

people, but their primary object is to get farmers to meet together to divide their troubles and experiences, and such a habit when practiced, greatly benefits all concerned. The visiting speaker is employed by the Government to give the people a service, and if he goes away leaving the impression that he has not helped them nor earned his money, then one of two things is wrong, and possibly both—the people have not known how to get value out of the man or the man has not known how to give good service, and there is not much choice in allotting the blame. Some institutes are failures for both reasons and some for one of them, but the object should be to get together and try to get more knowledge upon subjects of everyday interest and concern. Every community has its outstanding successes in farming and such men like to know why certain things they do turn out to their advantage. In the same district will be men who are not so generally successful and these should know why certain things they do do not give better results. A mixture of ideas should raise the average of intelligence put into farm work and the more common sense used in farming the better will be the farming.

Farmers' institutes are not meant, as many suppose, to exploit new systems and practices upon the people. They are not schools in which to preach experiments, and when a man is found advocating radical measures and sweeping "reforms" in a district, his suggestions should be taken with considerable caution. The improvement that comes to a neighborhood in its farming practices comes by gradual evolution, by slowly finding out how ordinary methods can be improved upon and by making full use of whatever suggestions can be adapted to individual conditions.

## HORSE

A breeder of horses on the range says that the Hackney is a desirable horse to use and that he gets rid of the cow hocks and ewe necks, besides giving good colors, quality and temperament.

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Before selecting a stallion from those that have been in the neighborhood a year or more, it will be well to enquire if any of the get are affected with ruptures or stifle-out. Some stallions have an unfortunate tendency to throw foals with these weaknesses, so that it is well to make a quiet investigation before deciding which horse to use.

### A Tip to Farmers when Purchasing Horses.

Western farmers need to exercise great care when purchasing work horses in order to ensure value for the money they pay. Especially is it the case in buying from horse dealers, and we would advise as follows: *Do not purchase work horses brought from the towns and cities or ranches of the United States.* Why? Because of the danger of bringing glanders into one's stables. The use of mallein has enabled some stables in the U. S. to detect latent glanders, which when done the diseased horses are shipped to the larger markets, St. Paul, Chicago, et al. and then sold to dealers, often Canadian buyers. The horses do not show evidences of the disease, although liable to develop it at any time, and more liable to spread it in a healthy bunch of horses, but the purchaser by wholesale is given the story that some person has died, and that the horses are being sold to close out an estate. The transfer is made and Canada gets another seeding with glanders. The unfortunate retail purchaser, generally a farmer, is luckily for the country found by the Health of Animals inspector and the diseased ones are shot, but while compensation is paid, the purchaser has been put to a lot of trouble, risk of disease, and expense unwittingly by buying these pariahs from a neighboring country. Moral—Let the imported workers from the South severely alone. We know this advice savors of Protection, but being against disease, it is *sensible protection*.

### Wants Suffolks for B.C.

A writer in the *Enderby Progress* (B. C.) urges the importation of a few Suffolk mares and a stallion or two of the breed, with a view to forming the nucleus of a breeding stud to supply the Okanagan with horses to grade up the common stock. His reasons are that the Suffolk is strong in the points in which our horses show the greatest falling off. They are short in the back, well ribbed up, deep and wide in the chest, active and very hardy; the legs are clean, flat in the bone and free from long hair. Stallions of this breed could be obtained not exceeding 1600 pounds in weight.

There is a large stud at Steveston, B. C., from which exhibits are sent annually to the new Westminster Show.

### Defects in Action.

Stumbling.—The tendency to stumble is a very serious defect, and it may truly be said that a stumbling horse has practically no value, except for slow work, as it is not only disagreeable but unsafe to either drive or ride him. My experience has taught me that a purebred horse very seldom stumbles. A stumbling Thoroughbred is almost unknown; so, also, is the defect rare in Hackneys, or other breeds of carriage or coach horses, or in the Standardbred of good quality. The fault is more often noticed in horses of mixed breeding. I am, of course, referring principally to the lighter class of horses, as in the heavier classes, even where the fault exists, it is not of such importance, as the animals are not driven fast, and, being hitched to heavy vehicles, there is little danger to the driver, even though the horse may injure his own knees. Violent crosses in horse-breeding are likely to produce stumblers; for instance, the produce of a heavy, rough mare by a Thoroughbred. To some, this saying that a Thoroughbred can produce a stumbler may sound like "rank heresy," but observation tells us that it is a fact. The Thoroughbred is congenitally a low actor, and if bred to a mare of such cold blood that even his prepotency is unable to overcome, there is a great probability of producing an offspring that inherits neither a fair degree of the size and strength of the dam, nor the quality and activity of the sire; is fitted only for light work, and having to a large degree the sluggishness of the dam and the low action of prob- both parents, is a stumbler, not valuable for other purposes. Crossing cold-blooded mares with sires of other light breeds frequently produces animals of the same characteristics.

Stumbling may be said to be due to three causes; viz., weak knees, low action, or sluggishness. Horses with weak knees, either from congenital conformation or hard work, are, unless of exceptionally active disposition, prone to stumble. Horses of quite low fore action are prone to trip or stumble over slight obstacles; hence are unsafe except on level ground. Horses that are lazy, sluggish, and inclined to loaf, are also usually inclined to stumble. From whatever cause, the fault is very hard to correct, and, we may say, cannot be corrected, but may be avoided by constant care on the part of the driver, by keeping the horse well in hand and overcoming sluggishness, where it exists, by compelling the animal to "drive to attention" at all times. This, to the average horseman, makes driving or riding a labor rather than a pleasure. The use of a tight check-rein removes to some extent the tendency to stumble, but many stumblers will stumble even under those conditions. Stumbling usually occurs when the horse is moving at an ordinary road gait, and if he is taken well in hand and driven smartly, he will go safe; but no horse can stand constant driving at such a gait. In some cases, shoeing heavily, with rolling-toe action, will prevent stumbling, but in most cases shoeing of this kind, while it causes high action while going fast, does not when going slow, but may even have a tendency to make the action more sluggish. On this principle, light shoes should correct the fault, and in some cases do. As in most defects in action, what will have a tendency to prevent stumbling in one horse may increase the fault in others; hence each animal must be treated according to his individuality.

Interfering.—By interfering we generally understand the striking of one hind fetlock with the shoe of the opposite foot. This fault is probably more often met with than any other defect in horses with good conformation. Horses which stand wide at the hocks and plant the feet closely together usually interfere, striking with the forward part of the shoe; while those that stand with the toes well turned outwards and the feet

close together will strike with the back part of the shoe. Interfering is often noticed in young horses when first shod, and disappears when they become accustomed to the shoes and road work. Shoeing with light shoes that conform well to the shape of the foot will often check the fault, but the practice too often adopted of shoeing with a shoe thicker on the inside than on the outside, in order to change the position of the fetlock-joint outwards when the foot is planted, cannot be too strongly condemned. It places the foot and limb in an unnatural position, and predisposes to lameness from sprain of ligaments or tendons. Shoeing with the outside of the shoe a little longer than the hoof, with a low calk on it (but not raised higher than the outside), has a tendency to check that peculiar twisting outwards of the foot and hock so often noticed, and which favors interfering, and is unsightly. When a young horse interferes, he should be carefully shod, and an interfering boot worn until he has become well accustomed to the shoes; and if he continues to interfere, notwithstanding careful shoeing, the wearing of boots should be continued, as, if he continues to strike, even though he does not cut, the constant striking causes a chronic enlargement of the joint, which makes striking still more constant, and will probably materially interfere with his usefulness.

Forging.—By forging is understood the striking of the shoe of the fore foot with that of the hind one. This fault, while possibly not interfering to any marked extent with the horse's usefulness, is very irritating to the driver or rider, and very objectionable. While it is occasionally noticed in horses of all conformations, it is more commonly seen in those with very short backs. It is usually noticed at the ordinary road gait, and seldom heard when the horse is either walking or trotting at a smart pace. In most cases it can be corrected by shoeing rather heavily, and with rolling-motion shoes in front to make him pick up more quickly and go a little higher; and shoeing the hind feet with shoes slightly shorter than the hoof, and without toe-clips. In other cases, a very light shoe in front gives better satisfaction. As with most defects, each horse must be treated according to his peculiarities of action.

WHIP.

### Quality in Horses.

At a meeting of the Veterinary Association in New York City recently, the following paper by Dr. Wm. Dougherty was read, which we reproduce from the *Am. Vet. Rev.*, as in a measure it bears on some former articles appearing in this journal on the same question: "The essayist, Dr. Grensied has named all the points that go to make up a good horse—soundness, conformation, symmetry, breeding, etc., and says that quality is 'indefinable' and 'unexplainable.' Quality is found in all breeds of horses and all animals. With Thoroughbreds, for instance, there may be two own brothers or an own brother and sister, raised together, of the same size and conformation, one a first-class race-horse; the other is no account as a race-horse, everything being equal, feed, condition, etc. Now, the difference between these two horses is 'quality.' Look at the great numbers of yearlings that are bought every year, because they had a brother or sister who had quality. Take one, for instance who is a fine specimen; he is written about by all the turf correspondents, and talked about by the experts. He is purchased for a large sum, and sent to the trainer; he admires him; his gait is good; he works along all right for weeks; the trainer commences to put an edge on him for a race. He gives him half a mile at full speed; he pulls up tired. When he has cooled out he is turned in his stall, when he lies down—tired out. The next day he has no ambition for work. In a few days he is given another trial, but he doesn't do as well—he 'goes back.' The trainer is asked what the matter is, and he answers that 'he trained off.' He is rested up and tried again with the same result. He has several trials, and is finally sold. *He has no 'quality.'*

"As the essayist truly says, one may find quality in all breeds, sizes, and conformations, with many anatomical defects. And one may find handsome, well-bred, sound, well-proportioned horses with no 'quality.' He asks the question, 'What causes the greater density of bone in some individuals than in others?' I would answer, 'Breeding.' The bones of well-bred animals are always more solid and denser; the fibres are finer and more compact.

"Quality may be defined as a well-balanced nervous system. The race-horse with nervous force and power, if sound and properly proportioned, is the kind that is found but once a year, or once in ten years. The greater the nervous power, the greater the horse. The old expression, 'a Sunday horse,' means one that will work on Sunday, and not get rested until the next Sunday. He is a horse with no 'quality.'

"A too high degree of quality often ruins a horse. He is too nervous, and contracts many bad habits, such as 'weaving,' 'stall-walking,' 'dreaming,' etc.