

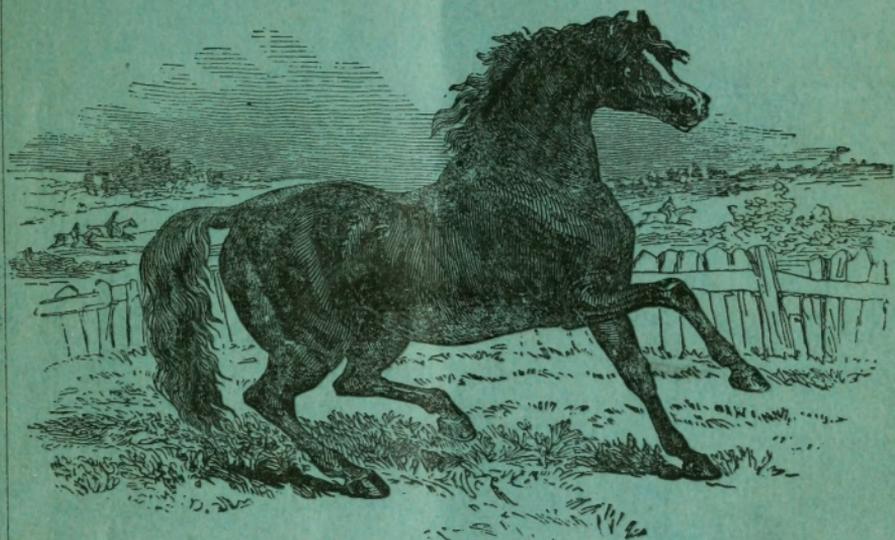
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Science of Modern Horsemanship.

A TRUE SYSTEM

OF

HORSE TRAINING,



INCLUDING

Trick Training, how to Raise, Feed, Drive, and make Valuable Trotting or Work Horses, a Treatise on Shoeing, Hints to Equestriennes, Jockey Tricks, &c., &c.

TOGETHER WITH

PRACTICAL RECIPES

IN THE

TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF HORSES.

FOURTH EDITION—CAREFULLY REVISED.

PEORIA, ILL.:

GEO. M. STANCHFIELD, PUBLISHER.

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W. H. B. STANTON, Librarian
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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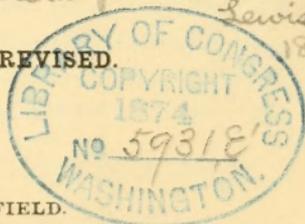
same as
Dr. Fridball's New system of horsetraining.
Lewisston.
1869.

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PREFACE.

IN presenting the fourth edition of this popular work for public favor, we cannot forego the opportunity of acknowledging our obligations to the owners of horses for the very liberal and flattering testimonials of their approbation. Encouraged by this favorable reception, and the rapid sale of the first three editions, with the demand still increasing, we feel under obligations to issue this, the fourth edition, in order to supply the demand.

About twenty pages of new and valuable disclosures on the care and management of this noble animal, together with numerous rare recipes for the curing of diseases, have been added, making it now the most reliable book extant.

The subject of Horsemanship is so closely allied and identified with all man's interest, that everything that can be said to promote a reform in that particular cannot but commend itself to every one interested in that noble animal; and who is there that is not? For the most common transactions of every-day life cannot be consummated without calling to his aid. This book is not presented to the public as an unexceptionable treatise on the Horse. It is merely a plain, practical exposition of the best system of Horsemanship that to-day is extant; one that has met with the approbation and commendation of the best horsemen of the age, and one that has received a patronage vouchsafed to no other system. It is merely to gratify a desire expressed by hundreds who have young colts and contrary horses, and have no easy method of subjugating them; and yet every move with the horse is so plain and intelligible that any one can take hold of and manage the wildest colt or the most vicious horse. While we beg from the scrutinizing public a charitable criticism for any shortcoming that may be discovered, we feel great confidence that the work will meet with a hearty approval from horsemen generally, and prove a valuable auxiliary in bringing about that much-needed reform in the proper management and control of the most noble of the brute creation.

THE PUBLISHER.



THE HORSE.

His Origin, History, and Habits.

THE reduction of the horse to a domesticated state is the greatest acquisition from the animal world ever made by the art and industry of man. The history of this noble quadruped, as regards his origin, or natural locality, and the period of his first subjugation, is involved in obscurity. We learn from the Sacred Writings that he is of Eastern origin; and they render the inference very probable, that the Egyptians were the first who reduced him to servitude.

The earliest notice of the horse occurs six hundred and fifty years after the Deluge, when the Egyptians "brought their cattle to Joseph, who gave them bread in exchange for horses and for their flocks," &c. Very soon after, we read, the venerable patriarch, Jacob, when dying in Egypt, addressing his sons, said: "Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse's heels, so that his rider shall fall backward;" and it is remarkable that this early allusion to the horse refers to him as being ridden, and not as drawing a chariot. When the body of Jacob was removed by his son Joseph from Egypt to Canaan, for burial, we are told that, "there went up with him both chariots and horsemen." It appears, then, from this notice, as well as from the employment of numerous chariots by Pharaoh in pursuit of the Israelites, and from the testimony of the earliest profane writers, that the Egyptians first reduced the horse to obedience, it is to their country, or, at least to those parts of Africa which were in close connection with it, that we may reasonably look for his primitive habitat. The long-admitted superiority of the horses of Arabia is no evidence that they were originally placed in that arid country; and there is much reason to con-

clude that it was not until a comparatively late period that the Arabs used horses. At the time when Solomon was receiving various treasures from Arabia, it was from Egypt only that he obtained his immense number of horses. Herodotus expressly states that Xerxes obtained a portion of his cavalry from Ethiopia, and that he was joined by a body of native Indians, some on horseback and others in war-chariots.

The primitive habits, contour, and color of the horse, in a purely natural condition, cannot be said to be known with certainty; for it is highly probable that he has long ceased to exist in such a state. As the wild horses which are now found in various parts of the world appear to have sprung from a domesticated stock, they afford no clue to the elucidation of the points in question. The numerous herds of wild horses existing on the plains of Tartary do not appear to have been indigenous to that country, and the still greater numbers which inhabit South America are very clearly traced to the horses which the Spaniards introduced into that part of our continent from Europe; and old writers tell us that, when the American Indians first saw a man on horseback, they thought the man and the horse to be one and the same individual.

Horses differ in intelligence, disposition, and temper. Those who profess to know anything about them pay much attention to the size, position, and motion of the ears. Horses with rather small than large ears, placed not too far apart, erect and quick in motion, indicate both breeding and spirit; and if a horse is in the frequent habit of carrying one ear forward and the other backward, especially if he does so on a journey, he will generally possess both spirit and endurance. The stretching of the ears in contrary directions shows that he is attentive to everything that is passing around him; and while he is doing this, he cannot be much fatigued, nor likely soon to become so.

The temper is more surely indicated by a motion of the ear than of the eye; and an experienced observer of horses can tell by the motion of their ears all that they think and mean. When the horse lays his ears flat back upon his neck, and keeps them so, he is most assuredly meditating mischief, and the bystander should beware of his heels or his teeth. In play, the ears will likewise be laid back, but not so decidedly,

nor so long; a quick change in their position, together with the expression of the eye at the time, will distinguish between playfulness and vice. The hearing of the horse is remarkably acute; a thousand vibrations of the air, too slight to make any impression on the human ear, are readily perceived by him.

The eye of the horse is also a pretty accurate index of his temper; and experience has shown that, if much of the white of the eye is seen, he is a dangerous one, ever slyly watching for opportunities to do mischief; and the frequent backward direction of the eye, when the white is most perceptible, is only to give sure effect to the blow which he is about to aim. But, though bold and intrepid, he knows how to govern and how to check the natural vivacity and fire of his temper. He not only yields to the hand, but seems to consult the inclination of his rider. Uniformly obedient to the impressions he receives, he flies or stops, and regulates his motions entirely, by his master's will. In a measure, he renounces his very existence to the pleasures of man. He delivers up his whole powers; he reserves nothing, and often dies rather than disobey.

These are features in the character of the horse, the natural qualities of which have been perfected by art, and trained with care to the service of man. His education commences with the loss of liberty, and is completed by restraint.





HOW TO TRAIN.

Nature of the Horse.

THE HORSE has no reasoning faculties beyond the limits of his experience. Therefore we can reason with him by acts alone. Literally, with the horse, acts speak louder than words, and hence the absolute importance of commencing every move with the horse right, for by our acts he learns. Secondly, early impressions are strong, both in the human family and with the horse, and seldom, if ever, are entirely erased from memory's tablet.

Who is there in the human family that does not well remember the first impressions of his boyhood days? and as we journey on through life, what a controlling influence they exert over us. Just so with the horse. Hence the great importance of having his first impressions of such a nature as to convince him not only of man's superiority, but to satisfy him that man is his best friend. Obtain, by a systematic course of handling, not only supreme power over him, but learn him also to repose trust and confidence in you, and then never betray it. No animal has memory equal to that of the horse, and none will reciprocate a kindness or resent an injury sooner. We hold that man, being, on account of his intellectual resources, superior to all other animals, is, and has a right to be, at the head of all animal creation, for he can adopt means to overcome the strength of the horse, or even use it against himself.

Necessity of Honesty and Kindness.

You must treat the horse kindly; you must obtain his confidence, and then never abuse it; deal honestly with him; never lie to him. He judges you by your acts. Never ask him

to do anything without you are in a position to compel obedience (if he has a correct idea of what you want), and then when the obedience is rendered, reward him for it. Be prompt, but never deceive him.

Familiarizing to Objects of Fear.

As we are taught, there is no effect without a cause, and as the horse becomes fearless and confident, so far as he understands there is no cause for fear, we should remove the cause of mischief as much as possible by complying with those laws of his nature by which he examines an object, or determines upon its innocence or harm. Therefore let him examine and smell of such things as are likely to frighten him, such as a log by the roadside, an umbrella, buffalo robe or other frightful object. His nose is his fingers.

Use Intelligent Means.

The horse should be treated with kindness and consideration; you have a right to curb and restrain his spirit, but not to subdue it; he has no more natural spirit than it is proper he should have, and the great difficulty with all theories of horsemanship that have been promulgated to the world is, that they have been founded upon one idea of subjugation alone. Subjugation is not teaching; you have a right to restrain, to make him conform to your will. But you must also teach him what you want him to do. To hitch up the wild colt and say "whoa" to him, without having first taught him the word "whoa," is unreasonable in the extreme. 'Tis true, we cannot handle the wild colt that is actuated by fear, as we can the old horse that is actuated by vengeance; with the one we are all mildness, whereas we take hold of the other in a manner that satisfies him that there is to be no partnership arrangement about it, but we are to have it our way all the time.

To Halter a Wild Colt.

Provide yourself with a pole, a piece of edging, a rake-handle or anything else of the kind; cut a notch in one end, and about seven inches from this end raise a few chips from the opposite end of the stick. Take a common rope halter, draw out the stale through the loop so that that portion will

drop down eighteen or twenty inches; now hang the head-piece on the notches on the end of the stick, holding the end in your hand with the stick; the halter now hangs upon the stick, so spread that you can put it over the colt's ears without touching any part of his head. You now approach the colt, swinging the halter, which immediately attracts his attention, and he will reach out his nose to smell it. While he is smelling it you cautiously raise it over his head until back of his ears; then turn the stick half round and the halter will drop upon his head; now take the end of the stick and shove up the loop so as to draw up the slack, and your colt is haltered; and he is not frightened, and you are not hurt.

To Learn the Colt to Lead.

Step back on a line with his hips, and say, "Come here, sir," and give him a smart, sharp pull, which will swing him round to you; then step to the opposite side and give him the same side pull, and say, "Come here, sir." If he should not pull easily enough, as soon as you can soothe him enough to approach him, fasten up one fore foot with a short strap; and then you can pull him the more readily either side. Never pull him straight ahead, until after you have learned him to come promptly either side, for sideways you can pull him, and straight ahead you cannot. Do not let him know his strength, for he has no reasoning powers to say, "You can pull me sideways, but straight ahead you cannot." Should he sulk after a few trials, and refuse to come either way, take a short hold of the halter with the left hand, while with the right grasp the tail firmly, and whirl him round until he acts dizzy; then whirl him the other way. This convinces him you can handle him just as you please. The moment he follows you, pat him for it.

To Handle the Colt's Feet.

Commence gently to pick up his feet, and if he resists you, treat as follows: If a fore foot, stand by the side of your colt and throw over his back a light strap, and tie it around his leg loosely, so that it will slip down to his fetlock joint; then take up his foot with the strap, and keep close to his side until after he is through struggling; then commence to soothe the foot

with your hands, and pound upon it a very little. In a short time he will suffer you to handle it as you please. If a hind foot, take the fore foot in your left hand while with your right you pass the end of the strap around the hind leg below the fetlock. Now pull upon the strap, which will cause the foot to be drawn forward. This he will resist by kicking, but he soon finds resistance useless, and will give you his foot; then take it into your hands and soothe as described for the forefoot. If a more thorough treatment is found necessary, use him according to directions laid down elsewhere for "the horse bad to shoe."

To Ride the Wild Colt.

Stand upon the near side of your colt and throw over his back a piece of web or strap, and fasten to his right fore foot below the fetlock joint; then take up his foot and hold it for a few minutes, until he ceases struggling; then quietly let him have it, and lead him along a few steps and say "whoa," and at the same time you say "whoa," draw up the strap, which makes him stop, for it puts him on three legs. After you have led him a little ways in this way, stand by his side and take up his foot, wind your hand in the strap, and commence to jump up and down at his side a few times, keeping hold of the foot; then carefully jump on him with your breast, and slide back again; then, while holding up the foot, jump quietly on his back. Now let down his foot, and if he shows the least disposition to stir, take up his foot and drop it and take it again. The idea is that he cannot think of two things at once, and the moment he thinks of throwing you off (which you detect by the drawing of the muscles of his back), you take his foot and change his attention to that, and his back is all right. This plan will ride any colt or horse.

To Teach a Colt to Follow under the Whip.

Buckle around your colt an ordinary surcingle rather loosely; take a piece of web or a long strap, about fifteen or even twenty feet in length. Take the strap and pass it through the surcingle and fasten it to the colt's left fore foot; now take hold of the strap about six feet from where it passes through the surcingle, and, placing your whip over the colt's back,

commence to tap him on the right side of the head very gently. If he turns his head toward you, and looks or makes a step toward you, stop and pat him; if he attempts to leave you, take his foot and let him go on three legs, running around you; the moment he stops, step up to him again, place your whip over his back and repeat, and in a very few moments he will turn towards you, the moment you place your whip on the opposite side. Then you can take off the strap, and he will follow you readily, but be careful and not whip when he is turning toward you. Keep him in difficulty with the whip whenever he turns his head from you; but the moment he turns toward you reward him, and he will soon learn there is no peace except by you; and then practice will soon make him perfect. The same plan breaks the wild steer to "haw" and "gee" under the whip.

The War Bridle.

This is one of the most powerful means of control in the management of the horse that is known. The War Bridle is simply a cord of about the size of a common bed-cord or a clothes-line. It should be of cotton, and made of fine yarn, or what is known as fine thread cotton cord, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, used extensively for clothes-lines.

Take a cord of the above description — in length about fifteen feet; tie one end into a hard knot, just as you would to prevent its raveling; now tie another knot about ten inches, or a little more, from the one on the end, but before you draw it tight put through the knot on the end. You now have a loop that will not slip. This loop should be just large enough to slip over the under jaw of the horse you wish to train. Put the loop over the lower jaw, then, while standing on the near side, take the cord in the left hand and bring it over the neck by passing the left hand under the neck to the opposite side, toward the mane; now bring the right hand over the neck, and take the cord from the left and pass back to the loop and put through from the top side, until the part over the neck is drawn down like a check rein, now take hold of the end of this rein and you will find you have a means of power in it that makes the strongest horse almost a plaything in your

hands. You must use the bridle with judgment, for in the proper use of it consists its great value. In handling the colt with it you must use the utmost mildness, whereas many who have witnessed my operations, and then commenced subsequently to use it, have made a little resistance on the part of the colt an excuse to use it in the most severe manner, until the colt becomes so desperate with pain as to be entirely reckless and regardless of the utmost efforts; but in the management of the old horse you can take hold of him as if you were determined that any resistance on his part would be entirely useless. Step to one side of the colt and say, "Come here, sir," pulling a very little on the bridle, just enough to bring his head toward you, and repeat for a few times; each time that he comes toward you at the word, reward him with a pat on the neck; and if he doesn't stir, pull him with the bridle. Any colt or horse can be made to follow you in a very few minutes with this bridle.

To Teach the Colt to Back.

Put on the War Bridle, stand directly in front of your horse, having hold of the cord — about twenty inches from the head — with your left hand, resting the right on the cord or bridle about four or five inches from the head. You will say, "Back, sir," and at the same time press down and back with your right hand steadily on the cord until, by way of relieving himself, he will step back one step; let up on the cord and pat him. That teaches him what you want. Then repeat for a few times, and after you have given him the idea and the motion, you can then press him back sharply with the cord, and in a few minutes more, at the word. This will never fail to teach the colt or bad horse to back.

Bitting the Colt.

All you can possibly accomplish with the old-fashioned biting bridle I can accomplish with my bridle in forty minutes, and that is to teach the horse to hold down his head, hold up his head, and to the right and to the left, at the touch of the rein. If nature has not designed the horse to have a high, stylish head and carriage, no art of man can alter it, and the old-fashioned practice of straining up the neck in an unnatural

position, and leaving it there for hours, nine times out of ten results in a heavy-headed lugger on the bits. Care should be taken when first biting the colt to have the tongue under the bit, for if he gets in the habit of carrying it over he will hang his tongue out of his mouth.

How to Make a Biting Bridle.

Take your cord, previously used, and fix a loop upon the other end, just like the one used to go over the jaw, only big enough to go over his neck, and fit down rather tight where the collar is worn; now bring your cord forward, and put it through the loop around the neck; now pull upon this cord and the head will be drawn back to the breast. You are now prepared to bit; simply pull upon the cord a little, and as soon as he curbs his head well, relieve him—that teaches him it is there you want it. When you want to raise his head, lift quickly on the cord, and you elevate his head finely. You should not bit over five minutes at a time, and then put it away, and after a little resume it, and in forty minutes' time, dividing each biting into five minutes each, you can bit your colt well.

Training to Harness.

You should be very careful the first time you undertake to harness your colt, to see that the harness fits perfectly well, and that it is perfectly safe. Many accidents have been the result of such carelessness. Then, with the aid of the bridle to reprove him, if he resists the putting of the harness on him, harness him, and after you have moved him about a little, attach to him, before you undertake to hitch him to the sulky, what I shall call a foot strap, which is simply a piece of webbing, or a piece of strap or rope long enough to be fastened to one of his forward feet, and then run over the belly-band of the harness, and then outside of the tugs back to the buggy or sulky, which you hold in your hand as a life insurance or third rein. If he attempts to run away, pull upon the strap, which throws him upon three feet instantly, and he has to stop. If he attempts to run back, the same remedy stops him. If he attempts to kick you, attract his attention forward instantly, and at the same time make it impossible for him to kick. The moment you notice any disposition to kick, take his foot, which

disconcerts him, attracts his attention away from his hind parts, while it is impossible for him to kick; but do not take his foot and hold it, but keep snatching and letting him have it, and you will soon break him up of the habit. This is one of the most powerful means of control ever yet devised, because you beat him while right in the act.

Objects of Fear.

Never whip your horse for becoming frightened at any object by the roadside; for if he sees a stump, a log, or a heap of tan bark in the road, and while he is eyeing it carefully, and about to pass it, you strike him with the whip, it is the log or the stump, or the tan bark that is hurting him, in his way of reasoning, and the next time he will act more frightened. Give him time to examine and smell of all these objects, and use the war bridle to assist you in bringing him carefully to these objects of fear. Bring all objects, if possible to his nose, and let him smell of them, and then you can commence to gentle him with them.

Driving.

In teaching a young horse to drive well, do not be in a hurry to see how fast he can trot. Keep each pace clear and distinct from each other; that is, in walking, make him walk, and do not allow him to trot; while trotting, be equally careful that he keeps steadily at his pace, and do not allow him to slack into a walk. The reins, while driving, should be kept snug; and when pushed to the top of his speed, keep him well in hand, that he may learn to bear well upon the bit, so that when going at a high rate of speed he can be held at his pace; but do not allow him to pull too hard, for that is not only unpleasant, but makes it often difficult to manage him.

To Stand when getting into a Carriage.

Take your horse on the barn floor and throw a strap over his back and fasten it to the right fore foot; lead him along, and say "whoa," at the same time pull down on the strap, which throws him on three feet and makes him stop suddenly. This is the best way known to teach "whoa" — though you can put on the war bridle and say "whoa," and give him a sharp jerk; that will stop him about as soon as the strap to the

foot. Then put him in a harness with the foot strap, as directed under the head of "Training to Harness," and drive him up to the door. The moment he undertakes to move, take his foot and say "whoa." Get into your carriage and get out again; rattle the thills; make all the noise in getting in and out you can; give him to understand, by snatching his foot each time he moves, that he must stand until you tell him to go; and after a few times you will have a horse that will stand perfectly still while the whole family enters the carriage.

Balky Horses.

When the horse balks in the harness, it is not from any unwillingness to perform his duty, but from some confusion or excitement arising from mismanagement. He is willing and anxious to go, but too eager or high-spirited to make the steady push against the collar necessary to move the load. The usual plan is to commence to curse and lash. A volume might be written on the importance of keeping cool on all such occasions. Frequently, simply going to their heads and moving them gently against their collars to the right and left evenly, giving them time to get cool, and they will start of their own accord. Sometimes taking up one fore foot in your hand, and giving the horse a sharp press against the shoulder, to one side, will cause him to step, and start him. But if the habit is firmly fixed you will have to resort to the following means, which will take a few lessons, and thereby you will break up the habit.

Take your balky horse in the barn, or on a piece of green-sward; take him by the head and tail, and whirl him around until he is quite dizzy; and if you become dizzy before he does, let him whirl himself as follows: Tie the hair of the tail into a hard knot; then take the halter strap in your left hand, holding the tail in your right, pass the halter strap through the hair, above the knot, and draw up as short as the horse will bear without falling down, tying it quickly. This will bring the horse in the form of a half-circle—his head fast to his tail by the halter strap. Your object is to break up his confidence in himself; and nothing on earth—no process you can subject him to, will do it half so soon as this. Should he not run round very freely, touch him behind with the whip, which

will cause him to move sharply. Simply keep him moving until he falls down by becoming dizzy, which he will do inside of a minute and a-half. Let him lie a few minutes; then tie him in the opposite direction, and continue until he falls or is unable to move. Then put on your war bridle and give a few sharp jerks to the right and left, and show him that you can handle him by the head as well as by the tail; and train him until he will spring to the right and left, and straight forward, when you ask him to, and then you are in a shape to put him in harness. If he refuses to draw, step in front of him with the bridle on, and fetch him either way first, and then straight ahead; and in a short time you will work it out of him. If at any time your horse should become warm, put him away and let him cool. You will gain time by it, for when sulky and heated he is in no shape to learn.

Kicking in Harness.

Kicking in harness is regarded as one of the most dangerous habits that the horse has. How often do we hear the remark made by dealers, "I care not what he will do if he will not kick." It is generally the result in the first instance of gross carelessness and bad management. The habit in the colt, frequently, is formed by suffering the straps to dangle about his flanks and legs, which frightens him and makes him kick, as a matter of self-defense. In old horses the habit usually is caused by some mishap while in harness, such as hitching him too near, so that his heels touches the cross-bar, or by a bolt of the thills coming out and letting the wagon on his heels.

This fear must be broken up by habituating the horse to being touched, and made to bear the various causes of mischief without the ability to resist; when he, becoming convinced that there is no harm to be apprehended from them, will give up the habit. Your main remedy is the foot strap. Put on the foot strap, and as the horse moves off, say gently "whoa," and instantly pull upon the strap, which throws him upon three legs; and so continue until he will stop instantly when "whoa" is called. Then tempt the horse to kick, and the next instant take his foot. Put the strap between his hind legs and dangle it all around him; use behind him any object that he is afraid of, and for the first few times in harness have the foot strap on, as the third rein.

Kicking in the Stall.

Many horses will kick in the stable as soon as the lights are put out and men gone; they merely kick at the standings and stall posts, with what intention we never could find out; idleness, we conclude, first induced them to do it, and habit induces them to keep it up. It is a bad trick, for it not only keeps them from their rest, but disturbs other horses. A small chain, ten or fourteen inches long, buckled with a small strap in the hollow of the pastern, usually stops them. If it does not, put a bridle on the horse, and then tie a rope to each side of the bit, run them through the surcingle, then fasten to each foot; whenever the horse attempts to kick he jerks his mouth violently, and soon learns to stand quiet. This rarely fails, but the arrangement should not be left on at night for fear of accidents. If neither will do, use the surcingle, with a three-inch ring slipped upon it, and hanging beneath the animal. Then take a short strap with a ring attached, and buckle around the forward foot below the fetlock. To the ring in the short strap attach a strong cord, which bring up and pass through the ring in the surcingle; then return to the foot and run through the ring in the short strap; then pass over the belly band and tie to the hind leg below the fetlock. With this attachment on each side, the moment a horse kicks he pulls his forward feet from under and trips himself upon his knees, which he will be very careful not to do but a few times.

To Prevent Getting Cast in Stall.

Have a strap hanging from over head in about the centre of the stall, with a rein snap at the end of it. Have a small iron ring fastened on the halter on the top of the head. Hitch the horse in the stall with the halter as usual, and snap the hanging strap into the ring. It prevents his rolling over, consequently he cannot get cast.

For Pawing.

Attach a strap to his fetlock, with a bit of trace chain about fifteen inches long hanging from it. When he paws he whips his other shin with the chain.

Halter-Pulling.

Halter-pulling is one of the worst faults that a horse can have, as you cannot trust him anywhere, either in or out of

the stable, it is, in most cases, the fault of the owner of the horse, that he contracts this bad habit, either by tying at first with insecure halters, or to weak and insecure hitching posts or mangers. Put on the war bridle and train the horse about until he will come to you readily when you pull him a little sideways. Simply repeat this, gradually a little more on a line with his body at each repetition, until he will yield as readily to being pulled forward as sideways. Now take him to the post and run the bridle through the ring, but do not tie it. Keep hold of the bridle and frighten him back; as he starts to run back, give him a quick, sharp pull, and then let go. Do not hang on, even if he draws the bridle out of the ring. Fetch him up again, and repeat; and at the third or fourth trial you will not be able to make him pull. Yet do not consider him broken, by any means; but repeat whenever he has the habit of pulling—at the post in the street, in the stall, or wherever it may be. Another plan is: Tie a strap or piece of rope round the body, where the harness saddle rests; then lead the horse to his manger or to a post, run the halter strap through the ring or hole, and pass back between the fore legs, over the strap or rope tied around the body, and tie to the hind leg, below the fetlock; then step forward to his head and make him pull. Of course he will go back, with a rush; but the moment he attempts going back, the halter strap pulls directly upon the hind leg, which frightens him behind, and he steps forward to get out of difficulty. Three or four lessons will usually break up the habit; but do not be afraid of making him pull. Frighten him back, by all means possible. The more you can make him pull upon himself, at first, the quicker he will give it up.

The Horse Bad to Shoe.

Usually, a horse bad to shoe can be shod by attaching to his hind foot a short strap, and taking it in the right hand while he has the war bridle on, and with the left pulling his foot forward by the strap, at which he kicks, when you must reprove him with the war bridle, keeping his foot up with the strap until he submits without resistance. But if your subject is very bad, take a piece of webbing, a strap, or a rope about twelve feet long, and step before the horse and tie one end of

it in a loop around the neck, where the collar rests; then pass the other end back between the fore legs, around the near hind leg, below the fetlock, bring forward outside of the left fore leg, and put through the loop around the neck; then step a little in front of the horse, take hold of this strap and pull back upon it, until the foot is brought forward a very little, so that when he undertakes to step he can just reach the floor; in a few minutes more take up his foot as far forward as possible, when you can hold it very easily. He will struggle to free the foot by kicking, but you must let him struggle; and if he undertakes to run backward, whirl him round by his head until he will yield his foot. As soon as he yields a little, handle the foot gently, until he will suffer you to handle while back in its natural position. Be sure and rub the leg very carefully when you put it down, and use a soft strap or piece of webbing, for fear you may chafe the foot.

Running Away.

Put on the foot strap, and when he attempts to run, take up his foot, making him run and tripping him every time he will not stop instantly at the sound of "whoa." Should he be extremely wilful, he may run on three legs. If you mistrust so, attach another strap to the opposite foot. Then make him run, and if he will not stop for the taking up of one foot, take up the second, which will destroy his confidence in short order. This will effectually correct any runaway horse or team.

General Remarks.

Mankind are too apt to depend upon their strength to beat the horse, without making any use of their reasoning powers to out-general him; and in many instances such an exercise of tyranny over the horse only engenders a rebellious spirit on the part of the animal. Therefore lay aside strength and use reason; be moderate, be temperate. No man can become a good horseman, and not have first learned to control himself before he attempts to control the animal. Be firm, be persevering, be honest — never lie to your horse. Endeavor to have him understand what you want, and do not confuse him by attaching different meanings to the same word. It is quite common to say "Whoa!" when you mean for the horse to go

slower; and to let him know of your presence by saying "Whoa!" when he has not stirred a foot; and then when you want your horse to stop—when your life may depend upon having a good "whoa" on him—you find you have not got it. You have played it entirely out of him. Never say "Whoa!" unless you mean to stop right there. Speak always in a natural tone of voice, under all circumstances.

Have your horse understand by examination and experience that the things liable to frighten are harmless; and be sure not to whip him for being frightened. Always let your horse face the object of fear; and remember that the slower you move him when frightened the more power you have over him. There are times when letting a horse trot is almost as bad as letting him run away.

Fear is something a horseman should never exhibit in his countenance or voice, as the horse is a close observer, and soon learns to take advantage of such indications, to become careless of control, if not, indeed, aggressive. Let your lessons be thorough, but not very long. Be gentle and patient with the colt, but make the wilful, stubborn horse feel the full extent of your power until he submits; though if he should become much heated and excited, it is prudent to stop, and repeat the lessons at some future time; but repeat until there is thorough and unconditional submission. Let your treatment be characterized by gentleness afterward.



TRICK TRAINING.

AS many of our readers may wish to know how to teach their horses tricks, we will explain how it may be done. Teaching a young horse a few tricks, serves greatly to keep up an interest in him, and makes him appear intelligent, fearless and affectionate. In teaching your horse to perform tricks, it is best to give him one or two lessons of half or three-quarters of an hour each, daily.

To Come at Crack of Whip or Word of Command.

Put on the war bridle, stand off a few feet from his head, holding the end of the bridle in the left hand and the whip in the right.

Crack the whip a little, and say, "Come here, sir!" He does not know what this means, but you show him by pulling on the bridle a little, which he will obey by moving toward you a few steps. This movement you thank him for by stepping forward and giving him a little apple or a few kernels of corn, and caressing him gently; then repeat in the same way, regarding him as before, and so continue until he will walk up to you readily when you crack the whip or say, "Come here, sir!" which he will soon learn to do. Each time he comes to you talk to him kindly, and do not fail to give him his little reward of corn or apple, oats, or something of the kind which he likes. You can now take off his halter and turn him loose, and repeat until he fully comprehends that the way to avoid the whip is to come to you, which, with the encouragement of rewarding, will soon inspire his fullest confidence, and he will come to you and follow like a dog.

Be very cautious about the use of the whip, or harsh language, remembering that perfect, cheerful obedience is your object, and that can be secured only by great patience and gentleness.

To Make a Bow.

Take a pin in your right hand, between the thumb and forefinger, and stand up before, but a little to the left of your horse. Then prick him on the breast very lightly, as if a fly biting, which to relieve he will bring down his head, and this you will accept as yes, and for which you will reward him by caressing and feeding, as before. Then repeat, and so continue until he will bring his head down the moment he sees the least motion of your hand towards his breast, or substitute some signal which he will understand readily.

To Say No.

Stand by your horse near the shoulder, holding the same pin in your hand, with which you prick him lightly on the withers, and to drive away, he will shake his head. You then caress as before, and repeat, until he will shake his head at the least indication of touching him with a pin. A horse can be trained so nicely in this way in a short time, as to cause him to shake his head or bow, by merely turning the hand a little, or moving it slightly towards him.

To Lie Down.

To teach a horse how to do this trick quickly, you must lay him down two or three times, or as often as you will find it necessary to make him understand your object. If an old horse, strap the near foreleg to the arm; then take the little strap previously used to temper the colt with, place it over the back and strap around the off fore foot, below the fetlock; then take the bridle rein firmly in the left hand, about eighteen inches from the head, and pull it a little toward you. The moment he steps, pull upon the strap over the body, which will bring the horse on his knees. Hold him quietly, at the same time talking to him gently. When he springs, pull sharply with the left hand, and at the same instant pull down with the right, which will swing him around you, and prevent his rising high enough to injure his knees by the momentum of the body in coming down. By being gentle, the horse will usually lie down in a short time. When down, treat your horse with the greatest attention and kindness. After holding him down ten or fifteen minutes, permit him to get up. Repeat

this lesson until he will come down readily. Then use only the strap over the back, having it on the near foot, and bring him on his knees gently, when he will soon lie down. When he will come on his knees readily by taking up the foot in this way, take up the foot with the hand, asking him to lie down. He will soon come down. When he will come down on his knees readily by taking up the foot with the hand, simply stoop as if intending to take it up, saying, "Lie down, sir!" Then make him come down by a motion of the hand; and finally, by simply telling him to lie down. If a colt, use but the single strap over the body at first, which will soon cause him to come on his knees. In teaching a horse to lie down, be gentle, caress and reward him for lying down, and your horse, comprehending what you want, and finding himself paid for compliance, will soon be as anxious to get down for the reward as you are to have him.

To Sit Up.

When your horse will lie down readily, you can then easily teach him to sit up, like a dog. If young, and not very heavy or strong, you can easily prevent his getting up without tying him down. First cause him to lie down, having on him a common bridle, with the reins over the neck; then step behind him and place the right foot firmly on the tail, the reins in your hands. Then say, "Get up, sir!" The horse, rising from a recumbent position, first turns on his belly, throws out his forward feet and raises himself on them, springs forward and rises on his hind feet. Now, standing upon his tail firmly, and pulling back upon the reins when he attempts to spring forward and up, will prevent his doing so, and you hold him sitting up. Hold him firmly a few seconds, talk to him kindly, before permitting him to rise on his feet. Repeat a few times, when, instead of springing up he will sit upon his haunches a short time, which you are to accept as complying with your wishes. Always say, "Sit up, sir!" every time, and hold him in this position as long as he will bear, by fondling and feeding him with something he likes from the hand, and your horse will soon learn to sit up for you as long as you wish.

But if your horse is heavy and strong, it will be necessary to resort to other means to hold him down at first. It can be

done by putting on his neck a common collar, and causing him to lie down. Then fasten a piece of rope, or a rein, to each hind foot, and bring it forward through the collar and draw up close, which will bring the hind feet well forward. Then step behind, as in the other case, and when he attempts to rise on his hind feet, he finds it impossible to do so, because you hold them firmly with these straps. Repeat two or three times, when it will not be necessary to resort to such force.

To Kiss You.

Teach him first to take an apple out of your hand. Then gradually raise the hand nearer your mouth, at each repetition, until you require him to take it from your mouth — you holding it there with your hand — telling him at the same time to kiss you. He will soon learn to reach his nose up to your mouth — first to get his apple, but finally because commanded to do so. Simply repeat until he understands the trick thoroughly.

To Shake Hands.

Tie a short strap, or a piece of cord, to the forward foot, below the fetlock. Stand directly before the horse, holding the end of this strap or cord in your hand; then say, "Shake hands, sir!" and immediately after commanding him to do so, pull upon the strap, which will bring his foot forward, and which you are to accept as shaking hands, thanking him for it by caressing and feeding; and so repeat, until, when the demand is made, he will bring the foot forward in anticipation of having it pulled. This is a very easy trick to teach a horse.

By a little practice a horse may be easily trained to approach, make a bow, shake hands, and follow like a dog, lie down, sit up, &c., which makes him appear both polite and intelligent.

Never lose courage, or confidence in your ability, because you may not bring about good results easily. To accomplish anything of importance, remember, requires no ordinary resolution and perseverance. There would be no credit or importance attached to mastering and managing bad horses, if not difficult, and apparently dangerous. No duty requires more firmness of purpose in the control of the passions, or more fidelity to the principles of kindness and truth, than that of horsemanship.

If you would be a really successful horseman, you must never seem to forget by your conduct that you are a man, and that your real superiority over the animal consists in the prudent exercise of your reasoning powers. Brute force is not your forte, and the instant you give way to passion your reason must yield to the control of blind instinct, and you at once abdicate your intellectual superiority over the animal. Try to prove, by the example of your actions in the performance of the duty, that to be a good horseman, requires higher qualifications of fitness than that of the huckstering dishonesty and depravity so generally evinced in the conduct of those claiming the distinction.



ART OF SHOERING.

IF we examine the horse's foot while in its natural state, it will be found to be almost round, and very elastic at the heel; the frog broad, plump, and of a soft, yielding character; the commissures open and well defined, and the sole concave; the outside of the crust, from the heel to the toe, increased from a slight level to an angle of about forty-five degrees. Consequently, as the hoof grows, it becomes wider and longer in proportion to the amount of horn secreted, and the narrower and shorter in proportion to the amount of horn cut away from the ground surface. If a shoe were fitted nicely and accurately to the foot after being dressed down well, it would be found to be too narrow and short for the same foot after a lapse of a few weeks. Now if an unyielding shoe of iron is nailed firmly to this naturally enlarging and elastic hoof, it prevents its natural freedom of expansion almost wholly, and does not, as the foot grows down, allow it to become wider at the quarters, in proportion to the quantity of horn grown, as before being shod; and consequently, the foot changes, from the continued effect of the restraint, from an almost round, healthy foot, to a contracted and unhealthy condition, as generally seen in horses shod for a few years. The principles which should govern in shoeing are few and simple, and it is surprising that a matter involving such serious consequences should be conducted with so little consideration. The object of the shoer should be, in trimming and preparing the hoof for the shoe, to keep the foot natural, and this involves:

First—The cutting away of any undue accumulation of horn affecting in the least its health and freedom.

Second—To carry out in the form of the shoe that of the foot as nearly as possible.

Third—To fit and fasten the shoe to the foot so as to interfere least with its health and elasticity.

The object in preparing the foot for the shoe should be to remove any undue accumulation of horn designed to prevent its natural bearing, and the free, healthy action of its parts, and requires the cutting away of about the proportion which contract with the ground would have worn off, or so much as had grown since being shod last. If the shoes have been on a month, then the proportion of horn secreted in the time is to be removed. If on two months then the proportion of two months' growth. No definite rule can be given; the judgment must be governed by the circumstances of the case. The stronger and more rapid the growth of the foot, the more must be cut away; and the weaker and less horn produced, the less, to the extreme of simply leveling the crust a little, the better to conform to the shoe. There is, generally, a far more rapid growth of horn at the toe than at either the heels or the quarters; more, therefore, will require to be taken off the toe than off other parts. Therefore shorten the toe and lower the heels until you succeed in bringing down the bearing surface of the hoof upon the shoe, to almost a level with the live horn of the sole. Be careful to make the heels level.

Having lowered the crust to the necessary extent with the buttress or knife, smooth it down level with the rasp. The sole and frog detach from old horn by exfoliation, as it becomes superabundant. The sole, therefore, would not need paring were it not for the restraining effect of the shoe upon the general function of the foot, which is liable to prevent such detachment of the horn.

When this is the case the sole should be properly dressed out with an English shave, the end of which is shaped like an iron used at saw mills to mark and measure boards. The buttress is too large and square-edged to dress out so concave a surface properly, and unless great care is exercised it will not only penetrate through the sole in some places, but leave others entirely neglected. While a good workman may work well with almost any kind of tool, such have also the faculty of adapting tools to the work. A horse's foot is not to be hacked and cut as if only a block of lifeless wood, and even if a lifeless machine, what care would be found necessary to preserve its

harmony of action complete? The buttress does not seem to us to be at all adapted to dressing out the sole, and should not be used for that purpose. While we are obliged to find fault with the carelessness of blacksmiths in this respect, it is with the spirit of kindness, sensible that we ourselves are only dull pupils in the work of reform, and perhaps deserving severe criticism.

We would be particular also in impressing the necessity of not confounding the bars with the substance of the sole, and cutting them down to a common level with the sole. Any man of common sense can see that the bearing of the bars should be equal to the outside of the crust upon the shoe, and that they offer a decided resistance to the contraction of the heels. The cutting away of the bars to give the heels an open appearance is inexcusable, and should not be done.

In a natural, healthy condition the frog has a line of bearing with the hoof, and by its elastic nature acts as a safeguard to the delicate machinery of the foot immediately over it, and helps to preserve the foot in its natural state, by keeping the heels spread. The frog should never be trimmed or cut except in rare cases. It seems to be wisely intended to give life and health to the foot. Permitting the heels to grow down, with the addition of high-heeled shoes, raises the frog from its natural position and causes it to shrink and harden, and bears in consequence an important influence in setting up a diseased action that usually results in contraction of the foot. If the heels are square and high, and the hoof presents rather a long, narrow appearance, and is hollow on the bottom, there is a state of contraction going on, and you must not hesitate to dress down thoroughly. Do not hesitate because the foot will appear small; cut away until you are well down to a level with the like horn of the sole, and if the foot is weak, use the same prudence in not cutting it away too much. The shoer must also bear in mind that the sole must not rest upon the shoe. The sole when not clogged with old horn, acts as a spring to the weight of the horse; and if it rests upon the shoe an inflammation may be caused by the pressure of the coffin bone upon the sensitive laminae, which is liable in consequence to be so bruised as to cause soreness and inflammation. The effect of such bruises are most common at the angle of the inner heel,

where the descending heel of the coffin boue, forcibly pressing the soft, sensible sole upon the horny sole, is apt to rupture one or more of the small blood vessels of the delicate fleshy substance connecting the crust to the coffin bone of the part, causing red spots called corns. Let the foot be so dressed down, and the shoe so approximate, that the bearing will come evenly upon the crust all the way round, without the sole touching the shoe. This requires the crust to be dressed level, and though well down to the live horn of the sole, it should always be left a little higher. The corners between the bars and crust should be well pared out, so that there is no danger of the sole resting upon the shoe.

Presuming that we have said enough on the subject of paring, we will now consider the

Shoe.

The main object should be to have the shoe so formed as to size, weight, fitting and fastening, as to combine the most advantages of protection, and preserve, as best, the natural tread of the foot; in weight it should be proportioned to the work or employment of the horse. The foot should not be loaded with more iron than is necessary to preserve it. If the hoof is light, the shoe should be light also; but if the horse works principally on the road, his shoe should be rather heavy. In its natural state, the foot has a concave sole surface, which seems to offer the greatest fulcrum of resistance to the horse when traveling. Shoes should be fashioned on this principle, for aside from the advantages of lightness and strength, they are considered to be an improvement upon the common flat shoe.

George H. Dadd, veterinary surgeon, said lately in a letter on shoeing, "The action of concave feet may be compared to that of the claws of a cat, or the nails of the fingers and toes of man; the nails and toes are the fulcrum; they grasp, as it were, the bodies with which they come in contact, and thus secure a fulcrum of resistance to the horse when traveling or grasping. Now in order to preserve the natural mechanical action of the horn and sole, the ground surface of the shoe must correspond exactly with the ground surface of the foot; that is, the ground surface of the shoe must be beveled cup fashion; its

outer edge being prominent, corresponding to the lower and outer rim of the hoof; while the shoe being hollow it resembles the natural concave cavity of the sole of the foot.

“No matter what may be the form of the foot, whether it be high or low-heeled, contracted at the heels, lengthened or shortened at the toe, or having a concave or convex sole, it matters not, the ground surface of the shoe must be concave. In every other part of the shoe, alterations, deviations from any given rule or form, are needed, in consequence of the ever varying form of the foot, and the condition of the same, both as regards health and disease; but the sole of the foot being concave, presents a pattern for the ground surface of the shoe, which the smith with all his skill cannot improve on; and if all such craftsmen were to follow this pattern more closely than they do, there would be fewer accidents in falling, and a less number of lame horses.”

The shoe should be of an equal thickness all the way round, perfectly level on the top side, and concave on the ground surface. We cannot see the propriety, urged by a standard author, of seating every shoe alike, and of carrying it well back to the heel. Seating appears to be necessary only for flat-footed horses, for the inside edge of the shoe must be lowered from the possible bearing of the sole, and enough to run a pricker round between the shoe and hoof, to remove any gravel or foreign matter that may find a lodgment between the sole and shoe. If there is much space between the sole and shoe it invites the accumulation of gravel and other substances injurious to the foot. If the seating is carried well back to the shoe, so wide that the heels, instead of bearing on a level surface, as they should, come down upon this inclined plane, it tends to crowd them together. If the shoe is not wide in web, and the foot strong and arched, it may be made entirely level on the top. At all events that portion upon which rests the heels and crust must be level, and should be fitted accurately. The shoe should be continued completely round towards the heels as far as the crust extends, as large as the full, unrasped hoof; but no part must project beyond it, excepting at the extreme of the heels. The expansion of the heels, and the growth of the foot, require that the shoe should be long and wide enough at the heels to allow for the natural growth of the foot in the time it is calcu-

lated the shoe should be on before being re-set; for as the foot enlarges the shoe is brought forward, until it loses its original proportion, and becomes too short and narrow. The shoe may be a quarter of an inch wider and longer than the extreme bearing of the heels. The nail holes should be punched coarse, and in the centre of the web. If the hind shoe, four on the side and well forward; if the forward shoe, four on the outside and two or three well forward in the inside toe, as found necessary to retain the shoe. The manner of fastening the shoe is what really affects the foot, and which requires the most special attention in shoeing. For the foot, being elastic, expands in the same degree to the weight of the body on the rough that it does on the nicely fitted shoe. It is the number and position of the nails that really affect the foot. If they are placed well back in the quarters, four on a side, as is common, the crust is held as firmly to this unyielding shoe as if in a vise, which utterly prevents the free action necessary to its health. Inflammation of the sensible laminae is produced, which causes contraction, and the consequent derangement of the whole foot. No matter how well shaped a boot may be, if it is too short and small for the free action of the foot when in use, it is a cause of continual torment, and induces the irritation of inverted toe nails and corns of the most aggravating character.

The principle is precisely the same in shoeing horses. If the free natural expansion of the foot is prevented by the shoe being so nailed to the hoof as to obstruct its expansion and the possibility of the quarters spreading in proportion to the growth of the hoof, there must result an irritation of the fleshy substance between the crust and coffin bone, that ultimately sets up so much diseased action of the parts, as to cause contraction and navicular disease. Now shoes may be securely fastened without causing such mischief, if the following method of nailing be observed:

Drive four nails on the outer side of the foot, same as common, while you drive but two or three well forward in the toe of the opposite, which leaves the inner quarter virtually free and independent of the shoe; for the outside of the foot being the only part fastened, carries the whole shoe with it at every expansion, while the inner side being unattached, expands independently of it, and the foot is left, as nearly as possible, in

a state of nature, so far as its power of expansion is concerned. The reader may ask, will this style of nailing hold shoes on the foot of horses of all work? I answer, yes. Experience has fully demonstrated that seven nails will hold shoes on ordinary feet, for any purpose, if the shoes are properly fitted, for a period of from four to seven weeks, which is as long as shoes ought to be on without resetting.

If seven nails are found to be necessary, you can drive three in a space of an inch and a quarter, well forward in the toe, though in most cases two will be found to answer the purpose. Turn down the clinches strongly. Nothing should be done for what is called fancy. The hoof should never be rasped or filed above the clinches. The hoof is covered by a peculiar enamel that prevents the too rapid evaporation of moisture from the horn, and must not be disturbed. The practice of rasping, filing, and sand-papering the hoof to make it look nice, only produces mischief and should not be permitted.

Horses kept for light driving and irregular work, and particularly those having rather square, upright heels, should be shod on the one-side nailing principle, as the feet of such horses are much disposed to contraction. So far as observation and experience teach, it is settled that proper attention to paring down the feet and fastening the shoe, so as not to interfere with the free expansion of the hoof, as above, will remedy contraction; though attention to growing down the crust, and the application of shoes that are slightly convex, or beveled out, so as to have a tendency to spread the heels when the weight of the body is thrown upon the foot, and fastening on the principle of the inside quarter being left free, is regarded as much better. But the blacksmith must be a good workman to fashion and fit a shoe in this way properly. By observing the grain of the foot, it will be seen that the fibres of the hoof run from the top of the foot, or coronary border, towards the toe, in most feet, at an angle of about forty-five degrees. It will be plain, then, that if the nails are driven with the grain of the horn, they will drive much easier, and hold better, and be less liable to cut and crack the fibers. The nails should not be driven higher in the crust than seven-eighths of an inch, and not so deep as to possibly strike through to the quick. If the foot is light, and shows a thin, delicate crust, the nails should be small,

and not driven high or deep into the horn. As a rule, the fewer and smaller the nails used, provided they secure the shoe to the foot with safety, the better. Shoes should be re-set or re-placed as often as four or six weeks; though in some cases it may not be necessary to re-set quite so often. It is a positive necessity at twelve, and must not be neglected longer than seven or eight weeks. Great care should be taken not to let shoes remain too long on colts and young horses, for they are apt to cause corns and contracted feet.

Interfering Shoes.

To prevent interfering, know first what part of the foot hits the opposite ankle. This you can do by wrapping the ankle with a rag nicely, which color with some kind of coloring matter, over where the opposite foot hits. Then drive the horse until you can discover, by some of this coloring matter adhering, what portion of the crust hits the ankle. Remove this portion of the crust, and have the shoe well set under the foot, but carefully fitted, so as to support the foot safely by the bearing of the bar and heel. The hoof should be pared lowest on the outside, to turn the ankle, that the other hoof may pass clear. Yet if the inside sole is not dressed, the rim soon breaks, and the inside is found to be actually lower than the outside. Shoes, to prevent interfering, should be light and of narrow web on the inside, with three nail holes near the toe. They should be straight at the point where they come in contact with the ankle of the opposite leg. By adhering strictly to this principle of paring the foot, and fitting and fastening the shoe, you will prevent a recurrence of the difficulty.

Shoes, to prevent over-reaching, should be long, and for the forward feet heavy, especially at the heels; and for the hind feet light, with heavy toes. The hoof should be well pared at the toe.

To Cure Corns.

Cut the horn well down, but not to the quick; fit the shoe so that it does not press upon the part. Then saturate well with pine or sap gum, which is found exuding from pine trees when cut. Fill the part nicely with tow, and put on the shoe, remembering that the shoe must be so fitted as not to oblige the part to support but very slightly, if any, the weight of the

horse. This remedy was given us by an intelligent shoer, and is certainly good. Horses with corns must be oftener and more carefully shod, than those free from them.

In shoeing, strive to keep the form of the foot natural. If the hoofs are not flat and weak, the shoes should set out evenly to the edge of the crust under the toe. Let the nails be driven well forward in the toe, or what is better, be placed well round in the outside quarter, and as far forward in the toe of the inside as possible, and as few as will be found by experience necessary to retain the shoe. Be positive in the enforcement of this rule; and lastly, have the shoes re-set once in every six or seven weeks.

Advice to Blacksmiths on Shoeing Young Animals.

Let me enjoin you, for humanity's sake, that when you first undertake to shoe a young animal, you will not forget the value of kind treatment. Keep its head turned away from the glaring fire, the clinking anvil, etc., etc. Let the man whom he has been accustomed to, the groom or owner, stand at his head, and talk to him kindly. When you approach him for the first time, let it be without those implements you are to use in his shoeing. Speak to him gently, then take up his foot. If he refuse to let you do this, let the person having him in charge do it. A young animal will allow this with a person he is accustomed to, when he will repel a stranger. By treating him kindly you can make him understand what is wanted; by abusing him you will only frighten him into obstinacy.



MISCELLANEOUS.

Horseback Riding.—A few Hints for the Ladies.

As the delightful and healthful exercise of horseback riding is becoming more fashionable every year, the following hints will help many who are novices in the art of managing a horse, and some who think they know all about it.

“There are few prettier sights than fair equestriennes, provided they know how to ride; and although it seems paradoxical to say so, yet it is not every fair equestrienne who can ride. No lady can use a spur without damaging her habit more than her horse. Extreme neatness is the desideratum in a rider's make up. No flying ribbons or feathers, but a plainly made, well fitting cloth habit, with a white linen collar and cuffs, fastened without ribbon or color, unless it be of a silk handkerchief round the throat. A top hat with a lace veil, for use as well as ornament, twisted round it and over the hair, black gloves, and nothing can look better than any lady when so attired.

“Your horse is at the door, and now comes the tug of war. You have got to arrive at the top of fifteen it may be sixteen hands. Puzzling as the performance appears as you stand on the ground by his side, and the monster towers above you, nothing but knack is wanted. Do not be in a hurry. Place the right hand firmly on the left pommel, and the left hand firmly on the squire's or servant's shoulder. Stand steadily on the right leg, and place the left foot in his right hand. Wait one minute, until you are both sure the other is ready, and if you spring at the moment that he lifts his hand you are mounted gracefully, without an appearance even of difficulty.

It is quite unnecessary to send a man's hat flying into the road, or to put your knees into his eyes; nor need he grasp you fast, as if you were a sack of flour fixed to a jointed crane,

while you clutch and scramble up your saddle as if you were climbing the side of a man-of-war out of a cuddy-boat. Nothing can be more inelegant.

“ People think they cannot help it, and rather than look so ridiculous they have a chair or step brought and ‘ get on themselves.’ It is much better to ‘ get on ’ properly ; besides that, when you do, your habit is properly placed and straight. Once mounted, take up your reins and have your stirrup long enough ; that is have it so long that the leg is almost straight before the toe can reach it. Be sure all is right ; then let your horse slip off quietly. Nothing is a sign of worse riding than to flurry and fluster to get off in a grand commotion, like froth, that subsides into flatness very soon. Sit square, the right knee pointing in a straight line between the horse’s ears ; ride on the snaffle if you use a double-rein bridle, reserving the curb for emergencies, and treat your horse sensibly ; he will appreciate it. If he is a good one, his good qualities will be drawn into notice, and the worst animal, with rational treatment, shows the best he is capable of. Trotting is the pace at which horse and rider show to the best advantage. Any old plug can canter, but not every horse can trot well, nor rider ‘ rise to it,’ if he can. Rise to your trot straight forward, without stooping, keeping the action of your body with that of your horse. Your position should always be as if your eyes were fixed between the horse’s ears. Some people rise quite independently of the horse’s action, and having got their weight off the saddle on to their left leg, they stand in their stirrups, and only preserve their equilibrium, and get back into the saddle by a sort of twist, which has the appearance of the corkscrew that is turning in the cork. When this movement is apparent we may know that a fast trot would be impossible. Should the pace increase, the rider would find it hopeless to try and screw back, therefore she would cease to rise, and the sudden tightening of the rein breaks the trot into a canter, and the most beautiful action of the horse is lost. The art of riding is in the hand. A horse walks, trots or gallops, his worst or his best, according to the handling he receives. Keep the left knee slightly pressed to the saddle, and rise from it by the muscular action of the limb from the knee to the waist, rather than give pressure of the foot in the stirrup. The stirrup is intended rather to rest the leg than for anything else.

"A spur is never needed. There is no horse but what a woman can ride better without the spur than with it. Try and let a horse understand what you want him to do, and in nine cases out of ten, if you can do this, he will do what is required much better for himself than you can teach him.

"Usually the rider is uncertain, first, what she wants done; then, often, especially if leaping is intended, her courage fails her, her nervousness is instantly communicated to the horse — the reins are more instantaneous conductors than any telegraph wire ever could be; and then he is blamed, when thus hurried and confused, for misunderstanding and blundering through what, if left to himself, he would have done perfectly well. Always have both hands ready for the reins, so that at any moment, by taking them two in each hand, the most perfect control is obtained. A horse cannot turn if you keep his head straight, the hands low, and the whip held upward across the rider's knees. It is then ready, without difficulty, for instantly striking the horse on either shoulder or flank, as may be needed. A whip should never be carried for ornament, but use; and should never touch a horse but in chastisement. Unless it be carried upright in this way, it is impossible to avoid its constantly tickling the right flank. This distracts a restive horse, and the most unimpressible acquire a kind of motion which is very ugly."

Treatment of the Horse on the Road.

Young man, I see you are about to take a drive this morning and will offer you some advice. Your horse is restive and wants to be off before you are ready. You should teach him to stand, by following directions given on preceding pages. See that the harness is all right and buckled up so as to give the horse plenty of room for action, and not so much as to make a plunge at crossing every little break or gutter, but just as if the horse and carriage were built together. Slack the check-rein, if you have one, and let the horse carry his head naturally, he will travel better, endure longer and show his true gait. Step in and lay hold of the reins gently, and by a gentle motion let the horse understand that you wish him to start, or speak gently to him; he knows what is to be done, and awaits the order patiently.

Now, as your horse has just been fed, drive him at a very gentle pace for the first two or three miles until he warms up and his body becomes lighter. Keep your hand steady with a gentle pressure on the bit — no jerking or switching of the reins. If more speed is wanted speak to him soothingly and in a gentle manner what you want him to do, and if he is a "free horse" he will try to do it; but, if he is lazy and inclined to lag apply the whip, but be careful not to apply it any harder than is necessary to bring him up to the required speed. If you should call on some friend before completing your journey, don't permit your horse to stand in the wind or cold without being well blanketed, as very serious diseases are contracted by this carelessness. If you are long on the road, don't forget to water your horse occasionally, but care should be taken not to let him drink too much when heated; a little and often, say at every watering place, is the best rule. If your horse gets frightened at any unusual sight or noise, do not whip him, for if you do he will connect the whipping with the object that alarmed him and make him afraid of it ever after. If he merely shies at an object, give him time to examine it, which with some encouraging words from the driver will persuade him to pass it. When you return, have the harness removed at once and the horse rubbed down with a wisp of straw or hay. Give him a bite of grass or hay and let him cool off before being watered or fed. Every one who handles a horse or has anything to do with one, should in the first place cultivate his acquaintance; let him know that you are his friend, and prove it to him by your kind treatment; he needs this to inspire confidence and when that is gained, he is your humble servant.

The "Check Rein."

One of the barbarisms of the present day is the unmerciful use made of the check rein to compel a horse, while being driven to a carriage, to hold his head in an unnatural and painful position. This rein is tightened to such an extent by the fancy horseman, that the animal is unable to see the ground where he is compelled to place his foot-steps, and that too, while being driven at the top of his speed.

If the practice were confined to the "fancy" alone, the result would not be so bad; but we see it followed up by grave

and gay, old and young, male and female (for it is quite common to meet with a lady who prides herself on being a good "whip"). To this feature of woman's rights we have no particular objection, if she will only slacken the "check" and let the horse hold his head, while traveling, in its natural position.

Hints on Colts.

Remember that the early part of the life of a colt determines in a great measure, whether at maturity the animal will be highly valuable or worthless. Observe carefully and early how a colt carries his feet, his fore feet in particular; if he inclines to carry them too near the ground, turn him into a pasture which has a very rough surface. In this way he will get into the habit of raising his feet high. If he inclines to point his toes down, so as to make him likely to trip, he ought to be shod early, and the shoes should be made thick before and thin behind, to give him a habit of raising his toes. By all means use kindness and gentleness toward a colt, so that he may become docile, fearless, and put confidence in his master.

Management of Young Colts.

Farmers are apt to go to one of two extremes with their colts — either to halter them and drag them about through the heat of summer on roads of all kinds, alongside the dams at work, or else to turn them out to run wild during the first six months of their existence, out of sight and hearing of human beings. Now, we take exception to both these methods of proceeding — to the first, because the limbs and feet of the young animal are tender and apt to be strained and bruised by being compelled to keep up with the dam (even when walking) for several consecutive miles. The young colt requires frequent rest, and should be at liberty to lie down whenever inclination prompts. When the colt becomes tired it drags on its halter, straining the cords of the neck, back and legs. It is also disadvantageous to allow the young animal to run too long without subjection, for when the attempt is made he will resist with great force and often with injury. I am strongly opposed, both in principle and practice to "breaking colts" that is allowing them to attain the age of two or more years before they are taken in hand for learning the principles

which are to form so important a part in their future life. There should be no "breaking" about it. The education should begin as soon as the colt is born, and if properly attended to will be perfect by the time he is large enough to drive. First get the confidence and good will of the animal. This you can do by caressing it and arming yourself with salt, apples and a little sugar, etc., and pay them out in small quantities to the animal, letting it follow you about the yard, which it will do for the sake of the goodies as persistently as a dog or a vagrant to whom you have given good bits or a penny.

Being led or tied with a halter should be his first lesson, and the sooner he learns it is the shorter the struggle and the more permanent the lesson; never give him a chance to break loose, for once done, and he will remember it for a long time, and if the lesson be too often repeated, he will make a proficient in this not desirable art.

During the winter the colt should stand haltered a portion of the time, either in his stable or out in the open air—the latter for at least a portion of every day; use the currycomb and brush freely. Remember you are forming the future horse, and care now taken, either in his appearance or character, is by no means lost. During the operation of halter "breaking," great care should be taken always to make him walk fast—fast walking should be made a part of his education, and he will never forget it during his after life. I know of no colt which may not be made a good walker if properly trained when young, but this is a fast time, and walking is too slow to keep up with it.

Never suffer any one to strike or yell at a colt; one such barbarous act will cause a day's work to overcome its bad effect. When first cleaning him avoid the head—then approach that part tenderly, and if he resists, go to some other point. In a few moments return, and so continue until he submits with pleasure. Your colt is then half broken. If at any time the colt is left in the stable or allowed to follow while the mare is put to hard work or driven any distance, let him fill himself before the mother is harnessed, and on her return, kept away if the mare's blood is heated, until it has cooled off. Colts are easily injured by taking heated milk, and do not recover from the effects for a year or more—in fact, never

get entirely over it, for they become reduced in flesh, get lousy, shed their hair, and barely pass through the first year of their existence, which is the most critical period of their growth and development. Wean the colt at five or six months old, first teaching him, while suckling the mare, to eat oats. When taken from the dam confine the colt closely, and put them out of hearing of each other for one week. During the first winter feed daily two quarts of oats and all the hay the colt will eat. This, with good warm shelter, will keep him growing and improving. Don't turn out in spring till the weather is settled and warm, and a full bite of grass.

The first year makes or ruins the colt. It is the most important of his life. Keep him fat at first year, whatever you may do afterwards, for this year decides whether he is to be a full grown horse or a miserable pony — no after care can atone for neglect during the first twelve months. Good pasture (mountain if possible) the next season and plenty of hay the next winter, with a quart of grain if convenient, will bring you a finely formed, powerful two-year old. If a horse, alter him early, before fly time, and turn to good grass. In the fall begin to break, by biting gradually tighter each day; within two weeks you have his head as high and graceful as nature allows. The neck should be arched and the face vertical, without constraint. When the biting is accomplished, put on your harness and let the straps dangle around his legs; continue this until he pays no attention to them, but do not over-fatigue the colt either in the biting bridle or harness. The bending of the neck is extremely painful and should be done by degrees, the work requiring two weeks. While in the biting bridle, exercise him on a circle to the right and left alternately, the radius never less than ten to fifteen feet, otherwise he will learn to step too short. Make him walk, and walk fast while walking; no gait is more important, and our agricultural societies should offer premiums for fast walkers. While harnessed, accustom the colt to wagons, sulkies, etc., by running them round and about him. Then harness to the sulky and lead him several days until he no longer notices the pushing or jostling of the vehicle. Then let one get in while another leads, and so gradually get him accustomed to all around him. On finding he is not hurt he will soon become

quiet. Occasionally harness double with a steady, quiet, horse, but put no load on. Teach him to back by standing in front and pressing on the bit—calling out back, etc. Always caress him when he has done his duty. During the second winter hitch in double, making the other horse draw all the weight, and drive for a short distance, say one-quarter of a mile at a time, alternately fast and slow. Train your colt to three gaits in harness—the fast walk always, the moderate or road gait for distance, and the rapid trot. As if we desire to make a man a good dancer we would begin young while the limbs were nimble and the action graceful—so if we desire a fast walker and a fast trotter too, we must take the colt while young, and as when pressed he will take up the fast trot instead of the gallop so natural in after years.

Jockey Tricks.

How to Make a Horse Appear as though He was Badly Foundered.—Take a fine wire and fasten tight around fetlock, between foot and heel; smooth hair over it. In twenty minutes horse will show lame. Do not leave on over nine hours.

To Make a Horse Lame.—Take a single hair from tail, put through eye of a needle, lift front leg and press skin between outer and middle tendon or cord; shove needle through, cut off hair each side and let foot down; horse will go lame in twenty minutes.

How to Make a Horse Stand by his Food and not Touch it.—Grease the front teeth and roof of the mouth with common beef tallow, and he will not eat till you wash it out. This, in conjunction with the above, will consummate a complete founder.

How to Cure a Horse of the Crib or Sucking Wind.—Saw between the upper teeth to the gums.

How to Put a Young Countenance on a Horse.—Make a small incision in the sunken place over the eye; insert the point of a goose quill and blow it up; close the external wound with thread, and it is done.

To Cover Up the Heaves.—Drench the horse with one-fourth pound common bird shot, and he will not heave till they pass through him.

To Make a Horse Appear as if He had the Glanders.—Melt four ounces fresh butter and pour it into his ear.

To Distinguish between Distemper and Glanders.—The discharge from the nose in glanders will sink in water ; in distemper it floats.

How to Make a True-Pulling Horse Balk.—Take tincture cantharides one ounce, and corrosive sublimate one drachm ; mix, and bathe his shoulders at night.

How to Nerve a Horse that is Lame.—Make a small incision about half way from the knee to the joint on the outside of the leg, and at the back part of the shin bone you will find a small white tendon or cord ; cut it off, and close the external wound with a stitch, and he will walk off on the hardest pavement and not limp a particle.

How to tell a Horse's Age.

The number of horse's teeth is forty—twenty-four molar or jaw teeth, twelve incisor or front teeth, and four tusks or canine teeth between the molars and incisors, but usually wanting in the mare. A few days after birth the colt puts forth two small front teeth in the upper and lower jaws, and soon after two more ; these are called nippers ; the next four shortly make their appearance, and the four corner teeth come a few months later. These twelve teeth in front of the mouth, continue without much alteration until the colt is two years old.

At two years old, colt sheds two centre nippers.

At three years old, colt sheds the adjoining teeth.

At four years old, colt sheds outer or corner teeth.

At five years old, bridle tooth is up, and the horse is now said to have a full mouth.

At six years old, cups leave two centre teeth below.

At seven years old, cups leave adjoining teeth.

At eight years old, cups leave outer or corner teeth.

At nine years old, cups leave two centre nippers.

At ten years old, cups leave adjoining teeth.

At eleven years old, cups leave corner upper teeth.

At twelve years or past, groove on inside of bridle tooth disappears in horse. Mares very seldom have them. When they do they are no criterion to be guided by.

RECIPES.

How to Treat when Well and Cure when Sick.

THE following recipes have been gathered from sources entitled to the fullest confidence, as remedies of great value, and some of them at an unusual cost, and they are presented with the hope of being fully appreciated.

It is well to remember that to keep horses in health is much more important, less troublesome, and requires less skill than to cure sick ones. Abuse, overwork and exposure should be guarded against if the serious consequences of inflammation of the lungs, colic, etc., are to be avoided; and should your horse be sick it is always best to be cautious about doctoring too much, or until you are sure of what is necessary to be done.

Prevention of Horse Diseases.

It is said that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." We subscribe to that doctrine.

As a general rule, horses become diseased through want of proper care and attention. They should have plenty of exercise, and be well groomed; the currycomb is to the horse what a bath is to mankind. It removes impurities, promotes a healthy action of the skin, and equalizes the electric fluid. It is the poor man's friend, for a horse curried twice daily will need only half the grain of a horse not curried. The man of small means more frequently neglects this point of economy than the wealthy.

Take a colt, the offspring of sound parents, give it plenty of grass, or hay well cured, with pure clean water whenever it wants to drink; keep it comfortably warm in winter in a stable well ventilated, moderately light, the floor kept clean, well sprinkled with gypsum, (ground plaster,) an opportunity to exercise in playfulness every day of good weather, an opportunity of shelter from the hot sun or storms in summer, and at maturity you will have a sound horse.

We will presume that the horse has been trained during his coltship, according to instructions previously given, and that he has been fed a little grain, gradually, as he approached maturity. Now, there are some things that should not be done.

The horse should not be overloaded or strained; he should not be permitted to cool too fast when heated by labor or other exercise; he should not be exposed to cold rain or storms unless he is kept in motion, and whenever the labor or other exercise ceases, he should be stabled and rubbed with a wisp or dry cloth until he is thoroughly dry, body and limbs. When taken from the stable after a full feed, he should not be put to heavy draught, nor to fast travel, until he has had some moderate exercise, that he may discharge an over-gorged body. With these few instructions,

and other precautions that will suggest themselves to a sensible horse-man, there will be no heaves, no blindness, no spavin, no spring halt, no splint, no grease in the heels, and the horse will be healthy and useful until he dies of old age. Is not a good horse worth all this care for the purpose of keeping him in good health?

Hints on Feeding and Care of Horses.

As the horse is kept for his muscle, he must have food to supply muscle. But it is found, also, that great muscular exertion requires more rapid respiration, and this respiration is sustained by the carbon of the food; therefore there must be a proper balance between the carbonaceous and nitrogenous elements of the food. Corn meal contains ten per cent. of muscle sustaining food, and sixty-eight per cent. of heat or fat-producing food. This contains too much carbon and too little nitrogen as a principal food for horses. It is too heating and fattening, and deficient in muscular force. Let us examine a few of the foods sometimes given to horses:

On nitrogenous or muscle-forming food, the oat contains 15 per cent.; the pea 24; oil meal, 28; wheat and rye bran, 16; barley, 9; rye flour, 10; millet, 14; timothy hay, 10; red clover, 16 per cent. Of carbonaceous or heat and fat producing food, the oat contains 60 per cent.; the pea, 51; oil meal, 42; wheat and rye bran, 55; barley, 65; rye flour, 72; millet, 62; timothy hay, 47; red clover, 40 per cent. It will be seen that of the grains given above, the oat contains four of heat and fat-producing food to one of muscle-forming matter, and this, for great muscular exertion, is found to be the best proportion.

The fast horse men have long since decided in favor of oats, combined sometimes with wheat bran, which has about the same proportion. It will also be observed that clover hay is very rich in muscle-forming food; but there is a limit to the digestion of such bulky food, and therefore only a certain amount can be given to a horse under hard labor.

We must not omit to note a very common error in feeding horses, which has cost the life of many a noble animal—feeding corn meal, or other concentrated food alone. Corn meal, eaten alone, goes into the stomach of the horse in the solid state of a housewife's dough. To digest this mass the gastric juice must penetrate and circulate through it. But, as this cannot be done, the digesting fluid operates only on the surface of the dough. The consequence is, that before it can be digested, fever of the stomach is produced, and sometimes death. But when the meal is mixed with cut hay and moistened so the meal adheres to it, the hay separates the particles of meal so the gastric juice circulates through it like a sponge. Corn meal is quite harmless, even for colts, when thus fed.

All horses must not be fed in the same proportions, without due regard to their ages, their constitutions and their work. Because the impropriety of such a practice is self-evident. Yet it is constantly done, and is the basis of disease of every kind. Never use bad hay on account of its cheapness. Because there is not proper nourishment in it. Damaged corn is exceedingly injurious. Because it brings on inflammation of the bowels and skin disease. Hay or grass alone will not support a horse under hard work. Because there is not sufficient nutritive body in either. When a horse is worked hard its food should chiefly be oats; if not worked hard, its food should chiefly be hay. Because oats supply more nourishment and flesh-making material than any other kind of food. Hay not so much. For a saddle or a coach horse, half a peck of sound oats and eighteen pounds of good hay are sufficient. If the hay is not good add a quarter of a peck more of oats. A horse which works harder may have rather more of each; one that works little should have less. Sprinkle the hay with water that has salt dissolved in it. Because it is pleasing to the animal's taste, and more easily digested. A teaspoonful of salt in a bucket of water is sufficient.

A horse should have at least a pail of water morning and evening; or, still better, two-thirds of a pailful at three different times in the day. Because this assuages his thirst without bloating him. He should not be made to work directly after he has had a full draught of water; for digestion and exertion can never go on together. When your horse refuses food after drinking, go no farther that day. Because the poor creature is *thoroughly beaten*.

Getting Horses into Condition.

To put a horse in the best looking condition for sale, he should be fed on grain or corn which has been soaked about 48 hours and then kept on a floor till it has sprouted; it should lie about six inches thick, and be turned every four or five hours, being watered sometimes to keep it moist; in short, treated just the same as maltsters treat barley prior to being put on the kiln to dry; barley is the best grain for a horse, when sprouted. Mix one pound of sulphur, one pound of rosin and two pounds of fenugreek, and give two tablespoonfuls every second or third night, by shaking it among the feed or giving it in any mash the horse is fond of. Four ounces of antimony mixed with the above, and one tablespoonful given, will lend an increased lustre to the skin and will improve the very worst looking brute in existence. The exercise should be chiefly walking—no violent sweating and no long journeys.

When in the stable, on dry food entirely, some farmers recommend clover hay made from clover cut when the seed begins to shed; but this is very wrong, for that kind of hay is woody in the stems, and has a decidedly injurious effect on the horses, producing coughing, heaves, swelled heels and legs, and often inflammation in the eyes. The only way in which it can be given without dire results, is by cutting it into chaff and wetting it, with some meal mixed with it. The meal has rather a scouring tendency, and helps to carry off humors which would otherwise be engendered; but when good, wholesome, nutritious hay and oats are fed, the horse should eat dry, for the saliva is the natural moisture to go in to the stomach with the food, and is sure to be much better masticated in that state. A little good chaff mixed with the oats will, if not wet, cause horses to grind the oats closer, so that few will pass through whole.

Inflammation of the Lungs.

First, a thorough bleeding, then would give tincture veratrum viride $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, laudanum 4 ounces, tincture aconite $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce; shake well together and give a teaspoonful every three or four hours in some water well sweetened; and if it does not bring down the pulse the dose can be gradually increased to a tablespoonful; and as soon as the horse recovers so as to eat, and lie down naturally, would keep him on hay alone, perhaps with a few carrots or potatoes; and daily give a bran mash with saltpetre, crude antimony and sulphur, for ten or fifteen days, and you will prevent dropsy of the chest, which is a sequel of that disease.

Colic.

Sulphur ether 1 pint; aromatic spirits amonia 1 pint; sweet spirits nitre 2 pints; opium $\frac{1}{4}$ pound; asafetida (pure) $\frac{1}{2}$ pound; camphor $\frac{1}{2}$ pound. Put in a large bottle, let it stand fourteen days, with frequent shaking, and it will be fit for use. Dose, two ounces every two, three or four hours, until the horse is relieved. Should be given in water well sweetened.

ANOTHER REMEDY.—One ounce laudanum; 1 ounce sweet spirits nitre; 1 ounce tincture asafetida; 1 teaspoonful capsicum; from 2 to 3 ounces carbonate soda; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint whisky; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint water. Mix, and give at one dose, and if no better in twenty-five minutes, repeat half dose.

Spring Halt in Horses.

This affection is shown to be arising from the strain and consequent inflammation of an elastic cord, extending from the hock to the hoof joint. This cord lies immediately under the main middle vein, and in case of strain, the inflammation which ensues may effect the nerves and other parts in sympathy, calling off the mucous secretions, rendering this cord elastic, and thus causing a bitch or halt.

If the skin is slit by a skillful hand, four inches above the hoof of the affected leg, and this cord be carefully drawn out with an awl and severed, it will relieve the horse of all lameness as soon as the wound is healed, and experience has shown that no injury results from the operation. The incision should be washed often with warm castile soap suds, and anointed with sweet oil, or some healing ointment, and the horse kept quiet till the cure is effected.

Carrots for Horses.

Towards the spring, when horses have been many months highly fed on corn, they are extremely serviceable, indeed necessary; during winter they should be used sparingly. They used to be given to race horses in far greater quantities than they are now, having formerly had the character of being good for the wind; but perhaps the only merit they can claim in this respect is, that they keep the body cool and properly open, by which they conduce greatly to health and condition, and consequently in clearness of wind. About the same thing may be said of their claims to producing a fine coat; whatever conduces to health does so; consequently carrots do. Carrots should be given whole. When first given they are slightly diuretic and laxative. But as the horses become accustomed to them these effects are not produced. To sick and idle horses they render corn unnecessary. They are beneficial in all chronic diseases of the respiratory organs. In combination with oats, they restore worn out horses much sooner than oats alone. They should be fed raw, in which state the horse prefers them.

Cough.

Use elecampane root, horehound and smartweed, with 6 red pepper pods to 2 ounces of ginger root. Boil until all the strength is extracted, then strain through a flannel; to every gallon of this extract add 1 quart of molasses. Give 1 gill a day on his feed, or from an ox horn.

Simple Liniment.

Put into spirits of turpentine all the camphor gum it will cut, when for ordinary purposes it is fit for use; but if designed to reduce pain, add as much laudanum as there is turpentine. This liniment is as good as it is simple.

Spavin.

Five ounces euphorbeum; 2 ounces Spanish flies, (fine); 1 ounce iodine, dissolved with alcohol; $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce red precipitate; 1 ounce corrosive sublimate; $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce quicksilver; 6 ounces hog's lard; 6 ounces white turpentine; $\frac{1}{4}$ pound verdigris. Melt the lard and the turpentine together, then while hot add all together. Mix well. When cold it is fit for use. Rub it in thoroughly on the spavin every day for three days, then wash clean with soap suds; omit for three days, and then repeat for three days again, and so on, until a perfect cure is made. Should it blister, use it cautiously.

Blood Spavin.

One-half pound of blood root; 1 quart of alcohol; 2 ounces of tannin, $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of alum. Mix, and let it stand, shaking it several times a day till the strength is all in the alcohol, and bathe the spavin twice a day, rubbing it in with the hand.

Heaves.

Take smartweed, steep it in boiling water till the strength is all out; give one quart every day, mixed with bran or shorts, for eight or ten days. Give green or cut feed wet with water during the operation, and it will cure.

Magic Liniment.

Two ounces oil of spike; 2 ounces origanum; 2 ounces hemlock; 2 ounces wormwood; 4 ounces sweet oil; 2 ounces spirits ammonia; 2 ounces gum camphor; 2 ounces spirits turpentine; 1 quart of proof spirits, nine per cent.; mix well together, and bottle tight. For sprains, bruises, lameness, &c., this liniment is unsurpassed, and originally cost (which it is worth) \$100. This is the same liniment, without the turpentine, which has achieved such wonderful cures for human ailments. For domestic purposes it is invaluable.

Horse Distemper.

If the glands of the neck are not swollen much, give half a five-cent paper of smoking tobacco, morning and evening, in a warm bran mash, and give no hay, but a little fine cut straw, wet, with bran mixed in. If the glands of the neck are swollen, then apply a warm poultice made of wheat bran and hot vinegar, changing as often as the poultice gets dry, and be sure and get down all you can of flax seed tea—or slippery elm tea will answer the same purpose—and let this be his constant drink. Be cautious to keep the horse from taking cold in any way, and keep on a blanket, and thus you will save many a noble animal. Be cautious never to bleed your horse during the distemper, nor physic him any more than you will be able to do with your warm bran mash.

Remedy for Bots.

This will remove them in a few days: Take oil of turpentine 8 ounces; alcohol 1 quart. Mix and bottle for use. Dose, 5 ounces in the horse's feed, once a day for eight days, and this will effectually remove the last vestige of the bots.

Cribbing

Is a diseased stomach—a belching of wind from the stomach.

To one pound of pulverized charcoal add 1 pound of soda; stir well together, and give 1 tablespoonful once a day for a few days, and break up the habit as follows:

If a simple habit, arrange the stall so as to make it impossible for him to crib. This you do by making the stall plain, with a simple box manger in front, rather low, but extending the whole width of the stall. Immediately over the front edge of this plain box manger, hang a roller of about six or seven inches in diameter, on pivots, which must be so arranged that it will turn easily. This roller, extending clear across the manger, offers the only means within reach upon which to crib. The horse, in cribbing, will press his front teeth firmly upon this roller, pulling down and towards him, which causes the roller to turn from under his mouth, and he is defeated in his efforts. There is no trouble in breaking a young horse of this habit by this means. A very good way is to feed the horse from a basket hung loosely by a cord to something over head. The roller, properly adjusted, is however much the best means.

Hoof Ointment.

Take rosin four ounces; beeswax 5 ounces; lard 2 pounds; melt together and pour into a pot; add 3 ounces of turpentine, 2 ounces finely pulverized verdigris, 1 pound tallow. Stir all until cold. This is one of the best medicines for the hoof ever used. It is good for corks and bruises of the feet.

Lost Appetite in Horses.

Take of powdered gentian two ounces; cascarilla, (pulv.) one ounce; ginger, two ounces. Mix; dose, one teaspoonful in feed until a cure is effected.

Grease.

Two ounces flour sulphur; $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce verdigris. Mix and apply after washing.

Diuretic Drops

Are reliable for stoppage of water, foul water, or inflammation of the kidneys, in all cases.

Take of sweet spirits of nitre 4 ounces; balsam copaiva 2 ounces; spirits of turpentine 2 ounces; oil of juniper 2 ounces; gum camphor, pulverized 1 ounce. Mix all together and shake well; bottle, and it is fit for use for man or beast, under all circumstances where a diuretic is required.

Dose—for a horse, 1 ounce in half a pint of milk, once in six hours; for a man, one teaspoonful in a tablespoonful of milk, once in six hours.

Be sure to shake the ingredients up well before turning out for use.

To Prevent Horses from Jumping.

Have a good firm strap halter, made to fit the head nicely, with a wide strap stitched to each side, so as to come over the eyes. Cut holes in this strap over each eye; over these eye-holes put fine wire cloth, supported nicely by wire, so that it will not possibly touch the eyes. Before a horse attempts jumping over a fence, he will put his head over to calculate the height and distance he is obliged to jump; but by looking through the wire cloth, everything is so magnified in appearance he is disconcerted in his efforts to do so, and is afraid to jump.

To Recruit when Hide-Bound,

Or otherwise out of sorts:

Nit. potassa (or saltpetre) 4 ounces; crude antimony 1 ounce; sulphur 3 ounces. The nitrate of potassa and antimony should be pulverized; then add the sulphur and mix them well together. Dose, a tablespoonful of the mixture in a bran mash daily.

Thrush.

Cleanse the foot out well, then crowd in fine salt, and wash with beef brine.

Difficulties in Foaling.

The following information in regard to certain difficulties which sometimes cause the death of valuable mares, as well as the manner in which those difficulties may be overcome, is kindly furnished for our pages by a gentleman of many years' experience with the equine species.

Frequently, just previous to the period of foaling, some accident occurs by which the position of the colt is changed, its head turned under, perhaps, or otherwise so disarranged as to prevent the further process of nature. At such time the efforts of the mare in trying to effect a delivery of the colt only render that object more difficult, by forcing everything back, the consequent strain closing the bones, and thus acting contrary to the plan of nature. To prevent this, cast the mare upon her back, tie a rope around each hind foot, pass the end of the rope over a beam, or limb of a tree, whichever may be most favorable, and draw upon it till the hind part of her body is raised a foot or more from the floor, or ground. This throws the colt forward, opens the bones which have prevented its egress, and thus it can be easily handled and removed, and the mare's life saved.

Physic Ball.

Barbadoes aloes 1 pound; syrup buckthorn 3 ounces; cod liver oil 3 ounces. Melt the whole, and stir till cold. In winter, add a little water. Make into 18 pills, and give one every four hours, or as much as will move the bowels.

Wind Galls.

Olive oil 3 ounces; nitric acid 1 ounce. Rub in as much daily or every second or third day as it will bear without starting the hair.

Stifle.

First, prepare your medicine. Take four quarts white oak bark, rasped; put it into eight quarts water, boil to two quarts; turn off the liquid while hot, and add a three-penny paper of tobacco. Now let stand until a little above blood heat. Now heat a flat-iron or a brick; then proceed immediately to put the stifle in its place. Now bathe it thoroughly with the decoction about five minutes, then apply your flat-iron as near as the animal will bear, until all absorbed. Then give the animal rest for one hour, and if it should possibly slip out again, repeat as before, observing care about straining for a few days.

ANOTHER REMEDY.—One ounce sugar of lead; 1 pint alcohol. Mix, and apply three or four times a day until a cure is produced.

Vegetable Caustic.

Make a strong ley of hickory or oak ashes, put into an iron kettle and evaporate to the consistency of thin molasses; then remove into a sand bath, and continue the evaporation to the consistency of honey. Keep it in a ground stopped glass jar.

This caustic is very valuable in fistula, cancers, scrofulas and indolent ulcers, particularly where there are sinuses, necrosis, or decay of the bone, and in all cases where there is proud flesh; and also to excite a healthy action of the parts. It removes fungous flesh without exciting inflammation, and acts but little except on spongy or soft flesh.

Anti-Spasmodic Tincture for Man or Horse.

Oil of cajeput 1 ounce; oil of cloves 1 ounce; oil of peppermint 1 ounce; oil of anise 1 ounce; alcohol 1 quart. Mix all well together, and bottle for use. Dose for a horse 1 ounce every fifteen minutes, in a little whisky and hot water, sweetened with molasses; continue until relieved. Dose for a man, 1 teaspoonful.

To Cover Heaves.

Oil tar 1 ounce; oil amber 1 ounce. Mix, and give 15 or 20 drops in feed, daily.

Harness Galls and Sores.

Care must be taken that neither the trace nor any other part of the harness rubs against the sore while the horse is working. The following lotion should be applied to the sore twice a day, with a piece of sponge. The sore should not be rubbed, picked or fingered in any way: Acetate of lead $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; tincture of opium, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; glycerine, $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; water, 6 ozs.

Cribbing Horses.

The cure is very simple and easily applied. Get some pulverized cayenne pepper, and sprinkle it plentifully on the edge of the trough to which your horse is hitched, so that he will suck it up with the first draught of air. If you ride or drive out, carry some with you in a vial, and sprinkle some on the top of a post to which you tie the horse, and he will soon be cured. We have known this remedy to prove effectual.

Sores Ulcerated with Proud Flesh.

Take 1 oz. each white vitriol and burnt alum, pulverize them and mix them together, and sprinkle on the sore. Should the wound however be deep, a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. white vitriol and one pint of rain water can be used with a syringe. After the proud flesh is destroyed use liniment composed of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. each balsam of life and laudanum; mix in a bottle and shake well before using.

Gravel.

Give two-thirds of a tablespoonful of saltpetre in a little salt, for three consecutive days; or take a pint of watermelon seed and boil in two quarts of water, till reduced to nearly one-half, and drench two mornings in succession. Your horse will soon be relieved.

To make a White Foot, or a Star in a Horse's Forehead.

Take pickled mackerel and confine it on, in any shape you please, three or four days repeating, and it will produce a white foot, or a white spot. Rub the white saddle spots on a horse's back a few times daily in the spring of the year, before the coat is shed, with bacon grease, and it will restore the natural color.



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