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A Term Misused.

In this age of specialization, much importance is attached to terms. In every department of trade, and with every professional man, there is a vernacular peculiar to the class. Words originate in or become common to any particular vocation, because they have outstanding significance. Among the breeders of live stock there is a term that is used and misused until it has come to have different meanings with different people. That term is "Thoroughbred."

According to men who are at the very front in breeding and dealing in live stock, this word has but one use, namely, to designate a certain breed of horses—the English Thoroughbred—and stands in relation to that class of horses as the word Clydesdale stands to the great Scotch breed. In other words, the Thoroughbred is a distinct breed, as the Shire or Percheron are distinct. To say that a horse is a thoroughbred Shire, or a bull a thoroughbred Hereford, is just as ridiculous as to say he is a Percheron Shire or a Shorthorn Hereford. To the English race-horse alone belongs the term, because he has been longer bred in a direct line than any other domesticated animal. To distinguish the improved breeds from the scrub stock, the proper term to use is "pure-bred," "registered," "pure," or "pure-blooded," but the best authorities prefer only the term as given—pure-bred. Let the term "Thoroughbred" be used only where it applies.

It may not be generally believed that a horse will put on flesh more readily if watered regularly. A light drink in the morning before feeding will assist very materially in improving the digestion and general health of our noble friend.

To winter twenty animals on the food that would give best returns if fed to only fifteen is poor policy. Although the twenty might not survive the extra time required for them to regain their normal condition would prove the experiment a very failure.

Robert Elliott.

Died, December 19th, 1902.

"Lightly weave the wheaten garland for the brow of one we love.
With it twine the gracious maple, touch'd with light from Heaven above."

(From Robert Elliott's last poem.)

"Twas Robert's joy to be the herald
(With pleasing fancy fraught)
Of tributes just and true.
He asked no homage of the world—
And so the world forgot
That homage was his due.

He filled the thicket and the glen
With flames of sacred fire,
And glory gave to gloom:
He cheered the weary hearts of men,
With sweet consoling lyre,
O'er many a cheerless tomb.

A world bowed down, with vision dim,
Soul-filled with grief and love,
Should weave, with saintly care,
A garland for the brow of him
Who many garlands wove,
Yet deemed his own brow bare.

FRANK LAWSON.



THE LATE JOHN MILLER, MARKHAM.

Raise the Veterinary Standard.

On several occasions the "Farmer's Advocate" has taken occasion to express strong convictions as to the need of elevating the standard of the veterinary profession in this country, in order to place it in a position which its growing importance deserves. The live-stock interests of the country are rapidly increasing in value, and the preservation of the health of our studs, herds and flocks is of vital concern, not only to their owners, but to the general business interests of Canada. Successful agriculture as practiced to-day is based upon live-stock husbandry. By the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the New England States, we see how our whole export live-stock industry might be imperiled and perhaps for years lost without an efficient veterinary staff in Canada. With the growth of dressed meat enterprises, and the increasing exactions of foreign countries regarding the healthfulness of foods as well as animals, a more thorough system of expert inspection will be imperative. It is high time that the standard of veterinary education in this country was raised, else who will occupy the places that are soon to be filled?

It is gratifying to observe that the President of the Ontario Veterinary Association, Dr. J. H. Tennent, V.S., of London, has grasped the deep significance of the situation, and had the courage to emphatically express his convictions at the recent annual meeting in Toronto, a report of which we give elsewhere in this issue. It was one of the

most wholesome deliverances ever given before that body in the twenty-eight years of its existence. It is to be hoped that such action will be taken by the Ontario Legislature as will bring about a proper educational standard of admission to the Veterinary College, and the extension of the course from two to three years. The roots of the trouble lie there, and a radical reform is imperative. At present there is practically no standard of admission, and the course consists of two six-months terms of tuition, with an intervening year of practice, to which should be added at least another year of practice and another six months' drill in theory. The Veterinary College being an important Provincial educational institution, it is surely incumbent upon the Legislature to see that the present condition of affairs is not allowed to continue. The members of the Ontario Veterinary Association, and of the profession generally, owe it to themselves to see that this golden hour of opportunity is not allowed to pass unimproved, both as regards the college and their own status in the community. A proper individual self-respect for the profession at home, a stronger veterinary association, higher standards for the college, and its control by the profession, is, in a nutshell, the programme that should now be carried out.

We have reason to believe that the foregoing will commend itself to all progressive and influential veterinarians.

HORSES.

Winter Care of Stallions and Brood Mares.

Stallions that are used extensively in the stud are, of necessity, highly fed during the stud season, and in many cases are allowed to put in the remaining eight or nine months of the year in idleness. During the summer months they receive grass and other green food, and are usually allowed to run in a paddock or lot, and thereby get sufficient exercise. This is good practice, as a horse that does a heavy stud season requires, as stated, heavy rations, and in the majority of cases does considerable road work in travelling from stand to stand. After two or three months of this work, his digestive organs, as well as his physical constitution, require a rest, and this rest and recuperation cannot be obtained in any way better than by the treatment mentioned. But when winter sets in, on account of the slippery state of the ground, the inclemency of the weather, or other causes, he is not allowed in the paddock, and it often occurs that he is shut in a box-stall, frequently of small dimensions, and not given exercise in any way. In order that a stallion may be successful in the stud, his physical condition must be strong during the season, and it is not possible for this to be unless he get regular exercise. When horses are allowed complete rest or inaction for a few months, the muscles become soft and flabby, even though he be well fed, and the respiratory organs also lose tone. It is impossible to get these organs in a strong, robust state in two or three weeks, which is the time usually taken for the purpose. Preparation for the stud season should take the greater part of the winter, and at all events should commence now, the middle of January. We often hear it stated that it is not well to groom a stallion during the winter; that he will shed earlier and better in the spring if he be left to nature in this respect during the cold months. This is a mistake. A horse will feel better, thrive better, look better and shed his hair better if he be regularly and thoroughly groomed at all times, even when he is standing idle. Regular exercise should be given in order to develop both the muscular and respiratory systems. The manner in which this is given will necessarily depend upon conditions and the individual tastes of the attendant. In the lighter classes of stallions, as Roadsters, Carriage Horses and Thoroughbreds, either harness or saddle can be used, while the heavier classes can be led, with the attendant on foot or on a pony, or there is no reason why even these big fellows may not be either driven or ridden. If the horse has had a long period of idleness, the amount of exercise given at first should be slight, say two or three miles daily for a few days, and the distance gradually increased as he becomes more fit. After a time eight or ten miles for the lighter classes and six or seven for the heavier should be given daily. In the meantime, the quantity of food should be in proportion to the work done. Violent changes of food should in all cases be avoided. The use of drugs should also be avoided, except in cases of disease, and then should be given only under instructions from a veterinarian. There are many men who probably understand fitting a stallion for the season better than the average veterinarian, but it is a mistake for any person who has not received a special training to think that he has sufficient knowledge of the actions of drugs