

4. Avoid violent crossing. All deformed colts are not caused by mental impressions, very many being due to the foolish but too common practice of stinting small light mares to heavy draught sires. It is well known that some stallions are notorious for this sort of thing; and it is a curious but instructive fact that the worst offender I ever knew was himself a small horse, but bred from extra heavy Clydesdale stock on both sides of the house. While this is, perhaps the most objectionable, all violent crossing will be found, as a rule unsatisfactory.

5. Breed only from sound stock. I cannot impress this maxim too strongly upon you. The Royal Agricultural Society of England, acting upon the advice of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, disqualifies for premiums, horses suffering from any of the following diseases; roaring or whistling, ring bone, side bone, navicular disease, curb, bone spavin, bog-spavin, grease, shivering and cataract; and, under certain circumstances, splint, string-halt, contracted feet, weak feet and bursal enlargements, such as thoroughpin and wind galls. You will be wise, then, to look out for these maladies and to refrain from breeding from animals of either sex afflicted with them, as also from parents of faulty conformation or weakly constitution, there being quite enough unsound and shapeless horses now in the country without your deliberately adding to the number.