

## HORSES.

## Adherence to Type in Horse Judging.

In order to do good work in the show-ring, the judge must be a good judge of type. He must be conversant with the desirable characteristics of the different breeds of horses, and in order to appear consistent he must, as far as possible, adhere to type in awarding prizes. At the same time, we not infrequently hear a judge severely criticised for his apparent indifference to type when his awards are properly made. In judging cattle, sheep, swine or poultry, in which classes the entries are in nearly all cases pure-breds, and where not so, are, at all events, judged from a special standpoint where a certain type is demanded, it is comparatively easy to adhere to type. The same remarks apply, though to a limited degree, to the pure-bred classes of horses. The limitation referred to applies to soundness and action. In many cases a horse that is typical of his class is disqualified from winning, or set second or third, on account of some unsoundness that is not apparent to those outside the ring. Most agricultural societies have a paragraph in the prize list which states that, with certain exceptions, an unsound horse cannot win a prize. If this rule were strictly adhered to, a great many good horses would be disqualified, as there are few absolutely sound. Therefore, it is apparent that the judge must exercise his discretion or judgment as to what should disqualify. We occasionally hear it stated that if a horse has an unsoundness that prevents him from winning 1st place, he should be disqualified altogether. This does not necessarily follow; it depends greatly upon the company he is in. An unsoundness that does not interfere with the animal's usefulness, but at the same time should place him behind an animal that otherwise is not quite so good, might not be sufficient to place him behind another that is quite inferior. The slightly unsound animal being the more typical, and the unsoundness being invisible to the spectators, makes it appear that the judge does not value type as he should, and if the unsound animal be disqualified from winning anything, the idea is intensified. If the judge had the privilege of explaining, or giving reasons for his awards, it would, in most cases, satisfy the public that he was right, but it is not always wise for him to draw the attention of the public to an unsoundness in a horse; the owner does not like it, and this applies especially to the breeding classes.

In the pure-bred classes, as Thoroughbreds, Hackneys, Coach horses, Clydesdales, Shires, etc., the judge has, in most cases, a reasonable opportunity to show his knowledge of and preference for type, and he should adhere to it as far as possible. But in the classes of composite breed, as roadsters, carriage horses, saddlers, general purpose horses, combination horses, etc., where the blood of so many breeds or classes is represented, and where action and manners may be said to count for more than type (this is especially the case in carriage horses), it is often impossible for the judge to be particular about type in awarding the prizes. Cases are not rare, in which two animals of the same breeding, size and general appearance when standing are essentially different in action and style. One has the high, flashy, attractive action required in the carriage horse, while the other has typical road action, and can, perhaps, go fast, or he may even pace. It is quite possible for each of these to win in good company; one in the carriage and the other in the roadster class, and each may be said to be fairly typical. In cases of this kind, it is style and action rather than conformation that classifies the horses.

It is extremely hard to set up a definite type for classes of mixed breeding. In the case cited, while the animals are bred in the same way, possibly out of the same dam and by the same sire, and as regards size and conformation are alike, one inherited the carriage action of a more or less remote ancestor, and the other the road action of a member of another branch of the family. Instances of this nature are frequent, and apply to a greater or less extent, to all classes where impurely-bred animals are eligible. We frequently notice in a class of horses, where size is not designated, that a large animal will be given 1st, a small one 2nd, and a large one 3rd, or vice versa. Now, to the casual observer this looks inconsistent, and we often hear such awards severely criticised, but if a careful observer, who understands the conditions, be present he will have observed that the animals that won possessed the desirable action demanded, in the degree in which they were placed.

While I do not wish to justify the awards that are made in all cases, as I am fully alive to the fact that frequently they are essentially wrong, I, at the same time, am also aware that the judge is often severely criticised by either interested or ignorant parties, when, as a matter of fact, his awards have been properly made. As already stated, in judging horses it is well to adhere as

far as practicable to type, but it would be unwise to sacrifice other desirable qualities for type.

In the pure-bred classes, of course, we must have type first, and the other qualities more or less marked, but in the composite classes it is hard to define exactly what is a typical animal, and all points and characteristics must be carefully considered, and we are justified in sacrificing type, at least to a limited extent, for other qualities. The judge of horses has much more to contend with than the judge of other classes of stock, and, for reasons explained, he finds it harder to stick to type.

"WHIP."

## Feed and Fit Before Selling.

In offering farm horses for sale, a common mistake is made in not properly fattening and fitting before placing on the market. Not only is this true at the present season, when the surplus stock are being disposed of before winter, but at other times during the year. Most people believe that it pays to fatten cattle, sheep or hogs, but they forget that for the feed consumed the heavy draft horse will give even better returns. Buyers for the British market, particularly, demand that the body be well covered with flesh of good quality, and for such, all other things being equal, they are prepared to pay the highest price.

The reason for this is readily seen; the long sea voyage is extremely trying, and unless horses are fat before starting they are not likely to appear in very attractive form when presented for sale across the Atlantic. The old adage, too, that "fat covers a multitude of defects," is very



GOLDEN CHARM.

Clydesdale stallion, two years old. Winner of first prize at Western Fair, London, 1902. IMPORTED AND OWNED BY BAWDEN & M'DONELL, EXETER, ONT.

true, and while deceptive tactics must be ignored, it should not be forgotten that in a horse of good condition a buyer has the assurance that the animal is capable of making good use of his feed.

When it is desired to improve the condition of horses which have been constantly engaged in heavy work, they should not be fed heavily without receiving regular exercise. It is much better, to make the change to comparative idleness gradually, because if heavy feeding is indulged in, indigestion or disorders of the blood must be feared. Examine the teeth at the start and make sure they are capable of proper mastication. As a fattening ration, nothing is better than a mixture of good timothy and clover hay, if available, with whole oats and bran in addition. It is good practice to occasionally give a feed of oats, boiled, and if a small allowance of roots, such as carrots or turnips, be supplied daily, rapid improvement may be expected.

In regard to fitting, to show to advantage, it will generally pay to spend a little time for that purpose. Buyers will give more for a horse that is handy and will step up on the line with good grace. This feature of the preparation for market can be easily attended to while giving the necessary exercise, and if by the expenditure of a little time and skill better action and manners can be secured the value will be very materially increased. It might also be added that good grooming is one of the chief essentials to good health, and a little time spent with the comb and brush in the stall will not be amongst the unprofitable items when the stable accounts are audited.

## The Idle Horse in Winter.

The cheapest method of keeping the idle horse over winter, is a question that might well be considered by many just at this season. There is no need to supply fat and flesh, nor stimulate muscular energy; all that is necessary is a ration containing sufficient nutrients to rebuild the tissues of the body broken down by the every-day activities of the vital organs. To do this, in most cases, little or no grain should be required. A moderate allowance of equal parts clover hay, where that luxury is available, and clean wheat or oat straw, with a few pounds of roots in the form of turnips or carrots daily, will fill the bill. As exercise is very essential to good health, it is splendid practice, after the morning meal has been disposed of, to allow freedom in a large yard or field, where he may roam at will. Even on comparatively stormy days, when rain is not falling, a few hours in the open air will be profitable. Under such treatment he will be healthy and in good condition when March arrives, to go into preparation for the spring fitting. The custom of feeding idle horses grain, which might profitably be given to stock that is for sale, does not belong to business farming.

## STOCK.

## The First Month in Stall Feeding.

To feed right, the first month of fattening requires skill on the part of the cattleman quite equal if not superior to that necessary at any other time. During this period the health and individual condition of the animals has to be taken into consideration. It is largely a transition stage—changing from the succulent herbage of the fields to something more concentrated and solid in character; and since it is well known that sudden changes of feed are not conducive to good health nor rapid gains in flesh, care must be exercised in preparing the ration.

To begin with, such feeds as roots, silage and rape must be given somewhat freely. Of the latter, too much can scarcely be said in its favor; many of the heaviest and most successful feeders now aim to give their cattle a few weeks' run on rape pasture previous to stabling, and even when they have been chained in the stalls and the weather somewhat severe, they continue its use by carting to the stable once each day a fair allowance. It has a wonderfully good effect in toning up the system, because, owing to a high per cent.

of protein, the fluids of the body are increased, and the bullock, as old feeders would say, "becomes sappy." This is exactly the condition that should be aimed at during the preliminary stage, so that when grain is gradually introduced four or five weeks later, the digestive organs will be in a state to assimilate what is given.

In the absence of rape, or when the supply has been exhausted, roots and silage, either singly or in conjunction, should be liberally supplied, the amount suited to each animal being determined by observing the readiness with which the manger is cleaned and the action upon the digestive tract as seen by the condition of the excreta.

As roughage, there is nothing better to mix with these than good clover hay, if it is available. It also, according to chemical analysis, is high in protein, has a narrow nutritive ratio, and hence is fitted to increase the circulatory protein (juices of the body) and invigorate the animal organization. While some practice feeding grain lightly from the beginning, others defer its introduction for a few weeks. This, however, is a matter which circumstances alone must decide. If the cattle are already thrifty, and have taken the change of food without a serious backset, a small allowance, say 2 or 3 pounds daily, may be advisedly given, but ordinarily, where the feeding is to be continued several months, it is better to withhold the meal for a few weeks, as before intimated.

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