

part, known as the thropple, is apt to be connected with roaring, and on that account is objected to by horsemen.

"IN THE FORE-QUARTERS there are several points to be attentively examined, and among these, the shoulder is regarded as of most consequence, when the horse under consideration is intended for the saddle. It is evident that, unless there is length of the blade, and also of the true arm, there cannot be a full surface for the attachment and play of the muscles, nor can there be the same amount of spring to take off the jar which follows each footfall. The straighter the angle formed by the long axis of each of these bones, the less spring there will be. So, also, if the angle is not sufficient, the muscles of the shoulder-blade will not thrust forward the true arm, nor will the latter be sufficiently clothed with muscles (without being loaded) to act on the fore-arm, commonly known by the horseman as the arm. Hence it is found, that with an upright shoulder, not only is the stride in all the paces short and the action stumpy, but there is not that elastic movement which enables the horse to carry his body along rapidly and evenly, without rising alternately behind and before, and thereby jarring himself or his rider. On the other hand, the upright shoulder, loaded with a thick mass of muscles, is useful in the cart-horse, and to a certain extent also in the carriage-horse, in both of which the pressure of the collar requires a steady and comparatively motionless surface to bear it. \* \* \* The point of the shoulder should be well developed, but not showing any rough protuberances, which are equally objectionable with a flat or ill-developed point. The length of the true arm is mainly dependent upon that of the blade; but sometimes when this is oblique enough, the true arm is short and upright, and the elbow stands under, or only a little behind the shoulder point. This is a very faulty conformation, and is seldom attended with good action. The chief defect in the elbow is seen when it turns inwards, and rubs so closely against the ribs that the finger can hardly be insinuated between them and it. Here the elbow is said to be tied or confined, and the horse is very apt to turn his toes out; while the opposite formation is indicated by turned-in, or 'pigeon' toes, and turn-out elbows, frequently accompanying long-standing rheumatism of the shoulders. A long and muscular fore-arm is a sure accompaniment of strong and sweeping action, and should be carefully prized; in other respects there is little to be noted here. Next comes the knee, which should be broad, and when looked at from the front should be much wider than the limb above and below. It should taper off backwards to a comparatively thin edge, and should have a good development of the pisiform bone, which projects backwards at its upper part. The leg, immediately below the knee, should be as large as any other part, and not 'tied in' there, which indicates a weakness of this part. A bend-

ing of the knee backwards is called a 'calf-knee,' and is not objected to in cart-horses, in which it is by no means uncommon; but it is very apt to lead to strains of this joint in the race-horse or hunter. A knee naturally bending somewhat forward is much preferred by good judges, though, when it is the result of overwork, it is almost equally to be avoided with the calf-knee. Flat, and at the same time large, cannon bones, without gumminess, are of great importance, and if attended with a full sized suspensory ligament, and with strong, clean, and free back sinews, the leg is to be considered faultless. The fetlock-joint should be of good size and clean, whilst the pasterns should form an angle with the ground, of between forty-five and sixty degrees. Lastly, the foot should be well formed; but the construction of this part being elsewhere more fully described, its consideration here is omitted.

"IN THE MIDDLEPIECE the withers come first under notice. It is usual to desire them high and thin, but they are very commonly too much developed, and if the bony processes stand up like the edge of a razor, without muscles in them, they are to be regarded as objectionable rather than otherwise. \* \* \* The volume of the chest is the measure not only of the capacity of the lungs, but of that of the large organs of digestion. Hence, unless there is a middle-piece of proper size, the wind is seldom good, and the stamina of the individual will scarcely ever be sufficient to bear hard work. \* \* \* The capacity of the lungs is marked by the size of the chest at the girth; but the stamina will depend upon the depth of the back ribs, which should be especially attended to.

"A SHORT BACK, with plenty of ground covered nevertheless, is the desideratum of every practical horseman. Unless the measurement from the shoulder point to the back of the quarters is somewhat greater than the height at the withers, the action is confined, especially in the gallop, for the hind legs cannot be brought sufficiently forward on account of the interference of the fore-quarter; and, indeed, from the want of play in the back, they are generally too much crippled in that respect. \* \* \* Next to these points in the middlepiece it is important to pay attention to the upper line of the back, which should bend down a little behind the withers, and then swell out very gently to the junction with the loins, which can hardly be too wide and muscular.

"IN EXAMINING THE HIND-QUARTERS, so much depends upon the breed, and the purposes to which the animal is to be put, that only a few general remarks can be given. \* \* \* Muscular quarters and gaskins are desirable in all breeds; for without strong propellers, no kind of work to which the horse is put can be duly performed. The judge of a horse generally likes to look at the quarters behind, so as to get a good view of their volume, and unless they come close together, and

leave no hollow below the arms, he suspects that there is a want of constitution, and rejects the animal on that account. But not only are muscles of full size required, but there must be strong joints to bear the strain which these exert, and one of the most important of all the points of the horse is the hock. This should be of good size, but clean and flat, without any gumminess or thoroughpins, and with a good clean point standing clear of the rest of the joint; the 'curby place' and the situation of spavin should be free from enlargement; but to detect these diseases a considerable amount of practice is required. Lastly, the hocks should be well let down, which depends upon the length of the thigh, and insures a short cannon-bone. The pasterns and feet should be formed in correspondence with those of the fore extremity, to which I have already alluded."

### Wintering Swine.

There is such a demand for pork at good paying prices, especially for large, heavy, solid bacon or mess pork, that the business of raising hogs, if properly carried out, is likely to prove a most profitable one, for at least a year or two yet. The pig is, when young, a rather thin-skinned, lightly haired animal, very susceptible to cold, wet, or changes of temperature, and therefore ought to have a well sheltered, dry place, well littered with straw, to lie in, and yet be separate from other stock; for if allowed the free run of the yard and stables, byres, &c., it will be continually running about, poking its nose into every trough and feeding box it can get at, and destroying much of the fodder when thrown down from the lofts or stack, preparatory to being carried into the feeding quarters of other stock. In fact, there is no greater nuisance on a farm than a lot of pigs, wandering about, running from house to barn and back again, getting into the way of everybody and everything. Let the brood sows be kept in their proper sties, and the shoats and stock hogs in a roomy shed, with a small yard attached, if there is no proper, well ventilated, yet warm sty, in which to keep them confined.

It is of the greatest importance that they should be kept warm and comfortable, by having plenty of litter in the place where they sleep.

It is a poor policy to feed much grain to stock hogs till they are put up to fatten, so long as other food that will keep them growing thriftily can be had. We have kept them in splendid growing condition all winter by feeding boiled Swede turnips, pulped, with fine cut clover hay, and pea chaff; to this a little ground pea meal was added. If the