

what is called a spring to the shoe; that is, having a wedge-shape space extending half the side of the foot; in such a fit the foot will soon drop sufficient for the shoe to act as a hammer on the heel. Do not cut the bar nor pare the corn unless there be lameness, when it should be very carefully done; do not thin, pare, or weaken the quarter, as it is wanted to support the weight; lower the toe so as to make the quarter more prominent, then fit the shoe on outline of foot full around the quarter, and after the shoe is fitted take the rasp and use it in a line with the frog, and at the same angle or slant as the sole; in that manner lower the heel as far and no further forward than the corn, but leave as much sound quarter and solid bearing as possible in front of that. If the quarter be broken, shelly, or weak, cut off the shoe at that point, and have it only three-quarter on inside. If on a flat or pumiced foot, use a thick but all round or bar shoe; it need not be wide, as the foot should not be encumbered with too much weight.

SEEDY FOOT

Is a detachment between the foot and the hoof, sometimes filled with a decaying soft substance, sometimes hollow, and varies in depth from near the ground surface to the top of inside of hoof. In shoeing feet thus diseased you must try to relieve weight on whatever part is affected; but as a shoe prevents the part being cleaned, and harbors dirt, &c., such cases should be properly treated in the early stage, by carefully removing all the horn so far as diseased, and replace it by a well-applied wax and pitch plaster, when the horse may be turned to grass until the hoof grows down, requiring only occasional levelling of the overgrown part of hoof and repair of plaster covering. This treatment requires from three to nine months' rest, and is, as a rule, successful.

PUMICED FOOT

Is one of the most difficult and troublesome kind to fit a shoe, on which a horse can travel without lameness. It consists of convex instead of concave sole, whereby the sole and frog extend below the wall or outer covering of foot. It is sometimes hereditary, sometimes the result of inflammation, and often by the injurious habit of cutting away too much sole, not leaving sufficient strength to support the weight. To fit a shoe on which a horse can travel, it must be of such a thickness as to keep the sole well off the ground, and seated sufficiently to escape the sole. Some recommend a broad shoe to well cover and protect the sole; but against that must be considered increased weight and a difficulty to seat it sufficiently to escape the sole. I prefer a very thick but not wide iron, which can easily be seated, fitted well around, and set well back. Keep the toe rasped down, and not burn the heels in seating on.

SANDCRACK AND FALSE QUARTER.

Not allow the foot to bear on the shoe under these defects. If the crack be in front, use a square-toe shoe; if on the front quarter, use a clip at the toe and behind the crack; if at the back quarter, use a round or bar shoe. The edges of the crack should be kept in apposition by means of rivets. Cutting or burning across will sometimes stop the crack continuing.

(To be continued.)

Jas. W. Boston, York, Nebr., has been admitted to active membership in the American Berkshire Association.

A. J. Alexander, Spring Station, Ky., sold to Hon. D. W. Smith, Bates, Ill., the well-bred recorded Southdown ram Lord Woodburn, 1089.

EARLY MATURITY.

From the (English) Farm and Home.

What are the leading principles that should direct our practice as to the rearing and feeding of farm stock? This question naturally occurs to the mind of every observant man who notes the variable practices which prevail, even where the natural conditions are similar; and if we inquire as to the why and wherefore of each particular system, we too frequently find very inadequate reasons, or no reason at all, but a happy-go-lucky rule of thumb, which has descended from one generation to another. Live stock must have such an important influence on the future of British farming that it is most necessary that our practice with regard to feeding should be economical and in accordance with the laws of physiology and hygiene. Those who are sensible of want of knowledge of elementary principles will do well to study a work which, though applicable more especially to American practice, may yet afford English feeders valuable hints. We refer to Mr. Elliot W. Stewart's "Feeding Animals," which can be obtained from Trubner and Co., of Ludgate Hill. Mr. Stewart, like many others who have done good service in the work of advancing agricultural practice, was not to the manner born. Ill-health necessitated the change from a professional to a bucolic life, and, as he tells us in a modest preface, having a liking for stock, he naturally turned his attention early to this branch of farming; and not being able to find much printed instruction upon the subject of feeding any class of stock, he began early to experiment for himself and keep a record of his experiments.

Mr. Stewart's remarks on alimentation forcibly remind us of the old saw, "That half the breeding goes in at the mouth." Within certain limits of variation, both quality, flavor, and rapidity of feeding are greatly affected by the nature and quantity of food supplied. As regards the first two points, a good illustration is the effect of domestication in the case of the deer; the fine flavor found in the denizen of the mountain is lost in the well-fed inhabitant of the English park. It is quite impossible to develop or perpetuate flavor by breeding, but we can do much in the way of food. If, as Mr. Stewart well puts it, "you wish to imitate the flavor of the wild animal, you must furnish the food of the wild animal." And we may go further, and say that we must keep our animals as nearly as possible under similar conditions. At the same time, characteristics of growth are the result of cultivation, although these would more or less rapidly disappear if the special conditions under which they were produced were altered.

Now, the important question which we have to solve is, how to make the best return from feeding animals; shall we force them on as rapidly as possible, or shall we follow a more natural process and allow them to reach maturity by slow degrees? There are two facts dwelt upon by our author, which have of late years been illustrated by the registry of weight at our fat shows. The first is, that in young growing animals the appetite and the digestive and assimilative functions are most active, and these functions grow subsequently less and less active, and when the percentage of waste is much greater than during growth. Hence it follows that, though the mature animal may consume less in proportion to its live weight, because all that is required is to supply the waste of tissue, yet the proportion of food to a given increase is greater. But, although these facts would indicate the advantage of early feeding, it is objected, with some truth, that the flesh of young animals cannot be so

firm and ripe at twenty four months as that of the slower-fed animal at double that age. To a certain extent this is true: but if anatomists are right in assuming that the marks of full development are evidenced by the completeness of the permanent teeth, then young animals well-fed from birth, and descended through many generations from similarly treated stock, do acquire much earlier dentition than such as are kept in a natural state. Animals forced for show have frequently exhibited a four-year-old mouth when under three years; and Mr. Stewart tells us that M. Regnault found at a fair in France, so far back as 1846, a two-year bull with his permanent teeth and all the points of development and maturity in perfection. We can remember when the assisting veterinary surgeon was called in to give an opinion whether it was possible for shearing sheep to have four broad teeth, and we have no doubt that in some cases ignorance of facts actually led to disqualification. With the earlier appearance of the teeth we have corresponding maturity; and a study of all the facts clearly proves that we may have all the parts as completely developed at two years as was formerly possible at double the age.

JOHN TURNER ON SHOEING AND TRAINING TROTTERS.

From the Turf, Field, and Farm.

The lightning flashed outside and the elms which shaded the porch dripped the moisture of an April sky, but it was dry and cozy in the parlor of the old-fashioned hotel. "I am sorry that the rain began before you arrived," said Turner, "because I wanted to let you see the horses work on the track. Now you will have to look at them in the stable." "I had counted on different weather," replied the owner of Maud S., "but we will make the best of the situation. If you will kindly have each horse led from his box to the stable-floor, I can see all that I am most anxious to see." After Trinket, Edwin Thorne, and others had been critically examined, Turner remarked:—"The first time I saw you, Mr. Bonner, was at Point Breeze, twenty-nine years ago. You were a famous man even then, and I took a position where I could study you well. I was a boy, and I was curious to see whether you would buy the horse which the parties who had you in tow were offering. After seeing him go you declined to purchase, and I was gratified, because the animal was not what was represented. You know more about horses now." "Yes, I have picked up a great deal of information. My limit at first was \$800. Now, it is difficult to say what I really would pay for a horse which would beat the record of Maud S. With me, the best is the cheapest. All things considered, Maud S. was the cheapest horse I ever bought. She had what I wanted, and what I spent more than twice forty thousand dollars in trying to obtain by the purchase of other horses. This is my second visit to Point Breeze, and I think that I am able to give you more points about horses than would have been possible twenty-nine years ago. As I have furnished you some information about shoeing, I should like to have you answer one or two questions on training." "All right," said the renowned reinsman, "go ahead." "In preparing Trinket for a race, or a trotter of equal speed, would you at any time drive her a fast mile?" "No. I first give a horse strength by plenty of slow work, and I frequently brush him about 150 yards just to see if he has his speed. If I know on the eve of a race that he is hard and strong and has his speed, I am satisfied. I do not want a watch held on him from wire to wire. I am confident that his