

horses to go more square and speed better than they could with light shoes. I also learned that heavy shoes were more injurious to the horse's feet than light ones. To secure a pound and a half to two pound shoe to the horse's foot requires much larger nails than to secure a twelve to sixteen ounce shoe. Large nails are more likely to split the shell or wall of the foot than small nails; consequently, they are more injurious than small nails.

A pound and a half to two pound shoe cannot be forced to fit an ordinary-sized foot without making the web of the shoe either so broad that it would be but a clumsy and slippery affair for the horse to travel on, or so thick that it would soon destroy the normal state of the foot by undue pressure on the quarters and bars. I have seen a number of horses that produced quarter cracks by wearing heavy shoes, thick at the heels.

Thick-heeled shoes raise the frog so high that it does not perform its natural functions in supporting the weight of the horse; consequently, there is undue pressure thrown on the quarters, and frequently quarter crack is one of the results.

I once saw at Pittsburg, Pa., a pacer that naturally had strong, sound feet. She could pace in 2:30, and, to cause her to change her gait and trot, her trainer had put on her front feet two and a half pound shoes. It soon had the desired effect, and in ten days from the time the heavy shoes were applied, she could trot in 2:40, but in the meantime she had caused a quarter crack to appear in both her front feet, being the result of the injury produced to her feet by the use of the heavy shoes. I could name many similar cases that have fallen under my observation.

After using shoes of different weights, I have come to the conclusion that one weighing from twelve to eighteen ounces is as heavy as can be applied to an ordinary-sized foot without producing injury to the foot, or by causing the horse to cut or bruise himself in one of the many places which he is always liable to when not properly shod. I shall not now further attempt to prove that heavy shoes are injurious to the horse's feet, and, sooner or later, will destroy their normal condition.

Neither is it necessary for me to enumerate the many trotters that have been made what they are by the use of toe and side weights to prove that toe and side weights are superior to weight applied in the form of a shoe, for "North Branch," in his article, has named quite enough to establish that point and show that many good trotters are made what they are in a remarkably short time, and that they can and do carry toe-weights through many good races successfully.

In consideration that the great majority of trotting horse trainers do favor and use toe and side weights, I will proceed to give my views and conclusions in regard to their use, and tell you under what circumstances I have obtained the best results, and allow the heavy shoe party to wear out their prejudices as best they may.

In the first place, I would say that I have seen a number of horses injured by the improper use of toe-weights, but have never seen one injured by their proper use. Consequently, it is very important that the trainer should know how to use them, to insure good results. No trainer can tell how much weight to apply to a horse to obtain the best result until he has experimented with his horse, and learned by practical demonstration.

My experience has caused me to adopt the plan of commencing with a light weight, and to increase it, say at the rate of two ounces, until the desired result is obtained; and when I have got the horse's gait square and thoroughly established, I commence and reduce the weight gradually, and in many cases it may be dispensed with entirely.

A horse commencing to trot is similar to a child learning to walk. Most children have sufficient strength in their feet and legs to walk before they can balance themselves and keep their bodies in an upright position. I have never heard of a child that jumped out of its crib when it arrived at the proper age to walk, and started off without assistance. It is the same with green trotters; they always require more or less support from their drivers.

The toe and side weights are undoubtedly the best supports the trainer and driver can use with the green trotter, until he matures into a level-headed trotter and acquires confidence in him-

self. Station owners and breeders, in the case of Dr. S. Price, Lexington, Ky., vs. Col. R. P. Pepper, of Frankfort, on an appeal from the Franklin Circuit Court. Col. R. P. Pepper bred three mares to Dr. S. Price's stallion Sentinel, one of which failed to prove in foal, and Sentinel died at the close of the season, and suit was brought for the recovery of the season money. The printed terms on which the horse stood were as follows:—"Sentinel will make the coming season at Ash Grove Stud Farm, at \$75 for the season, with the privilege of breeding back next season should the mare not prove with foal." The terms bound the breeder to the payment of the money at the close of the season, which was not done, and the Franklin Circuit Court decided that as the mare was not in foal, and the horse having died, so that the privilege of breeding back could not be obtained, Dr. S. Price should not recover the price (\$75), of the season. The Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the Franklin Circuit Court on the following grounds:

"It is true the appellant gave the appellees the privilege of breeding back next season should the mare not prove with foal," but he did not agree that he was not to be paid till the mare proved in foal.

"Suppose appellees had complied with their contract and paid appellant \$75 for the season of the Almont mare to Sentinel at the time they took her home at the close of the season and afterwards Sentinel had died, could the appellees have recovered the season price of the Almont mare back? Or suppose, after the payment of the season price for the Almont mare, she had proved not to be in foal, but died before another season, could appellees have recovered the money back? We think not. The agreement to permit customers to breed back till their mares were in foal of course only meant that they could do so if the horse and mare lived to another season, nor did he make the amount due him for the price of his horse depend upon whether his horse did or live.

"We are of opinion that Sentinel's terms, as indicated in appellant's printed card, did not amount to a warranty upon the part of his owner, that if he failed to get a colt the first season that he would live till the next one, but that when a customer put a mare appellant could have enforced payment therefor at the close of the season, and the customer had the right to re-put his mare the next season, provided she did not prove in foal the first one, and provided the horse and mare both lived till the next season."



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age of five or six years after giving birth to the 16th Duchess of Airdrie. What but lack of constitution, produced by incestuous breeding, could have caused this early decay. Truly we have seen the folly of paying extravagant prices for animals too closely inbred.—*Turf, Field and Farm*

A HEN LIE.

It is charming sometimes to witness the ingenuity of man when he departs from his usual habit of mendacity into the broader realms of unconscionable romance. 'Twas a brother-in-law of a "well-known gentleman" in New Haven who concocted the following: "I dropped a cartridge, one of the small kind, Smith & Wesson make, in the yard of my residence, a while ago. One of my hens picked it up among other edible articles, appearing nowise inconvenienced by its size, weight, or composition. I have always noted that that hen, a Shanghai of the ostrich breed, had a remarkable fondness for bits of metal. Two days elapsed after the occurrence before developments ensued. The hen having a disagreement with the local rooster, turned and ran. Probably the rapid motion engendered a fatid movement, bringing one of the bits of metal in that hen's gizzard against the fulminate end of the shell with force enough to cause an explosion. The hen scattered, while the amazed rooster, brought to a stand-still by such unexpected denouement, sadly shook his crest and moralized on the impropriety of leaving such playthings scattered about." Good day! Gentleman from New Haven, your story is undoubtedly true.

ASTONISHING VITALITY OF A DOG.

About six weeks ago a gentleman who prided himself on having one of the best rabbit dogs in the city went rabbit hunting north of the city. The dog soon struck the trail of game, and made chase. Contrary to expectation, he failed to return. Search was made for him through the whole neighborhood, but with no success, and the owner of the dog went home with a heavy heart. About three days ago a man passing an old mineral hole heard a noise coming from the bottom of the shaft. A windlass was procured, a man went down, discovered the living skeleton of a dog, which he kindly brought to the surface. It was soon found that the dog belonged to the Dubuque gentleman, and was brought to him. He had lost his good looks and changed so radically in appearance that his master had grave doubts as to his identity, but the dog's recognition of him and evident delight at seeing him again satisfied him that he was his dog. When he fell into the mineral hole he weighed forty-seven pounds; when he was rescued he weighed only twenty pounds. He lost flesh, but gained an appetite, for the first thing he swallowed was a chunk of bread soaked in whisky. He then took a long sleep and was furnished with something more substantial, if not stronger, and is now in a fair way to regain his former sleek look. Neither a fall of seventy feet nor thirty days starvation could kill the dog.—*Danbury News*.

The Cattaraugus, N. Y., Republican has the following: "A few days since a young Indian woman, daughter of Andrew John, was taken with a severe coughing spell, in the course of which she threw up a black bug, 1 inch long and 5-8ths of an inch wide. The bug is an ugly-looking creature, and how it came in the stomach of the young woman is one of the mysteries. She has experienced unusual sensations in the stomach for some time, but will doubtless feel better now that she is rid of so unwelcome a visitor."

could never depend upon them. Drive ten miles out upon the prairie, and then release them from the wagon and motion them forward, and seven times out of eight they would strike a bee line for home. One of the best trainers in the country tried to break them of their shyness, but he did not succeed. The dogs are now held in probation. They will be given another trial the approaching Summer and Autumn. It would gratify us to be assured that the experience of this gentleman is exceptional. But we doubt it, for the reason that we could name a good many who have sought diligently and found not, who have purchased fashionable strains only to meet with the bitterest disappointment. The moral to be drawn is, when you have a good working dog, do not trade him off for an untried one, who has good pedigree and good looks to recommend. Those who breed for the market will have to put their dogs to more thorough tests. Mere bench show winners will not answer. Merit will have to be established by practical work, by trials in the field.—*Turf, Field and Farm*.

HORSES OF CENTRAL ASIA.

The horses which are native to the Kirghiz Steppes are the hardest breed in the world. They are small in size, with thick, shaggy coats like a Newfoundland dog's. They have a jogging gait ordinarily, and their gallop is not very swift, but their powers of endurance are marvellous. They are never housed in winter, severe as is that season in Central Asia, nor are they blanketed during the coldest days or nights. Their thick coats of hair is their only protection against the rigors of wind, snow and piercing cold, even when the mercury drops to 40 degrees below zero. Nor is there any provision made for their sustenance during the months when the ground is covered with snow. They are turned loose on the Steppes when the day's toil is over and left to shift for themselves, which they do by kicking away the snow and feeding on the withered grass and herbs. A great many die of starvation during the winter months; occasionally when the winter is very severe, the poor beasts perish by thousands, and a Tartar who is a rich man one week may find himself a beggar the next. Should a thaw occur after a deep snow, followed by a cold snap, the ground becomes covered with an impenetrable coating of ice, when the horses die of starvation.

The Tartar takes no care of his stock, does not take the trouble to water them, leaving them in the winter to assuage their thirst by eating snow. Towards the end of the winter months the ribs of the poor beasts almost come through their hides, but when the snow disappears, and the rich vegetation, which replaces it in the early Spring, comes up, the animals are in flesh and strength and are capable of performing long marches—a hundred mile ride not being at all uncommon in Tartary. It is said that a Kirghiz chief with a Cossack escort once galloped 200 miles in twenty-four hours, the path extending for a considerable distance over a mountainous and rocky district. The animals soon recovered, however, from the effects of the journey, although they were a little lame for a few days. Neither in winter nor summer are these horses shod, except when they are to travel over rocky ground. The hoof is strong enough to need no protection, and a lame or unsound steed is a rarity.

NERVOUS DEBILITY—REDCROSS ELIXIR

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being manufactured at the workshops. The elaborately carved work of the handsome conservatory, built on the Pine-street side of the Stanford mansion was also made at the road shops at a cost, in round figures, of \$30,000. The appointments of the various rooms in each of these mansions have been prepared with the same disregard of cost. The architects express that no estimate was made of the cost of either building when the plans were submitted. The plans were simply accepted and all the details of material being employed in their execution.

THE EFFECT OF BREEDING ON MARES.

We have often been asked what we thought of breeding a filly which has to be trained after raising a colt or two? The instances we have known have proven that it was not detrimental to speed. Princess, Lady Palmer and Lucy had each one foal before they were trained, and Flora Belle two, and in a late number of B. H's Life in London is the following, from one of the correspondents of that paper. His article is a relation to the breeding of hunters. "It does not hurt a three year-old filly at all to breed from her. She has a foal at four, and the Autumn of that year she is broken. Some have even bred advantageously from two-year-olds. I fancy it spreads a lightish animal to have a foal, and that it does not hurt her constitution in the slightest degree is proved by the numerous mares that have done real good things after they have had several foals. I have seen Theolara, by The Emperor, run in the same steeple-chase with her son Valentine, who was then five, and I remember seeing an old mare called Regatta at a good field in one of the best contested steeple-chases I ever saw; and she had been thrown out of training after running up to four years old; then she had five or six foals, and was subsequently put to steeple-chasing. I do not believe either that moderate work hurt foaling mares. I have seen them do great performances when tolerably far gone. I saw Noelle, the daughter afterwards of Don Carlos, win the great four-mile race at Paris late in October, after a tremendous struggle, and she foaled early in the following April. It could not have hurt her constitution, for she has produced some good animals, and I believe she is alive now." Some of the very best brood mares have had foals when quite young, and the failure of some of the best performers when put to breeding may have arisen from the lateness of the time they commenced the duties of maternity, although it has been generally ascribed to hard training and severe races they have run.—*California Spirit*.

Water in which potatoes are boiled possesses a poison fatal to lice. Dip it into a large sponge or wooden cloth and wash the cattle freely, choosing a sunny, warm day for the operation, and as their hides dry, comb them with a currycomb. In this way the animals will soon be rid of the vermin.

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