

HORSES.

The London Hackney Show.

The twenty-first annual show of the English Hackney Horse Society, held in London, the first week in March, was a brilliant success, the number of Hackney and Pony stallions shown being 224; of mares in the breeding classes, 128; of geldings, 98, and of riding and driving horses, 123, making a total of 573 entries, the largest in the history of the Society, and the quality was of a very high order.

Four-year-old stallions not over 15 hands 2 inches had 14 entries, 11 of which faced the judge, and the first place was given to Dr. Meacock's chestnut, Middleton King, by His Majesty, dam Marchioness, a broad-chested, level-backed horse that made a brilliant show, and won on his merits. The second prize went to Mr. Ford's Grand Duke of Garton, a chestnut son of Garton Grand Duke and Wharram's Lady Cave; third to Mr. E. E. Hutton's Messenger Boy, a chestnut by Royal Danegelt, dam Marigold, a brilliant goer with plenty of style.

In the section for four-year-old stallions over 15 hands 2 inches, sixteen of the twenty entries were out, the chief honor going to Mr. Buttle's Kirkburn Toreador, by Rosador, dam Flame. He is one of the most improved horses in the country and gave, as fine showing as any in the hall. Second prize went to Messrs. Fletcher's Augram Swell, by Acid Drop, dam Augram Brilliance. This bay has a sweet look-out, a fine top, and first-rate action. Third fell to Mr. Arthur Hall's Dan Leo, who was second last year, a fine mover of the extra powerful type.

Stallions five years old and over 14 hands and not over 15 hands, numbered seven. First prize, for the second year in succession, went to the dark chestnut, Lord Ossington, owned by Mrs. Batt, sired by Glengolan, dam Lady Ossington. He made a great showing, moving brilliantly, has thickened during the past year, his arms and second thighs being especially good. Second fell to Messrs. Ross' Matchless, by His Majesty, dam Lady Real Derby, a nice stocky chestnut, that knows how to use his hocks. Mr. W. H. Clark's Skeffling Fireaway, by Winnal Fireaway, dam Lilly of the Valley, was third.

Stallions five years and over, exceeding 15 hands, and not over 15 hands 2 inches, were eight in number, first falling to Mr. Ford's brown Lord Kimberly, by Rosador, dam Rypan, a well-known, good-looking horse that made a very big show. Sir Walter Gilbey's chestnut, Bonny Danegelt, by Royal Danegelt, dam Lady Dorothy, was second. Third fell to Mr. H. Milner's Atwick Junior, by Chocolate Junior, dam Lady of Atwick, he being a nice bay of charming quality, wearing himself well, the show he made being one of the best of the day.

Five-year-old stallions over 15 hands 2 inches were twenty-four in number, the general opinion being that it was the best class of the day. The competition was keen, but the judges decided in favor of last year's winner and reserve champion, Mr. Ramsay's chestnut, Diplomatist (7043), by His Majesty, dam Garton Birthday. He carried himself grandly in the ring, and made a sensational show, added to which, he is an uncommonly handsome horse, and was shown in fine form, but connoisseurs consider he might have more bone. Next, and very close up, came Mr. Alfred Benson's Copper King, by Mathias, dam Primrose Lass. He is very similar to Diplomatist, but carries more muscle and timber. The third award went to Mr. Walter Warehouse's Forest Star, by Forest King, dam Miss Florrie, a horse of quite another type, but one who had a host of admirers, a powerfully built horse, with great limbs and middle, and made perhaps the biggest show of the lot. As a harness-horse sire he fills the eye at once, and better luck by a long way may be predicted for him in the future.

In three-year-old stallions not exceeding 15 hands 1 inch, first award went to Mr. R. P. Evans' chestnut, Evanthis, by Polonius, dam Julia. He has a capital top, the best of shoulders, and is an all-round typical Hackney. Second was Mr. J. B. Barnard's Rudston Prince, by Rosador, dam Princess, a nice, free-actioned chestnut. Third was Mr. Ralph Gimmer's chestnut, General Togo, by Cullingworth, dam Snowdrop.

Three-year-old stallions over 15 hands 1 inch numbered seventeen. The struggle for first place was long and close, victory finally falling to Messrs. Haley & Black's chestnut, St. Anthony, a wonderfully stylish horse, by Garton Duke of Connaught, dam Skeleton, who made a grand show. Second to Sir Walter Gilbey's chestnut Kirkburn Sensation, by Rosador, dam Lady Dorothy. This horse was junior champion last year, and has developed into a fine, big type of stallion, with the best of types and plenty of substance, but did not move so freely as the other, though he walked much better.

The championship for stallions was honored by the presence of their Majesties the King and Queen, who evidently took great interest in the proceedings. The award in the adult class was pretty generally antici-

pated, as Mr. Ramsay's Diplomatist had already defeated Copper King, Forest Star and Squire John. Danger was to be feared from the four-year-old, Kirkburn Sensation, but finally Diplomatist was placed champion, and Mr. Benson's Copper King reserve.

The junior champion was Messrs. Haley & Black's first-prize three-year-old, St. Anthony, Sir Walter Gilbey's Kirkburn Sensation being reserve.

The final competition for best stallion in the show resulted in an easy victory for Diplomatist, with Copper King as reserve. The champion mare was Mr. R. P. Evans' District Maid, by Rosador, first prize in class four years old and over, and over 15 hands 2 inches. The reserve was Mr. Cliff's three-year-old Crayke Czarina.

Stick to Type in Horse-breeding.

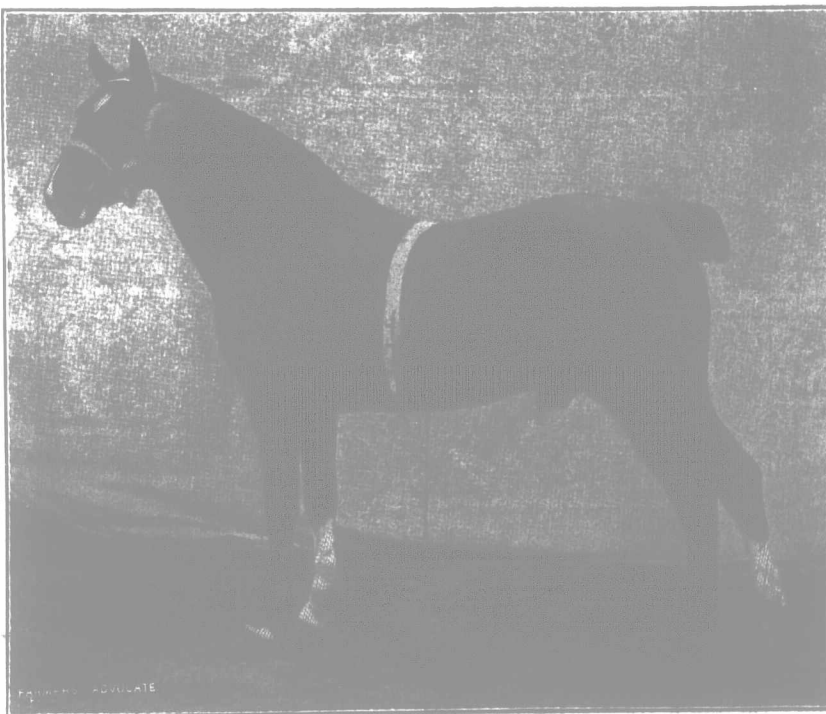
Probably one of the strongest factors acting against profitable horse-breeding is the failure of farmers to stick to type, the indiscriminate selection of sires, patronizing a sire because he is owned by a friend whom the breeder wishes to help, the failure to study the laws that govern breeding, and of an attempt to produce an ideal.

Breeding is not a thing of chance. It is governed by certain natural laws, which it is not our purpose here to discuss, but with which every breeder should be conversant. These laws are, unfortunately, not absolute, there are many deviations, some of which are hard to account for, at the same time they act with reasonable certainty, and the breeder who studies them carefully, and exercises reasonable intelligence in mating his mares, while he may be disappointed occasionally, will, on the whole, be favored with a fair measure of success. On the other hand, the

er prepotency than any other horse, probably greater than any other domesticated animal. Why? Because he has been bred for so many generations without the infusion of foreign blood. Hence, in our endeavor to produce a foal that will be a better animal than the dam, we must select a sire that is not merely a better individual, but one that is pure-bred, and, of course, the longer his pedigree the better. Again, we should not select a sire simply because he is of the breed we want, and has a good pedigree. We must have individuality as well as pedigree, but if we are forced to sacrifice either for the other, I would sacrifice individuality for pedigree, but this only to a limited extent. Get both if possible. Again, I would say, "stick to type." If the prospective dam have some Clydesdale or Shire blood, select a Clydesdale or Shire stallion, the very best that can be had, regardless of a few dollars in stud fee. As regards strict type, we may deviate to some extent; in fact, it is often wise to do so. If the mare does not satisfy us in this respect, we can improve type in the progeny by the careful selection of a sire. For instance, if she be too high, lacks substance, has too long a back, beefy bone, coarse feathering, etc., etc., select a sire of the blocky type, one with plenty of substance, one with a short, strong back, bone and feathering of good quality, etc. In other words, select a sire that is very good in the points in which the dam is deficient. We would deviate from type in this respect. Of course, it is not always possible to get the services of a sire that, in all respects, is exactly what we would like, to suit the individuality of the mare, but we should always bear her individuality in mind, and make the best selection we can. If we have a mare of the class mentioned, and bred as above, we will, in all probability, produce a foal better than the dam, and if this be a filly, by exercising the same judgment in breeding her, we will still improve the progeny, and so on. But if we keep changing the breed of the sires, even if we keep to the draft classes, we degenerate instead of advance. This more or less constant change of sires accounts for the fact that first-class horses of any breed or class are comparatively scarce, and this unsatisfactory state of affairs will continue just so long as breeders do not give the necessary study and intelligent consideration to the breeding problem.

The same general rules apply to breeding horses of the light classes. Violent crosses seldom give good results, as breeding heavy mares to light sires, or vice versa. There have been instances in which such violent crosses have produced valuable animals, and such may be regarded as a calamity, rather than as a favorable result, from the fact that one successful attempt is calculated to encourage further efforts on similar lines, not only by the lucky breeder,

but by his neighbors, and it will be noticed that where such irrational proceedings prove successful in one instance, it will prove disastrous in scores. To successfully breed light horses, the same care as regards type and individuality must be observed as in the production of the heavier breeds or classes. Where pure-bred dams are owned there should, in the majority of cases, be no question as to the breed of sire to be selected, as in such cases we should "stick not only to type, but to breed." At the same, even with pure-breeds, there may be cases in which we may be justified in selecting a sire of another breed. For instance, if we have a Thoroughbred mare, and wish to produce a harness horse, we may be justified in mating her with a Hackney. The Hackney will probably give better results when crossed with a Thoroughbred, or one with considerable Thoroughbred blood, than with any other class, except a pure-bred of his own breed. In this case, the prepotency of the dam transmits ambition and staying powers, and the sire transmits the action necessary in the heavy harness horse. In some sections, breeders for years bred their mares to Standard-bred sires, with the hopes of producing fast trotters and pacers. They had the idea that a fast stallion of this breed would produce a fast colt out of mostly any kind of a mare. Of course, the usual result was disappointment. To such an extent has this line of breeding been carried on in certain sections that there are many mares with a strong infusion of Standard blood that practically belong to no class. They are not fast enough for racing, have not size enough for carriage and are simply useful for drawing a light rig



Diplomatist 7043.

Champion stallion at the London Hackney Show, 1905. Sire His Majesty 2513. Dam Gilton Birthday 9870.