

The Horse.

The Horse's Gaits.

The action of all horses should convey the impression of ample reserve of energy, i. e., of endurance with activity—a power inherited in the majority of examples, but capable of increase after by stable management. A shuffling walker is a source of daily annoyance. Check it if the habit is not of long standing. Rein up and begin the pace again. If the lift is exaggerated, the chances are he will speedily cut; if insufficient, it allows no room for the sweep and is unsafe. If thereafter the horse makes the sweep well forward, with an inclination up, deviating neither to the left nor right, and ultimately bringing his foot down to the ground firmly, he is master of his action. He must plant his foot evenly and firmly for safety on the ground, with no undue inclination on either quarter of the foot. When a horse is both symmetrical and well poised, he ought to be clever in his paces; if otherwise, blame the horse-breaker for his impatience or mismanagement. Do not buy if the walk is unsafe.

The trot.—To bring a trotter out demands very careful preparation. Condition, on which we adjudicate, by handling the firm neck and the deep, firm flesh, not fat alone; the ribs, associated with a bright coat, clear eye, full wind—thus alone can excessive fatigue be endured without detriment, and it is arrived at by example and judicious feeding, exercise and thorough grooming, watering *ad libitum* at night, but sparingly through the day. The character of the trot is either high, low, round or straight, at times accompanied by dishing in the former and darting in the latter instance, or it may be classified as grand, fair, average or mediocre action, dependent on style and energy. Most horses cross their action, *e. g.*, wide behind, with close fore action, or *vice versa*. Few both meet and leave the buyer truly. He may be in at his elbows and open at his hocks, a form essentially liable to speedy cut. Undoubtedly action should have liberty, be level and straight to be valuable. Cramped action, nine cases out of ten, is the effect of disease or malformation. Fore and hind legs must act in harmony, hocks brought well forward under the belly, and fore feet lifted rapidly and lightly away.

High action is tiring, but very saleable; unless, however, accompanied with power in the hind quarters, it is disappointing, for the horse cannot leave the buyer well; as Mr. P. puts it, he drags his feet "as a duck in water"—a first-rate simile. No horse showing the number of nails he possesses in his hind shoes, but is at best both slow and weak behind. Defects in action are rolling, dishing, cutting, crossing the legs, stumbling, knuckling, darting or pitching, which needs only a reference to be shunned. Easy gait, security and precision are the cardinal features of a grand trotter. Mr. Thompson says "foreign horses exhibit exaggerated action in the lift, immense energy in their fore action, but they dwell unduly in the stay, and throw their feet about regardless of our notions of collected action, turning their toes out, and displaying their hind action in inverse to their fore." Verdict—weak in the extreme.

There is nothing to come up to true, all round action. Turning toes "in or out" is a defect. The former, which most English horses do, is the less objectionable for safety, but to my eyes the most ungainly of the two. To sum up, the general purpose horse, to ride and drive—a well-bred hack—should have free, supple shoulder action, short pasterns, with a full quantum of mobility, perfect flexion in his hocks, energy and cover in his stride; he should be rather compact than lengthy in his outline, combining precision, truth and security in his fore and hind action, and possessing energy, endurance, an agreeable courage and a total absence of vice.—*English Agricultural Gazette*.

Origin of the Canadian Horse.

I have occasionally seen it asserted in our agricultural papers that the Canadian is a Norman, reduced by scantier food, colder climate, etc. Now, this I think physically impossible, as a reduction of size in this way, I am confident, would

produce a long-legged, slab-sided, stumbling brute, very different from the compact, hardy, fine-formed little Canadian, as he has existed there as far as the memory of man, still maintaining his ground in considerable numbers, notwithstanding the numerous crosses in late years of larger English horses. When I was in Quebec in 1852, I saw a very fine light or dappled gray stallion, much in the style of Mr. Dunham's "Success," except he was finer in his points. He was about fourteen hands high, possibly not over thirteen and a half hands—a real beauty, with fine action, etc. In Paris, in 1867, I saw the exact counterpart of this stallion; also, other equally small horses of same style, though not so fine. Now, I have no doubt that when the French first settled in Canada this was the sort of horse they imported, and have continued to breed and own to the present day. Ships, or rather brigantines, in those days were too small, I presume, to bring over seventeen or eighteen-hand horses, weighing eighteen hundred to two thousand pounds, as some of the Western and Scotch Canadian breeders boast of importing now.—*Letter to Live Stock Journal*.

The Best Stallion.

Never select a horse simply because he has a high-sounding, fashionable name, with a corresponding pedigree attached. It is astonishing how many Fearnoughts and Abdallahs and Morrills and Hambletonians there are. Perhaps the last-mentioned name is abused most. All over New England and the country, you will find Hambletonian this and Hambletonian that advertised to the breeding public, that are not worth, for stock purposes, the bedding they stand on. Big-headed, big-legged, butt-ended things, they point the satire on human credulity that could be persuaded into breeding even a third-rate mare to them. The fact is, the Hambletonian family, great and worthy of patronage as it is, is worthy of patronage only in case of its finest representatives.

It can do no harm to reiterate the truism that a pedigree does not make a horse; and that a string of noble names is of no account in breeding, unless a noble animal stands at the end of it. Look at the horse before you pay any attention to its pedigree. A wise man might have a fool for a son; and a great horse improperly crossed will often get a foal in no sense worthy of him. Those who expect that, because a stallion happens to be a half-brother to Dexter, he will necessarily get colts that will grow up to rival Dexter represent in their mental structure a most unhappy cross themselves. The rule is that the foal will resemble the immediate parents; the exception is that he will resemble the remote ancestor; and those who breed to a poor specimen of a family, expecting that the colt will be like the founder of the family, and not like the immediate sire, are breeding in the face and eyes of this prime maxim.

Select a stallion short in the upper line, and long in the lower line, strongly coupled over the hips, and the distance between the hip bones and the spine bone swelling with ridges and masses of muscle that you can see play and work like great pulleys when taking their exercise, and you will get colts from him that will stride far, and gather like lightning. As to the height and size, the perfect horse in these respects is one that stands fifteen hands and two inches high (sixty-two inches), and weighs ten hundred and fifty pounds. This is the standard of perfection; an inch either way in height, or fifty pounds in weight, is allowable; but for speed and endurance, for the purposes of general driving and for the track, and, therefore, for the purposes of breeding, no stallion should weigh less than a thousand, or more than eleven hundred pounds; neither should he stand higher than sixty-three inches, nor lower than sixty. It used to be thought that for the purposes of the track, and in order to be good weight-pullers, large-sized horses were indispensable; but when men saw Flora Temple, barely tipping eight hundred pounds, pull the same weight as Geo. N. Patchen, and get her nose in at the wire a little quicker than he could, heat after heat, they had to go back on their favorite theory. Theory and speculation are excellent in their places and way; but they are useless when put over against the logic of facts.

To Our Subscribers.

For the convenience of our readers we incorporate our Exhibition issue with the October number.

Raw-hide Horse Shoes.

A method of shoeing horses with raw-hide has long been in use on the plains, and found so serviceable and convenient that it might doubtless be found useful in many places where there are long periods of hot weather. There are also cases frequently occurring, in which disease of the feet might at least be alleviated by the temporary use of shoes cut from raw-hide or properly prepared sole leather. With these, that portion of the foot which needs the most precaution, viz., the crust or walls of the hoof where it meets the sole, will be preserved from contact with hard or rough surfaces; while the frog, generally too much protected, will reach the ground and become subjected to healthful action. For farm work, upon smooth soils free from stones or gravel, this kind of shoe will be useful during the summer season. A simple strip of raw-hide or sole leather, well filled with hot pine tar to make it hard and waterproof, will be sufficient for general use. A more durable shoe may be made of two or more thicknesses fastened together by copper rivets.

Scratches in Horses.

The *Turf, Field and Farm* recommends the following treatment:—Prepare and give a purge, seeing that it acts thoroughly; then wash the parts with warm water and castile soap; carefully remove the scabs and other hard substances, then take equal parts of acetate of lead and olive oil, mix and apply twice a day for a week, gently rubbing each application in with the fingers; afterwards use once a day veterinary cosmo-line. As soon as the animal has done purging, take arsenious acid four drachms, carbonate of soda two ounces, water one quart; mix and boil over a slow fire till the acid is dissolved, then cool and strain. Give half an ounce of the solution once a day for a week, then twice a day for a long time. It may require six months before a cure is permanently effected. Never require the animal to go faster than a jog, and not from a walk for the first thirty days.

J. P., Florence, asks:—"Is it now about time to make cider? and our people would like a good receipt for keeping it."

[There are many plans used for keeping cider from souring, but all of them spoil the flavor. Cider may be kept in good condition by using care to keep every utensil clean, and to prevent access of the air to it. It should be filtered through sand in a conical flannel bag, and put into a clean and fresh whisky or alcohol cask and then bunged up closely. A vent-hole may be made for the escape of any gas which may gather in the cask for a few days, when that may be permanently closed. If germs of decomposition are carried into the cider by using decayed or damaged apples, nothing will keep the cider good for any length of time. The apples must be good and sound or the cider will be unsound. Put in a barrel one pound of mustard seed. It will improve it.]

D. J. C., writes:—"I have a field of corn which is badly smutted; I have tried to cut it out, but it is in the stalk from root to top. Will cattle be injured by feeding on these stalks? Will wheat be likely to smut if sown on this same land? If so, what crop would be best to follow? The land is in good condition."

[The smut is very injurious to cattle, and it would be better and safer to burn the infected stalks than to use them for fodder. If wheat is sown upon the same ground it will probably be infected. It would be better to sow oats, which is not so subject to this parasite. Smut is frequent in wet, warm seasons, and as the spores or seed of the parasite are everywhere floating about, it is impossible to prevent its appearance to some extent.]

SIR,—I wish to inform you that I received the winter rye last fall all right, and sowed it on the 10th day of October, and it was up in four days. I cut it about the last week of July, and from twelve pounds which I received from you, I have taken out five bushels of clean grain. It was seven and a half feet high, and a prettier piece of grain was never seen here by the oldest inhabitant; even gentlemen from abroad say that neither in England, Ireland nor Scotland did they ever see better, and they came far and near to see it. A few stalks were in a store in Dartmouth for a show, and they would not believe that it grew in this country. With thanks for the care and trouble of sending it, I remain yours truly, E. S. T. Eden Bank, Dartmouth, N. S., Sept. 23, 1878.