

with the object of making it a witness to a race more conveniently, all of which is wrong. The first article in most of the Jockey Club rules enjoin the judges to keep the stand clear of all persons but themselves, and yet, I venture to say, there is not a popular race track in the country, but what sometimes, during the pendency of a race, the judges' stand is crowded with unofficial persons, invited there by the judges, who frequently retard and prevent the judges from attending strictly to their duties. I myself have frequently been compelled to call three or four times, to get permission of the judges to dismount my rider, from the fact that they were busily engaged with their backs turned to where their faces should have been, either taking a social drink or lunch with the distinguished persons invited into the stand, or holding a conversation with them in regard to the merits of the race, or other trifling matter, foreign to their duty. It was but last year that the owner of a horse, that had just won the race, was deprived of the fruits of his winnings by the rider of the horse being disqualified from having dismounted, as the judges alleged, without permission. Now, it is said, that the rider held up his hand and called to the judges for permission to dismount. Their backs being turned to the front of the stand, they did not hear him, and he, being a man of quick temper, dismounted without permission, for which the horse, although he came out ahead, was disqualified from winning. Of course, the rider was wrong in dismounting without permission, as he broke a rule, which, he must have known, would operate against himself and the owner of the horse; but at the same time the question arises, were the judges entirely blameless in this case? For, had they been attending to their duties, and watching closely the return of the horses to the weighing stand, this unpleasant occurrence, which resulted in great injury to the owner of the horse, and loss to his backers, would have been avoided. Now, if there was but one man in the stand as a judge, he would have nothing to call him away from his proper duties; he would have no one to propitiate, no one to drink, lunch, or converse with, but would stand ready at all times to perform and fulfil his duty to the public as a judge, and no such mistakes or accidents as that just mentioned would occur. If a club is desirous of inviting distinguished men or meritorious gentlemen, either of civil, military, or literary standing, they should have a stand erected, and placed under the direction of the stewards of the day, where they can be invited, waited upon, and entertained by the stewards, entirely aside from the judges' stand.

There should be no stand on the opposite side, or the inside of the track, either for timers or judges, or any other purpose. It is in the way of the horses, frequently causing young horses to shy and swerve, and thereby, perhaps, lose a race, for at all times, even when there are only two timers appointed, there will be one or two more crowd into the stand, which is always a very small one, placed immediately on the inside of the track, where the horse has to run within a foot of it perhaps; and those persons will frequently make remarks loud enough for the judges or stewards to hear, and thereby influence, perhaps, even the decision in the stand. But whether it would lead to that or not, there should be no stand, even if it be kept empty, upon the inside of the track. If you wish to have official timers, and time the race, place them above the judge in the stand, in a story constructed for that purpose. They then would look from the same standpoint, and if they were officious enough to interfere or make remarks about the result of the race, they would be apt to see the determination of it the same as the judge would.

Another reform should be made in the starting of the horses, for, as at present managed, it is a great drawback, and the most vexatious that owners and trainers have to contend with, often from ten to twenty false starts being made before they get the word, and most of them occasioned by the use of the flag as a signal for starting. The flag is used in England, because frequently a great number of horses will start in one race—say 30 or 40—occupying a space of from 150 to 200 yards. Of course they can only be started by a signal, and the flag being the easiest used, it is necessary to use it there; but where our horses are all crowded into a space—it matters not how many start—of 75 or 100 feet, the sound of a gong or drum will be easily

condition as well, perhaps, as being overmatched, when, if it were a dash, although defeated, he could be saved, by proper care, to run one or two races more during the week. On the other hand, the club or association, as well as his owner, would be deprived of his services for the remainder of the meeting.

The judges generally in charging the boys in regard to the race they are about to start in, overlook many points which it would be beneficial to inform them upon. The charge should be written out properly and printed, so that a judge, however unfamiliar with the technicalities of racing he may be, can instruct the boys without embarrassment, which many would feel in delivering an oration to them. They generally state to the riders the distance they are to run, and tell them to ride a fair race, and not swerve to the right or left when a horse is about to pass them; that if they do, it shall be deemed foul riding, and they will be ruled off, etc. Now, there are many other things which constitute foul riding, that are not embraced in the above instructions, one of which is, it is foul for a rider to halloo, "Get out of the way!" "What are you doing there?" "Pull your horse out, or I will run over you!" "Take care, there, or I will report you to the judges!" and many other things, in fact anything that will intimidate an inexperienced driver, for he is sure to pull out, thinking he is in the wrong place. It is wrong to speak or say anything to another rider, during the pendency of a race. It is foul riding also for two to combine to keep another in a pocket, or for one rider to call to another to pull out when he finds he has lost all chance of the race, to let him pass through on the inside, for the rider pulling out must pass against or before the horse on his right, and thereby impede his progress. It is also foul riding for two to combine to do this, or to combine for the foremost one, when he finds that he cannot win, or has his money upon his confederate's horse to run a horse wide on the turn, or press him out in any way, or to hold him, as it were, on his hip, to prevent his running in his proper place, while the other comes up on the inside and passes on unobstructed, and perhaps wins the race by the collusion of the two riders. It is also foul for a rider to open a sufficient space on either side, in or out, to allow another horse, or induce another rider to bring his horse into the space made vacant, and then turn upon him and choke him out, and prevent him from passing, which is frequently done by sharp riders against inexperienced jockeys. And it is foul, or at least unfair, for riders to intimidate and threaten another jockey whom he has rode foul of, if he makes a complaint, to punish him or to make the same accusation against him; and riders should be instructed upon that point, for it frequently occurs where old riders have by threats, when turning their horses to come back to the stand, after a race is over, so intimidated the rider who should make the complaint for being rode foul, that he is deterred from it entirely from fear, and the jockey who has transgressed the rules and interfered with the just rights of another, is allowed to escape without punishment, all of which should be examined with scrupulous exactness by the judges.

WOUNDS ON HORSES:

Whenever an injury is inflicted or a wound made on a horse it should be attended to at once, or with as little delay as possible. If any dirt is in the wound it should be well cleansed with a soft sponge and luke-warm water. Then with a proper needle (a curved surgeon's needle should be used) and stout silk twist, pass as many stitches through the edges of the wound as will draw them and hold them together. These stitches should not be made as in sewing cloth, but the thread is to be passed through the skin at points directly opposite to each other. The two ends of the thread should be tied into a secure knot after drawing the edges of the wound closely together. If the edges are ragged, some care must be exercised to bring the corresponding parts into their proper place. If swelling takes place, apply cold water until it is reduced, and avoid all irritating or spirituous applications unless they become necessary. Nature will generally perform the cure if assisted to make a proper start.

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