

IF young men have not the means always to buy and keep a horse of their own, they profit thereby to this extent, that in a variety of mounts they find an endless variety of tricks, habits and characteristics with which, before they can be called good riders, they must know how to deal. Nobody is a good rider, who is not ready to manage and control a bad horse. Livery-stable hacks and borrowed screws have, therefore, their uses in the education of a rider. There are reasons why possibly the best judges of riding are those who break and train young horses for the purpose of selling them at a profit as "made" saddle horses. I have known men who have bought and ridden their own horses for forty years, and who were never good riders. Their experience was too limited.

It may be said of the saddle horse, "*nascitur non fit*," (this is a joke). Anyhow, when nature has turned out the animal with certain indispensable points of make and shape, the rider will find that there is yet a good deal of fitting to be done. It is true of race-horses that they run in all shapes. It is not true of the horse we are considering.

The ideal saddle horse must be handsome, intelligent and good tempered. He must be that sort of Anglo-Arab which is called "thoroughbred," or he must have one or more close crosses of this blood. In no other way can the oblique shoulder, length in front of the saddle, high croup, elasticity of movement, light and airy carriage, ambition and several other requisites be secured. This cross and its accompaniments are incidental alike to a pony of thirteen hands or to a seventeen hands hunter up to twenty stone with hounds, and to all heights and sizes between these extremes. Subject to make and shape I prefer a big horse.

The saddle horse must have another essential attribute. He must be deep through the heart, and the necessary room for his organs of respiration must consist in depth rather than breadth under the girths. A broad-chested horse with blunt withers cannot be a good saddle horse. He is too wide between your knees, and does not carry the saddle safely or comfortably. Easy ~~across~~ the walk, trot and canter depend on right make and shape,