

What Makes the Blood?

By MARK FIELD.

[Written for the BREEDER AND SPORTSMAN.]

Straight through all the clouds of smoke by which pugnacious theorists have mystified the breeding problem instead of clearing it up to the common understanding, let us drive the question, what makes the blood?

About the year 2030 B. C., the Hyksos (Shepherd Kings) the most redoubtable cavalry nation of remote antiquity, rode from upper Armenia through Syria and Palestine, down into Egypt, and made themselves masters of the lower part of the land of the Pyramids. The horses which gave wings to their spears were of the primeval bay stock, whose proper habitat lies in high Asia, around the sea of Aral. But these animals were as yet only a few removes from that scrawny coarseness which marks the wild state in the unfriendly climate of the region where they originated.

After the subjugation of upper Egypt, the Hyksos continued their conquering rule over the whole country till 1525 B. C., when they were expelled by the Theban Prince, Rameses II, who having learned from them the value of the horse in war, turned this knowledge to a good account by taking from them their mounts, with which he not only drove them from the Valley of the Nile, but subsequently pushed his conquests across the Euphrates into Mesopotamia.

During the period of the first Theban dynasty, and with the Armenian bays captured from the Shepherd Kings, the Egyptians commenced and carried forward an intelligent system of breeding, which, with the aid of their genial climate, gave them the first improved stock known to the history of the equine kingdom.

But, in the meantime, the expelled Hyksos, in their flight back to their native land, had come in contact with the refugee Israelitish tribes of Dan and Manassah, who, on horses obtained from the Shepherds, made their way into the Arabian province of Yemen, where they were kindly received and permanently settled by the natives.

In course of time these horses became the original seed-stock from which sprang the whole of the incomparable tribe of the desert. For while geological research reveals the total absence of equine bones among the fossiliferous deposits of Arabia, nothing can be plainer than that the essential conditions of wild horse existence—pasture, water and cover—are almost wholly wanting to the geography of that country. So that it may be set down as scientifically true that the Sarcenic realm never produced an indigenous horse.

It was not, however, till after the Hegeira that the Arabs, as a nation, turned their attention to horse culture; for the animal (the "borak") on whose back Mahomet ascended to the third heaven, was a camel, and not a horse. But the trial of a few of the Hyksosian bays in warfare having demonstrated the superiority of those invincible chargers over the time-honored hump-backs, a new era dawned in the history of that unprecedented cavalry which carried the crescent of Islam in triumph over all the plains of Asia; which, afterwards descending upon Spain—conquered Andalusia, and then, leaping across the Pyrenees, held the assembled armies of Christian Europe in bloody battle, on the banks of the Loir, for seven consecutive days and nights.

From the time of the Prophet's immediate successor onward, the Arabs propagated the Armenian stock with skill, and with a human tenderness which is without a parallel in all the annals of civilization. It was, however, in the item of climate, and in the item of climate alone, that they held any material advantage over the ancient Egyptians, who greatly surpassed them in mental acquirements and systematic industry.

Now we are ready for the application of the facts. Men may say what they please about the Arabian horse. There is, in a primary sense, no such thing as an Arabian horse. Writers may sound their rhetorical timbrels to the full about the blood of the Desert. There never has been any such thing, distinctively speaking, as the blood of the Desert. The historic truth is that the warm, dry, even climate of Arabia—infinitely the best horse climate in the Eastern hemisphere—has, with the assistance of the Arab, molded the blood of the Armenian bays—who were directly descended from the mule, like wild bays of high Asia—into a form that throws all preceding forms into the shades of the humblest obscurity; a form which gave to the armies of Islam the exhaustless flight of the carrier pigeon; a form which, to-day, carries the Bedouin, at a sweeping gallop, fifty miles before the bit is drawn; a form which has dominated all the great racehorse tribes of Europe and America from the time of James I. to the present moment; a form which is plainly visible in all the renowned trotters and trotting families of which the world has any knowledge.

But this matchless equine form, to be kept at its very best, must be favored, now as of yore, with a congenial climate. Happy accidents may now and then give us running winners and wonderful trotters in regions where the winters cover more than half the year; but men of true wisdom will never locate breeding farms in a country that is swept by hyperborean blasts from the middle of October till the first of June. For such men feel, even if they do not historically know, that climate and care are the chief factors in making and preserving the form—i.e. in making and preserving what is commonly, but unintelligently, called the blood.

Arabia and the Arabs took rude material and gave it that refinement of fire which set the whole world ablaze with the glory of the Moslemic triumphs; but no Arab ever thought of raising war horses farther north than Spain; nor did any Arab, in Spain, ever produce a family of chargers that began to equal the choice tribes of his native land.

Now, what are our own home lessons? New Jersey was breeding thoroughbreds of the purest strains long before Kentucky engaged in the pursuit. But how many years did it take Kentucky, with the same strains, to leave New Jersey out of sight? New York and New England led, by many lengths, all the other States in the propagation of trotters. They furnished Kentucky and the whole West with seed-stock. But where are New York and New England now, when compared with Kentucky and the West? And, finally, to bring the matter to a focal point, where are New York, Kentucky and all the other old States in the Union, when compared with young California?

California is the Arabia of the Western Hemisphere, in regard to climate. It is vastly the superior of the original Arabia, as it respects pasture, water, cover and population. And what has it done? It has taken from Stony Ford a stallion that was there subordinated to Messenger Duroc, and has

made for that subordinated stallion a fame, in the light of whose matchless effulgence the name of Messenger Duroc has almost utterly faded from sight. It has taken from the cold State of Wisconsin a cast-off limb of the once despised Clay family, and has made him the founder of a tribe, the splendor of whose achievements has dazzled the eyes and thrilled the hearts of all lovers of speed from the Pacific Slopes to the Atlantic sea board. It has taken the blood of an unheard-of grandson of Green's Bashaw, and, mixing that blood with the blood of an old Illinois sidewheeler (Flaxtail), a horse of no known breeding, has turned out a family which has become famous for its youthful record-breakers. It took old pacing Sinclair out of a Sacramento dung-cart and made him immortal as the sire of the dams of the very first two-year-olds that ever beat 2:30. It took Sidney and gave the Santa Claus branch of the Strathmore tribe a reputation which completely overshadows all the rest of that tribe. It took Director, and in a short time made him so much greater than his great sire as a prolific producer of extreme speed, that the latter has been relegated to the back shelf and is now almost forgotten.

But it is useless to go on with these cases. The whole matter may be lumped up in a sentence. California has taken a multitude of rejected stones and has made them the chief of the most conspicuous corners in the trotting temple, while it has taken a few stones that were not rejected and has made them the principle column which adorn that temple. And how comes this to pass? The answer, in the light of both science and history, is simple. The climate of California, with the soil of California, aided by the brainy breeders of California, makes the blood that beats the world.

And now we may add, that inasmuch as the imperial climate, with the imperial soil, will always attract the imperial breeders, California will forever hold the gree over all competitors, and will henceforth be not only the great breeding ground, but the leading speed market of this half of the globe.

Panjabi, Son of Patron.

There is no better proof of the progress made by the breeders on this coast than the fact that they are anxious to secure the very choicest-bred stallions in America to breed their mares to. Take, for instance, the royally-bred, handsome-formed trotting stallion Panjabi; his description and pedigree is worthy of the attention of every horseman; as an individual he is without a fault. He is by the great developed sire of extreme speed, Patron, 2:14, son of Pancoast, 2:21, and Beatrice (the great broodmare), by Cuyler. Pancoast is by Woodford Mambrino, 2:21, out of Bicara, a great broodmare; then on the dam's side Panjabi is out of Nora Wilkes (dam of Moerlein, 2:28), by Lyle Wilkes, son of George Wilkes, 2:22, out of Lou Coons. Nora Wilkes is out of Allie G., by Bowman's Clark Chief, second dam Lucy Lee (dam of Frank S., 2:25, etc), by Norman 25. There is no necessity for going further into this rich pedigree, for any student of breeding can see enough rich quartz in this one to convince him that he must try and breed a well-bred mare to this horse this spring. Panjabi will be given a low record this year. Those in need of a first-class roadster or carriage horse should study the blood lines and conformation of Panjabi's stable companion, Reverisco, by Hermes. This is a model horse in every respect, and, bred as he is, there is no reason why he should not be the sire of some remarkably fast trotters. All of his progeny are well-formed, stylish, pure-gaited and speedy trotters. These horses are at the Laurel Creek Stock Farm, Sau Mateo County. See advertisement.

Ironclad Jockey Club Rules.

The following notices, which appear in the Racing Calendar of December 28th, of the English Jockey Club, give some idea of the firm, iron hand with which it governs turf matters. The new jockey club on this side might find them of sufficient importance not to be overlooked when framing their rules. They are as follows:

The stewards of the Jockey Club give notices that licenses are only granted to jockeys on condition that they are not owners or part owners of any race horse. Leave may be given, under exceptional circumstances, on special application, to jockeys to own one or more horses, but this permission will only be granted when the jockey is also a trainer and the horse is to be trained in his own stable.

The stewards of the Jockey Club, observing that many jockeys have been in the habit of betting on horse racing and of receiving presents in connection with races from persons other than the owner of the horse they ride in such races, give notice that such practices will not be tolerated, and that any jockey who may be proved, to their satisfaction, to have any interest in any racehorse, or to have been engaged in any betting transaction or otherwise to have disregarded this notice, will have his license at once withdrawn.

Any person knowingly acting in the capacity of part owner or trainer of any horse in which a jockey possesses any interest, or making any bet with or on behalf of any jockey, or otherwise aiding or abetting in any breach of the orders of the stewards, will be warned off Newmarket Heath.

The To Kalon Sale.

On Wednesday, February 21st the well-known horseman, H. W. Crabb, proprietor of the To Kalon Stock Farm, Oakville, Napa County, will sell every broodmare, stallion, filly, colt and gelding he possesses at public auction at the Napa Fair Ground. The consignment is one that appeals directly to every lover of a good track horse, a first-class, well-trained roadster or a royally-bred colt or filly. There will be no culls at this sale, for Mr. Crabb has weeded out all of those that he did not consider worthy of having a place in the rich paddocks of Oakville. He has a splendid track on the farm and James Berryman has handled and is preparing all of the youngsters for this sale. There are a number of producing broodmares and a large number of them are in foal to that trotting stallion Grandissimo, 2:23. The list includes broken, stylish, good-sized young mares and geldings that will make first-class roadsters and any two of them can be hitched up and will make perfect-matched teams. Every animal has been selected for breeding, size and individuality, and a better collection of perfectly sound horses has not been offered in years. This sale will absolutely be without reserve. Send for catalogue to F. W. Loeber, St. Helena.

Horses Between Heats.

The methods of treating horses between heats vary widely, and, as much of a trainer's success in racing depends on this branch of his art, a discussion of the subject is in order. We may carry a horse along from the first tottering steps of his colthood to the time when he is ready for his first repeat, and then, by an injudicious or careless attention to the wants of his body, undo all we have accomplished and work injury that can never be overcome. There is, of course, a vast difference to the animal whether he is going an easy repeat mile or a fast, hard-fought race; but his bodily condition in these two cases varies only in degree, and the same treatment may be recommended for both.

When finishing a bruising heat a horse's nervous organization is strung up almost to the breaking point; the tremendous exertion wears out the muscles, and with relaxation comes soreness, which, if not driven out, becomes permanent, its effects being shown in certain or all parts of the frame. Stiffness is the first form in which this soreness makes itself apparent, and, as the whole range of veterinary medicines fails to exhibit a more soothing agent in the cure of such a condition than hot water, it should at once be applied. When we use the word "hot," we do not mean to convey the meaning "luke-warm" or "blood heat"—the water must be nearly as warm as it is possible for a man to bear without injury or pain. Another point to be considered is that between heats the time is very short, and therefore the remedies and agents employed must be adequate to cope with the conditions they are intended to meet and overcome. Hot-water treatment should not be put in practice on cold, windy days in spring and fall.

The old Missourian's method of tying his horse on the sunny side of the tight board fence and currying him after he dried off, is nearly as sensible as that employed by many drivers of starting three or four men on each side of the horse's body and keeping up the irritating tattoo until the sweat is all dried into the skin or taken up by the rub-rags. Such a continued trituration of the skin cannot be other than exceedingly irritating, and the frequent vicious kicks indulged in by animals undergoing the operation show how much they dislike it. Can the necessary rest be obtained between heats if the horse is being constantly annoyed, if not actually hurt?

When the heat is finished the horse should be led blanketed to some spot as near the quarter-stretch as possible, and promptly unharnessed. Hot water in plentiful supply should always be ready and applied with large sponges all over the body from the ears to the dock and down each leg to the foot. The skin should be carefully wiped so as to remove all sweat and harness marks, and then a wash or liniment should be poured all over the frame and lightly rubbed in with the bare hand. A light sponging with water may then be given and the hair straightened by a very superficial application of the rub-rag. If the weather is warm a loosely woven woolen blanket should be thrown over the animal, carefully pinned in front, below and behind, and he should be walked about in the sun to get dry and to prevent stiffness caused by standing still. Late in the fall or on cold raw days a heavier covering will have to be used, and at all times the greatest care must be taken to prevent any chilling by drafts or otherwise. During attention to the body some of the attendants should be detailed to take care of the legs, the application of hot water and wash being made along the same lines as suggested, plentiful hand-rubbing being given, and bandages put on moderately tight after the wash has been applied.

Body and leg washes, proprietary and otherwise, are as many as the sands of the sea almost; but the most of them contain ammonia, which experience has taught the writer is not the best agent for removing soreness and preventing stiffness, being a little too penetrating in its nature and irritating in its action. A mixture that is cooling and at the same time strengthening, without in any way making the skin smart, is the most desirable. A lotion composed of New England rum, witch-hazel and arnica will be found to embody the properties required and, when reduced with water in greater or less volume, makes a most soothing and strengthening wash for both frame and legs.

After the horse had been walked for fifteen minutes he may be given a light rubbing, and if dry enough a brushing, every effort being made to keep him as quiet as possible and free from annoyance of all kinds. Curious onlookers should be kept at a distance and not, in their zeal to learn the arcana of the training stable, permitted to encroach upon the animal's few moments of rest. The bandages should be removed at this time and more hand-rubbing given the legs. If the animal is very nervous and inclined to fret the bandages should be allowed to remain on and the walking continued.

A swallow or two of water should be granted the campaigner as soon as he reaches the cooling-out paddock, and repeated from time to time during the short respite to the extent of half a gallon all told. Food also should be given in some shape if the animal will eat—which many will not do—as it stays the stomach and gives strength. A bite or two of grass will hardly ever come amiss, but a good strong gruel, made of oatmeal and water, is the most suitable and simple thing that can be given horses between the heats of a race. Its semi-liquid nature satisfies in a measure the craving for water and the plentiful and easily digested nutriment it contains is quickly taken care of by the stomach. It is absolutely cruel to force a horse to go a race without something to eat during the contest. The use of stimulants is, as a rule, to be discouraged. The "black bear" has been productive of more harm than good upon the track; still when it is a case of "do or die" a pint of sherry or half as much brandy is of much benefit, and to its use may be traced more than one turf victory. If a stimulant is to be given it should be administered mixed with water and just before the harness is put on for the renewal of the fight.

If a horse appears greatly distressed and fails to "blow out" well, or has thumps, the best plan is to draw him at once, but if a good share of the money is already won and to save it another heat must be gone, as easy a mile as possible should be driven. One instance of a distressed horse being driven to death because kept in a race to save second money is still fresh in the minds of those who follow the circuits, and a more recent case when a dead-game gelding was sent several heats when suffering severely from thumps. Such procedure is pure inhumanity.—Horseman.

Miss A. A. Marks, Sound Beach, Conn., writes: Am very much pleased with "Absorbine."