

coarse curly hair, bad joints, wide and sluggish action is pointed out to such a judge; his ideal is an animal with great top and big limbs, and one which weighs a ton, and that suffices. Whilst a third is nominated who is in favor of good feet, wide at heel, good pasterns before and behind, flat bone of good substance, long silky hair, clean flat hocks, short back, well arched ribs, deep middle, and wide chest. He will not only require style and activity; but, to please his taste, the animal must not turn his fore or hind legs in or out neither when moving or standing still at rest. Supposing three such men meet in the ring, and each swears by his own standard, the result is sure to be disappointing to all concerned.

A word or two with reference to the practice of judging in Scotch show-yards; the plan of having animals walked and trotted straight up the ring, so that the judges can see the fore and hind action, is a great improvement on the English system of going round the ring. The practice in Scotch Show-yards of doing this with every animal in the Show, seems open to objection, and strikes one as an entire waste of time. Say there are sixty entries in one class, surely one-third of the best might easily be drafted whilst parading round the ring, and the other forty sent to their boxes.

No one can deny that English judges, as a rule, have recently gone in for the points favored by our friend who nominated the supposed third judge, while those who have visited Scotch Show-yards must have observed that the tendency north of the Tweed has been not only to retain these points of excellence, but to endeavor to build up a horse of greater substance.

ON KINDNESS TO HORSES.

It grieves me to see the noble animal that ministers to man's wants ill-treated by brutes calling themselves the lords of creation; aye, and by mere boys too, who soon follow the example of their elders.

I have frequently seen sixty or more teams engaged at a ploughing match in Bedfordshire. A close observer could easily form an opinion, without entering the field, that the man who was pulling, exciting, and irritating his team had no chance of a prize; while all that was necessary for the winning man was scarcely a pull of the reins and a gentle gee-oh, or come-a-the-whoa. This appeared to be understood by the intelligent animals.

I hope the plan of giving prizes in cities and large towns to grooms taking the greatest care of the horses under their charge will be more generally adopted.

In closing my remarks on Breeding, let me point out the evil arising from the almost universal practice of offering beer to grooms leading stallions employed during the season. It is a mistaken kindness, and too often leads to the downfall and ruin of the man.

ON REARING.

Having taken up more time than I intended with the former part of my subject, fearing I may weary you, my remarks on rearing shall be as concise as possible. Let us start with a mare in foal, say at Michaelmas. It will be far better for the mare to be turned in a cool yard at night, during the winter months, than to be kept in a warm stable.

A liberal diet of oats, bran, and hay is necessary; by no means give mangolds, it makes them shoot the coat too early in the following spring.

If mares foal in early spring, or at any later period, I hold it essential for the well-being of the offspring, that the mare should be turned on pasture for at least three weeks before foaling, to get used to the change from

dry food; foals will stand what exposure the dam has been accustomed to. How often does one hear of the loss of foals, from cold, inflammation, or diarrhoea, through mares being turned out on succulent pasture for the first time after foaling.

Mares kept for breeding purposes only—not required to work—are better to have dry food given on pasture, during winter. For a time after foaling mares should have oats given them morning and evening, then grass alone will be sufficient.

I like for foals, when a month or five weeks old, to be shut away from their dams for an hour or two each day, to be taught to eat dry food, as bran and griddled oats. Before weaning the foals can be separated from the mares longer at a time, and when taken away entirely will not lose flesh to the same extent as is often the case when suddenly taken from their mothers and weaned.

I strongly recommend where practicable the advisability of young animals being raised on pasture, instead of in loose boxes or warm yards. I do not, however, wish to be misunderstood, and supposed to advocate this treatment in all cases—as in the case of backward or delicate foals. The advantage of having hedges for shelter, or suitable climate will regulate this.

I do not even care for a hovel for shelter, for however severe the weather, in ninety-nine times out of a hundred you will find the foals in the open.

I have never known a case of injury from eating frosted grass.

By this treatment the growth of bone, muscle, and hair will be encouraged, the constitution strengthened, the elasticity of action retained, whilst the danger of getting over on their joints or flying at the hocks is reduced to a minimum.

Foals require good and suitable dry food during the winter months. At no other period of life will they so well repay the outlay. Size will never afterwards be obtained, unless the foals are well grown when young.

I may add I practise the above-named plan. Nine of my earliest foals have never been under shelter other than hedges this winter, whilst the very late foals lie in a cool yard at night, and run on a pasture in the day-time.

During the summer months dry food can be omitted, grass alone being sufficient. It will be advantageous to supplement grass by giving dry food during the second or any succeeding winter.

Some may remark that this plan may be all very well for ordinary purposes, but will it answer for those animals intended for exhibition purposes?

I will remark that at the first shows in London the practice was to bring yearlings in the ring as if they had come out of a band-box, but the aim for the last year or two has been to retain the winter coat.

Judges do not favor an accumulation of fat in such young animals, but require bone and muscle with activity.

To prove that animals so treated can not only be exhibited successfully, but also disposed of remuneratively, I have only to point out to you that the Elsenham stud have been raised entirely on this principle of training. The remarks I heard when attending this wonderful sale were—when forty animals averaged over £172 each—"they were the soundest lot of animals ever brought into a sale ring." Mr. Gilbey assured me not one of the fillies had been housed for more than a few days previous to the sale.

I am pleased to see Mr. Gilbey present this evening, I trust he will give me some further

information on this important part of my subject.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

I fear I shall be accused of lightly touching on some parts, and entirely omitting others. I have purposely done this, lest I should be simply repeating what has already appeared in my book on the "History of the Shire Horse."

THE HOLSTEINS AS BUTTER-MAKERS AND BEEF CATTLE.

From the National Live Stock Journal.

The following paper had been prepared by Mr. W. R. Smith, to be read at the Holstein Breeders' meeting last week, but owing to the excess of business at the meeting he waived his right to the floor, and it was agreed, at the suggestion of the chair, that the paper be printed in the secretary's report of the proceedings. By the courtesy of Mr. Wales we are able to publish the most important parts of it, which are as follows:—

"It is now a well established and indisputable fact that the Holstein is the deepest milking cow in existence, therefore I will not inflict upon you any extended remarks on that point, but desire to briefly say that the past year has seen a progress in the gaining of milk records for Holstein cows that their most earnest advocates little dreamed of a few years back. Sixteen thousand pounds in a year is no longer a miracle, but has given way to 23,000 lbs. My opinion is, we have done quite well enough in quantity of milk for single individuals, and it now behooves us to build up the general average quantity of our herds; to not only head our herds with exceptional great milkers, but to have each and every cow in the herd a deep milker, and so proven by large, accurately kept records. There is no reason why many of us should not have a herd of cows whose records, at maturity, will all range from 14,000 lbs. to 20,000 lbs. each, and average at least 15,000 to 16,000 lbs. for every milking mature cow in the herd.

"The express purpose of this article is to draw your attention to the marked results achieved by Holsteins the past year in butter and beef—two points not so satisfactorily demonstrated to the world at large as are their capabilities as enormous milkers. It may not be known to all who hear me that this past year an effort has been made to prove to those unacquainted with the breed and to those that disbelieve in the butter qualities of the Holstein milk, that so far as tried they have not been found wanting, but in butter as in milk have exceeded the expectations of their most ardent supporters."

After referring to the wonderful records of Mary Anne of St. Lambert, of Mercedes, and some interesting herd records, including one of their own, Mr. Smith proceeds as follows:—

"Now, what do these records prove? I answer by stating that increased knowledge in breeding, feeding, and manufacturing will enable us not only to add a great number of cows to this list, but also to add materially to the general average yield per cow.

"In comparing Holstein butter records with those of the acknowledged butter breeds, we must remember that while the owners of these butter breeds have been experimenting for years in breeding and feeding their animals for butter, and in manufacturing the milk by the most scientific and thorough methods into butter, Holstein breeders have, on the contrary, been laboring to another end—the production of a large quantity of milk—and having satisfactorily solved that problem, if they turn the same amount of enterprise, intelligence, and care towards the production of butter, I