

REQUIREMENTS

To obtain a merit badge in Horsemanship, a scout must:

1. Give the common name for the right and left sides of a horse, and state, using the common name, what side of a horse is habitually approached, and how to act while doing so.
2. State principal temperamental requirements of a good horse, also principal external points of a horse, and point out on a live horse thirty important points.
3. Know what defects and blemishes are. State the most common defects and blemishes, and how he would treat them.
4. Explain how he would examine a horse for soundness; and state the opinions of horsemen on the degrees of soundness.
5. Give several common diseases of the horse, the symptoms thereof, and the treatment.
6. State fully what he knows of the stable management and the care of a horse from actual experience of at least one month.
7. Point out ten important parts of the saddle, and show how he would put it on and remove it.
8. Point out ten important parts of the bridle, and show how he would fit, put it on, and take it off.
9. Illustrate on a horse the correct way of mounting and the correct position in a saddle.
10. Know the aids in riding and how they are used. Illustrate on a horse how he would move forward or increase or decrease the gait, halt, back, and change direction.

INTRODUCTION

THIS is one of a series of pamphlets published by the Boy Scouts of America in connection with its Merit Badge scheme. This library on Scout activities and vocational guidance has been prepared by experts and is frequently revised and brought up to date.

We feel that the Merit Badge Series offers to boys a library that is unsurpassed in helpfulness, technical excellence, and wide range of interest. Much of the material that is here made available at a very moderate cost, it would be impossible to procure at any price elsewhere. Leading authorities have placed their time and knowledge at the disposal of the Boy Scouts as a contribution to the boyhood of America.

It would defeat the purpose of the Merit Badge plan if an attempt were made in the pamphlets to cover the requirements so completely as to make unnecessary the boy's using his own initiative and resourcefulness in seeking further information to enable him to meet the requirements successfully. The material in this pamphlet, however, provides a more comprehensive outline of the subject than would be practical in the Handbook for Boys. The pamphlets suggest the scope of the subject, and serve as a guide. In each case the Scout should secure further book knowledge for himself and avail himself, upon his own initiative, of such opportunities for further study as he can develop in his neighborhood or community, from men who are authorities on the subject. Experience shows that men of this type are usually very glad to cooperate with boys who show an earnest interest in the subject.

Only the duly registered Scout may qualify for Merit Badges. Second Class Scouts are eligible to take five of a selected list of thirty subjects. First Class Scouts may qualify for the entire series.

Examination for Merit Badges should be given by the Court of Honor of the Local Council and in larger communities by the district Court of Honor, organized so as to reduce to a minimum the necessity of the boy traveling long distances. In no case shall a Merit Badge be awarded unless the Scout has personally appeared before at least three members of the Court of Honor, and either by examination, conducted personally by the Court of Honor, or upon evidence furnished by a duly appointed expert counsellor, demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Court of Honor that the Handbook requirements have been complied with in a satisfactory manner. In communities where there is no Court of Honor an Examining Committee of at least three members supervises the Merit Badge Tests.

In all examinations, it should be borne in mind that the purpose of the tests and examinations is not to secure a mere technical compliance with requirements, but rather to ascertain the Scout's general knowledge of subjects studied, and practical rather than book knowledge is desired. A Scout should be prepared at any examination for a review covering previous tests given him as well as to demonstrate that he is putting the Scout Oath and Law into daily practice.

With a view of increasing the value of these pamphlets to all boys, and particularly to Boy Scouts interested in securing Merit Badges, an attempt has been made in connection with each subject, to make available facts and information bearing on the vocational value of the subject. It is believed that this practical application in each case makes available a unique contribution to the literature for boys, and will be of great value to parents and teachers as well as boys throughout the whole country.

To further this object, those interested, and having suggestions to offer as to the vocational guidance treatment of any of the eighty-eight subjects for which Merit Badge awards are provided are invited to correspond with E. S. Martin, Secretary Editorial Board, The Boy Scouts of America, Park Avenue Building, 2 Park Avenue, 32nd and 33rd Streets, New York City.

HORSEMANSHIP

By

CAPTAIN A. P. CORCORAN

INTRODUCTION

A horse, it must be remembered, is a sportsman and a gentleman and always to be treated as such. You may kick a dog, and he will come back to you as soon as you let him and lick your hands and love you as before, but kick a horse, and you have a life-long enemy. It is possible, of course, to break a horse's spirit, but a broken-spirited horse is like a broken-spirited boy. He will obey, because he must, but he will do his work sullenly, without interest, intelligence or energy.

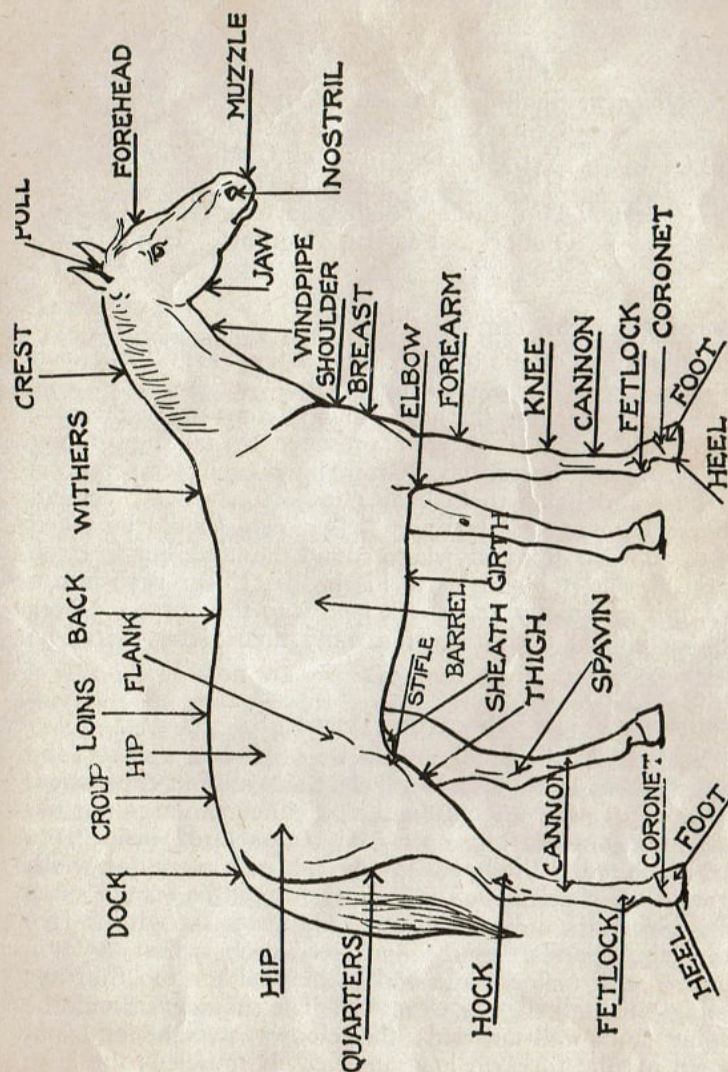
That horses have always been held in high honor among men is evident from the place they occupy in great literature. All the heroes of old had their favorite chargers who were their co-workers and inseparable friends. And the animals were credited with an ancestry almost as ancient and glorious as their masters'. They were descended from the Gods of wind and water. Boreas, the ruler of the breezes, was father to Achilles's horse. Bellerophon, who is credited with being the first great trainer, had for friend and mount Pegasus, the winged steed. And such was the intelligence and courage of these heroic animals that they became the helpers rather than the carriers of their owners. We read of Cuchullain, the Irish warrior's horse, the Grey of Macha, who, when his rider was killed in battle, kept up the fight alone, killing fifty enemies with his teeth and thirty with each hoof, and then remained to mourn when all was over. Usually the great charger of legend dies on his master's grave. He is too loyal to wish to live after his hero. Just how early the horse began to be looked on as useful and valuable, is not known. It was in pre-historic times. Egypt, however, claims the honor of being his birthplace. We hear of the early Egyptians trading in horses, and from this country the animals spread throughout Europe. Arabia is generally recognized as the developer of the courser. Persia always speaks, too, of her own horses as "windfoot." The cart-horse, however, was bred in the Netherlands — as the great Belgian Percherons are today.

America is said, however, to have had no indigenous horse — the breed was imported by the Spaniards to this continent.

The beginning of the art of horsemanship is likewise obscure. There is a reference to the chase in the Book of Job. Homer, too, speaks of the great athletes thundering into a village riding four horses at once, leaping from back to back and guiding the mounts without even the aid of bridle or stirrup. A piece of rope was probably the first rein. Saddles are not mentioned until the fourth century of the Christian era, when they were evidently in use among the Greeks. Spurs, though not of the kind employed now, were known at an early date. We read terrible tales of cruelty among drivers who used goads of all kinds to urge on tired brutes — even firebrands and spiked sticks.

Probably, though, in ancient days horses were even larger and harder than the animals we know now. Certainly chargers going into battle had to carry enormous loads. Ancient and mediaeval armor was a considerable burden in addition to the rider himself, who was probably more generously proportioned than the fighters we know today. But though the horse may have decreased in size, he has not in any way deteriorated in fighting quality. At the beginning of the last war, it was said that his battle days were done. True the cavalry played a comparatively inconspicuous part, but the horse was still there doing his share — carrying men, food and munitions to the firing line. And not even the terrific thunder of modern artillery could frighten him from his work. It was the cart-horse who shone in this war, not the charger of old, the cart-horse who seems to have fallen on such evil days.

They say that modern machinery has superseded the horse — that his day as an industrial factor is done. That may be true of cities, but it is difficult and always will be so, to find a farm or ranch, however modern, that can dispense with a horse's work. But even should the day come when he is extinct as a worker, there is surely always a place for him in the world of sport. Hunting, racing, polo, riding — these are the pastimes not of kings, as they used to be called, but of men, real men who like skill in their games and a spice of danger and the exercise of mind and muscle in the control of a living, breathing, spirited animal, rather than of a rattling, roaring, smelling piece of machinery.



The Horse

Principal Parts of a Horse

<i>Head:</i>	Muzzle, Nostril, Forehead, Jaw, Poll.
<i>Neck:</i>	Crest, Windpipe.
<i>Fore Quarter:</i>	Shoulder, Breast, Elbow, Fore Arm, Knee, Cannon, Fetlock, Coronet, Foot, Heel.
<i>Body:</i>	Withers, Back, Barrel, Girth, Loins, Croup, Hip, Flank, Sheath, Dock.
<i>Hind Quarter:</i>	Hip, Stifle, Thigh Quarters, Hock, Cannon, Fetlock, Pastern, Coronet, Heel, Foot, Spavin.

Approaching the Horse

The left side of the horse is termed the "near" side, and the right side of the horse is termed the "off."

When approaching the horse, always come up on the near side and warn him of your presence by talking to him quietly, for a horse, no matter how even tempered, is nervous, and liable to kick or plunge if startled. Should a horse be a natural biter or kicker, care should be taken not to approach him anywhere round the hind, but to come up on him at right angles to his head. Never rush into a stall, but go quietly and speak gently to the horse. Never kick an animal and strike him only immediately after he misbehaves.

Important Points About the Horse

The head of the horse should be small and well-set; the forehead broad; the eyes large, clear and mild in expression, not showing any white; the muzzle neither too large nor too small; the nostrils big, open and pink-colored inside; the face straight and the lower jaw broad, with plenty of width between the cheek bones. The ears should be on the small side, thin and standing well up. The throat should be free from large glands. A medium sized neck is best, not too narrow, with a fine mane and wither neither too thin nor too high, though slightly elevated. The shoulders should be sloping and well-muscled; the elbows straight and not turned in; the forearm long and heavily-muscled; the knee wide, thick but tapering off toward the back; and the cannon not too small. The pastern should be of moderate length and strong looking; the foot medium. The breast should be neither too broad nor too narrow but very deep. The

lower line of the chest and belly should be practically straight and sloping up slightly toward the sheath. The loins should be broad, muscular and slightly arched with hips rounded and smooth. The dock or tail stump should be large and thick, and carried well out behind. The hair on the tail should be soft and fine; the stifle should be prominent. The hocks should be straight, clean, flat and well apart but not so much so as to make the horse bow-legged.

Care of the Horse*Grooming*

Careful grooming is not, as many think, a matter of outward show. On the contrary, it is a question of the horse's health. Perspiration, dust and dirt clog the sweat glands, and consequently must be removed, if they are not to prove injurious.

Use the currycomb as little as possible, and then only for the purpose of removing caked dirt. It should never be applied to the mane, tail or bony parts of the body. The brush, not the currycomb, is the chief instrument for cleaning. When using this, always follow the natural direction of the hair. Commence on the horse's neck on the near side; and work toward the rear, putting your whole weight into the operation except when grooming the head. Clean the feet out with a blunt instrument. Here particular care should be given to the heels where most foot diseases originate. Also it should be remembered to clean out the folds between the forelegs which are almost as important as the heels.

When grooming the hind feet never stand directly behind the horse but rather by his quarters, facing in the opposite direction. In this position the horse cannot kick you. If the horse is brought in heated, walk him around until cool, and then having taken off his saddle, cover him with a blanket. In wet weather dry the horse's legs with a handful of straw, and again give particular attention to the heels, seeing that they are thoroughly dry.

Feeding

A horse should be fed at least three times a day, the quantity of food varying according to his size and the amount of work he is doing. The average is ten pounds of oats and

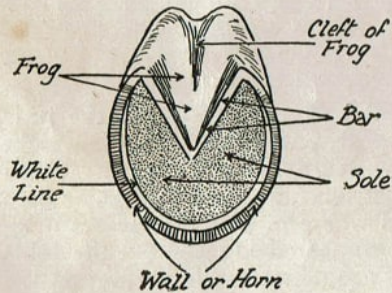
ten pounds of hay. If he is working, care should be taken not to give him too much hay during the day. Most of it should be reserved until evening, when he has finished work.

Carrots are good for a horse, being cooling. Dry bran tends to constipate. Wet bran or bran mash is necessary, but should be given at night, when the horse has an easy day to follow. A tablespoon of salt added to the mash is healthful.

Watering

Always water a horse either before feeding or at least two hours after. Be sure that the water is clean and wholesome. Never let him drink from a public trough, unless you are quite sure that the water is fresh. Do not water a heated horse, unless he is going to be kept moving for an hour or so after he drinks. Even then one or two quarts will be sufficient. Ordinarily about eight to ten gallons is necessary

for a horse per day. In very hot weather or in tropical climates this amount may be doubled or even trebled.



Shoeing

File the wall perfectly, so that the shoe will fit properly. Never cut away the wall, as that tends to make it brittle. Do not

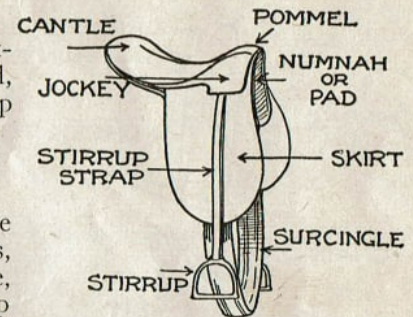
touch the bars, as they assist the wall as weight bearers. Do not cut the frog. If there are any loose flakes to be removed, use a pair of nippers. The sole should never be touched with a knife. *Always fit the shoe to the foot; not the foot to the shoe.* A plain light shoe is best, but no shoe should ever be applied hot. In nailing be careful to drive outwards; otherwise you may pierce the sole. High nailing is injurious.

Saddling

There are several different kinds of saddles, but the two most used are the *English Riding Saddle* and the *U. S. Cavalry Saddle*, known as the *McClellan*.

English Riding Saddle

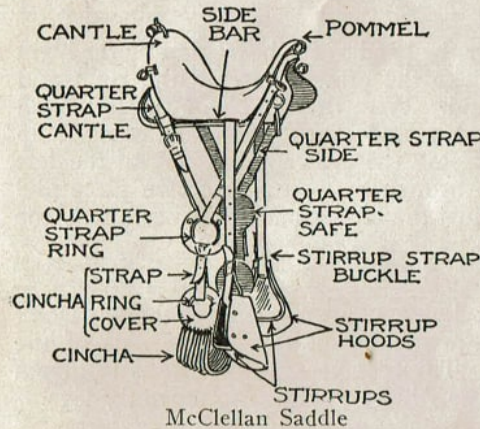
Pommel, Cantel, Jockey, Numnah or Pad, Skirts, Surcingle, Stirrup Strap, and Stirrup.



English Riding Saddle

U. S. Cavalry Saddle

Pommel, Cantel, Side bar, Quarter Straps, Quarter Strap ring, Safe, Stirrup thread, Stirrup Hood, Stirrup straps, Stirrup Cinch straps.



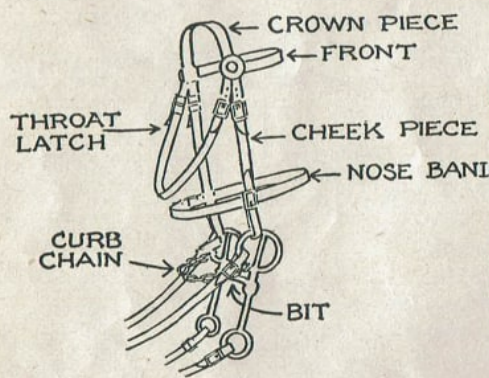
McClellan Saddle

To Saddle with The McClellan

Stand on the near side of the horse. Fold the blanket, taking care that there are no creases. Throw it over the horse's back, with the closed end well up on the withers. Take pommel in left and cantel in right hand, and place the saddle

on the middle of the horse's back, the pommel about a hand's breadth from the point of withers. The stirrups and the cinch straps should be crossed over the seat, while the saddle is being put on. Then the cinch should be thrown over the off side, brought up under the horse's belly, gathered in and passed through the cinch ring and made fast.

The horse will, as a rule, lower his head and take a deep breath so as to prevent your pulling the cinch strap too tight. Make him raise his head and thus cause him to let the breath out. Pull the cinch strap well taut. To remove the saddle reverse proceedings of saddling.

*The Bridle*

This is the head-gear by which the horse is governed and guided. The parts of the bridle are crown piece, front, nose band, cheek piece, throat latch, snaffle rein, curb rein, curb chain, bit.

To Bridle

Throw the rein over the head of the horse, letting the bight rest on the neck. Take the crown piece in the right and the bit in the left hand. With the thumb of the left hand press open the lower jaw and insert the bit, drawing it up into the mouth by raising the crown piece. With the left hand draw the ears through between the crown piece and the front piece. Adjust the bit so that it touches lightly the corners of the mouth.

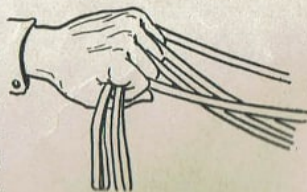
The Spur

First let the horse know you are wearing them. Don't abuse them. They are not meant to tear the side of the animal till it bleeds. The real use of the spur is to give a sharp sting to the horse when he refuses to move the legs.

The Reins

Hold the reins in the left hand. If the single rein is used divide them with the second and third fingers. If double reins are used the snaffle reins are those on the outside of the curb reins. The left snaffle rein is on the outside of the little finger and the right snaffle rein is between the first and second fingers. The curb reins are separated by the third finger and they should always hang lower than the snaffle reins.

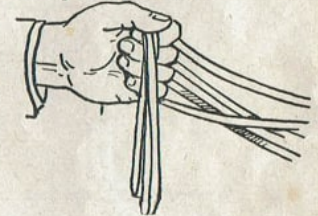
If the single rein is used
LEFT HAND GRIP



The bight of the reins should be turned over the first finger and held down by the thumb. The hand should be kept low and the elbow close to the side.

Adjust the reins so as to give full movement to the horse's head and yet close enough to support him in case of sudden need. The reins together with the legs are the means by which a horse is guided in the direction the rider desires to go.

In riding the bridle hand should be kept as steady as possible. Continued working up and down of the reins will irritate the horse and cause him to fight the bit. A rider is said to have a light hand when it works in harmony with the give and take of the horse's head, thus keeping a gentle pressure of the bit on the corners of the mouth. There is nearly always a tendency on the part of beginners when using a double rein, to hold the curb rein too tightly. As a result the curb chain is continually sawing the horse's lower jaw, which naturally makes him restive and difficult to control. Novices should therefore take particular pains to let this rein as loose as is permissible that there may be no unnecessary tugging. Horses are intelligent animals, and except perhaps in the case of some very hard-mouthed brutes, will be readier to respond to a light hint from the hand than to a rough, painful treatment.

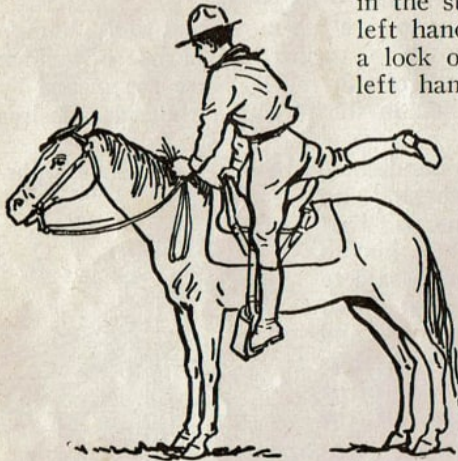
LEFT HAND IN POSITION

Correct Way to Mount (1)

Riding*To Mount*

Stand on the near side of horse, half faced to the right in the direction the horse is standing; gather the reins with the right hand, the forefinger separating the reins; place the

right hand on the pommel of the saddle, the reins being short enough to feel the horse's mouth. Place the left foot in the stirrup assisted by the left hand if necessary; grasp a lock of the mane with the left hand, spring from the



Correct Way to Mount (2)

ground, keeping left knee against the horse; throw the right leg over the horse, care being taken not to hit him with the right foot or knee, and sit gently in the saddle. Place the right foot in the stirrup assisted by the right hand if necessary.

To Dismount

Hold the reins in the right hand, the forefinger separating them; place the right hand on the pommel, the reins tight enough to hold the horse in place, the left hand grasping a lock of the mane; throw the right leg over the horse and lower the body to the ground, keeping left foot in stirrup and left knee against the horse until the right foot touches the ground.



Wrong Way to Mount

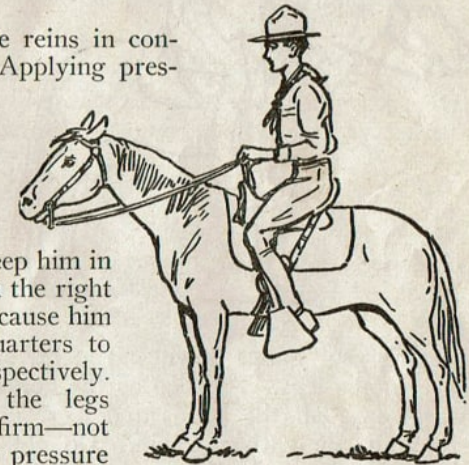
The Seat

The seat in the saddle is maintained by suppleness of the loins (small of the back), and relaxation of the thighs. The buttocks are pushed forward in the saddle well underneath the rider's weight, the back straight without stiffness, chest raised, shoulders square, head and eyes up. The thighs form an angle of about 45 degrees with the horizontal, the inner side

of the thigh muscle flat and resting against the saddle without contraction; the lower legs are back, the calf of the leg being in contact with the horse. The ball of the foot rests on the tread of the stirrup, heels down.

The Legs

The legs assist the reins in controlling the horse. Applying pressure at the knees serves to steady him. Gripping below the knees serves to get him moving if he is standing still; or, if he is moving, to keep him in hand. Pressure with the right or left leg alone will cause him to move his hind quarters to the left or right respectively. All gripping with the legs should be light but firm—not a continuous, heavy pressure on the horse's sides, but rather a springy in-and-out motion of the muscles.



Incorrect Seat—Stirrups Too Short

Forward

To move the horse forward, gather in the reins until you can feel the mouth. This helps the horse to gather himself together. Then the moment you require him actually to move, ease off the pressure on the reins and at the same time grip with the legs below the knees a little behind the horse's girth. Do not kick the horse with your heels.



Bad Seat



Correct Seat

Halt

Gather the reins in gently but firmly by gradually bringing the hands toward the body without raising them. At the same time apply pressure of the knees and thighs until the horse halts. As soon as he has halted relax the pressure.

Backing

Carry the weight of the upper body slightly to the rear. Rein back firmly,

keeping your hands down and at the same time apply pressure of the legs. As soon as the horse starts moving backward, ease off the hands and legs. If he shows signs of stopping, apply them again. Do not, however, keep up a constant pressure as the horse is likely to go back too quickly and sit down. Keep your legs in readiness to check any movement of the haunches.

Changing Direction

Suppose you wish to go to the right. Touch with your reins the left side of the horse's neck, at the same time gripping with the knees, and apply pressure with the right leg. To go to the left, reverse.

Trotting

Gather the rein short in the hands. Grip with the legs and rise in the saddle. The horse will understand what is wanted of him and break into a trot.

Gallop

Gather the horse by reining back and closing in with the legs. Support the left rein against his neck and press the right leg vigorously. Then ease off the reins and he naturally breaks into a gallop. Draw in the reins so as to regulate the gallop to the required speed.

Canter

A canter is a contracted gallop. The horse's body is drawn up, his head down and in. The reins should be kept tight or otherwise he is likely to break into a gallop.

To Turn on the Fore Hand

Gather the horse. Press the right leg just behind the girth, making the horse step to the left on his hind legs. To prevent his moving his fore feet, support him with the left leg and the reins. Reverse for a turn to the right.

Turning on the Hind

Gather the horse up well and press the left rein against his neck, making him step to the right on his fore legs. If he tries to swing his haunches round, prevent him by the use of the legs.

Jumping

Hold the reins in both hands. Keep the hands low and be careful not to lift during the jump. Take the horse and face him toward the jump. Work him up into a smart canter, keeping a firm hold on the reins. Grip the body with both legs. At the moment of taking off, relax the reins so as not to pull on his mouth again till he has landed.

Don't let the legs hang loose. Sit down well in the saddle, bending slightly forward at the take-off, and slightly backward at the landing to relieve him. Horses when put to a jump, are inclined to rush it. This should be prevented by keeping them well in hand at a canter. Should a horse at first refuse a jump, never on any account let it go by. Bring him back to it, and make him go over, using whip and spur if necessary.

Swimming

Ride the horse straight into the stream or river. As soon as his feet begin to leave the ground, let go the reins in such a way that the bridle will rest on his neck. This will allow him to stretch out his head as far forward as he likes without any danger of the reins getting entangled in his forefeet. Slip off the horse and swim along beside him; or if you cannot swim, take hold of some part of the saddle, and let him pull you along. While swimming, try to avoid dropping astern and being towed by the tail. True, it is easier for the horse, but you are unable to control his direction. Also if by any chance another horse is swimming behind you, he will step on you, as all horses naturally try to stand on anything they touch under water. When approaching the landing, regain your seat as quickly as possible.

sible, so you will be able to steady the horse, which always lunges forward on reaching shore.

Pack Carrying

Packing a saddle can really be properly learned only by practical instruction from an experienced man. There are several methods of packing, but probably the best is that in use in the American Army. Here the "aparejo" is employed. This is a device copied from the Spaniards. The "aparejo" is a large wide piece of leather stuffed with hay or grass, and having attached a cincha, crupper and corona as well as blankets and ropes.

To put on the "aparejo" you first place the corona over the horse's back: then the blanket folded to several thicknesses. Next comes the "aparejo" proper. It is fastened by a cincha, which is a strip of canvas about twelve inches wide. The cincha passes under the belly of the horse and is held by cincha straps. The crupper is now placed in position. It is another wide stiff piece of canvas which passes round the buttocks and is laced to the body of the "aparejo." The real purpose of the crupper is to allow the dock piece to move freely between tail and dock without pressing on either. The loads to be carried are usually divided into two bundles of equal weight, and fixed on either side of the horse well up on his back. They are kept on with a lash rope by means of a diamond hitch.

Teamsters

City-bred boys wishing to work on a farm, should try before going to the country to get some practical experience in a stable. They could acquire sufficient information probably in their spare time.

Perhaps the first and most important lesson they should learn is *not to be afraid of a horse*. Horses are gentle, discriminating animals, and they always respond to decent treatment. The second lesson to be learned is when and how to care for the horse. It is, of course, bound up with the first.

Grooming

It is exactly the same for teamsters as for saddle horses. In winter time, however, when a truck horse is standing

waiting for a load, he should be covered with a blanket to keep out cold. In summer, when the flies are thick, a fly-net should be thrown over him. Or, if that is not available, small branches may be affixed to various parts of his harness.

To Harness

The collar is the first thing to be put on. Great care should be taken in fitting it, as nearly all shoulder galls come from badly fitting collars. One too large is probably more harmful than one too small. The collar should either be slipped on closed over the head, or unfastened at the top, lifted up on the neck and then fastened again at the top.

The harness should then be adjusted by moving the top strap into the proper holes. Lift the harness clear onto the horse's back, buckle the girth and pull the tail through the crupper. The breeching should be adjusted so that it sits well down on the buttocks.

Bridle as for Saddle Horse

Back the team so that the tongue of the wagon will be between them; pick up the yoke and fasten the breast straps on chain. Then secure traces, usually beginning with the inside trace of the near horse, then the inside and outside of the off horse, finishing up with the outside of the near horse.

For unhitching reverse the above procedure.

Driving

Never start a team off at a rush. Always commence at a walk. In fact, it is usually unwise to work horses at anything but a walk. If they cannot be left at that, then put them into a trot. But never on any account let them canter or gallop.

Keep them well in hand without tearing at their mouths. A gentle pressure is sufficient to guide them to right or left. If one horse of a team is faster than the other, shorten his lines — that will hold him back and allow the slower horse to keep level. Use the whip as little as possible, and when using, never hit the horses on the inside, as that tends to make them jump out from each other. Apply the whip, when necessary, on the outside — which will have the effect of keeping them closing and enabling them to do better

work. When breaking in a green horse, hitch him up with one well-trained, and be careful not to work him on the same side too often. Change him round, and he will soon get accustomed to proper team work.

In addition to the various diseases to which all horses are heir, the teamster has also that of collar galls, caused, of course, by pressure of the harsh edges of the collar on the top of the neck. To prevent this, steel collar pads may be worn between the collar and mane.

COMMON DISEASES OF THE HORSE

Pneumonia

An inflammation of the lung and its surrounding tissue usually lasts for about ten days.

Symptoms: The attack usually begins with fits of shivering, followed by cold ears and legs. The horse will act uneasy, frequently turning his head around to his chest. The animal will stand with its fore legs apart to permit greater expansion. Temperature rises to 105 or 107.

Treatment: If the weather is cold clothe the body and legs in warm blankets. In warm weather a thin covering will do so as to keep off the flies. Place him in a well ventilated box stall free from drafts.

Strangles

An infectious disease to which young horses are especially subject.

Symptom: Horse is sluggish, is off its feed, and hangs its head. The glands below the lower jaw become swollen and painful. Discharge from the nose. High temperature, 104 to 106.

Treatment: Place him in a well ventilated stall. Clean nostrils frequently. Clothe the body well. Apply hot poultices to the abscesses several times daily. Call a veterinary.

Colic

Is a gripping spasmodic contraction of the intestines, caused by indigestible food.

Symptoms: Early stages are indicated by the horse looking anxiously round at his flank. He will paw and kick at

his belly, or lie down and get up frequently; will try to roll about when down.

Treatment: Place the animal in a well bedded stall and if the attack does not pass off in about an hour give him a physic ball.

Glanders

A contagious and fatal disease. It may be communicated to man.

Symptoms: Bleeding from the nose without any apparent cause; a cough and swelling of the hind leg from the pastern up to the stifle. The swelling is hot and painful. Nodules about the size of a pea will form in the mucous membrane of the nostril or on the wall which divides the nostrils. They are easily detected. They are at first hard and red, and later become soft and yellow.

Treatment: Isolate and as soon as you are certain that he has glanders, destroy him immediately. Disinfect everything, mangers, feed boxes, buckets, etc.

Cold

This is the same as in a human being.

Symptoms: Loss of appetite, a snorting cough, dull eye, rough coat.

Treatment: Wrap animal well in blankets. Plenty of fresh air. Feed on bran mash and hay.

Sunstroke

Overwork in excessive heat.

Symptoms: Staggering. Heart action weak. The breathing is marked by snoring. Pulse rapid. General depression. Collapse, and very often death.

Treatment: Place animal in cool, shady place. Apply ice to the head. Cold water enemas. Give internally double dose of fever mixture. Call veterinary.

DEFECTS AND BLEMISHES OF THE HORSE

Capped Hock

Is a swelling on the point of the hock caused by striking the hocks in kicking or while in the act of lying down or rising.

Treatment: Apply hot water to reduce the swelling. Tincture of Iodine is also very good.

Corns

Are bruises located on the soles of the feet, between the wall and bar, usually caused by pressure of the shoe.

Treatment: Remove the shoe. Paring the corn will ease it for a time. Shoe should be carefully fitted to prevent its return.

Poll Evil

Is the result of a bruise on the poll, usually caused by pressure of the head stalls.

Treatment: Foment with hot water till it softens; then open with a knife. See that all the pus is away before allowing the cut to close.

Thrush

This disease is generally due to dampness accompanied by dirty stalls. The seat of the disease is in the cleft of the frog. Has an offensive smell.

Treatment: Remove the dirt and keep the frog clean. Bathe thoroughly in creolin wash. Absorb the discharge by a daily application of calomel.

Canker

It differs from thrush in that thrush attacks the form only, while the former attacks the frog and spreads over the entire foot. It is practically the rotting away of the whole sole accompanied by a small watery discharge which is very offensive to smell.

Treatment: Clean the foot; remove diseased part. Pack with full strength creolin. Call a veterinary immediately.

Curb

A hard swelling located on lower and back part of hock. Is often accompanied by severe lameness.

Treatment: Reduce the inflammation by applying fomentation. Have a high heeled shoe put on and apply a blister.

Scratches

Is a cracking of the skin between the fetlock and the heels. Brought on usually by mud and filth.

Treatment: Wash well with soapy water and rinse off

with warm water that has previously been boiled. Apply vaseline.

Mange, Eczema and Lice

Lice are parasites that live on the skin.

Eczema is noticed in the form of small and large itchy pimples causing the falling out of the hair.

Mange is an irritation caused by a small mite producing a secretion that dries and forms a scab.

Treatment: Wash well. Then apply coal tar oil. It must be left on the animal all day, then washed off again. Repeat till cured. Keep animal in shade.

Galls

These are sores located on the parts coming in contact with the harness, usually caused by a wrinkle in the blanket or bed saddling, or too much rolling about in the seat on the part of the rider.

Treatment: Clean the wound with warm water and apply boric ointment. Lay off work.

Proper treatment of a horse may be summed up in three sentences: Care for him constantly; tend him promptly when sick; always treat him kindly, and see that others do likewise. This is not just humaneness, but common sense.

A good appetite is the best indication of good health, but there are other signs easily read — a smooth coat, skin that is soft and pliant to the touch, nostrils that show pink, erect ears, and a well-held, slightly elevated neck. A sound horse plants his feet firmly, stands squarely on all fours, walks and trots rhythmically. He does not move restlessly when standing. He does not "point" the toe.

Discharges from any part of the body indicate, of course, a diseased condition. So do wide-open red nostrils, dull eyes, drooping ears and hanging neck. Sores, irritation of the quarters, cracked hoofs are easily obvious. The discharges of the nose need special attention. If they run freely, or if they are stringy and insoluble in water, they mean simply a cold. But if they are thick, sticky, and easily soluble in water, they probably mean something more serious, that will need the care of a veterinary surgeon. The normal *temperature* of a horse is 99 to 100. The *pulse*, felt on the jaw, should be 35 to 45 in the young animal. In

older horses it is less rapid. *Breathing.* The young horse breathes about 12 times per minute; older animals about 10. Any excitement accelerates the breathing. Moderate exercise will increase it up to 40 or 50 and violent exercise to 60 or 70.

VICES

Bolting

If in the country with a long, clear road before you, give the horse his head. Let him run until he is tired, and then use the whip a little, making him keep the pace up for another half mile or so. This will usually cure him.

If in the city or a crowded country district, pull the reins back hard and saw on his mouth with the curb chain.

Kicking

Give the horse a good rap with the whip at the very moment of kicking. Be sure to time it properly that he may connect the punishment with the crime, and he will not be likely to offend too often.

Jibbing and Balking

Never whip or spur a balking horse. Coax him. Sit well down in the saddle. Pet him. If you have a lump of sugar, throw it to a bystander to give him. He will appreciate the good treatment and move on.

Rearing

The rider is more usually the criminal in this case. He has probably been mishandling the horse — holding too tight a rein or jerking at the curb. Loosen the rein and lean forward in the saddle, and the horse will come down on all fours.

Biting

If the horse is a confirmed biter, muzzle him. If he is just in process of forming the habit, hit him on the nose sharply. Once again time the punishment with the crime, and he will usually be cured.

HORSEMANSHIP AS A VOCATION

Horsemanship as a profession in itself offers few inducements to the genuinely ambitious. The great jockey, of

course, is a man who can command not merely admiration but solid money. Great jockeys, however, like great boxers, are but few. Every American cannot be a Danny Maher. Horse breeding, naturally, comes in the category of "big business." But then horse breeding is not the subject of this treatise. We are discussing the handling of grown horses — the driving, riding and grooming. And these are subjects which, while not profitable in and for themselves, may be extremely useful as adjuncts in other professions.

No army but has its cavalry regiments. No farm or cattle ranch that is without its horses. It is probably in connection with these latter that the scout would find a knowledge of horses of most use. On small farms the horse is still used exclusively for ploughing. Even on the larger farms he has not been entirely superseded by the tractor, and there are many other jobs left to him still. On a cattle ranch no cow-boy but has his mount, from the saddle of which he discharges most of his duties.

While riding and driving will always be useful assets to any boy in any walk in life, still when it comes to actual work the scout will find that grooming is at least half, if not three quarters, of a horseman's duties. A laborer who knows how to care for his horse is far more valuable to a farmer than one who knows merely how to ride and drive. In the army bad grooming is liable to draw on the soldier's head even more odium than a bad seat, or a heavy pair of hands. But no matter what the walk of life, there is only one safe rule for the horseman — love your horse and make him love you. Then you won't neglect him, and he won't maltreat you.

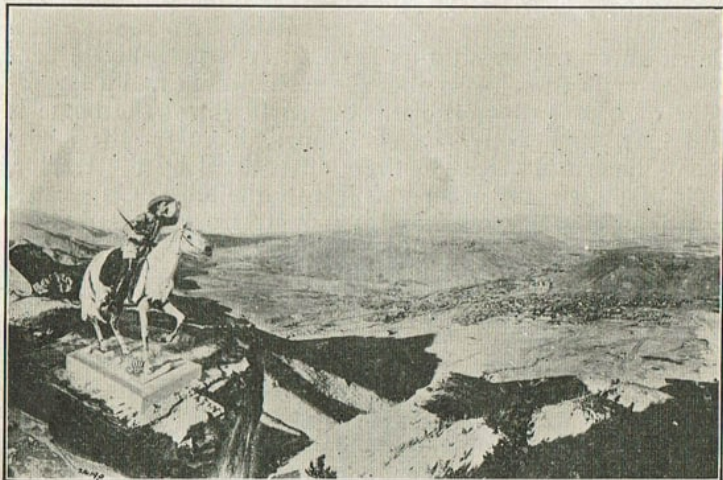
To a real lover of horses there will be many other openings in life besides those I have just mentioned. There is always work in connection with riding schools which, in the hands of a good business man, may lead to a good livelihood. There are also careers connected with horse shows. But these are precarious, and, as I say, only likely to suggest themselves to the man to whose happiness a good mount is indispensable.

COLONEL WILLIAM F. CODY

(BUFFALO BILL)

Chief Scout of the U. S. Army

Nearly everybody knew him as "Buffalo Bill," but officially he was Colonel William Frederick Cody, Chief Scout in the American army, and greatest horseman and



Indian fighter of his day. When he died in 1917, he was familiar to every boy as director of the "Wild West Show," wherein bucking bronchos, murderous Indians, stage-coach hold-ups, buffalo hunts mingled in a wonderfully realistic mêlée, and to see which was the thrill of a lifetime. Yet to most of us that show was just a "show." To Buffalo Bill it was a reproduction of his own life.

Born in 1845 in the backwoods of Scott County, Iowa, he grew up in an untamed West, the inhabitants of which were hardy pioneers who had to fight nature, the elements, and hostile Indians to get a footing on and a livelihood out of the land.

"I was raised in the saddle," he says of himself. "I rode horses when I was able to catch them grazing on the common — and was as bad but not worse than any other boy who goes barefoot, wears a brimless hat, one suspender and a mischievous smile."

School played a small part in Buffalo Bill's up-bringing. We hear of him returning home from various undertakings for two or three months at a time, and being instructed by a Miss Jennie Lyons. The few months were a concession to his mother's entreaties, for Buffalo Bill had small love for "book-learning." Circumstances combined with inclination to set him early wandering.

The family's first move was to Kansas, on the borders of which his father had pre-empted a claim. They led a disturbed life, fraught with constant danger, for his father, an anti-slaver, had won the enmity of some neighbors, and many times had to flee for his life. So very early his son, Bill, found practical use for the horsemanship which he had acquired merely as an amusement. Once he saved his father from murderers, by riding at breakneck speed on his pony, Prince, to warn him that they were coming. And one of his first exploits was an attempt with his cousin to capture some 200 government horses which had stampeded over Kansas, and for which a reward of \$10 a head was offered.

Bill's early life to the boy of today reads as so much fiction. For seven years he was off and on in the service of the firm of Russel, Majors and Waddell as cavallard, driver and wagon master. Now he was conveying cattle across desolate plains in a slow procession, attacked not merely by Indians but Mormons. There were hair-breadth escapes. He killed his first Indian and was hailed as the youngest slayer of the States. Then we hear of him riding for Pony Express, covering a route of 45 miles in three hours — a terrific strain for anyone so young but not too great for Bill Cody. He was only fourteen then, but his reputation for daring and skill had already spread throughout the country.

There was one occasion when he was attacked by a highwayman who wanted to steal the money bags he had in charge. Bill quietly let the man dismount and approach him to remove the bags from the saddle. Then as he came close, Cody dug his spurs in the pony's side. The animal plunged, knocked over the highwayman, and as Bill sped away, the prostrate and surprised robber got a kick of a hoof in the head which kept him quiet until the expressman was out of sight. By this time his father was dead, and in 1863 his mother followed. The Civil War was on then. Bill had not enlisted early, owing entirely to his mother's

protests because of his age. But now he joined up in the 7th Kansas volunteers, and was first a despatch bearer and then a spy for the Union forces. He was picked for his "quick intelligence and ceaseless vigilance," and he amply justified the choice. By a ruse he got himself introduced to General Forrester of the Confederate Army and for some days wandered through the enemy camp. He had used the name and uniform of a Confederate soldier for the purpose, a hostile spy from whom he had taken some papers. Imagine his consternation, therefore, when one day this man appeared in camp. Bill fled on horseback for his life.

The war over, he went back West, and it was about this time he earned his title of Buffalo Bill. The Union Pacific Railroad was being built, and local men were hired to find food for the laborers. Bill undertook to provide buffaloes, and in 18 months killed 4280. His fame as a buffalo killer was consequently great, and he was challenged to meet a rival, one Comstock, for a wager of \$500. The contest took place at Fort Wallace, and Bill was mounted on his pet horse, Brigham. His superior strategy won the day. First he rode to the head of the herd which had been gathered into one plain, killed the leaders, and then drove the dazed animals from right to left, keeping them going in a circle. He killed 69 to the other's 46. But he gave the credit entirely to his horse.

Bill's method was the admiration and despair of rivals. He would take his horse out without saddle and only a blind bridle. Then as he came near the herd, he threw off that, and Brigham, well trained, would ride up to a buffalo, wait a second until he heard the shot of his master's gun, "Lucretia Borgia," and then tear away to the next buffalo.

But he soon deserted this life for that of scout again. The Indian wars were on then, and he became a sort of despatch bearer between General Hazen and General Sheridan. It was the latter who made Cody Chief of Scouts. They tell one story of him riding between the two forts, and on his arrival finding another message to be brought which no man in the camp was willing to undertake, because so many had been killed on the route. He took it, only to find at his journey's end that this next post was in the same plight. So he set out again, and covered in all 355 miles in 58 hours' riding.

He remained as scout here from 1868 until 1872. Then

came his visit to the larger cities. He went to Chicago and New York, where he was fêted and feasted. When he went West again, he was made a member of the Nebraska Legislature. It was shortly after that he first appeared on the stage.

A play was being produced in Chicago—"The Scout of the Plains." Cody was booked for a part, but when he came on the boards, not a line could he remember. To help him, someone asked: "What were you doing on the plains?"

Bill cast a reflective eye around the house, which fell on a Mr. Milligan, a rich Chicagoan to whom he had often acted as guide on hunting trips. "I was hunting with Milligan," came the belated answer, which brought the house down. Ever after his lines were impromptu. From this time on Bill appeared at intervals in different plays, only to desert the footlights at the call of war.

In 1876 in the Sioux campaign he distinguished himself by a single handed fight with Yellow Hand, the famous Indian warrior, at the battle of Indian Creek. Yellow Hand was killed. It was about 1883 that he first conceived the idea of showing the East what the West had been and still in parts was. His great "Wild West Show" was first produced in Omaha, Neb., which was now Bill's adopted state. From there it toured America and Europe. In London he had four kings at once taking part in it—the crowned heads of Denmark, Saxony, Greece and Austria. They requested to be allowed to ride in the stage coach which was the object of an Indian attack. It is said that Cody gave orders to "whoop it up," and some of the monarchs took refuge under the coach seats. The Prince of Wales, after Edward VII, was delighted.

"Ever hold four kings in your hand before, Colonel?" he was asked.

"I've often held four kings," replied Cody. "But never four kings and a royal joker."

In Paris the show attracted the attention of that greatest of all animal painters, Rosa Bonheur. She and Bill became the best of friends, and she painted him on his then favorite horse. When Bill's house out West burned later, while he was away from home, he sent this characteristic message to the rescuers:

"Save the Bonheur painting, and let the rest burn to blazes."

Bill's last days as his earliest were devoted to the taming of the West, but now it was a different business. The Indians were subdued, thanks largely to his efforts. Farming consequently was the chief business. Bill invested, it is said, millions of his "Wild West Show" savings in an Irrigation Company, of which he became president. His home now was in Big Horn County, Wyo., and his interests largely agricultural. Three other companies in addition to that just mentioned, claimed part of his time and attention. He was President of the Colonisation Company, a Town Site Company and Two Transportation Companies, and his days were peaceful and prosperous. And now that he is gone, that tall grey-bearded figure so familiar all over the globe, "Pahaska," as the Indians called it, taking the name from his white hair,—it is proposed to immortalize the man in stone. He will be seated as always on a white horse, high on a mountain, sweeping the plains with his gaze, as becomes the greatest Scout America and perhaps the world has ever seen.

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