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YOUNG RACE-HORSES

BY

SIR WALTER GILBEY BART.

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THOROUGHBRED MARE AND FOAL

FOURTH EDITION

YOUNG RACE-HORSES

FRESH PASTURES FOR REARING

BY

SIR WALTER GILBEY, Bart.

VINTON & Co., 8 BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

1910

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PREFACE

Since publication of the Third Edition in 1898, changes have taken place which have induced me to reprint this little work, making the various alterations and additions necessary. If the subject were not one of importance I should not venture to put forward the suggestions offered in the following pages

The history of the horse, including that of the race-horse, has been my study for many years. I have watched the success which has attended the horses of certain racing studs from the days of Mr. Bowes, Lord Glasgow, Mr. Merry, Sir Joseph Hawley, Lord Falmouth and the Hampton Court Stud, down to the horses bred and raced in recent times

It cannot be doubted that horses, whether Thoroughbred, Shire, or any other breed, deteriorate after a time, if grazed on overstocked pastures which have become "staled" through long use by horses

*Elsenham Hall, Essex
April, 1910*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
WRITERS ON HORSES	1
THE HORSE IN HIS PRIMITIVE STATE	3
OVER-STOCKING: ITS BAD RESULTS	4
LETTING GRASS LANDS: DAMAGE BY HORSES	6
STALE PASTURES UNFAVOURABLE	7
FAILURES WITH YOUNG STOCK	8
LARGE NUMBERS OF THOROUGHBREDS PRODUCED	10
THE EFFECT OF ARTIFICIAL FEEDING	11
THE TRAINER'S DIFFICULTY	12
NATURAL TREATMENT AND FOOD	13
TREATMENT OF MARE FROM CONCEPTION	13
MOUTHS OF HORSE AND OX	14
TO BREED THE BEST	17
EXPERIENCE GAINED WITH HEAVY HORSES & HACKNEYS	19
AMERICAN RACE-HORSES	21
AUSTRALIAN HORSES	22
GERMAN HORSES	23
LIMESTONE SOIL	25
OTHER SOILS	26
CLIMATE	27
INCREASE IN SIZE OF THOROUGHBREDS	28
LUCK, OR RACING UNCERTAINTIES	29
CONCLUSIONS	31

YOUNG RACE-HORSES

WRITERS ON HORSES

The art of breeding, rearing and training race-horses has been the theme of writers both numerous and well-informed ; the books on the subject would of themselves form a considerable library

It is strange that of all the leading authorities—among whom we include the celebrated writer C. J. Apperley (“Nimrod”), C. Bindley (“Harry Hieover”), R. S. Surtees, Captain F. W. Carlton (“Craven”), Admiral Rous and other contributors to the old sporting magazines—not one has fully grasped the significance of the example set by the horse in his primitive state, nor realised the potent influence wrought by natural habit of life on stamina and constitution

Not one of the writers mentioned, nor any of the many hundreds of other authorities whose names might be given, has ever touched

upon the subject of herbage, on the importance of providing fresh and *untainted* pastures, or on the evil results of overstocking

The only horse-breeder of former days who appears to have understood the importance of attention to grazing was a Mr. E. Corbet,* of whose methods of rearing race-horses the Rev. Walter Davies says†:—

“He had five paddocks enclosed with stone walls, each paddock containing a shed and traversed by a stream of water. These paddocks are spring fed with sheep, and afterwards afford early grass of a better quality for the young horses. When they have nearly grazed the first piece they are turned into the second, and are succeeded by neat cattle, and these again by sheep. By this means no tufts of any kinds of grass are left, the one species of animal relishing the leavings of the other ”

* The gentleman referred to was evidently Mr. Edward Corbet, a West-country sportsman, who ran horses at the Chester, Ludlow, Bridgnorth and other meetings about the period 1790-1805. He owned animals sired by Dungannon, Young Eclipse and other famous sires of the time. I have not been able to trace relationship between this gentleman and the famous Master of Hounds, but it seems highly probable that they were related

† *General View of Agriculture in North Wales* (1813)

Here, at least, we find recognition of the manner in which pasture for young horses may be systematically improved by placing upon it different kinds of stock in rotation

THE HORSE IN HIS PRIMITIVE STATE

One most prominent characteristic of the horse in his native wilds has apparently quite escaped the notice of writers on horse-mastery, or, at least, has suggested nothing to them: that characteristic is the singularly wide and continuous roaming of the horse in search of food; a habit which indicates the animal's craving for fresh grazing, for new pastures whereon he may find natural grasses

We know that the wild horse chooses his daily, almost hourly, feed over a wider area than does any other beast; the horse is even a greater wanderer than was ever the bison on his limitless prairies. It is impossible to ignore the fact that the primary result, if not the first purpose, of such continuous wandering is to provide the horse with the freshest grazing ground

The preference of the domesticated horse for fresh grass may be noticed when animals

are turned out to pasture in a field part of which is under old grass and part of which has been recently sown. When such opportunity for exercising choice is given, the horses are always to be found on the new grass portion. I shall give more precise evidence of this on a future page

OVER-STOCKING : ITS BAD RESULTS

It is a matter of common knowledge among agriculturists and breeders that over-stocking results in material injury to pasturage

An example of the bad consequences which follow over-stocking, or too prolonged use of land for pasturing horses, is furnished by the old Royal Stud which was maintained for many years at Hampton Court

For some considerable time it had been observed that the yearlings and foals suffered greatly from throat and other diseases ; and practical judges, including the late General Peel, came to the unanimous conclusion that the ground at Hampton Court, on which for so many years Thoroughbreds had been kept, was tainted by continuous grazing and was unfit for

rearing horses. Accordingly, in 1894, the stud was dispersed *

This tainting or staling of land is not peculiar to horses. The domestic fowl, where kept in large numbers, does the same thing to such a degree that poultry-farming on any considerable scale has always failed owing to the disease which the birds have contracted thereby

Pheasants are even more liable to maladies brought about in the same way, but the breeders of pheasants are careful to provide them with a sufficiently large area of land to afford the birds frequent changes to fresh soil

In the days of cock-fighting those who devoted themselves to the sport knew well that fresh ground was essential to the rearing of strong and hardy birds. It was, therefore, the practice in those times to insert in leases a clause to the effect that the tenant farmer should "run a game cock" for his landlord; and it was always understood that the bird was to occupy ground upon which fowls had not been previously kept

The system of walking puppies for the

* I do not forget that a few very good horses were bred at Hampton Court during the later days of the stud's existence. The Earl, Springfield and La Flèche were produced there; but the failures due to unsoundness were numerous and out of all proportion

Master of the Hounds is a modern parallel which at once suggests itself. The hound breeder, master or huntsman, knows the advantage of getting each farmer in the hunt country to receive a puppy

LETTING GRASS LANDS : DAMAGE BY HORSES

We find in the agreements relative to the letting of grass lands in certain counties stipulations that prove recognition of the fact that horses cause peculiar damage to pasture

In Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Denbighshire, and doubtless in other parts of England, it has long been customary to restrict the number of horses which may be grazed on any given area

The following details are taken from the auctioneer's bills for the letting of "Crow's Marshes" in Norfolk a few years ago :—

Lot	Names of Marshes	Contents			Head of Horse Stock Allowed
		A.	R.	P.	
1	Big Thurston Marsh	26	3	9	5
2	Thurston Hill Marsh	18	1	9	3
3	Thurston Fifteen Acre Marsh	14	3	7	3
4	Two Marshes over Brick-Arch	34	0	9	6
5	Bill Thurston Marsh	23	1	36	5
6	Fowler's Marsh	19	0	35	4

The above shows that, on an average, not

more than one horse may be grazed on about five acres. It was also provided that "The hirers will be restricted to the number of horse stock, as stated in the particulars to each lot." There is no restriction concerning the head of cattle which may be grazed thereon

Other documents of the same character show that on some of the best and richest pastures in Lincolnshire horses are not allowed at all

One such bill, containing particulars of twenty-four paddocks and fields amounting to over 218 acres, specifies four fields, measuring about thirty acres in all, as lots on which horses *may* be grazed. The same stringent conditions will be found in old agreements for letting pasture-land dating back hundreds of years

STALE PASTURES UNFAVOURABLE

Horse-breeders have not grasped the fact that this deterioration of the horses' food reacts unfavourably upon the animals themselves

After making some considerable research I find that Lord Charlemont, the largest rearer of horses in Ireland at the time, in

giving evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on Horses in 1873, made this statement :—

“ I may say that I have three or four farms for the purpose of changing about. *I am satisfied that horses, like any other animals, eventually soil the land, and they require to be removed and shifted from one place to another to preserve their health and soundness* ”

FAILURES WITH YOUNG STOCK

From the first selection of the foundation stock, whether the mares employed be those that have been running for the owner or have been selected for breeding purposes, the possession of a stud is a source of pleasure to the man who can afford to breed race-horses without regard to profit or loss

The one object in view should be to breed the *best*, especially in days like these when the standard of merit required to attain success is raised so very high

It has been well said that a great majority of our race-horses are carefully as well as expensively bred, abundantly fed, and when put into training or sent to the sale ring are as handsome as they can possibly be made

Unfortunately, this is only the threshold

of the young race-horse's career ; and too often his claims to public notice begin and end with the price his sire's reputation obtains for him under the hammer

The animals which succeed on the Turf, after realising a long figure in the sale ring, are very few in number—how few is not generally recognised—and in this connection it will be interesting to refer to an article on “ Blood Stock Sales,” which was published in the *Times* of 27th December, 1897:—

“ There has not been quite such a rush to pay high prices for yearlings which are either related to horses that have distinguished themselves on the Turf or are promising in appearance, as buyers are gradually becoming alive to the fact that yearlings sold for a 1,000 guineas or upwards are nearly always failures

“ No more striking illustration of this could be had than in connection with those sold in 1896 for a total of 51,250 guineas. These were thirty-two in number, ranging from a filly by St. Simon—Dart, who cost 5,100 guineas and has run once without success, to Meldola, a filly by Melton—Fame, who has been beaten each time she ran

“ These thirty-two yearlings are represented by two winners of five races, Florio Rubattino and La Veine, who have

contributed about £2,000 to the total cost; and there is not, so far as can be known, a single one of the remaining thirty with any prospect of making a race-horse . . .

“It is the same with the yearlings which fetched high prices in all the preceding seasons, no matter how far back the search is carried

“Thus, in 1895, twenty-two yearlings were sold for 46,200 guineas, and they won three races worth £1,080 last season, and one worth £100 this; while the twenty-two sold for 34,850 guineas as yearlings in 1894 have not, though their racing career is in nearly every case over, earned one half of what they originally cost, their only winning representative this season having been Knight of the Thistle, who secured three races worth about £3,000

“If the calculation is carried back as far as 1883, when these high prices became frequent, the general result will be found to be the same”

LARGE NUMBERS OF THOROUGHBRED HORSES PRODUCED

The number of race-horses bred is very large; it is out of all proportion to the number which win even insignificant races. Last year—1909—there were over 3,000 horses of all ages in training

The production of Thoroughbreds is also being overdone in France. In August, 1909, 609 horses were offered at the sales at Deauville; of these only 289 found purchasers, the majority (320) being returned to their owners unsold.

The smallness of the percentage of even tolerably successful horses out of the prodigious number bred at an enormous outlay should convince owners that a youngster must possess attributes other than good breeding and good looks if he is to be worth training, much more become a classical winner.

THE EFFECT OF ARTIFICIAL FEEDING

All young stock must have good food to promote their development, but this should not be strong artificial food which young animals cannot assimilate.

The fatted horse, fed on artificial food, will of a necessity be a source of trouble to his trainer, as before muscle can be put on useless flesh must be worked off, to the detriment of his feet and legs; and during this process the proper development of the young horse is retarded if not altogether at a standstill.

Thoroughbred foals, like all young highly

bred stock, are liable to "joint-ill" and diseases of the joints. These ailments are due to their close confinement in boxes and to the artificial life led by foals; such diseases seldom or never occur among young horses whose dams are allowed liberty and which are pastured in fields that are not overstocked

THE TRAINER'S DIFFICULTY

The over-fed young animal which has not had natural exercise comes to the trainer in a condition that demands hard work while he is physically incapable of standing it; and the endeavour to give such a candidate sufficient exercise results in most cases in enlargement of the fetlocks and round joints

The young horse which from his earliest days has enjoyed large liberty and has indulged his innate love of galloping comes to the trainer in the best possible condition to be prepared for the racecourse

The trainer's work is rendered heavier and more difficult by the grossness of condition which too often is the foundation of disappointment to the owner as well as the trainer

It is worth remembering that in the old days of four-mile heats and heavy weights,

when the gentleman breeder was the owner of the horse trained under his personal supervision, he allowed the youngster plenty of fresh pasturage

NATURAL TREATMENT AND FOOD

Horses, then, should enjoy as far as possible the conditions of life which Nature has prescribed—that is, be allowed ample space over which to roam and graze

Disregard of this cardinal feature in the life-habit of the horse accounts in some measure, as I believe from the experience I have gained, for the failures which so persistently occur

Adopting a method at variance with the laws of Nature, the breeder expects to succeed while actually courting failure; and he can hardly hope to stem the tide of what he calls “bad luck.” Pedigree and good looks avail but little against over-stocked or tainted pasture. Artificial feeding can never beat more natural methods of rearing

TREATMENT OF MARE FROM CONCEPTION

Nor will it suffice to reserve natural treatment for the newly-born foal; the dam—and this is a point to which the breeder’s attention may be directed as one upon which

it is impossible to insist too strongly—the mare, from the moment she conceives or is known to be in foal, should be grazed only on pastures which for a long period have not known the print of a hoof

I may say that in applying natural methods with a view to the accomplishment of one important end we shall be achieving another, or at least avoiding a literally vital danger

It is an axiom among breeders that the mare in corn seldom stands to the horse ; for which reason brood-mares are always sent to grass for some weeks before being put to the stallion

In other words, unnatural feeding is productive of such influence on the constitution of the mare that her reproductive powers are seriously impaired, and can only be restored by a return to the food which is proper for maturing the foal within her

MOUTHS OF HORSE AND OX

The horse and the ox in their natural state are purely herbivorous, subsisting exclusively on herbage or vegetable food ; their modes of grazing, however, differ widely one from the other, and in this difference we discover the reason why the

horse inflicts injury upon pasture so much more rapidly and in so much greater degree than the ox

MOUTH OF HORSE—Showing how teeth meet

MOUTH OF OX—Showing the toothless pad in upper jaw
The upper lip is lifted to display the pad against which the front teeth of the lower jaw perform their function

The structure of the mouth of each shows that they must collect their feed in very different ways

The upper and lower jaws of the horse are each furnished with front or cutting-teeth which meet like a vice, evenly and close from corner to corner, and the animal is thus enabled to take so sharp a hold on the herbage that he tears and bruises every stem that comes between his teeth. He also bites close to the ground, thereby bruising and injuring the crown of the plant

The ox—from its fifth year, when it is said to be “full mouthed”—has eight cutting teeth in the front of the lower jaw and none in the front of the upper jaw to correspond; the cutting-teeth in the lower jaw of the bullock work against a fibrous and elastic pad which fulfils the office of teeth in the forepart of the upper jaw

In the case of the ox, the grass is collected and rolled together with the long flexible tongue, held firmly between the cutting-teeth and this pad aided by the upper lip, and torn, not bitten off

It is evident, therefore, that the stems are less bruised by the mouth of the bullock than by the teeth of the horse

The grasses destroyed by the horse take from three to five years to come again, and this is particularly noticeable with the white

clover and natural small grasses which form so essential a portion of his diet

Great importance attaches to the quality and quantity of the grasses in horse pastures, because these rather than his artificial food conduce to the growth and development of bone and muscle

TO BREED THE BEST

The breeder wishing to breed *the best* should therefore refrain from grazing his in-foal mares and young stock on pastures which have been continually and recently grazed by horses

Preference must be given to fields in which horses have not fed for two or three years, and for longer if possible

During the past few years much arable land has been laid down in grass, and the young herbage on such lands will be found suitable for grazing young horses, being far superior for the purpose to stale and overfed old grass

The rich fattening pastures such as those which will "finish" a bullock without cake are not the most suitable for horses

Several writers, English and foreign, have dealt with the influence which the rich and

succulent herbage found on low-lying lands produces on the horses pastured thereon; and also with the contrary influence of sparse and meagre herbage growing on high lands with poor soil upon the horse-stock reared there

At one end of the scale we have the heavy and massive shire horse which reaches its greatest size on lowland pastures whose grasses are luxuriant; at the other the mountain ponies, whose small size is in no small measure due to the scanty grazing available

Such ponies are to be seen, for example, on the Welsh hills surrounding Llandrindod Wells. These half-wild animals vary from 10 to 11 hands high; their stunted growth is due to the poor feed on the mountains and exposure to the severity of the winters

The object with the Thoroughbred is not to lay on fat, which animals grazed on rich lands have a tendency to do, but to gain flesh which can be converted into muscle by work

The deer of the mountains and the hare found on downs whose grass is poor rather than rich are proverbial for their activity, the result of muscular elasticity; the same

animals in parks and on low pasture lands where the grass is rich have neither the same speed nor equal endurance

The number of animals should be strictly limited in accord with the area of the stud farm, which should be sufficiently extensive to allow periodical changes to fresh land ; one yearling to every four or five acres is plenty. On this point my experience in breeding stock, especially horses, has led me to form a very strong opinion

EXPERIENCE GAINED WITH HEAVY HORSES AND HACKNEYS

An instance of the benefit derived from the treatment advocated may be mentioned here, though it is an experience gained in breeding heavy horses

The theory of fresh grazing has been tested by placing a certain number of mares, on their return from service by the best sire money could procure, upon land where the pasture was not fresh ; in the same year an equal number of mares, served by the same sire under identically similar circumstances, have been placed on pastures which had been freshly laid down, or upon old grass land on which horses had not been grazed for several years

The produce in the latter case have been to an extraordinary extent superior in bone, muscle and constitution to their brothers and sisters of the same year

The same plan has been followed with the Hackney-bred yearlings of which we have at Elsenham about 30 each year; they are sent, in lots of ten, to three different grazing pastures

When they return in October or November the superior condition of those which have been feeding on wide ranges of pasture, where cattle only had before been grazed, is most marked

It is easy, when the whole thirty are paraded together, to pick out the tens and say on which of the three pastures they have been grazed. The effects of the fresh grass are shown in their coats as well as their bone and muscle

I can attribute this superiority to nothing else than the fresh grazing. This system has not been confined to one year, but has been carried out for several years, and always with the same results

Is it too much to assume that a method which has been productive of such strikingly good results in respect of size, muscle and

bone with young horses, both heavy and light, would be equally applicable to young blood-stock?

In respect to Shire horses, I have been carefully watching the exhibits at the various Shows, and am satisfied that the success of most animals is due to the fact that they had been grazed upon land which had not been over-horsed

In some cases the winners came from studs which had been recently established upon land that had been grazed only with oxen before

I may add that similar examples of Show-yard success among sheep could be cited to prove the potent influence for good that is exercised by fresh grazing

AMERICAN RACE-HORSES

The form displayed by American horses for many years offers testimony in support of the theory

American and British Thoroughbreds are descended from the same original stock. The imported English sires Messenger and Shark, exported 1786, laid the foundations of the Thoroughbred on the other side of

the Atlantic, and since that date Americans have been regular purchasers of breeding-stock in this country, taking some of our best sires

Between the years 1897 and 1905, some 230 stallions and 540 mares have left England for the United States. The names of several great sires among the former will occur to every student of Turf history.

A proportion of the mares are covered by the most fashionable stallions in England before they leave our shores

May it not be that the superiority of race-horses reared in America, if they be superior, is attributable to the advantages enjoyed by their breeders in possessing immense areas of pasturage in Kentucky and other States? These pastures, thanks to their size, have never been staled or tainted by over-stocking, and to the freshness of their grazing is no doubt due the stamina and gameness that distinguish the horses reared thereon

AUSTRALIAN HORSES

The popularity in India of the Australian horse, or "Waler," is due not only to his superiority in size and weight-carrying power over Arabs and country-bred horses, but

to the soundness of constitution and limb for which Australians are famed

The conditions under which these horses are bred tend to produce a sound and useful animal. The best English blood has been imported by Colonial breeders, who have the advantage of a warm and dry climate, and, as in America, vast ranges of grass land over which the horses feed

The large droves of horses in Australia have an incentive to travel in the frequent scarcity of watering places; there are localities where at certain seasons the horses may be obliged to travel twenty miles to find the "water hole" or stream whereat they can quench their thirst; and it is obvious that such extensive and frequent travels in search of water must have as a result continual change of pasture

GERMAN HORSES

In the memorandum submitted by Major-General Beauchamp Walker, Military Attaché at Berlin, for the information of the Select Committee on Horse-Breeding in 1873, already referred to, we find the following remarks on the cavalry horses of Germany. General Walker quotes from a conversation

he had held with a general officer of cavalry
 “who had also had for nearly a year the
 direction of the country studs”:—

“Secondly, he attributed the great endurance of the Prussian horse to the hard and healthy life led by both mare and foal. Sturdy mother, sturdy child

“In a great part of these provinces, in Posen and Silesia, the mares and foals, though by no means starved, have to roam over a large extent of ground in search of their daily feed, and necessarily pass the greater part of the time in the open air. This develops muscles and lungs, particularly the former

“The General assured me that a mare and foal seldom travelled over less than from four to five German miles [the *meile* equals nearly $4\frac{3}{4}$ English miles] in the course of the twenty-four hours, and that he considers this exercise conduced to give these horses that predominance over straw-yard or stall-fed horses which there was no denying was apparent when comparing the Prussian with other breeds in Germany”

The compulsory exercise is, of course, highly beneficial to the growing youngster ; but continuous exercise without good natural food cannot produce muscle and lay the

foundation of the sound constitution which gives endurance

The officer quoted by General Beauchamp Walker was giving valuable evidence in support of the theory upheld in these pages

LIMESTONE SOIL

The subject of grazing-ground cannot well be dismissed without passing reference to the subjects of soil and climate, which are necessarily involved therewith

As regards soil, much may be said ; there are probably very few soils in England which are unsuitable for horse-rearing

Limestone is mentioned by many as the best, the believers in limestone soil holding that it is in itself superior to all others

Is it not a fact that limestone soils, provided that the substratum is not of such character as will retain the wet on the surface of the land, produce the best grasses and clovers, which in great measure are the factors, under proper treatment, in the development of the horse ?

We need not question the bone-producing properties of limestone soil ; but recognition of their existence must not blind us to the

fact that limestone soil has grass-producing properties to which, perhaps, its merits may with more correctness be referred

Another point in favour of the limestone subsoil is its dryness ; it usually gives out into brooks an abundant supply of the good hard water which is essential for animals' drinking

OTHER SOILS

The deep soils of the Midlands and Yorkshire, when not over-stocked, have also proved favourable to horse-rearing ; for though the subsoil is most generally clay, they are well drained ; and although these lands grow herbage less succulent than those produced by limestone, they have compensating advantages in being of wide extent and exceedingly healthy

The soil and climate of the East are obviously those best suited to the horse. On dry soils and in warm climates the Arab attains his greatest perfection in shape and proportion and fitness for all the highest purposes for which horses can be employed

It is, therefore, reasonable to suppose that in this country sandy or gravelly loams with chalky bottoms are also good ; always pro-

vided that the substratum is not of such nature as to retain the wet on the surface

Pasturage on the soils mentioned above must, however, be used with judgment, and required to carry less stock in proportion to their acreage than pastures on limestone or clay

CLIMATE

In regard to climate, although England can be placed before any other European country, Ireland undoubtedly claims pre-eminence for the reason that its humid atmosphere so perfectly co-operates with its nourishing pastures in producing those particular horse grasses to which reference has already been made

It must not be forgotten that up to the present time in Ireland the horse has not over-crowded his pastures ; and probably we may attribute something of Ireland's pre-eminence to the greater rapidity with which grasses "come again," thanks to the humidity of the climate

Several prominent racing men have now come to believe in the virtues of untainted grazing lands in England, and have established studs in pastures which have not been

grazed by horses. There is but little doubt that large areas of such land are to be found

INCREASE IN SIZE OF THOROUGHBREDS

Better proof of the suitability of the British Isles for horse-breeding cannot be found than in the steady and remarkable progress which Turf history shows us has taken place in the size of our Thoroughbreds*

At the beginning of the last century the Thoroughbred seldom exceeded a height of 14 hands 2 inches; but from about 1740 to 1770 a compact horse of 15 hands was described as "a racer competent to carry 12 stone"

The Thoroughbred has ever since been increasing in stature—on an average one inch in twenty-five years—till we now seldom proclaim him a race-horse of the first-class unless he stands 15.3 to 16 hands. In speed he has far surpassed the Arab stock from which he sprang

The Scale of Weights in Weight for Age,

* *Thoroughbred and other Ponies.* By Sir Walter Gilbey, Bart., 1893 (Vinton & Co., 8 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.)

and Weight for Age and Class Races, adopted by the Calcutta Turf Club, show the difference that separates the English horse and the Arab on the modern Indian Turf; the weight allotted a Thoroughbred horse by the Indian scale is always at least three stone more than that to be carried by an Arab of the same age when the two meet in the same event

LUCK, OR RACING UNCERTAINTIES

When the propositions enunciated in the foregoing pages are applied to facts, do we not find much to strengthen them in the modern history of our breeding-studs?

We all see well-established and successful studs degenerate, not from any want of capital or energy, but simply from loss of quality in the animals produced

We see newly-formed studs spring in a season into celebrity by furnishing great winners; this is "a streak of good luck," if we are to believe the public spokesmen of the Turf

In my humble opinion, there is no such thing as "luck" so potent that the fortunes of one establishment consistently decline

while those of another rise without apparent reason or cause

Is it not at least possible that the success of a breeder wanes when his over-stocked and over-grazed pastures, staled by generations of horses, begin to react upon the animals which feed thereon?

Is it not equally possible, too, that the brilliant success which sometimes raises a new stud to fame is in some measure due to the possession by the breeder of fresh, untainted pastures on which to graze his mares and young stock?

The temptation to draw examples from the Turf history of the last few years is great, but it would be invidious to mention breeders by name. I could mention very many who, year after year, spend immense sums of money without winning any success to repay them for their outlay

We all know that the competition maintained in the endeavour to breed successful race-horses involves the expenditure of an immense amount of capital. It therefore seems a great pity that we should ignore the primary factor in the production of that stamina without which no horse can come to the front

CONCLUSIONS

To sum up from this brief paper on the necessity for fresh pastures for young blood-stock, the conclusions which it is desirable to bear in mind will, I think, be found as follows :—

First You must have a sound brood mare, choicely bred, and she ought to be mated with judgment

Second From the time of her conception she should be allowed to roam in fresh untainted pastures ; if pastures where horses have not been for the last three years, all the better

Third After foaling, the same policy should be adopted towards the mare and her foal as regards fresh herbage

Fourth The foal from its weaning should be treated in as natural a manner as possible ; turned out and fed on pastures where the herbage is succulent, and allowed a free run at his pleasure

Fifth Not more than three yearlings should be turned out in any one pasture, and the field should not be of less extent than ten to fifteen acres

Lastly In accepting the truism that "like begets like" it should not be forgotten that the adage applies to animals and birds in their natural wild state

Those who wish to breed from Nature's type must bend their thoughts to the horse's habits in a state of nature, because it has been proved that mere size without constitution is useless on a racecourse

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