

horses and go out and perform alone, he should go promptly. We occasionally see a horse that goes well with other horses refuse to go out alone.

The hunter, in addition to the manners required in the saddle horse, should have good manners in performing over obstacles. He should take his jumps willingly and in good form, should be apparently anxious, but not too eager; should not tug on the bit, nor rush at the hurdles; should go straight between obstacles, and not refuse to come to the jump or take it.

The absence of good manners is, unfortunately, not confined to the horses in the show-ring. Exhibitors often act in a mean, selfish way towards each other, by trying in different ways to excite each other's horses, and thereby lessen their chances of winning. They are also often rude and discourteous to the judge, and when not awarded the place they think they deserve will sometimes refuse to accept the award or pass rude and uncomplimentary remarks. This may be called the essence of ill manners. The judge or judges are not infallible, and it not infrequently occurs that an exhibitor does not win as good a place as he should; but he should take what he is given without comment. He exhibits before a certain judge or set of judges, and this act implies that he is prepared to stand by their decision, and, even though he gets the worst of it, either through mistake, incompetency, dishonesty, or other causes, he should be man enough to accept it and not exhibit temper or ill manners by abusing the judges. If he thinks he is not being properly treated, he has the privilege of refusing to again subject himself to such treatment by withdrawing his entries.

Then, again, exhibitors not infrequently draw the attention of the judge to the merits of their entry, as regards breeding, individuality, action, speed, owner, etc., or give plausible explanation as to the cause of a blemish, etc. This should not be allowed. If the judge wants information he can ask for it, but exhibitors should not be allowed to volunteer information. The exhibitor should take it for granted that the judge is an honest and capable man who recognizes merit in a horse when he sees it, and if he does not think so, he should refuse to subject his entry to his judgment. He should also be sportsman enough to wish the best horse to win, and should not in any way interfere with the exhibitors of other entries, nor yet draw special attention to his own, other than the visible merits of the animal demand.

Why Mares Do Not Breed Regularly.

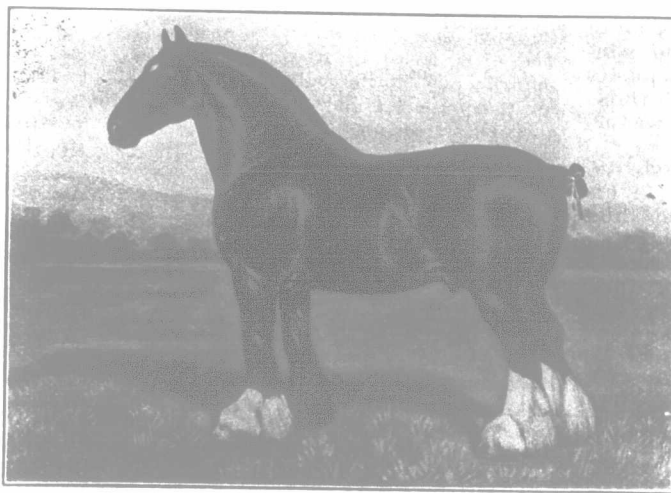
One reason why the percentage of foals born on farms is not larger is that farmers in the breeding season neglect to see to it that their mares are tried regularly. It may seem to some to be much trouble and perhaps a waste of time to stop some important work and go and have the mare tried, but the fact remains that not to take the mare regularly on that errand is a losing policy for which there is no defence. We do not believe in running the mare to be tried every few days after she is bred, says an exchange, but we do know that it is always well to consult the wishes of the owner of the horse with which she has been mated. If his rule is to have the mare returned for trial on a stated day, then she should be brought back on that day. Some mares are such kindly and regular producers that they get with foal at the first service each season for a term of years, so that it seems a waste of time to have them tried. In such cases, however, it invariably happens, sooner or later that she misses, and then the owner inveighs against his carelessness in not attending to his business.

Everyone knows that just at the present time horses are the most valuable and profitable animals reared on the farm. It seems likely, moreover, that this condition will endure for many years. Therefore, the man is foolish who neglects any point in the game. Every brood mare on a farm that does not produce a colt is so much dead timber, and even if she does her work and cares her keep she is not producing the profits which may reasonably be expected from her. If a mare is simply kept for the foals she may bring into the world, and goes over a year, she is nothing but a bill of expense for the time being.

But in any case, the failure to try mares as they should be tried is merely work half done, and we all know what the results are, as a rule, in the end. If it is worth while to breed a mare once it is just as well worth while to return her, provided that some worthy reason does not later develop why she should not be. Merely to fail to take her to the appointed trying place on the plea of being busy is very poor business policy. Suppose the corn is weedy and the weather has been wet. To stop for a half a day means to lose that much time in going over a few acres at the most. To keep on may mean not alone to let the mare go over barren for a year, but may also start her out in bad habits and cause her to become hard to get with foal

afterwards. There is no defense to be made to the failure to try mares.

And another thing: if the owner of the mare agrees with the owner of a stallion to return her at a stated time and place, that constitutes a binding agreement, and in the event of a dispute over the payment of the fee, might have a marked bearing on the outcome. In any case, an agreement is an agreement, and if the owner of the mare cares nothing for his own financial welfare he should at least respect his word. The business of standing stallions is a hard one at best, a disagreeable one at all times, with lines cast in thorny paths. To make a profitable season the man handling the horse must arrange his business in a businesslike manner, and he cannot do that if he cannot depend on the return of the mares when promised.



Shire Stallion.

Bred and owned by Messrs. John Chambers & Sons, Holdenby, Northampton, England.

Hoof Hints.

The sole of the horse's foot should be kept perfectly level, as any undue weight on one side of the foot may lead to injuries of the joints. All loose horn should be removed, and the wall of the hoof levelled with the sole. The bars should not be cut away, as they act as natural braces to the heels, and the frog is to be left in its normal size and shape to act as a cushion for the foot. After the foot is brought to its normal form the shoe should be made and fitted to it. The shoe must be of the exact size of the foot, so that it will come flush with the outer edge of the hoof. The nail holes should not be very close to the edge of the shoe, for in that case it is necessary to drive

for the purpose. After this is done the clinches may be smoothed with the rasp, but the outside of the hoof should not be rasped, as this will remove its natural protective covering.—[Mayo.

Judging Horses.

It is surprising to note how few men engaged in the horse trade have any knowledge of limb structure, and yet how quickly they can discern any trace of unsoundness or appearance of faulty formation. Long years of experience and observation have educated these men in a knowledge of the horse's structure and action that seldom allows them to be mistaken. Rarely, if ever, have they any need to look for a vet's opinion of soundness, and most frequently are confident enough to back up their own judgment by purchase. Even they, too, we admit, make mistakes, none the less, and if so, have to abide the loss in consequence; but their oversights and failures are rare, and are due to causes which might very well have misled even a professional man himself. Whether a horse is exactly sound in every particular is not such an easy task to decide, for, as those who have experience in the trade know, many a horse is passed sound and gets a satisfactory certificate, and yet, three weeks later he has developed something which prevents him from being any longer certified. At any time an affection of the wind or a disarrangement of some of the most delicate of the leg formations may be superinduced, through, it may be, carelessness, or it may be hereditary predisposition; and so, within the space of a few weeks, the value of an animal may be enormously depreciated.

Regarding methods of judging horses, there are, of course, some professional and some non-professional, and both of these, again, have different variations. In our own observation every man's system is a part of himself, and a naturally good judge of a horse needs to serve no apprenticeship—nature has given him more help than any theoretical information could. As for hints on detecting unsoundness in a horse, those of chief value are those which deal directly with the points where unsoundness may naturally be looked for. A knowledge of the most serious blemishes and an amount of expert skill in their detection constitute, after all, the best equipment for the selection of a horse. We are all acquainted with the body of whimsical advice conveyed in the isolated precepts, which begin—Never buy a horse that—and then follows a cause for rejection which is often more fantastic than real. All theorems of this nature are, however, not fantastic, and some have been properly dignified with the title "Points for Rejection," the value of which, as quoted by Curtis, may be judged from the following selection:

"Reject a horse whose fore legs are not straight; they will not stand wear. Stand behind the horse as he walks away from you and you will be able to notice these defects, if they exist.

"Reject a horse that is light below the knee, especially if immediately below the knee; the conformation is essentially weak.

"Or a horse with long, or short, or upright pasterns; long pasterns are subject to sprains; short or upright pasterns make a horse unpleasant to ride, and on account of extra concussion, are apt to cause ossific deposits.

"Or a horse with toes turned in or out. The twist

generally occurs at the fetlock. Toes turned out are more objectionable than toes turned in. When toes turn out the fetlocks are generally turned in, and animals so formed are very apt to cut or brush. Both, however, are weak formations.

"Reject a horse whose hind legs are too far behind; good propelling power will be wanting, and disease, as a result, may be expected in the hocks. And a horse which goes either very wide or very close behind, and one with very straight



Perpetual Motion (11272).

First-prize three-year-old Clydesdale Stallion, Highland Society's Show, Glasgow, 1905.

the nails too far up into the wall to make them hold. The shoe should be fitted cold, or just touched to the foot while hot, never burnt into position. The nails should be small, and when driven should be brought out well down into the hoof. If driven too high when the horse is reshod the former nail holes are near the edge, and serve to weaken the hoof and interfere with the driving of new nails. After the shoe is fastened the nails are to be clinched in small grooves placed