

A GOOD GENERAL PURPOSE HORSE.

The best horse to cross with a native mare for the production of an animal for general purposes is the Hambletonian. Such a horse is not only the horse for the fashionable carriage and for the saddle, but he is a good active horse for the work of the farm, and if a farmer span two such horses together, he will have a good stylish team to take his family to town or to church. In considering whether raising horses on the farm is profitable, you have to find out what kind of a mare the breeder has. If he has a mare that is only fit to breed to a jackass, he will get a mule which will perhaps sell pretty well. But there are many mares in Canada that have a thoroughbred affinity in their egg cells, and if you get a stallion of the same type to breed with one of these, you will get a horse of a good type. For instance, if you use a Hambletonian horse so strong as Rysdyk, his sperm cells would have affinity for nothing but the thoroughbred germ cells of the females, and you would produce nothing but the park horse.

DANGERS TO BE AVOIDED.

Spavins and ringbones, and especially curbs, are easily put upon a horse when he is being trained. There is nothing worse than to have a man bear down on a horse that is rearing or capering. I have seen my neighbours have horses ruined by the carelessness of what might be called a good groom. You can get no synovial enlargements, thoroughpins, jackspavins, and cocked ankles, on a well bred Rysdyk colt; nature is true to her anticipations, and when she puts a wealth of muscle in the posterior propelling powers she dictates a corresponding size and texture of bone adapted to its use. Very many of our most valuable roadsters become injured in the fore feet; and that reminds me of a word about shoeing horses.

HOW TO SHOE A HORSE.

The smith to make level a bed for the shoe, invariably pares the base of the foot at the expense of the toe, leaving the heel high, almost unpared, probably uncut at all; having already cut thin the toe, all it can suffer, he argues, that, "now pare away the heel and in levelling the centre, the bed line becomes so thin that it impinges upon the quick." Reverse all this custom. Don't pare the toe at all. Do all the paring and levelling at the expense of cuttings at the heel and slight shavings along the line of the intended bed for the shoe. Fit your shoe regardless of the projection of the toe over the shoe, and drive your nails. Don't rasp the enamel off the horse's hoof. Don't groove under the twisted off nail points to make an indentation to receive the clinched nail. Turn down your clinches and imbed them as lightly and as slightly as possible in the enamel of the hoof, and only simply rasp off the roughness of the clinches. I repeat, don't rasp the enamel at all. Simply rasp the toe margin so as to make it flush with the toe edge of the shoe. Let the advocates of rasping apply a proportionate sawing to the enamel of their own finger nails as often as they do to the horse's hoof and in a year they'll "know how it is themselves." Don't cut the frog, nature's cushion adapted to modify the concussion inherent upon locomotion, but see that the heel is sufficiently pared to yield laterally when superincumbent pressure is laid upon the elastic cushiony frog. A proper attention to shoeing, with a liberty, when unheated, of a daily half hour's bath of the fore feet in a two inch depth of cistern water and there will be little danger of our roadsters suffering from laminitis or navicular disease, founder or contracted heels.

USE OF INFERIOR STALLIONS.

The class of stallions in use in our section is a very poor native class. The farmers appear willing to take up with almost any stallion so long as the groom will insure for ten dollars. Generally, the cheapest horse is the best in their estimation, entirely regardless of pedigree or history.

[Dr. McMonagle.]