discussion has been bred for many generations with the main idea of producing extreme speed at the trotting or pacing gait, and this trait has been so highly developed that there are many who have records little slower than two minutes, and a few have gone a few seconds faster than that.

The foundation stock for the establishment of this breed, the horse that gave stamina, courage and will power, was the English Thoroughbred. The horse that played the most important part probably was Imp. Messenger, by Mambrino, out of a mare by Turf, out of Regulus, by Starling. He was a gray horse, foaled in 1780, and imported to Philadelphia in 1788. His sire Mambrino was by Engineer (a son of Sampson), out of a mare by Old Cade. The most famous son of Messenger was Mambrino (named after his grand-sire). He was bay, foaled in 1806, and was out of a daughter of Imp. Sauerkraut. Mambrino sired Abdallah, foaled in 1823, who sired Rysdyk's

Hambletonian, to whom a very large percentage of the fastest trotters and pacers of the present day trace. Among the most noted sons of Rysdyk's Hambletonian were Alexander's Abdallah, Aberdeen, Dictator, Electioneer, George Wilkes, Happy Medium, Harold, Messenger, Sentinel and Volunteer. Mambrino Chief, another noted sire, was a grandson of Mambrino, his sire being Mambrino Paymaster. Andrew Jackson, the founder of the Clay family of trotters, was by Young Bashaw, son of Grand Bashaw, a Barb, imported from Trepole in 1820. Young Bashaw's dam was by First Consul, and his grandam was by Messenger.

Imp. Diomed and Imp. Bellfounder also had a favorable influence in the early record of trotters. The Morgans, a very old trotting family, are descended from Justin Morgan, bred in Vermont in 1793. The Pilots, from the old black pacing horse Pilot, of French-Canadian ancestry. He sired Pilot Jr., sire of Maud S. and Jay-Eye-See, two noted performers. The chief families of trotters are the Hambletonians, the Mambrino Chiefs, the Clays, the Morgans, the Bashaws and the Pilots.

The first recorded trotting performance in America was that of Yankee, at Harlem, New York, July 6th, 1806. The time recorded was 2.59, but it is said he did not go a full mile.

In August, 1810, a Boston horse trotted a mile in Philadelphia in 2.48½. In 1832 Burster trotted in 2.32, and in 1834 Edwin Forrest made a record of 2.31½. From that time to the present the records have been gradually reduced until, as before stated, a few have gone faster than two minutes. The class of horses known as roadsters

are the descendants of the Standard-bred, and in many cases are Standard-bred themselves.

CHARACTERISTICS.

The Standard-bred, being of composite breed, and having been bred for so many generations with the prime idea of producing speed, has not as yet acquired as definite a type as other breeds of horses. Extreme speed is seen in animals of all sizes, conformation, style and peculiarities of gait. Some Standard-breds, when docked, manes pulled, shod heavily and driven for action rather than speed, make high-class heavy harness horses. In the Standard-bred either the trotting or pacing gait is allowable, and the same may be said in regard to roadsters, but in the latter the trotting gait is

generally much more favored.

The Standard-bred should be a stylish horse, of fair size, say from 15½ to 16½ hands. In conformation he is a medium, between the Thoroughbred and the Hackney. His action is usually only fairly high when going slow, but increases in height as he goes faster. His forward action should be straight, and while a wide or sprawling action behind is allowable, most fanciers prefer closer action. While for racing purposes boots of all kinds are allowable, the roadster must not require any. He should have speed, and if he can be safely speeded without requiring any parts of his feet or legs to be protected by boots, so much the better. Speed is necessary in a high-class Standard-bred, and the more style, quality and attractive action he has the better.

In the roadster extreme speed is not demanded, but he must have sufficient substance to perform the ordinary functions of a road horse, and have at least reasonable speed. While we say extreme speed is not demanded, the more he has the more valuable he is, provided he has the size, conformation, style and attractive appearance the class demands.

"WHIP."

Summer and fall are the seasons when the weeds are plainly seen—the mustard, the wheel-of-fortune, the thistle, the crooked race-starter, the bookmakers and the wild oats.