

For mares and foals, for young, unbroken colts of quiet temper, and for draught animals of more placid temperament, a grass field during the summer is all that can be desired. For hunters, hacks, and the lighter sort of horses that have been in good condition, it is, however, an expensive and dangerous treat.

Horsemen are beginning to appreciate the detriment to the health and constitution, and the waste of time and trouble entailed by allowing their horses, as was the old fashion, to get out of condition when not wanted for several weeks or months. They rightly discover that it is more expensive to turn a horse, after the hunting season for example, to grass, thus allowing him to lose his muscle and strength, and again have him in good order for October, than it would have been to keep him all summer in a comfortable roomy box or well-sheltered yard, allowing him a little corn with his hay and green food, and enjoining daily walking, trotting or other suitable gentle work. The desirability of maintaining horses in continuous good condition becomes all the more reasonable when it is considered that condition, though somewhat of an artificial state, is synonymous with the highest health and vigour. What possible advantage can there be in loading the wiry muscled with useless and cumbrous fat, and weighting the frame as if it was intended for Bingley Hall or Baker-Street? The legs do not suffer as is sometimes supposed, by keeping the horse constantly in fair condition. On the contrary, the carcase being light, the limbs are not overweighted, and like the rest of the body, are also strong, and able to bear their burden. Nothing, we may remark, tends more to shaky, weak, tottering legs than using for fast work horses that are heavy and overloaded with beef, and whose limbs want the toughness and strength which condition alone can give. Although kept during the summer in state fit to go, it is, however, by no means necessary that the animal be subjected to continuous hard work; he need not be galloped or trotted at a "two forty" pace over hard roads. When, like the hunter during the spring and summer months, he is not required for full work, his exercises may be relaxed to an hour or two of walking or gentle trotting exercise, he may be profitably used as a hack, or even for light harness work. A handful of clover or vetches pleasantly vary his diet, and exert besides in a natural way that "cooling" influence on the blood which is so much talked of among stablemen.

Kept in the manner suggested, the horse is at any time in three or four weeks fit for any reasonable moderate work. A little restriction in his hay, a few more oats, his exercise gradually increased, and he will cheerfully and easily perform his allotted work on the road or in harness, whilst with a few preparatory gallops he will not even disgrace his owner if he turns out to the cover side in October. Here the horses

that have run at grass during the summer themselves unpleasantly conspicuous. The spurt covers them with lather, heavily the over a field or two, boring blunderingly at fences, and soon give in dead beat; or if less urged along, are apt to sink from eclosion or inflammation of the lungs. The muscles of respiration, like those of the limbs and parts, are weak, and incapable of continuing exertion.

To many of our readers it is an impractical question how such an animal can best be rendered serviceable. How can his abilities be most speedily brought to perfection? How can he be prepared so that his duties be performed easily to himself and satisfaction to his master? To condition, as to many things useful and valuable, there is no royal road. The result is to be obtained only by proper feeding, exercise, and grooming. Grass must be the staple food, and with a horse from grass, or that has been living on food, they should at first be mixed with which will keep the bowels open, and prevent the evil effects which are so apt to follow sudden transition from soft, bulky, lax food to drier and more nutritive fare. From 10 to 15 lbs. of oats, according to the size and condition of the animal, is a fair daily allowance and should be given cracked or bruised ground, and with a handful of chaff. Horses intended for fast work beans must be sparingly, as they are apt to cause indigestion and interfere with free respiration. As for farmers the prevailing dietetic error is an excess of hay. The country lad, who oft as the farmer's groom, is accustomed to farm horses' racks filled to overflowing, acting upon the half true, half false principle that "what is good for the goose is good for the gander," he thinks the riding horses, unless they have in the rack and under the manger as much hay as would last them for a week, cannot be too often or strongly insisted upon. Horses, and, indeed, all animals, should be exercised regularly, and should never have more than they can clear up at once and with relish. 15 lbs. to 20 lbs. of sound English or clover hay is a liberal allowance for the sorts of horses, of which at present we hear so much. We would never have a horse restricted in his allowance of water, except for seven days before he is required for work; and to his taking at a time more than is good for him he should be offered it at frequent intervals of not less than 5 or 6 times a day. If horses are kept, as they should be, in loose boxes or commodious yards, regular exercise during the summer months, and not in work, is not essential. But all horses, if intended to be used within three months for hunting or other such work, must be exercised, which ought to be gradually increased in severity and duration until the horse