

## SUFFERED FROM HEART and NERVE TROUBLES FOR the LAST TEN YEARS.

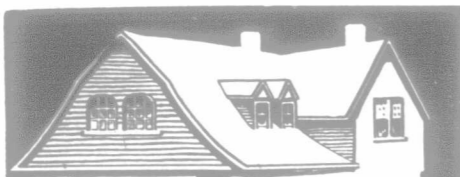
If there be nerve derangement of any kind, it is bound to produce all the various phenomena of heart derangement. In

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form all these evolutions at all paces. Where the public demand that they be "taught riding in twenty lessons of one hour each" what can we expect, and if that public is satisfied with merely escaping accident or death every time it rides, who are we to carp at such self-satisfaction? The old huntsman argued that the fox liked being hunted—perhaps our latter-day hacks admire the performances of their riders. One great advantage in attempting to teach one's horse these most simple feats is that one is thereby taken out of oneself, loses self-consciousness, and by so much as he relaxes stiffness and resistance of his own muscles by that much does he better his own balance and seat and by that same ratio does he become a better rider. It is this muscle resistance that so fatigues people in learning to ride—it is not the exercise they take but the unconscious exertions they make to prevent taking it which uses them up, and a thoroughly tired man, who will listen to instruction, will make more advance in that lesson than in any two which precede it. Riding may be taught from books, etc., but no book can enforce the practice that must accompany the study; and furthermore, but little is really learned except through mistakes. As argued in a recent article the secret of managing the saddle horse lies in the control of the hind quarters, and for that reason also, any animal who is thus proficient is half mouthed at once, and as we frequently see in various circus performances, may learn some brilliant "stunts" without any "mouth" at all. These "stunts," however,

very slow and especial attention given to the style of carriage, and after a few successful steps—say ten to twenty—the horse should be eased and led to another point where the same rehearsal may continue. When fairly proficient the whip taps are transferred from the croup to the spot where the leg and heel pressure is applied upon the side, and thus the animal prepared to understand and respond intelligently to leg indications when mounted. The same gradual methods apply to teaching to back, to traverse, etc.—"little and often" is the receipt, and a step or two correctly performed always followed by an unhampered advance for several yards. No greater error can be made than to force a willing horse to back long distances, or to do any other work to the point of fatigue or annoyance—nothing is gained, everything may be lost. Correct "form" is what we are after and if the neophyte will cover five steps properly the graduate will go one hundred yards if you ask him. Traversing is taught in the same fashion simply by tapping with the whip until the pupil travels sideways upon two paths, the forehand always being a step in advance, the neck bent and the face towards the line of progress—the ring-wall or the barnyard fence preventing direct advance; following this whiptuition the legs meet with prompt obedience when the animal is mounted.

Anyone who will essay these methods, however skeptical as to their value or necessity, will find his hands growing lighter in proportion as his animal makes himself; will be brought close to his charge's mouth when it is in action and



"CHIEFTAIN" AND "THE ONLY WAY."  
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are as valueless as the finished "airs" the most proficient *haute école* graduate, so far as practical work goes—but the rudiments are the same all the time.

If one cares to train the horse to the various movements of backing, traversing, etc., while he, the instructor, is on foot, the whip takes the place of the legs and heels, and collection is enforced by whip tap upon the croup which promotes an attempt to go forward, to be met and counteracted by the hand upon the two curb reins, held about six inches from the bit and which act causes the horse to carry the neck and head as desired—well bent in the one case, perpendicular in the other. Thus the animal is collected at a stand, eased, led on a few steps, and collected again and again before he is allowed to advance at a walk while under collection. Thus he learns to "make" and lend himself even when at rest and to assume the poise he must afterward wear. Such work should never be too long continued lest the horse become restive, and possibly successfully rebellious. Once the posture is fairly well gained, and taken readily the animal should be induced to advance by slightly more severe whip taps and a yielding of the hand which will allow that without permitting too much change in the posture of the neck and head. A step at a time is enough,

must notice not only the effects upon it of the two bits, and the pose of the neck, and body therefrom, but will have a chance to realize what a marvellous structure that lower jaw is; what a wonderful blending of tissue-paper skin and most delicate nerves and blood vessels; what great muscular power lies in the lips and tongue; how we really bit not the horse's mouth at all but his tongue; will notice the reasons for such and such fit of the bits and of the headstall; can study closely the effects of the two bits upon the lower jaw and the neck; note their different values; will see how certain conformation cannot yield or acquire certain carriage; will note the change of expression in eyes and those equally sensitive members the ears; will find that a "dry mouth"; i.e., dry and free from saliva in lip angles and on lower lips, is always a dead and non-progressive mouth, and that moisture is promoted and saliva kept flowing by the delicate manipulations and vibration which finally becomes in the expert, automatic; will, in short, get closer to the "real horse" in one week on foot than he has ever done in all the previous years perched upon the creature's back and if he learns nothing else, will never again dare to jerk, maul, or other than most tenderly handle that marvellous arrangement upon which the bit rests—the horse's lower jaw.

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