

POINTS OF A RACEHORSE

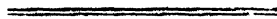
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POINTS OF A RACEHORSE

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN HILLS

R.E., K.C.B.



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TO

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND, KG.

MASTER OF THE HORSE

INTRODUCTION.

IN former days in India, whenever any young officer fond of horses was taken with the fancy of trying, in a small way, his hand at racing, he would generally first go to Bombay if he wanted an Arab, or to Calcutta if he wanted a "Waler." On his arrival at Bombay, he would find collected there in the stables of the different dealers some 4,000 to 5,000 Arabs, or so-called Arabs. He would, probably, in company with some more experienced friend, spend some days in selecting, trying, and finally purchasing an animal, which he would take up to his own station, and proceed to feed up, and then finally, to the best of his ability, ride and train himself. If he were keen and observant, after a few years of such practice he would become a more or less sound judge of a racer, and be able by himself to buy a colt which, when well trained, promised from his conformation to turn out a fair racehorse.

The writer of this book presents, after over thirty years of such experience, the results of his observations for what they are worth. He in no way claims that the arguments herein advanced are infallible, nor does he expect that the opinions expressed will be received without cavil and opposition; but he believes that the principles advocated by him will bear inspection, and will carry weight with many, the more so as each statement advanced has been illustrated by portraits of well-known horses. Not only has the writer appended such examples lavishly as proofs, but has given portraits of some well-known sires in different stages of their career, and further, in order to complete the study of proper conformation, has appended in close array some portraits of the most celebrated sires, together with two or three portraits of their most illustrious offspring.

The book is thus, practically, a nearly complete record of all the celebrated horses of late years, and furnishes an ample store of subjects for thorough comparison and mature study. It is greatly to be desired that the reader, after its perusal, should form an independent opinion of the points laid down, and decide for himself what, as regards the shape and framework, are the main and necessary points of which the colt, no matter how grandly bred, must be in possession before he can possibly be accepted as likely ever to graduate into a first, or even into a second class racehorse.

At the end of the work there is a chapter which gives to those who know little or nothing about a horse, a few hints of practical importance, which they may easily remember and act upon without overburdening their memories. Three simple tests, and one rough measurement, are all that are practically required by the tyro to satisfy himself as to the utility of the horse brought before him for purchase. When satisfied on these points, he may leave the others to the decision and recommendation of the veterinary surgeon.

I am greatly indebted to the Editor of "Country Life" and Mr. Clarence Hayley, of Newmarket, for the material assistance they have given in procuring and furnishing the photographs and blocks of most of the horses represented, and to Mr. Charles Reid and Mr. R. Sherborn for their assistance. To Dr. Edouard Muybridge and to Professor Shave my thanks are also due.



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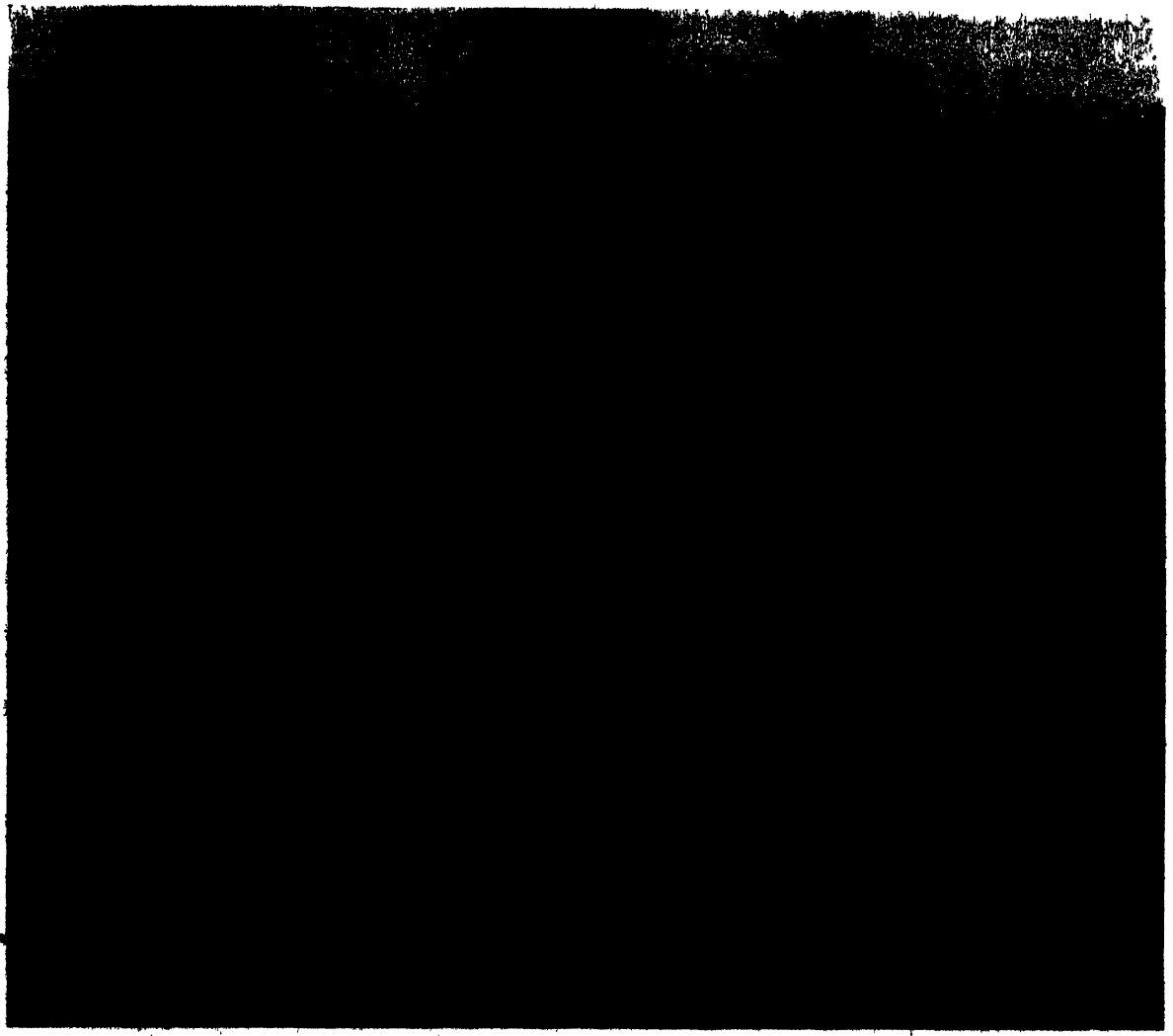
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PART I.

CHAPTER I.

WHILE it is very easy to recognise the excellent and symmetrical shape of a well-known racehorse, such as Orme, Isinglass, Persimmon, and others, it is quite another question to define and determine, separately, the several points of advantage which have combined together to produce this excellence, and it is due to the want of this knowledge that we so



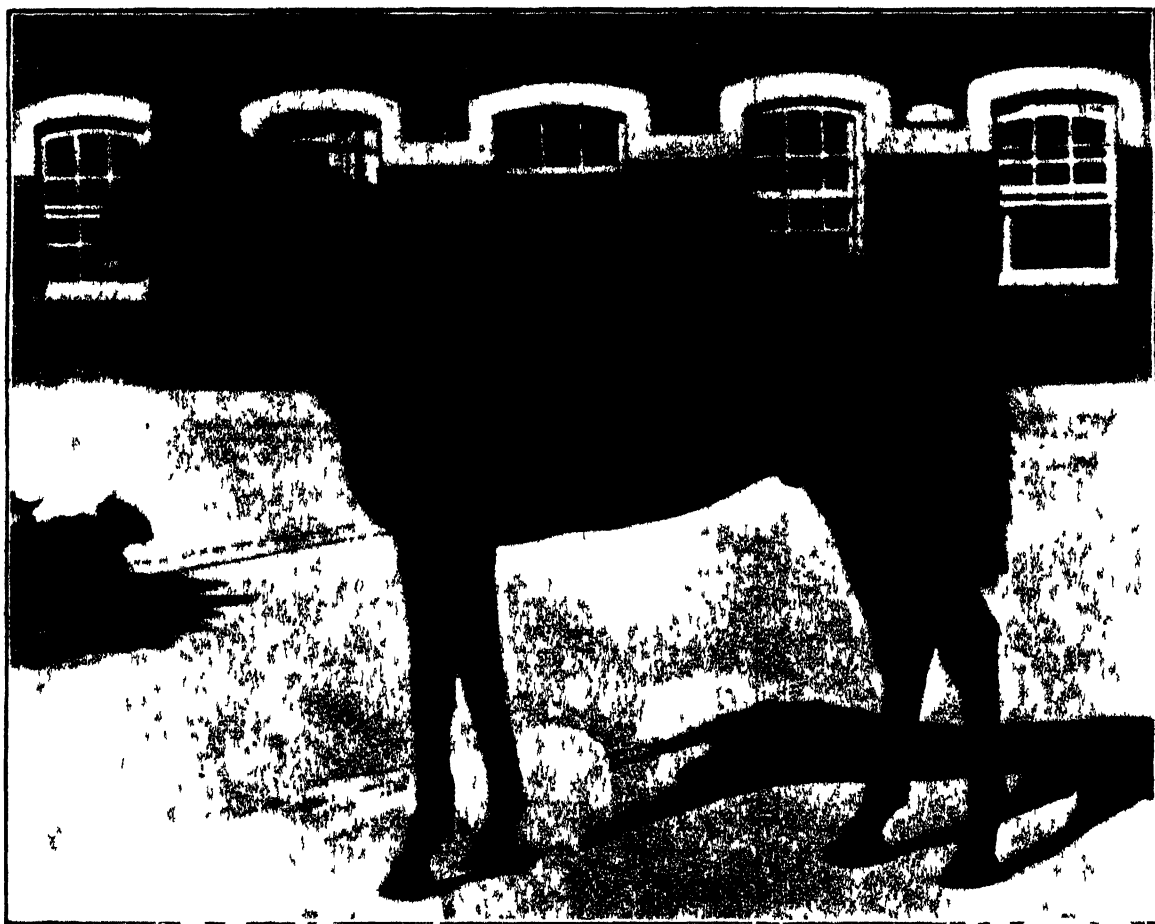
1E. BY ORMONDE—ANGELICA (No. 11 in Mr. Bruce Lowe's Figure System*).

A beautiful specimen of a true and perfectly made horse, combining power and speed. Grandly developed style, good angle of the humerus, no lumber in front, grand slope of shoulder, excellent loins and quarters. A picture.

often find an otherwise sound judge of horses enlarging on the good looks of an animal, which proves itself to be, after all, only a moderate performer.

* The numeral attached to each horse represents his number or figure as given him in Mr. Allan's work on Mr. Bruce Lowe's Figure System.

When purchasing untried colts and fillies, there are certain cardinal points to be taken cognisance of, in originally deciding whether there is a fair chance of the colt ever distinguishing himself on the turf; and a thorough knowledge of these would not only have often saved the purchaser of many long-priced, fashionably bred colts, the expenditure of his money, but would have further averted the upsetting of cherished hopes; for, from the outset, he would have surmised that the colt could never develop into a first or second class racehorse.



DONOVAN. BY GALOPIN—MOWERINA (No. 7).

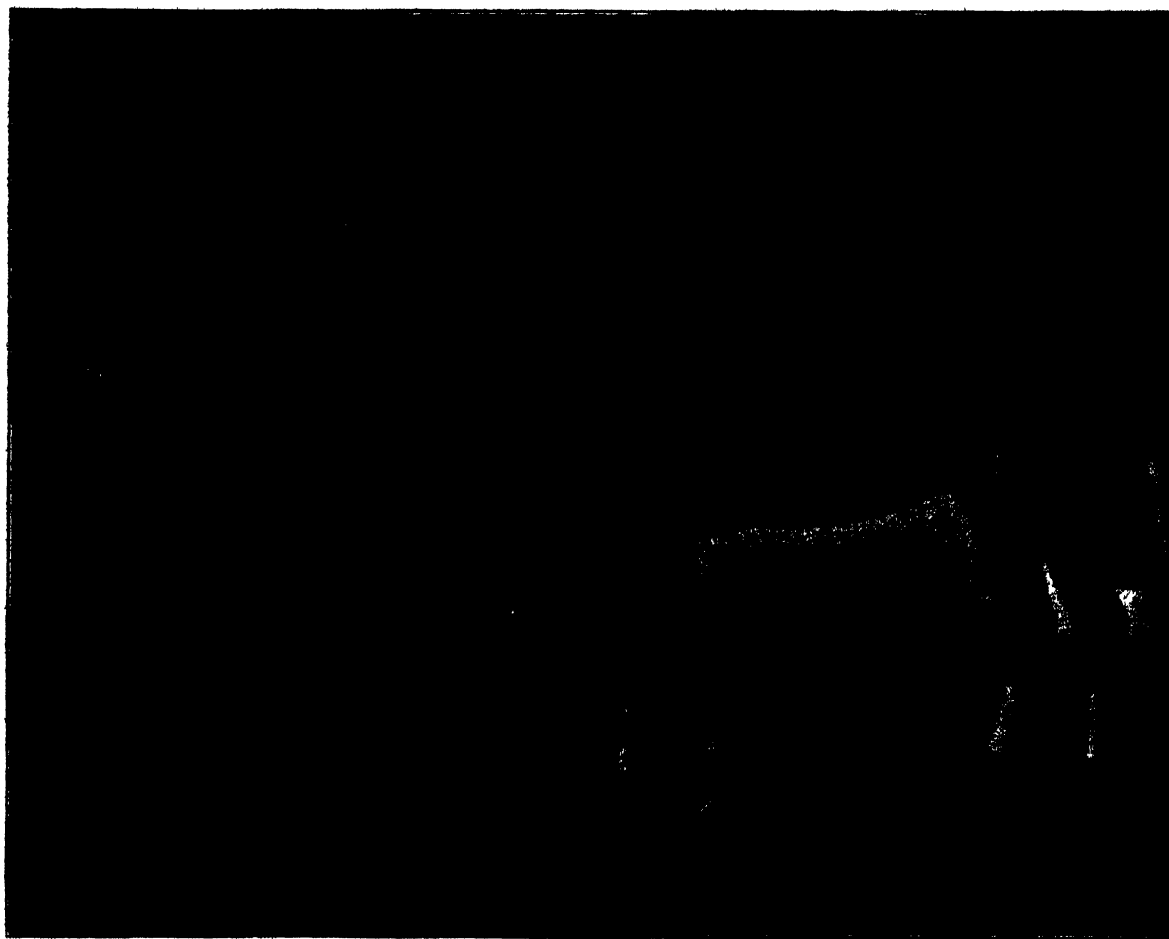
Donovan was the most redoubtable racehorse of his day, and is placed here as an excellent example of the true position and form a stifle joint should have; low and clearly in view, muscular and well developed.

There are three cardinal points of vital importance and on the combination of these three the chances of a colt ever becoming a good racer almost entirely depends. The first one, without which no colt can ever become distinguished, is a long femur, ending in a low and well-developed and muscular stifle bone and joint.

It is here that Captain Hayes, in his otherwise excellent book, "The Points of a Horse," has drawn erroneous conclusions, for on it the long striding action of the racehorse depends.

The stifle cannot be too low, nor the joint too strongly developed and muscular, and if the joint is slightly turned outwards, as in Bendigo, Galeottia, St. Frusquin, and Laveno, so much the better.

Bendigo was a very great public favourite. He is shown here as a perfect model of a low, well developed and muscular stifle; one, moreover,



BENDIGO. BY BEN BATTLE—HASTY GIRL (No. 9).

as is the case also in the next example, Galeottia (No. 1), turned well outwards, an advantage possessed by few; he is, moreover, noticeable for his powerful loins and quarters, a combination which so often carried him to victory; he further possesses a long and fairly placed humerus, a good shoulder and short back, a well let down and straight hind leg. He won the Lincolnshire Handicap, the Eclipse and Jubilee Stakes, carrying 9 st. 7 lb., and the Hardwicke Stakes with 9 st. 12 lb.—nearly 10 st. on his back. An honest, game racehorse.

The accompanying two skeletons—A and B—of two extreme positions occupied by the bones of the hind leg of a horse during two phases of the gallop have been appended in order to bring more clearly to notice the enormous use to which the femur is subjected, and the pendulistic character of its working ; and further to illustrate through how great an angle the pendulum has to swing during the process of galloping.

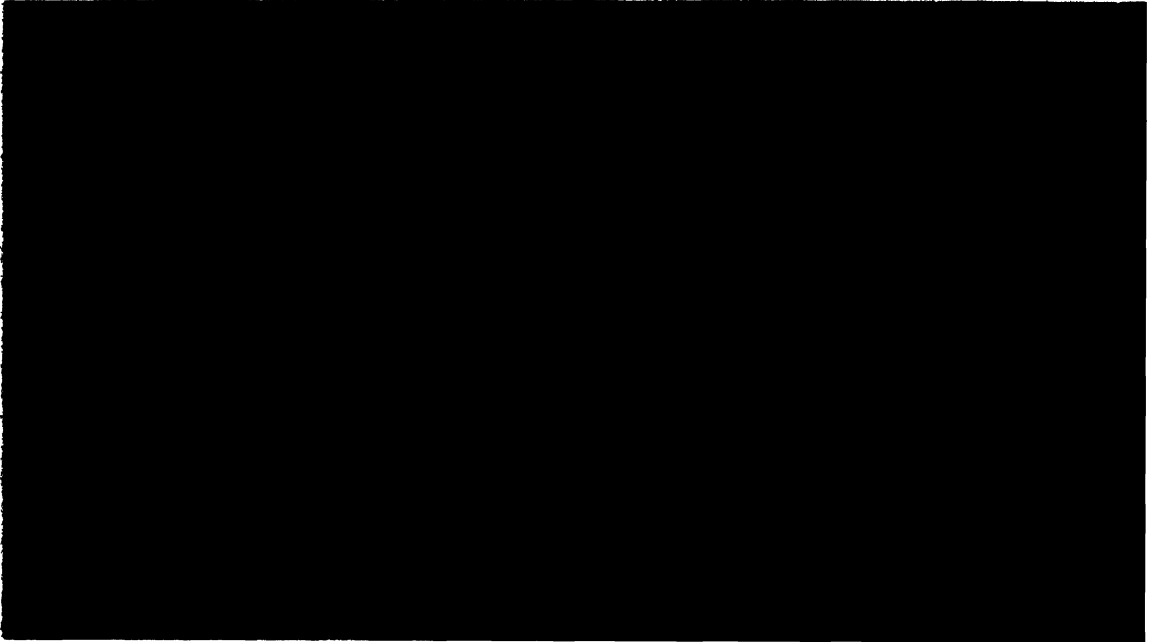


FIG. A.

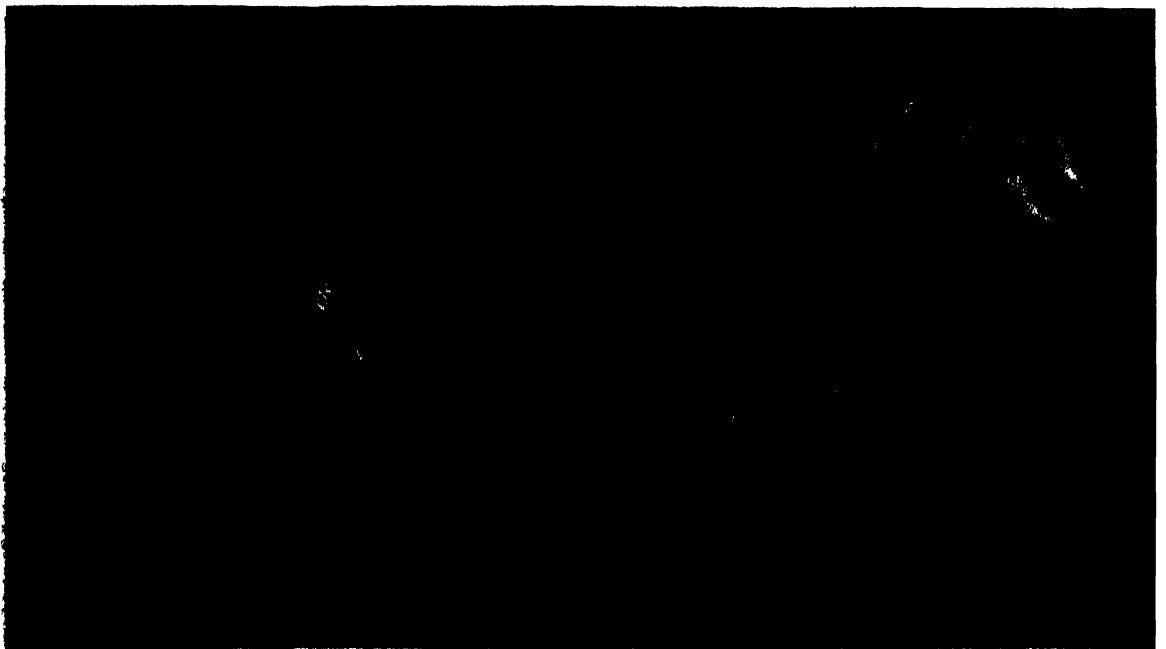


FIG. B.

Surely no further illustration is required to prove the pre-eminence of the femur bone, and attendant muscles, as the chief agent or factor for the proper extension of the hind leg, than is furnished by these two figures.

But we can supply further evidence in the two extreme positions which a hound will assume ; one (sketch C) when contracted like a bent bow, and the other (D) when at full extension.

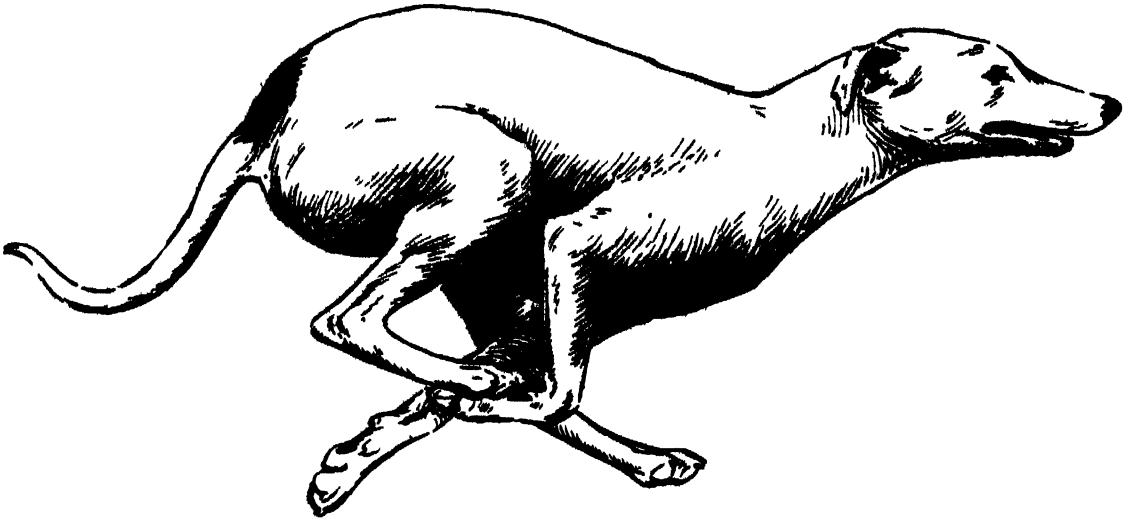


FIG C.

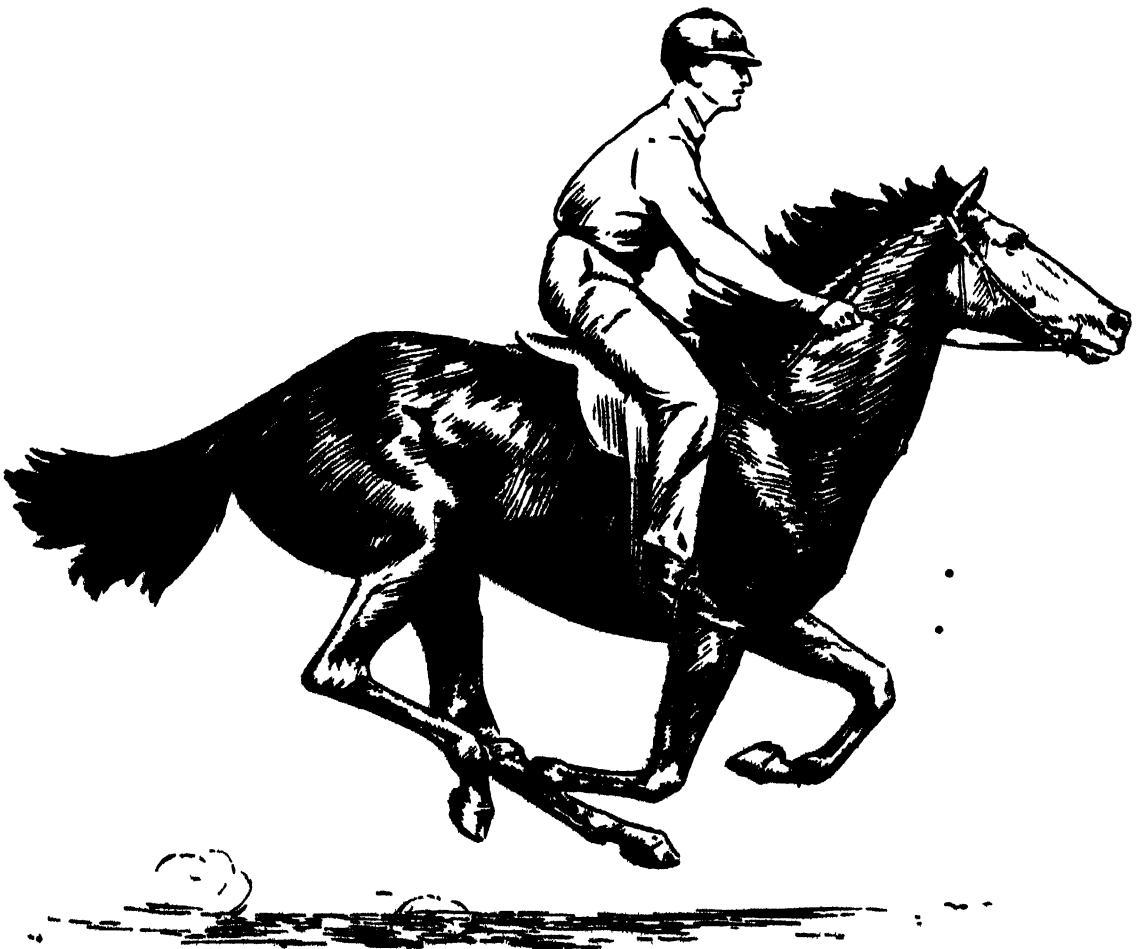


FIG E.

It will be noted in these figures that the enormous length of the femur and the turning out of the stifle joint enable the dog to bring his hind legs so far under himself as to pass well beyond the fore ; while the second allows them to overlap outwardly without any difficulty. Contrast these positions with those of the horse when in similar postures, as shown in figures E and F, which are placed directly below the similar posture of the hound—proving the advantage of the possession of the longer femur.



FIG. D.

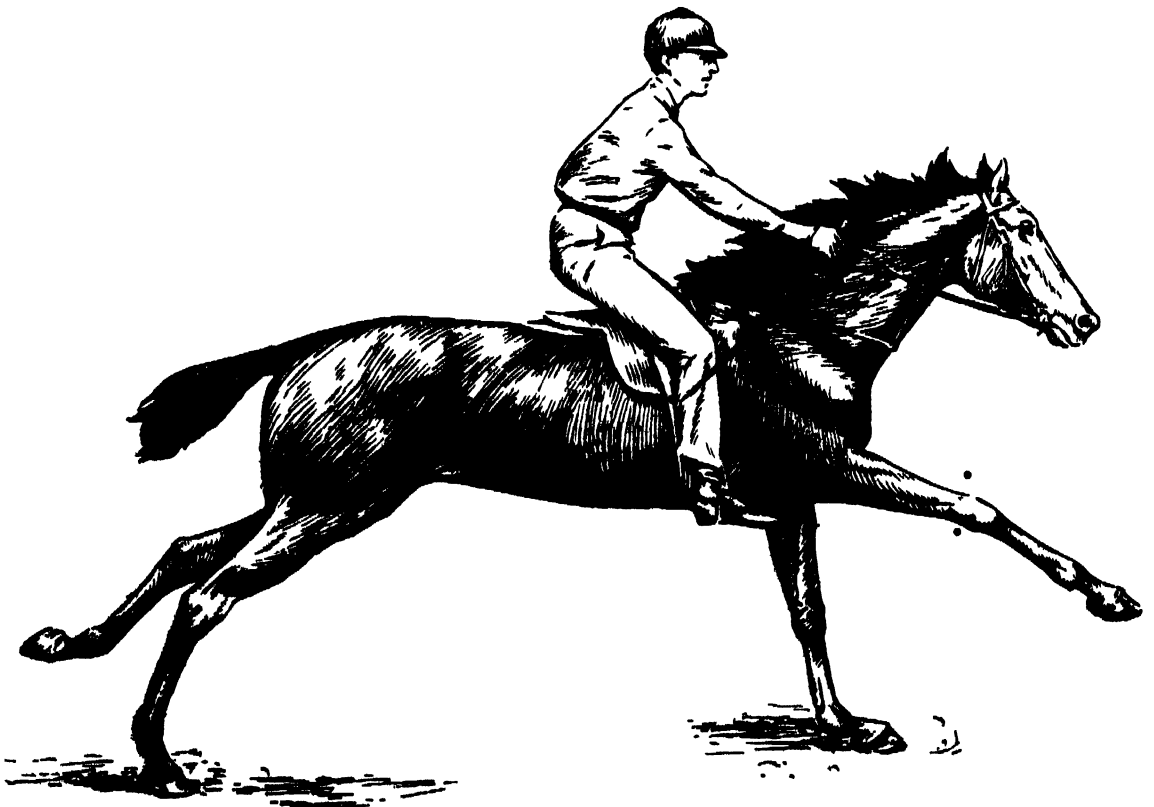


FIG. F.

CHAPTER II.

THE second cardinal point of observation is not (as generally looked for) the slope of the shoulder-blade from the withers to the point of the shoulder, though this is an excellent minor point, but the angle of the slope from the point of the shoulder to the point of the elbow, and the position and the length of the latter. Examine Persimmon, Ormonde, Isinglass, Velasquez, &c.



PERSIMMON. By GALOPIN—ST. ANGELA (No. 7).

Persimmon as a two-year-old is appended. The perpendicularity and length of the humerus is extremely well marked. His hind leg may also be noticed as one exceptionally straight. A perfect example of a thoroughly well-placed humerus, in the writer's opinion, and one to be carefully studied as regards its length in proportion to that of the shoulder-blade.

This slope should be at as perpendicular an angle, and as far removed from the horizontal, as possible, and should be relatively long—the longer and more upright in proportion to the length of the shoulder-blade, so much the better: at the same time, the elbow should be low, quite free from the body, and not in any way tied in, and the joint itself large and prominent.

neck have, in the eyes of many, obtained for him the credit of being an ugly, common-looking animal.

Having thus presented two perfect models of what the length and position of the humerus should be, two portraits of comparatively second-class racers are given in order to form a contrast between a bad and a good humerus in the ordinary racer.

Spur Royal illustrates a specimen of what is to be avoided, and is purposely placed after Ormonde and before Grig in order to accentuate the deficiency. Spur Royal, though possessing remarkably good gaskins



SPUR ROYAL. BY GOLD—LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS (No. 2).

and hind legs, fair hind quarters and stifle and a long, fairly sloping shoulder-blade, has the humerus so comparatively short and so badly placed (nearly horizontal), with so loaded and prominent a shoulder point, that good free action is not possible. He furnishes an example of a colt who, in place of improving with age, would steadily but surely deteriorate whenever his bones, joints, and muscles became fully set and hardened, as suggested in page 19. He is, moreover, long in the back and short in the quarter.

flesh in front, when the shoulder-blade possesses a straighter slope. The one enhances and accentuates, the other hinders and confines the loose play which it is so desirable for the point to have.

With regard to the important part the humerus bears upon the forward free action of a horse, and the several positions it assumes during the phases of a rapid gallop, Figs. G and H of the skeleton of a horse in two of the phases of a gallop are appended for examination. See also Figs. A and B, page 5.



FIG. G.

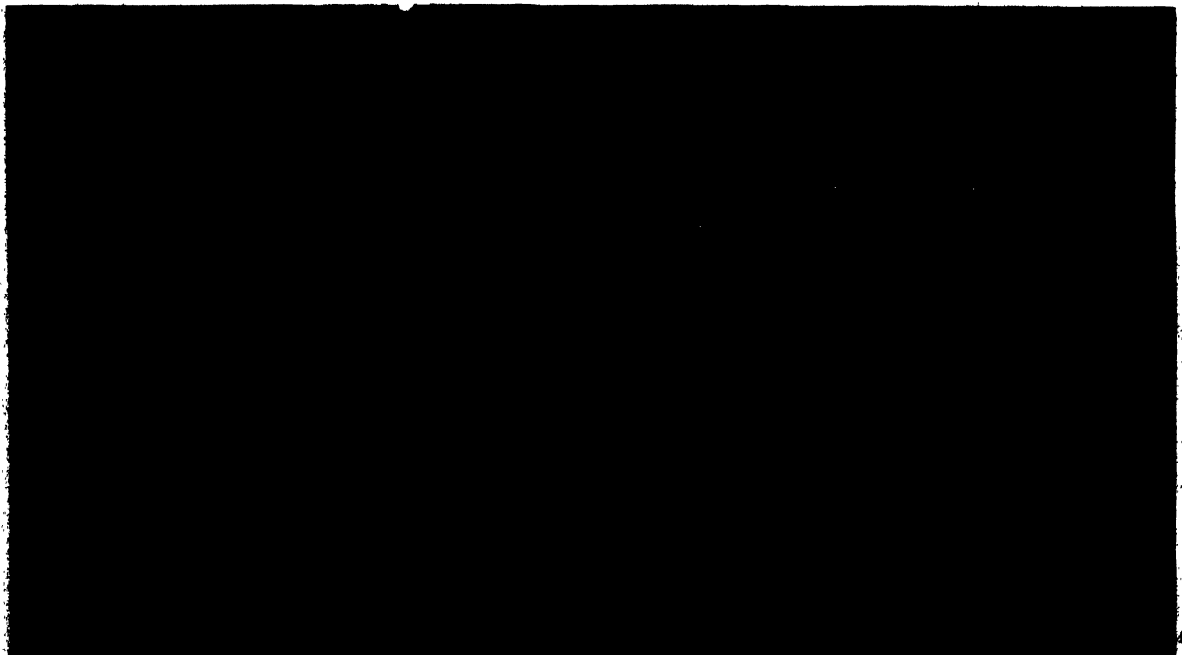
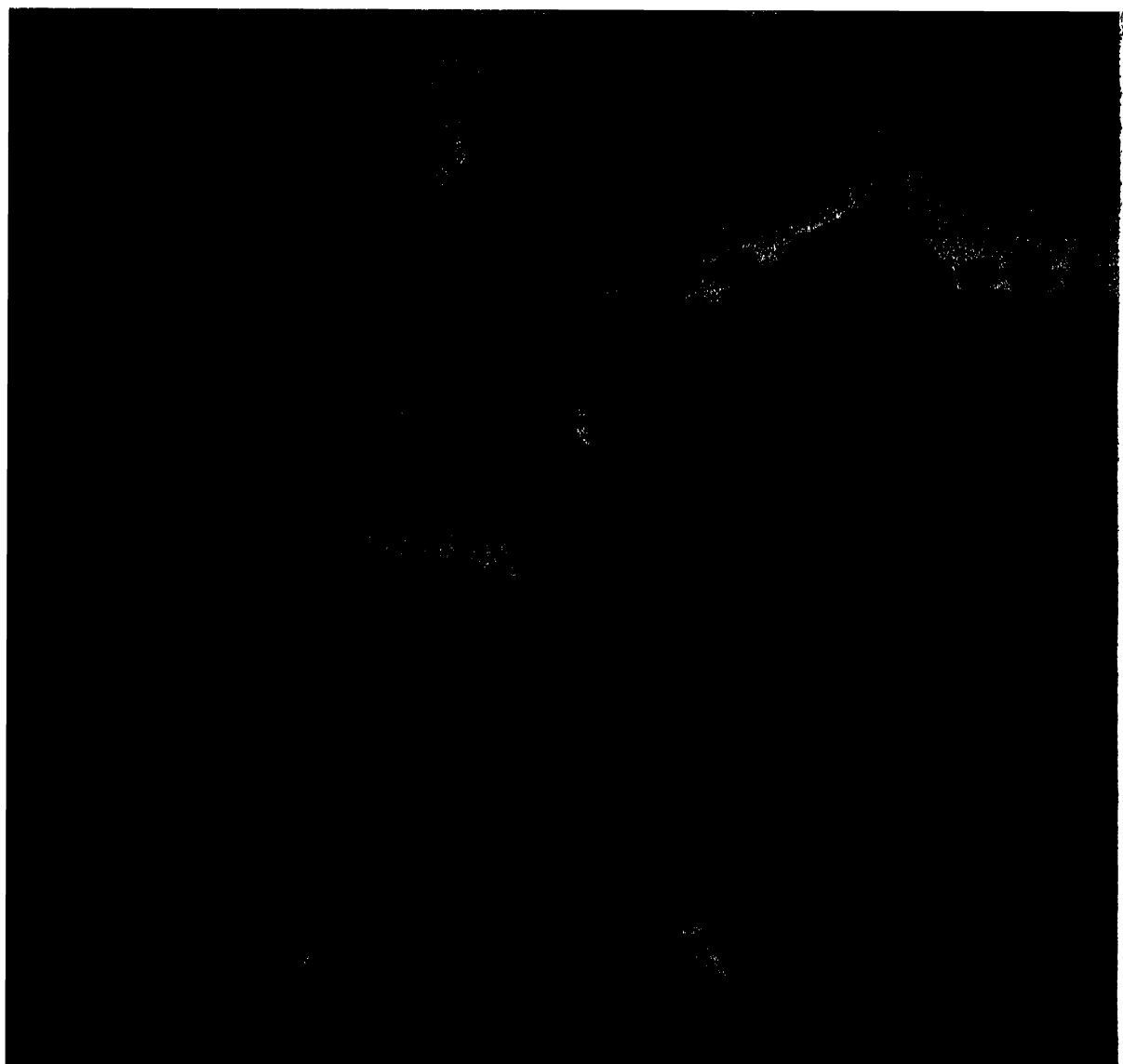


FIG. H.

It will be noticed from the above that, as in the femur, the angle passed through by the humerus is very great; and it follows, as an inference, that the more perpendicular the natural position of the humerus is when at rest, the further forward will the foreleg swing in passing through this angle of movement. A short bone, with a horizontal position, will unquestionably cramp, and sensibly constrain, this necessary extension, as may be inferred from the photos of Spur Royal, Lord William, Toddington, &c. Sketches G and H illustrate also the forward play of the joint at the shoulder point; and they should draw attention to the advisability of noting carefully whether the lower part of the shoulder-blade and joint has considerable play and freedom of movement or not. The enormous advantage of a straight, perpendicular, and, at the same time, a long humerus is unmistakably demonstrated in the phases of action of the dog in sketches C and D, shown on pages 6 and 7.

The writer has, through the kindness of Mr. Edward Muybridge, been furnished with the Figures from A to H—eight in all. These most remarkable phases of the animals in motion were automatically photographed in regular sequence by Mr. Edward Muybridge at Palo Alto in 1878, and their full sequence is to be found in his wonderful and interesting book, "Animals in Motion."

As the free and extended action of the hind legs depends on the low stifle, so does that of the fore legs upon the perpendicularity of the slope and length of the humerus. When we have a good combination of these two points, we obtain the first desideratum, a free and extended action. As an example of this combination, Victor Wild, the public champion and idol, is put in page 14. He strikes one at first glance as rather an insignificant animal, but, when critically examined, his special qualifications disclose themselves. An overhauling of his racing points will well repay the time and study. His hindquarter and the straight drop of the hind leg, with the attendant broad gaskins, are perfect; his stifle joint is not only muscular, low, and well developed, but is turned outwards, a great point towards the free forward action of the hind-quarter; the humerus is well placed, accompanied by an excellent slope of the shoulder and a free elbow, a short back and a long forehead; all the points denoting quick speed, of which he proved himself to be a master. He won the Royal Hunt Cup and the Jubilee Handicap at Kempton.

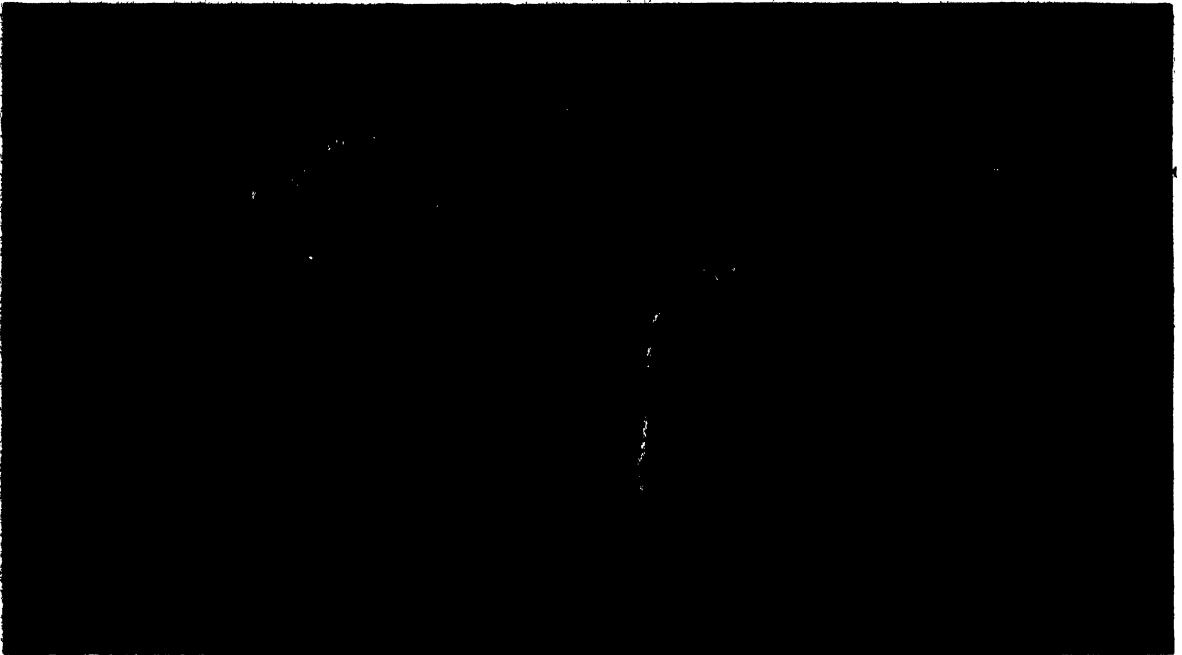


VICTOR WILD. BY ALBERT VICTOR—WILD HUNTRESS (No. 4).

As a practical demonstration of the above theories, herewith are appended four skeletons of well-known fast animals: the first, that of a typical racehorse, the world-renowned Hermit; the second, that of the greyhound, the unbeaten Fullerton; the third, that of a cheetah or hunting leopard; and the fourth, that of a lynx, the fastest of all animals.

An examination into the framework of these four skeletons* (see pages 15 and 16) cannot but impress one with the enormous difference which exists between the proportionate lengths in each of the scapula and the humerus, and the apparently abnormal prolongation of the femur in the case of the smaller but relatively faster animals. The deductions logically derived from such an examination surely warrant the arguments advanced by the writer—viz., that the longer the femur and humerus are proportionately to the other bones, and the straighter and more perpendicularly they are placed, the greater the speed to be naturally anticipated from the animal.

* The skeletons of the greyhound, the cheetah, and the lynx were obtained by the kind permission of the Directors of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington; the skeleton of Hermit from the Royal Veterinary College, in Camden Town.



SKELETON OF HERMIT.



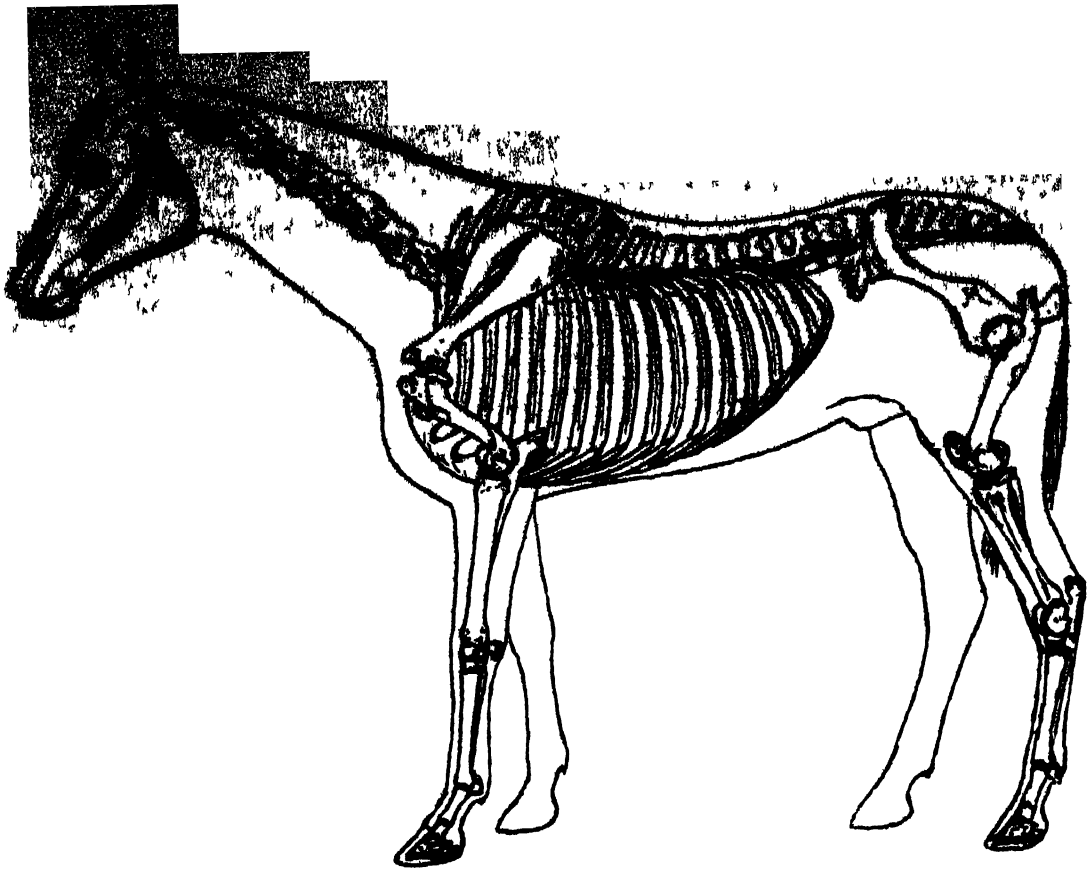
FULLERTON (TWICE WINNER OF MALERBO CUP).



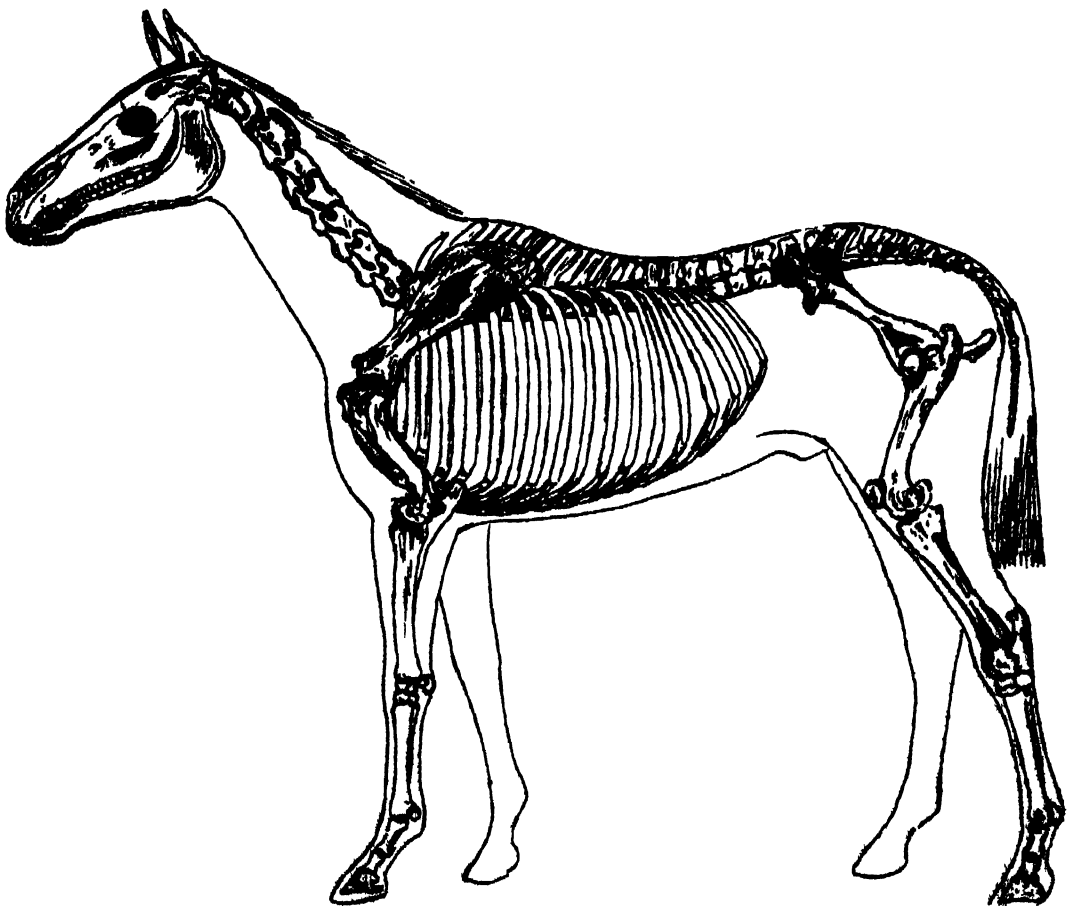
CHEETAH OR HUNTING LEOPARD.



LYNX



GLEN STIRLING—SKELETON.



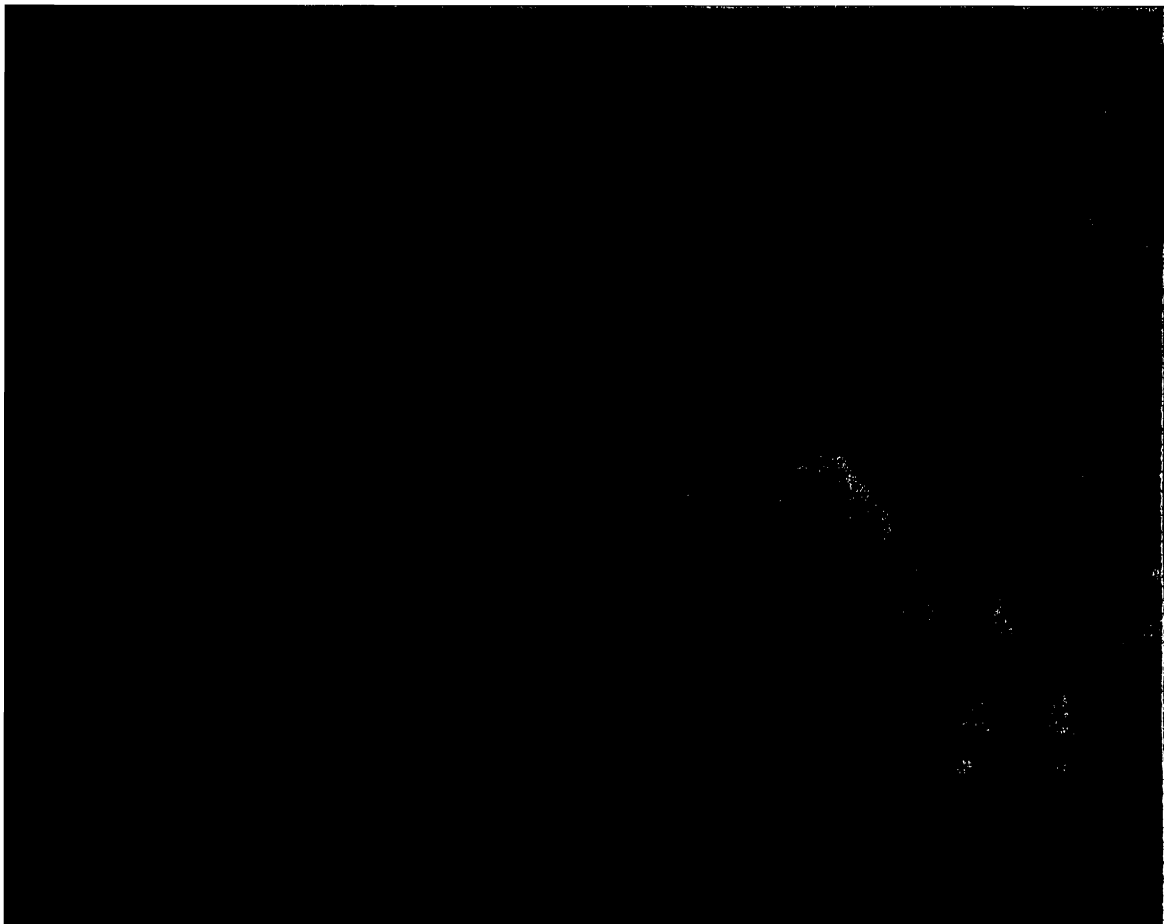
PERSIMMON—SKELETON.

The flexibility of the muscles and joints both in the shoulders and stifle may be the reason why, though of indifferent shape, so many two-year-olds run fairly well in their first year, before the muscles and bones in their shoulders and quarters become set and developed ; while, afterwards, as the muscles and joints become fixed and hard from increasing age, they lose this flexibility and their former free movements are constrained, with the result that they lose their form and negative the early promise of their youth, finally degenerating into third or fourth class racers, and losing, in place of gaining, ground as they grow older. This supplies the only explanation of the decadence of Toddington, Democrat, Spur Royal, Princess Melton, and other two-year-olds.

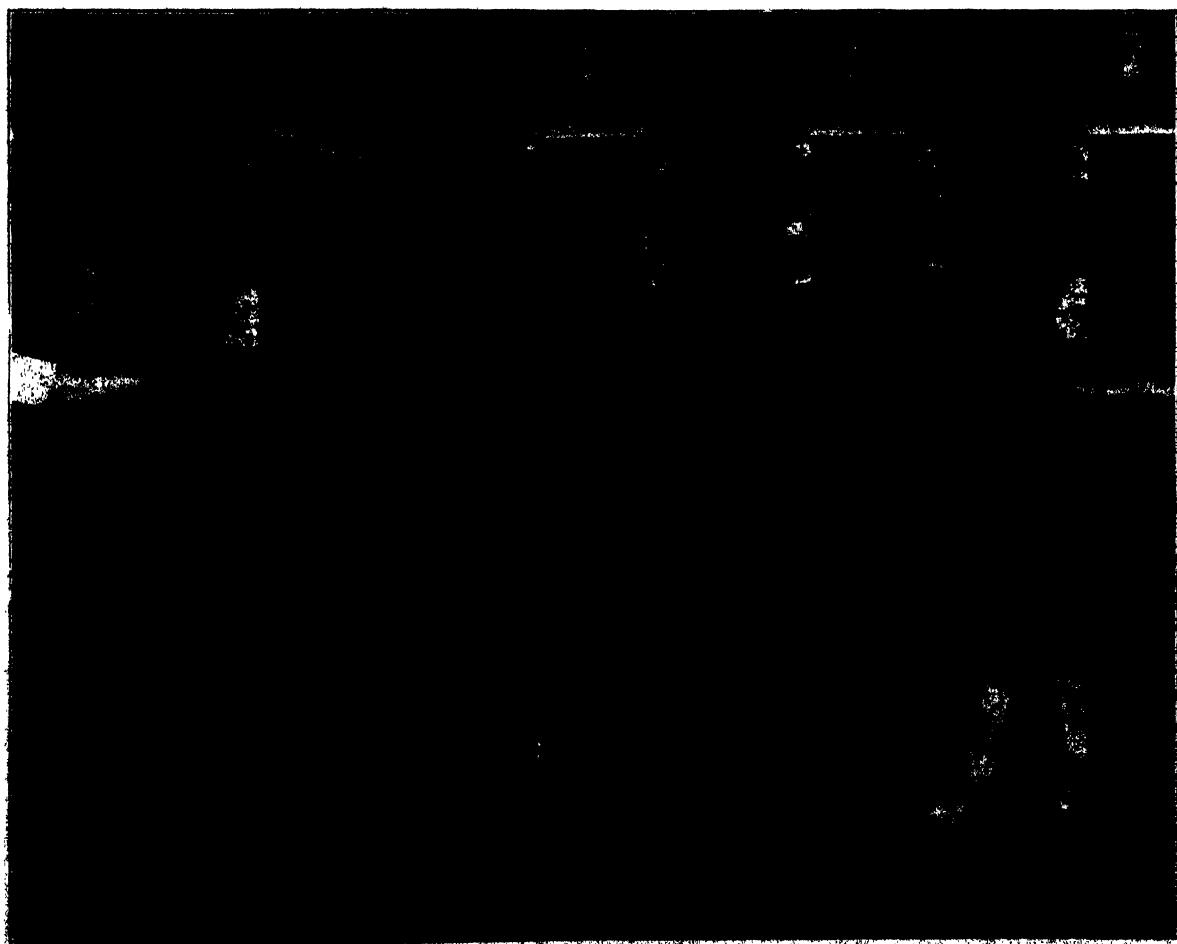
Portraits of Toddington and Democrat are here furnished as probable examples of the truth of the above suggestion. Both, the latter specially, were most excellent performers on the turf as two-year-olds, and were, indeed, favourites for the coming classical races, and yet both were failures in their three-year-old and later career ; so much so, that it is difficult to account for such rapid deterioration without some more plausible reason than that they had been overworked.

Toddington, as a two-year-old, won his races easily ; but has not realised the great hopes formed of him. He has grand racing hindquarters and good loins, but is a little too long in the back. His chief deficiency lies in the short and indifferently placed humerus, and so compares with Democrat and Princess Melton on his failure as a three-year-old.

Democrat, as a two-year-old, carried everything before him, but has been a failure as an older horse ; he is given on this account as a special illustration. He was grandly shaped and wonderfully furnished for a two-year-old ; as he aged he would probably, but for the fact of being a gelding, have become heavy, especially in front. His deficiency is rather too horizontal a humerus, lumber in front, too long a back, and stifle a little high, though he has an excellent quarter well let down, and straight hind legs, &c.



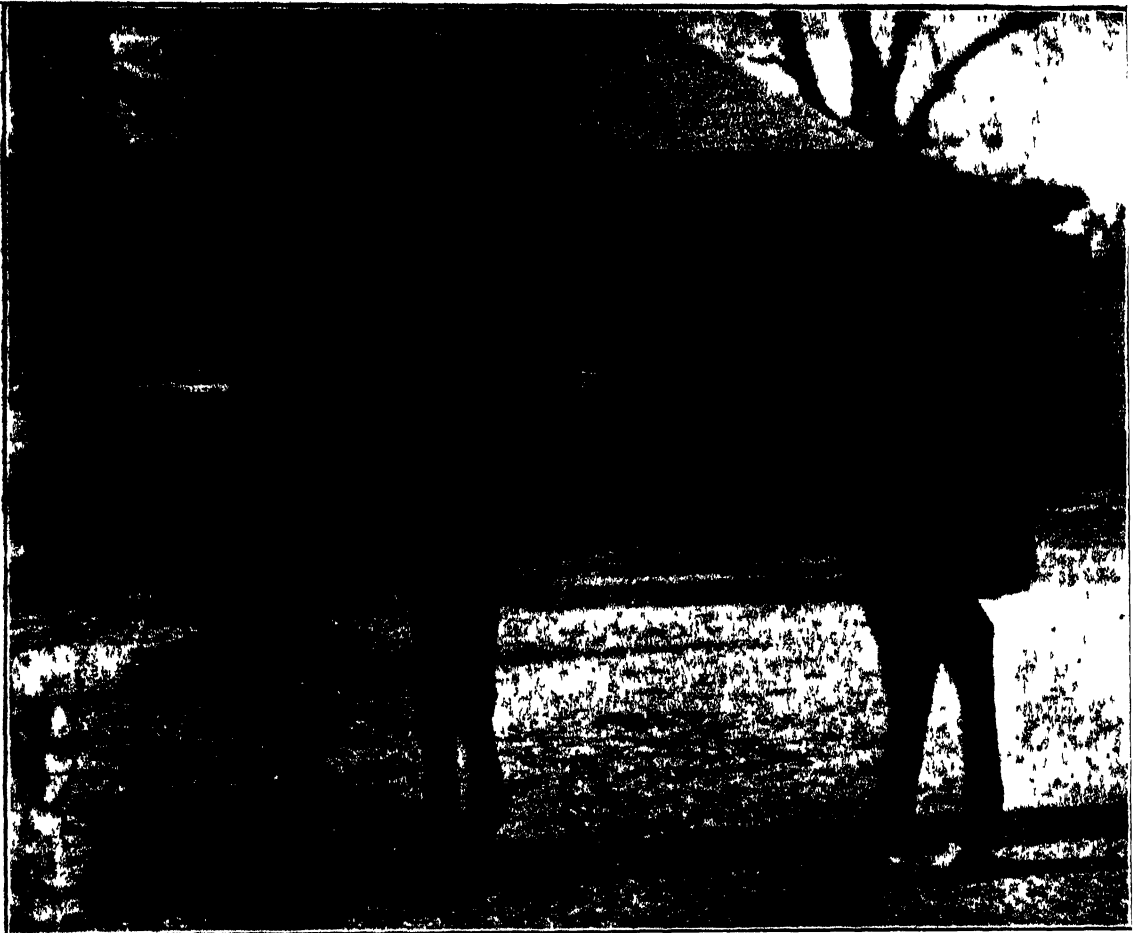
TODDINGTON. By MELTON—MINERVA (No. 9).



DEMOCRAT. By SENATOR—EQUALITY.

Finally, before quitting this subject, the portraits of Memoir, her full sister La Flèche, and Princess Melton, are placed together for comparison, and a careful study of their determinate points will prove interesting, especially as regards the proportionate lengths and the position of the humerus, and the drop and shape of the hind legs.

Memoir and La Flèche are excellent on both of these cardinal points, and hence both passed through successful careers. Princess Melton, unsurpassed as a two-year-old, is deficient on these points, and consequently has deteriorated as she became older.



MEMOIR. BY ST. SIMON—QUIVER (No. 3).

Memoir won the Oaks and the St. Leger. She has a low stifle, straight-dropped hind leg, a fairly long and well-placed humerus, good shoulder and forehead, with the triangular wedge well marked at the brisket.

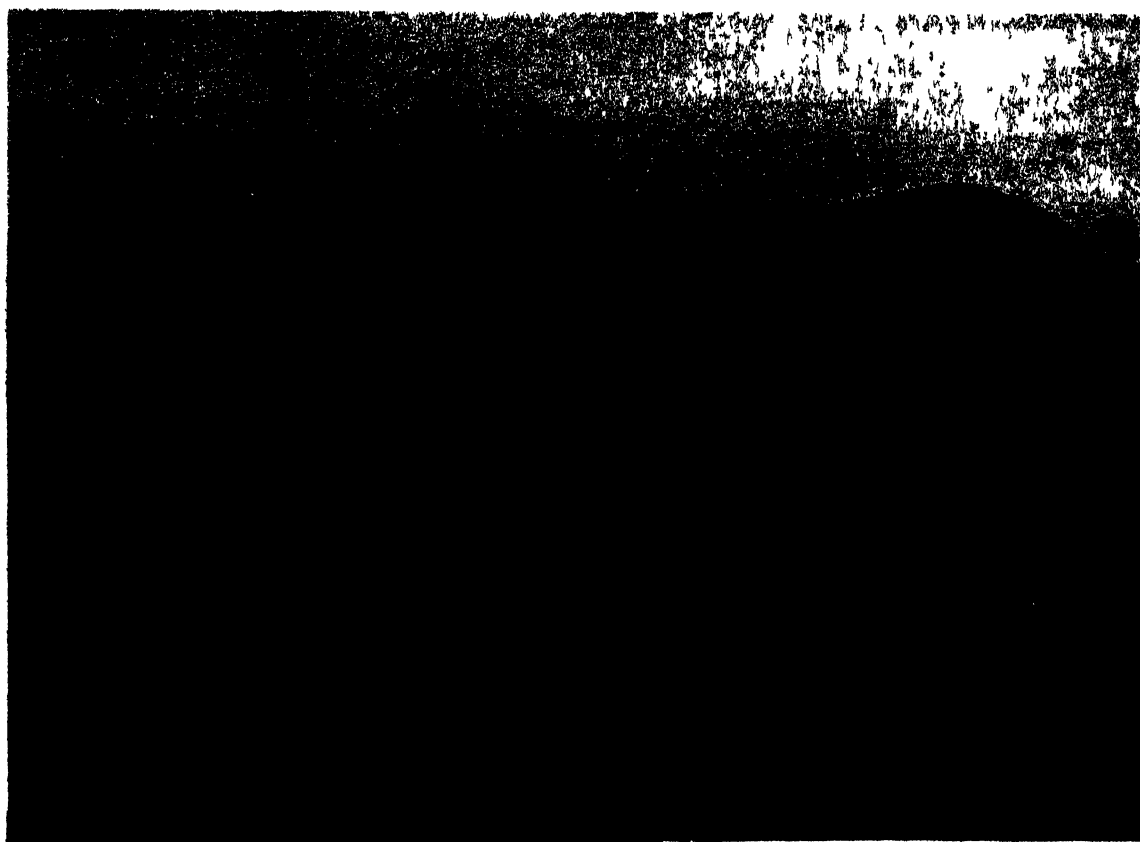
La Flèche won the Oaks, the St. Leger, the Gold Cup at Ascot, and should have won the Derby; she is beautifully and truly made throughout; very fine stifle, straight hind leg, and good shoulder, and all parts in unison.

Princess Melton, on the other hand, though very handsome and blood-looking, has neither so low nor so muscular a stifle, her hind legs are more crooked, and her humerus both shorter and more horizontal.

The hocks should be large, clean, and wiry-looking, with no excrescence on them ; the bones large, but free from all blemish.

The pasterns should be fairly long and strong, neither too long nor too short, and with a fair slope—not too straight. A much greater strain in the gallop is placed upon them than is generally supposed.

Similarly a good slope from the withers to the point of the shoulders, and a long forearm, are necessary adjuncts to the best results being obtained from the free action of the fore legs. See Bend Or, St. Simon, Victor Wild, and Velasquez. But that this point is not absolutely



RAVENSBURY. BY ISINGLASS—PENITENT (No. 13).

essential is exemplified in Ravensbury, Grig, and others (though the best will have it to some degree), and this may be proved by an examination into the shape of the fastest animals, many of whom, as before stated, possess a short and rather a straight slope of shoulder, instead of a long and sloping shoulder-blade.

Ravensbury supplies a direct contradiction to those who insist upon the necessity of a good sloping shoulder, and furnishes an excellent example of how well a colt, with other points which are good, can gallop, in spite of a straight shoulder. He possessed great power and scope, and though he had a straight shoulder slope, had a good humerus

with but little lumber in front or on his shoulders, excellent hind legs, stifle, gaskins, and quarters, free elbow, great girth and triangular wedge, grand powerful loins, a combination which enabled him to beat all the colts of his year, except Isinglass, with whom, unfortunately, he had to contend. With Isinglass out of the way he would have won every single classical race of his year, Two Thousand, Derby, St. Leger, &c. He won the Ascot and Hardwicke Stakes, the Challenge Plate, and Manchester November Handicap, carrying 9 st. 4 lb.

To obtain the most profitable application of the extension powers of a low and muscular stifle, a straight drop of the hind leg from the stifle to the pastern on the inside of the leg (see Persimmon, Victor Wild, and Isinglass) is required, in opposition to sickle-shaped or crooked hind leg, while on the outside the line should drop straight from rump to hock and thence to the ground, and not cut in below the rump and out again at the hock. This shape, by providing the longest lever on which to work, practically makes the utmost use of the good stifle extension. It is, moreover, as a rule, attended with flatter and broader tendons, and with wider and more powerful gaskins, both of which are most important in enabling the colt to withstand the great strain thrown on the hind legs by the action of the recovery and the renewed spring of the gallop. Note Persimmon, Victor Wild, Milford, as nearly perfection on this point, and *per contra* Curzon, and to some extent Velasquez, Princess Melton, and Ard Patrick. There should be no cut in below the rump, but the line (see photograph) should run down straight to the hock and thence to the ground.

The photograph of Persimmon, taken as a three-year-old shortly after he had won the Derby, is happily the beau ideal of a racer, from whom many racing points of excellence may be demonstrated. Though he appears to be high on his legs, he is not so. He is remarkable for the great depth from withers to brisket—in addition to which we find in him a *perfectly* made straight hind leg, both from stifle to pastern and from rump to same, with attendant good gaskins, a low and well-developed stifle, a long and extra perpendicularity of the humerus,

a free elbow and a good shoulder, and a light well-put-on head and neck. No lumber whatever in front on the shoulder, short neck, good loins, and excellent quarters. He further possesses the triangular wedge between girth and brisket, and is not too broad between the legs in front. No more perfect model for a practical exposition of excellent racing points could be desired.



PERSIMMON AS A THREE-YEAR-OLD (No. 7).

In his daughter, Sceptre, this formation is beautifully carried out, and also in the half-sister, La Flèche. It is not so well established in the Duke of Westminster, and still less so in Ard Patrick. It may be, moreover, noted that most of the horses which improve by age possess this quality to a marked degree—*e.g.*, Clorane and Victor Wild.

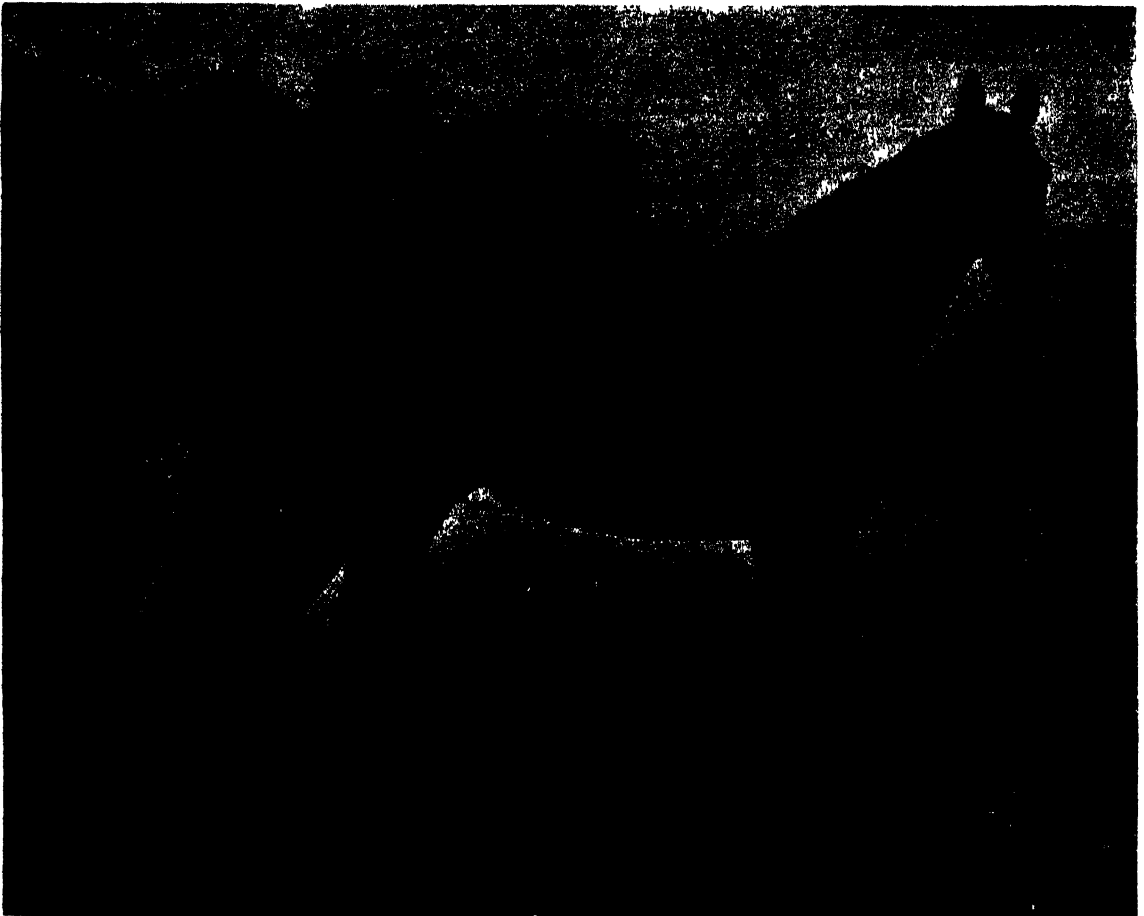
On the other hand, weak and slack loins and short mean quarters give a weak impulse, and result in a correspondingly slower strike and recovery. Seaport is placed here to give an example of a short quarter and a long body, and weakish loins. He has, moreover, a horizontal humerus, though with good sloping shoulders; hind legs weak, standing away from the body, and not over straight. He forms a marked contrast in form to Whittier, Eager, and Quarrel.



SEAPORT. BY GALLIARD—SEASHELL (No. 13).

The photograph of Seaport, the well-known public performer and favourite, shows clearly his very powerful quarters and loins, great barrel, good stifle and humerus, though rather straightish slope of shoulder, straight drop of hind leg, short back, and compactly built on lines indicating great speed. He does not, however, possess the wedge-shaped triangle which generally accompanies staying powers between girth and brisket, but has a rounded barrel throughout, and hence his wonderful performances were confined to about a mile. He won the Rous Memorial Stakes twice. Brighton Cup, &c.

It is fitting here, as an example of the above, to put in the great St. Simon, as he now stands at the stud—the most remarkable stallion of the day, if not of all time. It is difficult to compare an old horse's various points of excellence with others, but the good stifle, powerful and muscular hind legs, grand quarters and loins, short back, grand slope to shoulder, good humerus, free elbow, and long forehead, are a wonderful combination to be found in one horse. The photograph of him in training furnishes an excellent model on the study of racing form.



ST. SIMON. BY GALOPIN—ST. ANGELA (No. 11).

The extra excellence of one of these three cardinal points may counterbalance to some extent the deficiency in one of the others. The extra loin power, with its greater vigour and rapidity of strike, may balance the shorter stride. The longer stride may equally be reduced in effect by a slightly slower strike. A sickle-shaped or crooked hind leg may, with an extra long and low and muscular stifle, be accompanied with great speed, when assisted with fairly powerful loins, as was notably the case with the gelding Curzon, whose very crooked hind legs were counterbalanced by about the lowest and most muscular stifle I have ever seen on a horse.

One has, however, to remember, that very powerful loins (as in Quarrel and Eager), with the consequent rapidity of the strike, though attended by a shorter stride, may balance the combination of a longer and freer stride, when the latter is accompanied by a want of lasting power or a slightly slower stroke.

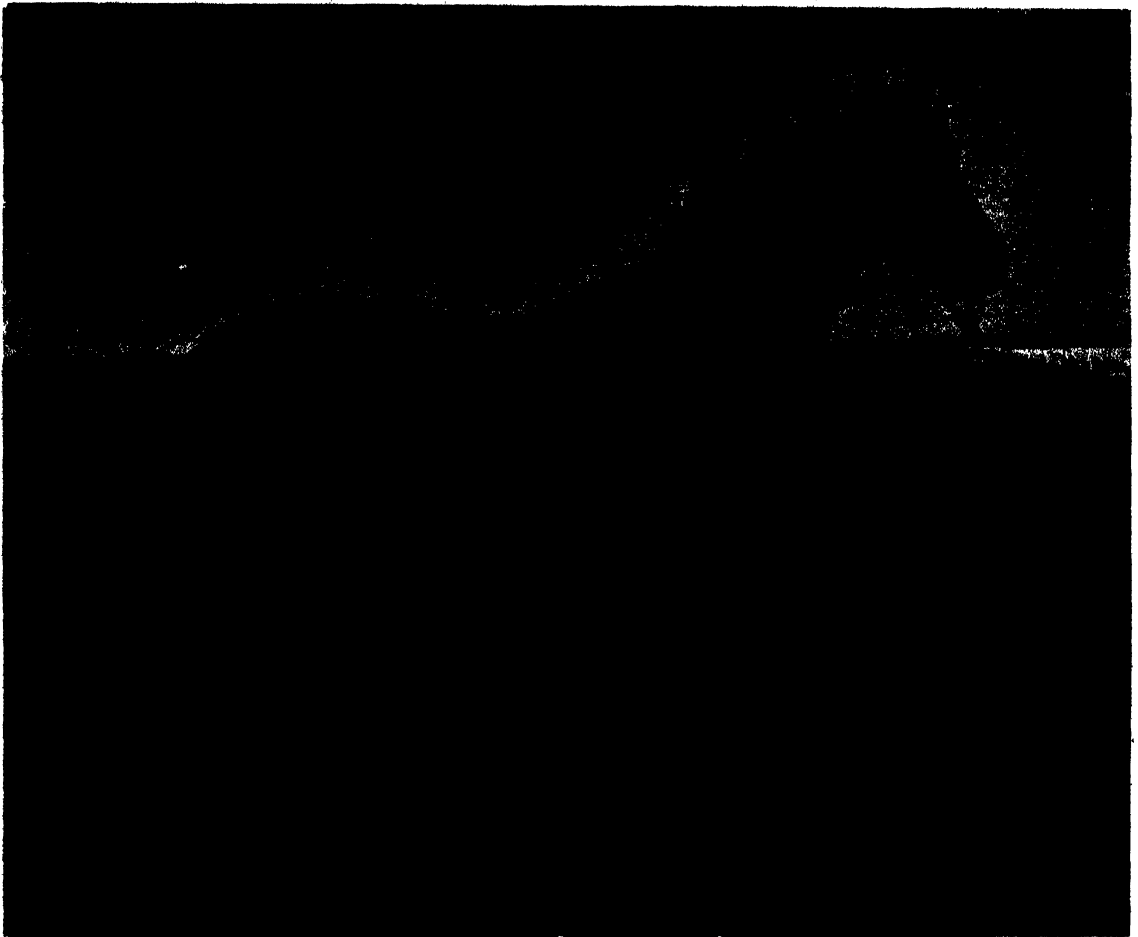
The old toy jumping frog may be cited as an example of the best exposition of these forces. The hind legs well tucked under the



EAGER. BY ENTHUSIAST GREEBA. (No. 1.)

body, the long lever of wood placed under the frog, the strongly twisted string which, when let loose, furnishes the motive power of the jump, the action of the muscles of the loins and quarters in the propelling forward, and the after recovery of the extension. It may, however, be assumed as a truth, that no colt or filly, however long priced, will ever be first class without possessing these three cardinal and most important racing points :—Low and muscular stifle, perpendicular slope from shoulder to elbow, and large and free elbow bone, powerful loins, and fairly long quarters.

In Curzon we see illustrated the enormous advantage an extraordinarily low stifle possesses, even if to a certain extent neutralised by a very sickle-shaped hock; his hindquarters are fair, though mean-looking, and inclining towards a goose rump, probably from being half-bred, free elbow, indifferent humerus and fair shoulder, long forehead; a better racer while young, falling off with age. Had he possessed the straight drop of the hind leg, he would undoubtedly have made his mark as a first-class racer—one hard to beat by the very best. From such curiously-shaped animals arises the origin of the remark, so

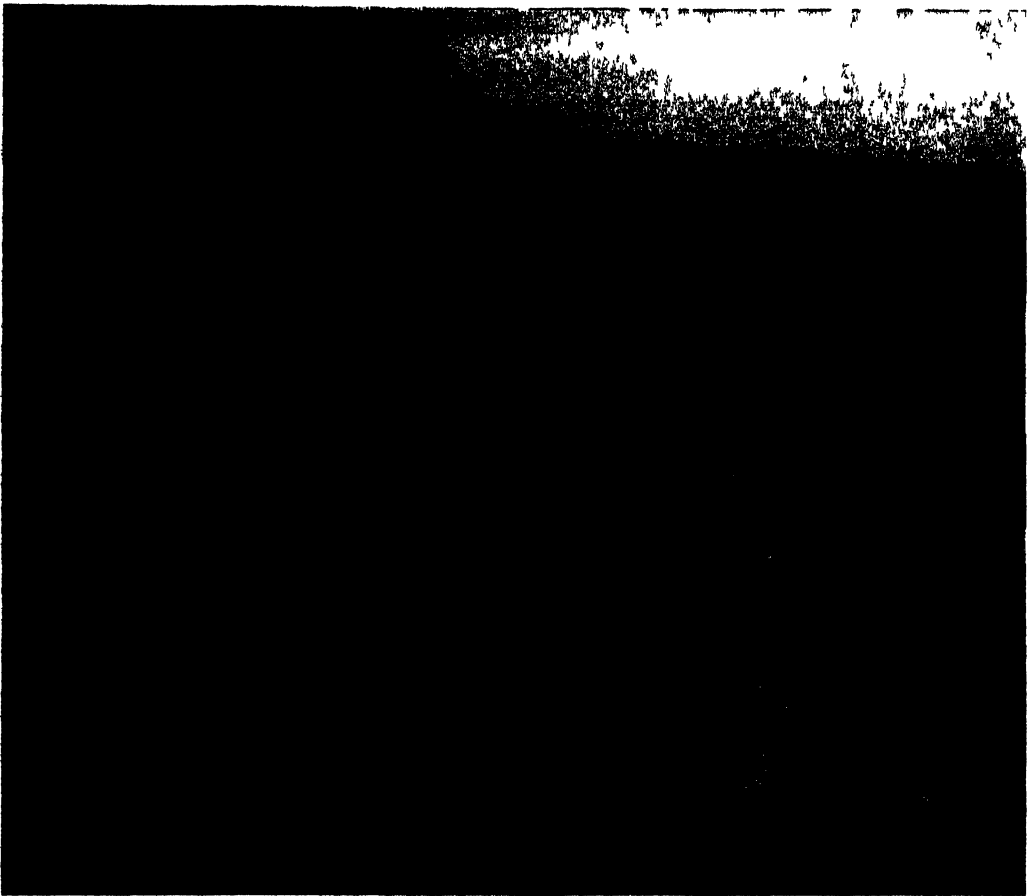


CURZON. BY OCEAN WAVE—TIB. (Half-bred.)

often made and quoted, that horses run in all shapes; a fact which may be somewhat true as regards second and third rate, but never as regards the first class of racehorses.

Curzon won several races as a two-year-old, displaying great speed. He, to the astonishment of the racing public, ran second in the Derby, and was only beaten by half a length by Sir Visto, the winner. He, however, gradually fell off, till at last his performances were very second-rate.

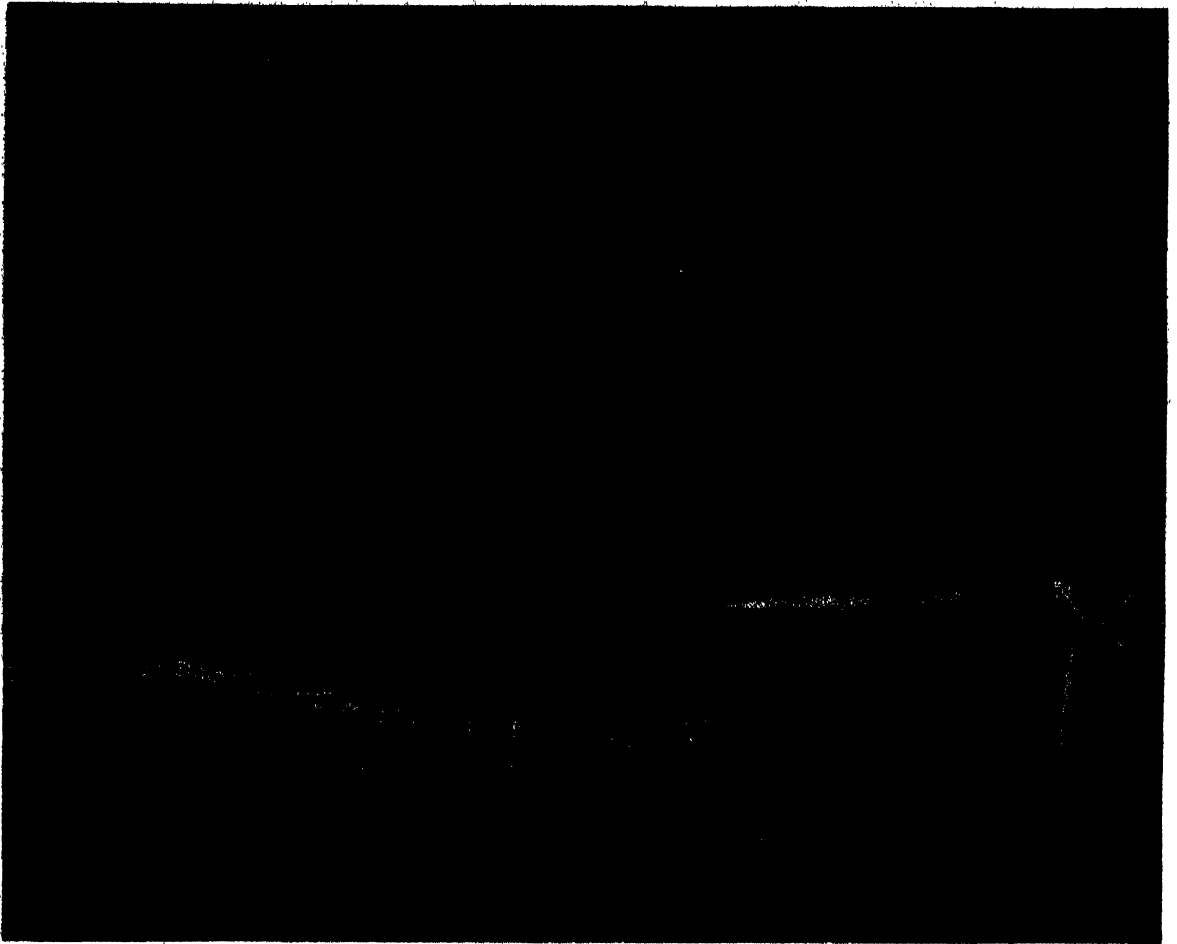
Milford, on the other hand, is almost the reverse—an excellent quarter and perfect hind leg, but the stifle too high, humerus specially well placed, with good sloping shoulders, but too long in the back and wanting greatly in barrel—herring-gutted, in fact ; has just missed being an out of the way good racer. As it was, he won the Coventry, the Royal Two Year Old, and the July Stakes.



MILFORD. BY SARABAND—COLLEEN BAWN (No. 3)

A tucked up, or herring-gutted, animal may be exceptionally speedy from the possession of other good points, but can never become a stayer. Milford may be quoted as an example of an extremely well-made horse, more or less handicapped by the excessive want of depth in his back rib and loin. Horses so made are rarely, if ever, good stayers, while many are apparently beaten from the result of their bowels not having sufficient space for free action, and hence, under the excitement of the coming race, they suffer, not only discomfort, but seemingly actual stitch and pain ; they sweat, get loose, and are practically done up before the race has begun.

The body should be short, to give strength to the loins ; the old but excellent maxim is practically founded on true lines, and that is, that the measurement of the back, from the innermost point of the shoulder blade to the hip bone, should never exceed the length of the head, measured from the top of the forehead between the ears to the end of the nose. Should the measurement of the head fit into the back, and the quarter be long, a powerful loin may most reasonably be expected to follow. (See St. Frusquin, Quarrel, Eager.) In "Stonehenge" the

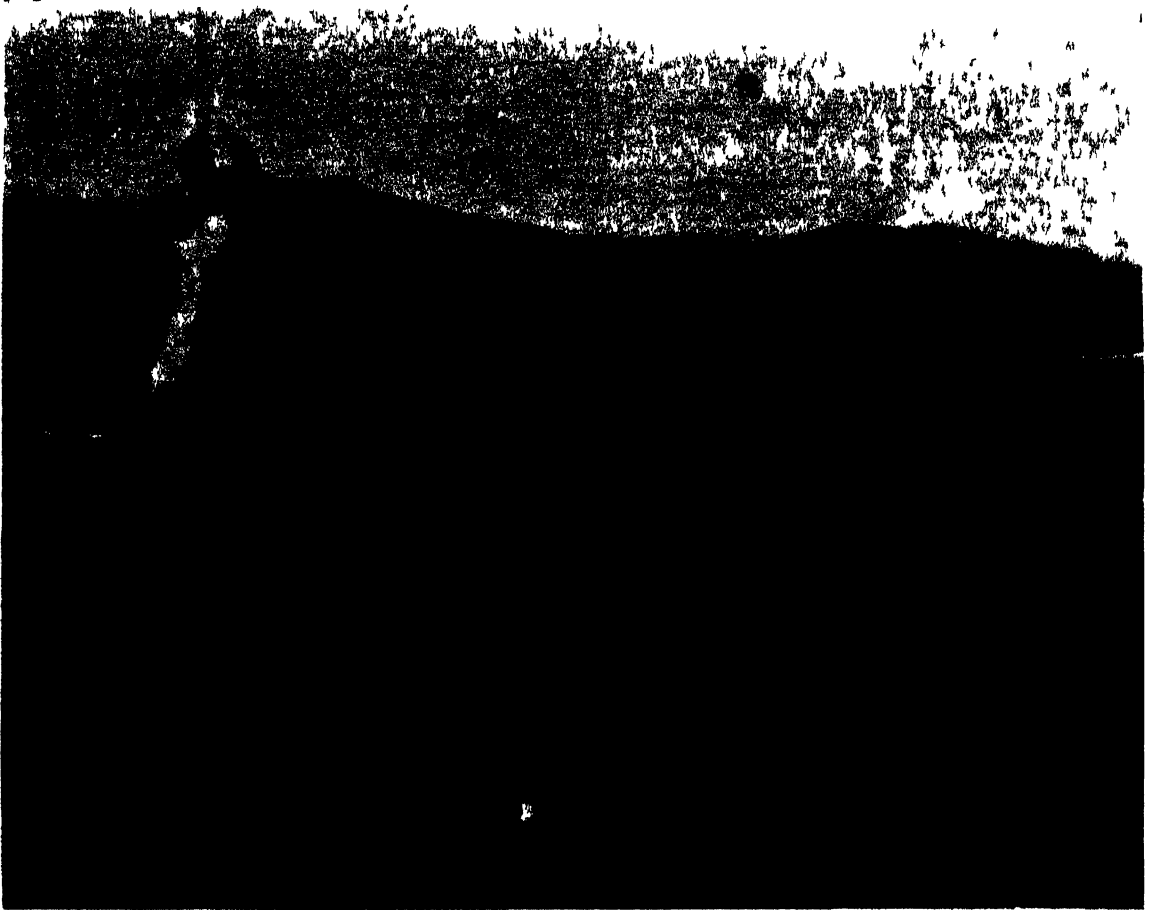


ST. FRUSQUIN. BY ST. SIMON—ISABEL (No. 22).

examination of six picked horses, all carefully selected for the purpose, disclosed the fact that the measurements of the two, head and back, agreed exactly.

St. Frusquin has a particularly short back, for which he is here placed as an example ; he possesses, however, also a turned out stifle, an excellent point, very good humerus and shoulder. He won many races, the Two Thousand and Princess of Wales' Stakes of £10,000 at Newmarket, and was probably the equal of Persimmon—the two best horses of the year.

There should be no lumber or flesh in front of the shoulder, and but little on the shoulder itself ; while the withers should be fairly flat, and tolerably lean, not loaded ; *vide* Isinglass, Persimmon, and Velasquez as excellent examples. A racehorse with a loaded shoulder may be fast, and possibly win races, so long as he has not been pressed for any length of time at his top speed ; but if forced to gallop at such for any distance he tires quickly, and gets beaten ; is, in fact, chopped ; and, as a rule, he quickly degenerates, even if he had ever possessed speed as a youngster, into a very indifferent and disappointing performer.



LORD WILLIAM. BY POULET.

If the point of the shoulder just as the horse has passed one in walking shows itself prominently, and catches the eye, a stilted and fettered action of the fore-legs may be expected to follow.

To illustrate these remarks by examples. One, Lord William, who was at one time considered good enough to start for the Derby, is given as a pattern to be avoided, as his humerus is not only short throughout, but the shoulder and forehand are loaded with flesh, with the point of the former far too prominent, thus presenting a marked contrast to the other, Velasquez.

Velasquez, on the other hand, forms a most perfect example of the reverse, that is, in the possession of a very excellent forehand. His withers are also what they should be, well marked and developed, but not over much, and comparatively fine and clean, not burdened with too much flesh.

Velasquez was dominated as a three-year-old by Galtee More, though the writer greatly doubts whether this superiority would have held good the following year. Velasquez, like Persimmon, furnishes us with an



VELASQUEZ By DONOVAN—VISTA (No. 4).

excellent model on which to illustrate certain racing points. Front part perfect ; long and perpendicular humerus ; free elbow ; good shoulder and forehand ; very short back—all as good as could be desired. Good stifle ; but, though his hind leg is extremely well let down, it is not quite straight enough in formation. This and his slightly loose rump are his only deficiencies. The particular notice of the reader is requested to the position of the humerus, and its proportionate length to that of the shoulder-blade.

A long forehead and well-shaped and fairly sloping pasterns add greatly to the comfort of the rider, and the latter to the action of the horse. They are indispensable for chargers, but not so for racers. For staying purposes a deep chest, coming well down between the legs and forming, as it were, a sort of triangular apex near the girth, and loose at elbow even if accompanied with a narrow chest in front, is preferable to a rounded-up barrel shape in front of girths, and a broad chest in front between the legs. (See Persimmon.)

The barrel or waist just in front of the hip bone should be large and deep, as in Quarrel. Quarrel revels in a very short and powerful



QUARREL. BY DISCORD—FREE AND EASY (No. 4).

back and quarter, a grand barrel, excellent stifle, good hind leg, but not so perfectly let down as Milford or Victor Wild; very fair humerus and one of very good slope, only fair shoulder. He represents a particularly well-knit and powerfully put together horse. He won the Royal Hunt Cup.

As in Ravensbury, Le Var, Grig, and Eager, it may be noticed also in Quarrel that the slope of the shoulder is not so pronounced as in many other horses—St. Simon, Bend Or, &c.

The knee should be large and broad, and the tendon below the knee should not be tied in, but be broad and clearly defined.

A well put on and well-balanced neck is a desideratum ; if the neck is too short it is often attended with loaded shoulders, and seems to render the animal more liable to roaring ; with too long a neck, a horse seems more disposed to tire in a long gallop.

Small and thick nostrils and a narrow forehead are to be avoided. Large, open, and thin nostrils seem to be necessary for the free and easy respiration of the racer, when moving at full speed.

A broad forehead and jowl are good accessories, as they are generally attributes of an honest and trustworthy animal.

All the above good points, making up the excellence of a first-class racehorse, are, however, set at nought by temper. For this purpose a careful examination of the eye should be made. If the eyes are small and piggish, or the eyebrows heavy and the eye sulky-looking, temper and obstinacy will often prevent the colt from ever becoming a satisfactory purchase ; on the other hand, a too large and prominent eye (a buck eye) will indicate him to be a bit wild and headstrong, if not impetuous. If, on further examination, the eyebrows have a habit or trick of wrinkling themselves up into the top corner of his forehead in a gnarled and creasy knot, especially with a sudden and impulsive action, the colt or filly is unmistakably nervous, timid, shifty, and unreliable. The very first punishment the colt may receive will, in all probability, ruin him as a racer, and turn him into a welcher, one cutting it on all occasions, especially when the last struggle has to be fought out. Such a one should not be purchased except by those who can afford to run the chance of his losing races from currishness or timidity which he could otherwise win.

As the colt walks past, note if his hind foot steps up to or beyond the impression left by his fore foot : if well beyond and slightly outside, while the forelegs move also freely forward with a sort of swing, and the hoof moves well in front of the point of the shoulder, his action will probably be good at all paces. For it is an old but practically true proverb or maxim that a good walker can always be depended upon to be able to gallop.

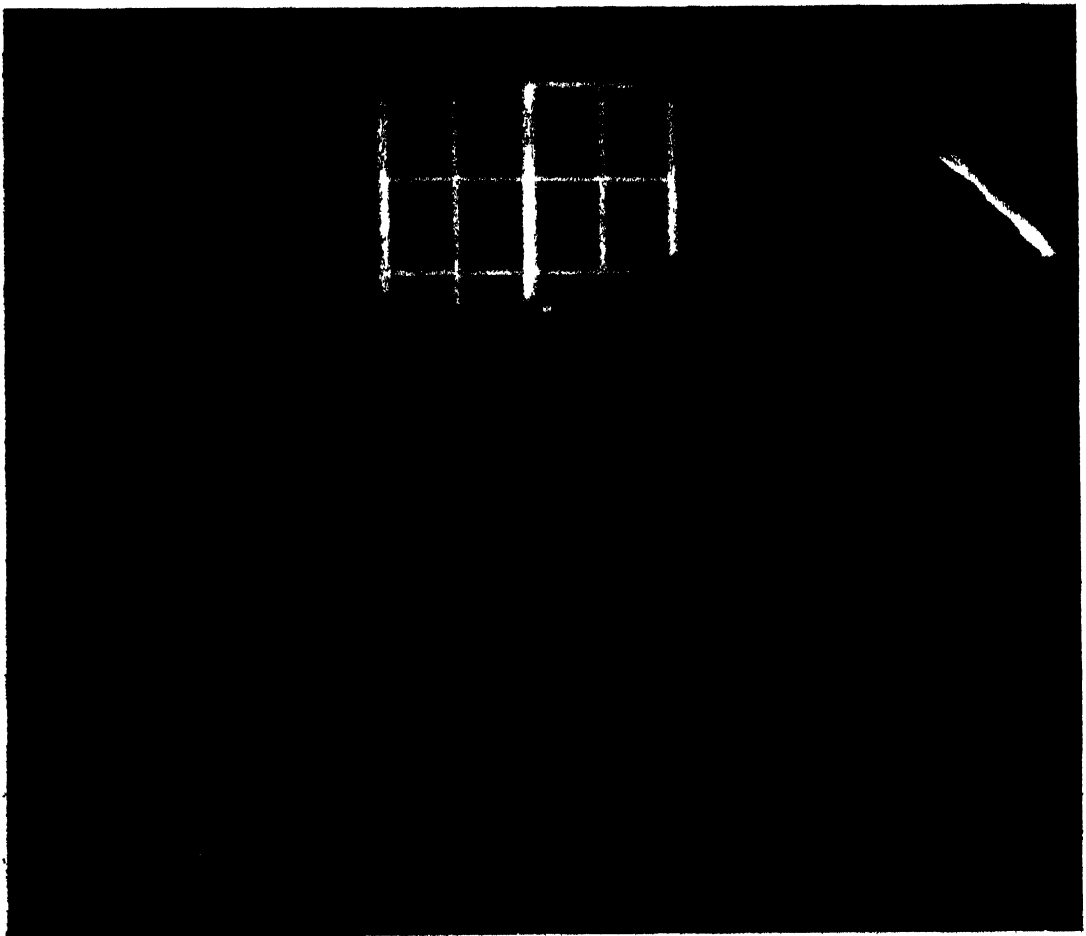
An old trainer remarked, that a horse who oversteps his forefeet to a great degree never could stay ; but the writer disbelieves this.

Having pleased yourself with the look and shape of the colt, then have him galloped past, if you can. His hind legs should come well under him (well tucked under), and the action of the fore-legs should not be high or fighting, as such rapidly tires out a racer; the action should be low, level, and smooth, and well extended.

It has often been noted that a small horse cannot hold its own against the bigger in the run home, as in the case of *The Bard*: this is due, I believe, to the fact that horses, like men, try, in racing alongside of each other, to keep up stride for stride with their competitor, and in so doing the smaller or shorter striding horses out-stride themselves in the effort, and either tire from this unwonted action, or find themselves unable from the overstretch to gather themselves up again as quickly as usual, and so get beaten. In fact, the small horses which run successfully against the bigger are generally such as have a very quick, smooth, but short stride; those, in fact, who have found out early for themselves the uselessness of trying to keep step, as it were, and hence go on in their own gait, undisturbed by any outside influence. The great breadth of the race-courses nowadays should, in the straight runs, obviate this source of discomfort to the smaller horse. As a kind of illustration of the above, the writer had an Arab pony who could gallop half a mile in fifty-four seconds, and could win races against ponies in about that time; he had then also an Arab galloway in the stable, who could never do the half mile under fifty-six seconds; when he won a race it was always slightly over that time; but when the two were tried and run together, the galloway invariably won in the longer time. Similarly, the very small Arabs who did win the long distance open handicaps in India—as *Greyleg*, *Little Wonder*, &c., &c.—had, one and all, a short, skimming, quick gallop, so short as to force them to go their own gait, regardless of the stride of the bigger horses.

With the combination of the first three points—low and muscular stifle, good slope from point of shoulder to elbow, with large and free elbow joint, and a short back and good quarters—a good racing colt may be fully depended upon, even if without possession of some of the other more or less minor points. To rise to the very top of the tree, some of the minor points will require to be added to the combination.

Flying Fox, by Orme—Vampire (No. 7), another grand horse, continuing the succession of from father to son, is, like Orme, built upon finer lines, though not so grandly powerful as those of his sire and his grandsire, Ormonde and Bend Or. He cleared the turf in his career : the Two Thousand, the Derby, and the St. Leger all fell to his prowess, besides the £10,000 races of the year. On his noble owner's death he was sold for the enormous sum of £37,000, unhappily to go to France. His points are all equally good, no one of them outvieing the other, but all in unison. A grand stifle ; a well marked, very straight hind leg ; a well let down, long and well-placed humerus, good shoulder, short back, deep brisket (the only possible improvement would be a very slight addition to length of quarter), a well put on neck, handsome head, and fine steady-looking eye.



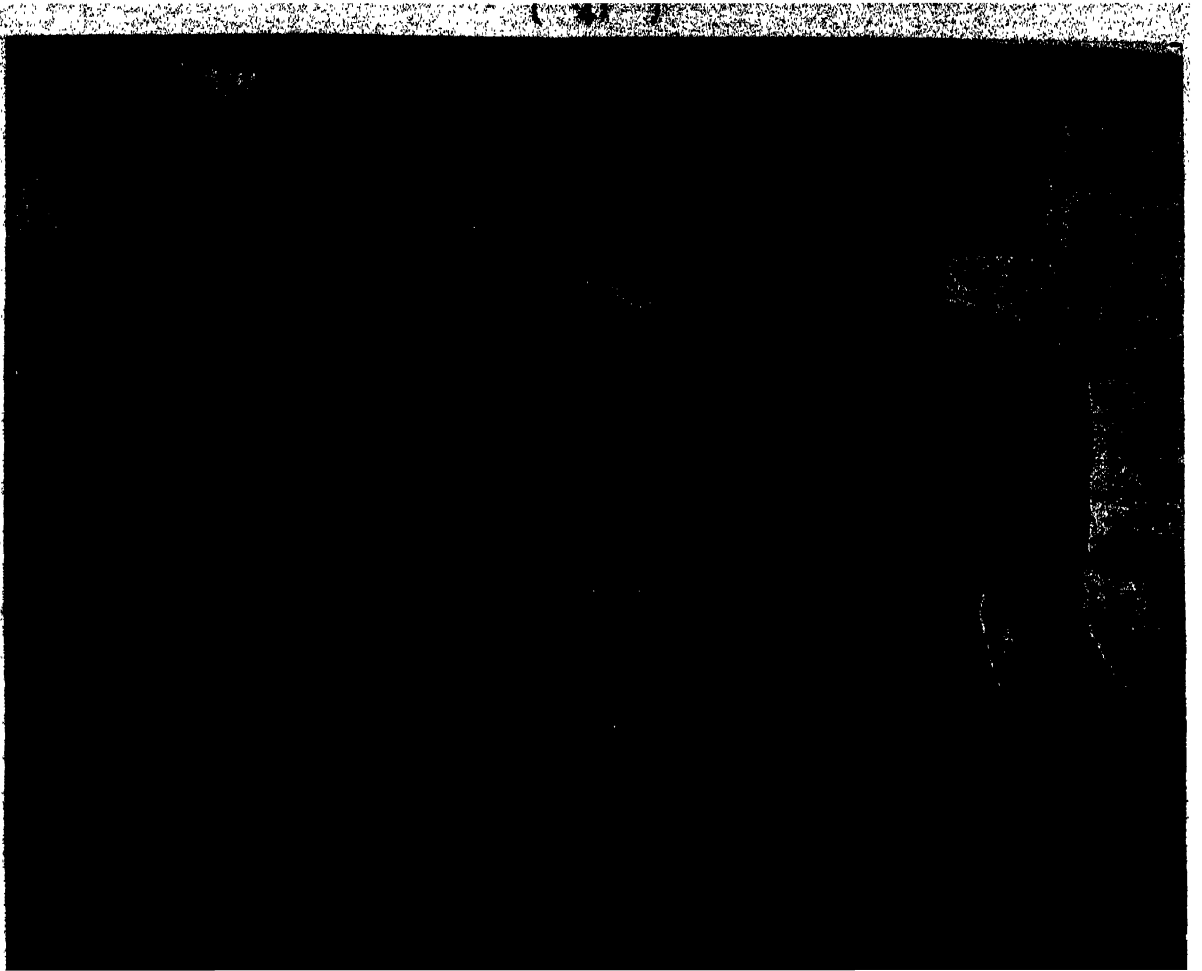
FLYING FOX. By ORME—VAMPIRE.



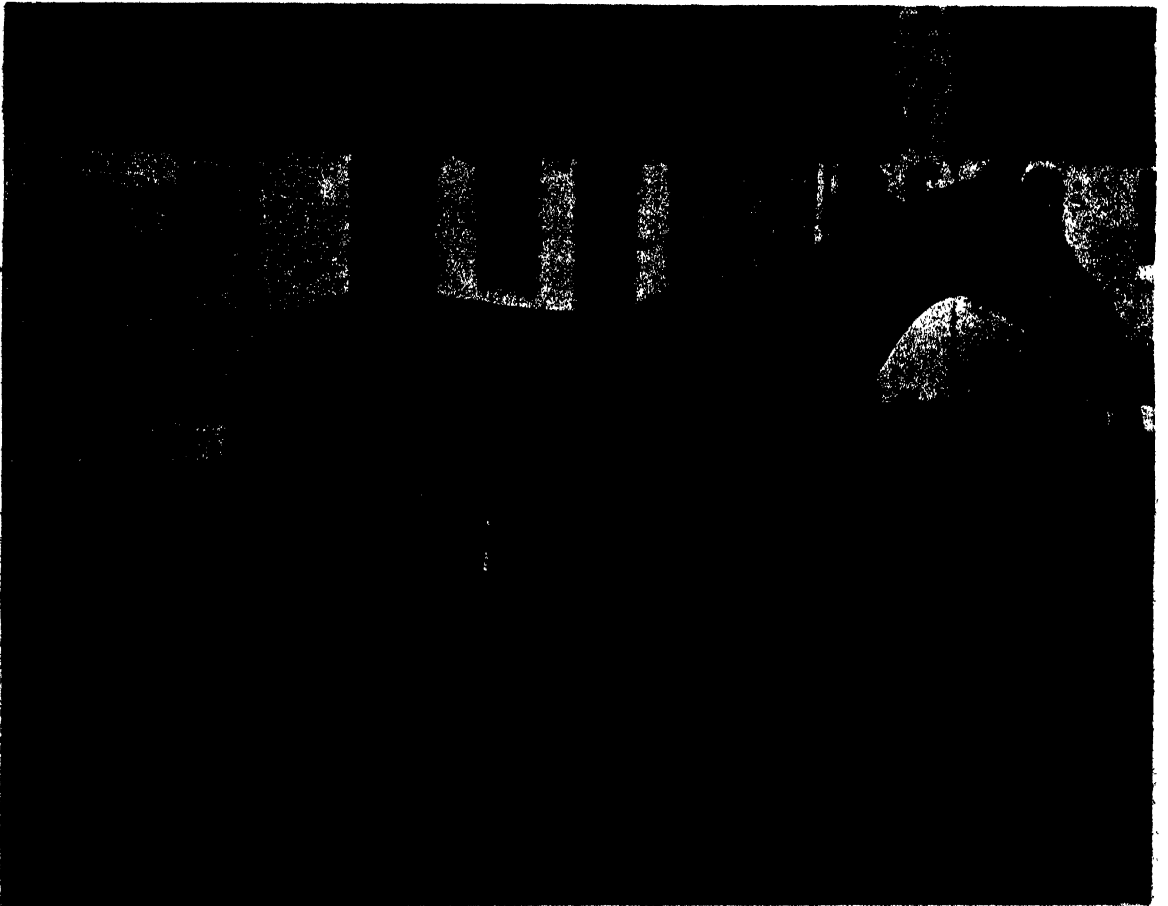
AMBERITE. BY GALOPIN—CARTRIDGE (No. 24).



GLEN STIRLING. BY ESTERLIN—GLENKISK



DILEMMA. By MELTON—MABEL EMMA (No. 1).



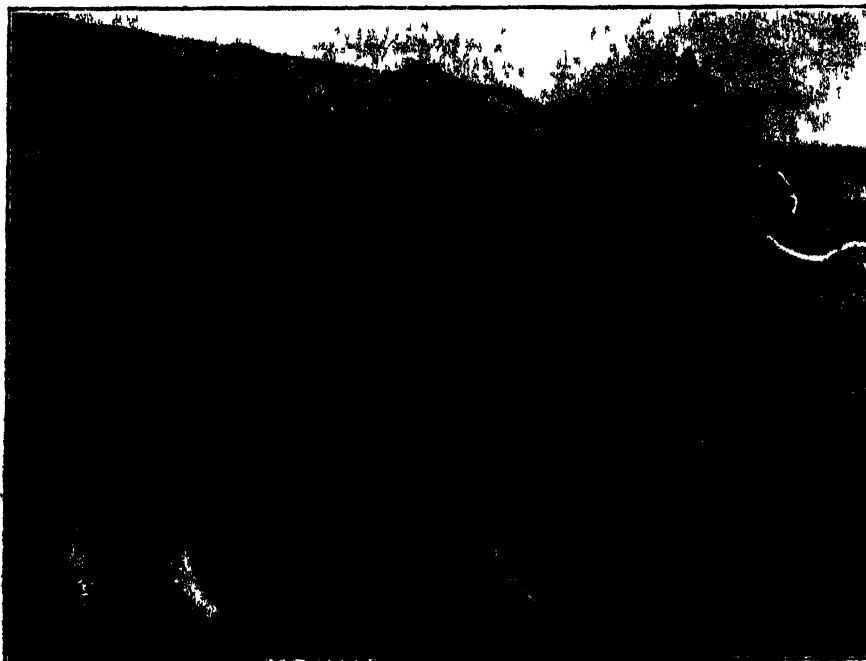
CALAISAND. SILVERMAN—PHILIPPA (No. 18).

As an interesting study the portraits of three ponies, each winners of their class, are put in evidence.

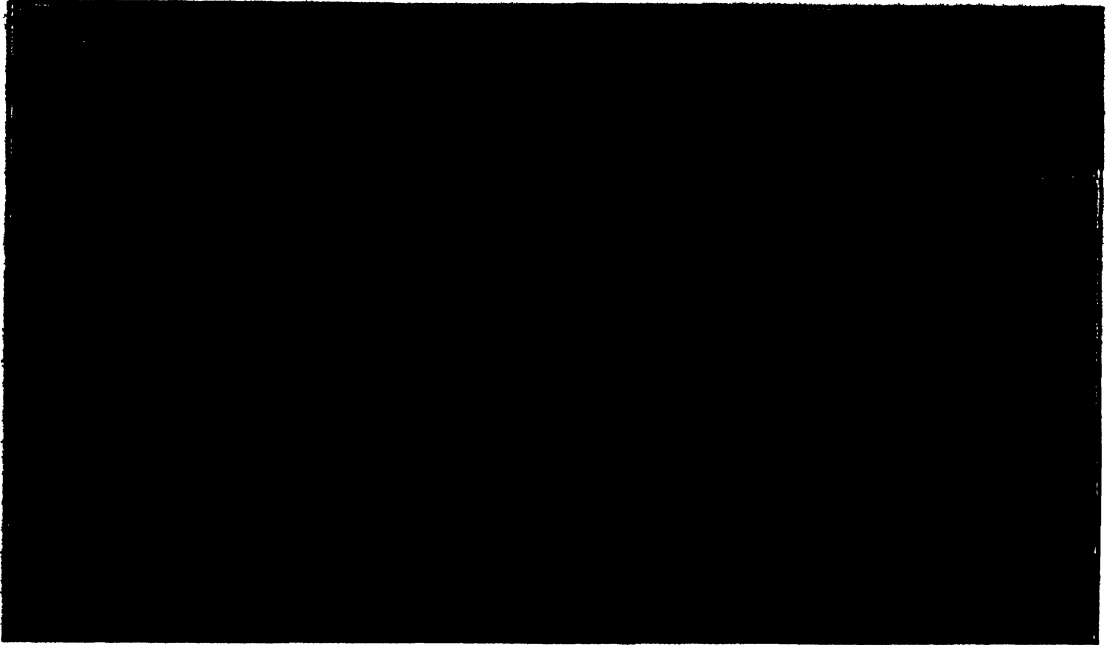
The Arab pony, Mootrub, the winner in this country of many prizes, was purchased by the writer out of the Bombay Arab stables shortly after he had been landed from Nejd. He possesses, for an Arab, a wonderfully long forehead and shoulder, beautiful head, grand loins and quarters. He was very speedy and powerful in his stride, and is the model of the best blood Arab.

Rosewater, by Rosicrucian—Lady Day (No. 11), in reality a dwarf thoroughbred, is well known over all England as a champion pony stallion, and from shape and quality is well worthy of his position.

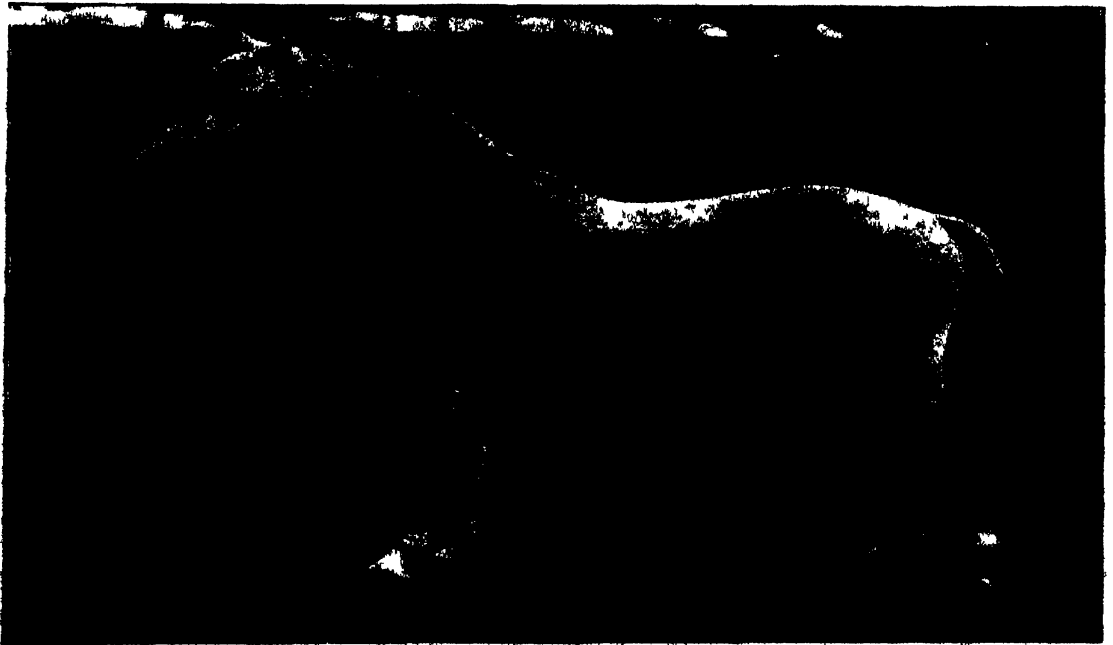
The third, Starlight, is a wonderful specimen of a Welsh mountain pony; he is only 11-2½ hands high. He has a grand shoulder, wonderfully so for such a class, straight hind legs, and generally all round is well worthy of all the honours. He has taken three Champion medals and many first-class prizes. He was bred by his owner, H. Meuric Lloyd, Esq., Glanyranell, Carmarthenshire.



MOOTRUB—ARAB PONY



ROSE WATER. BY ROSICRUCIAN—LADY DAY (No 11).



STARLIGHT—WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY.

By permission of Royal Agricultural Society.

To wind up the subject of the study of true conformation, the portraits of two celebrated mares, Atalanta and Mowerina, are given first.

Atalanta, by Galopin—Feronia (No. 8), half-sister to St. Serf, Childwick, &c., has chiefly distinguished herself as the dam of Melanion, Ayrshire, and Troon.

Mowerina, by Scottish Chief—Stockings (No. 7), won the Portland Plate, but has become better known as the dam of the redoubtable Donovan, as also of Modwena, Semolina, and Raeburn—all first-class racehorses.

In succession to these two mares are placed likenesses of the most celebrated son of each—viz., Ayrshire, by Atalanta ; and Donovan, by Mowerina. These two are displayed at different ages of their career :—Ayrshire, (1) as a young colt ; (2) older ; and (3) still older, at the stud. Donovan, (1) as a young colt ; (2) older ; (3) at the stud.

Then follows the grand St. Simon, in three phases also :—(1) In training ; (2) as a young sire ; (3) as an older one ; while the latest portrait of him will be found on page 28 : four likenesses in all.

Next, four phases of Persimmon :—(1) As a two-year-old ; (2) as a three-year-old ; (3) of a later age ; and finally, as now at the stud. Another portrait of him forms also the Frontispiece.



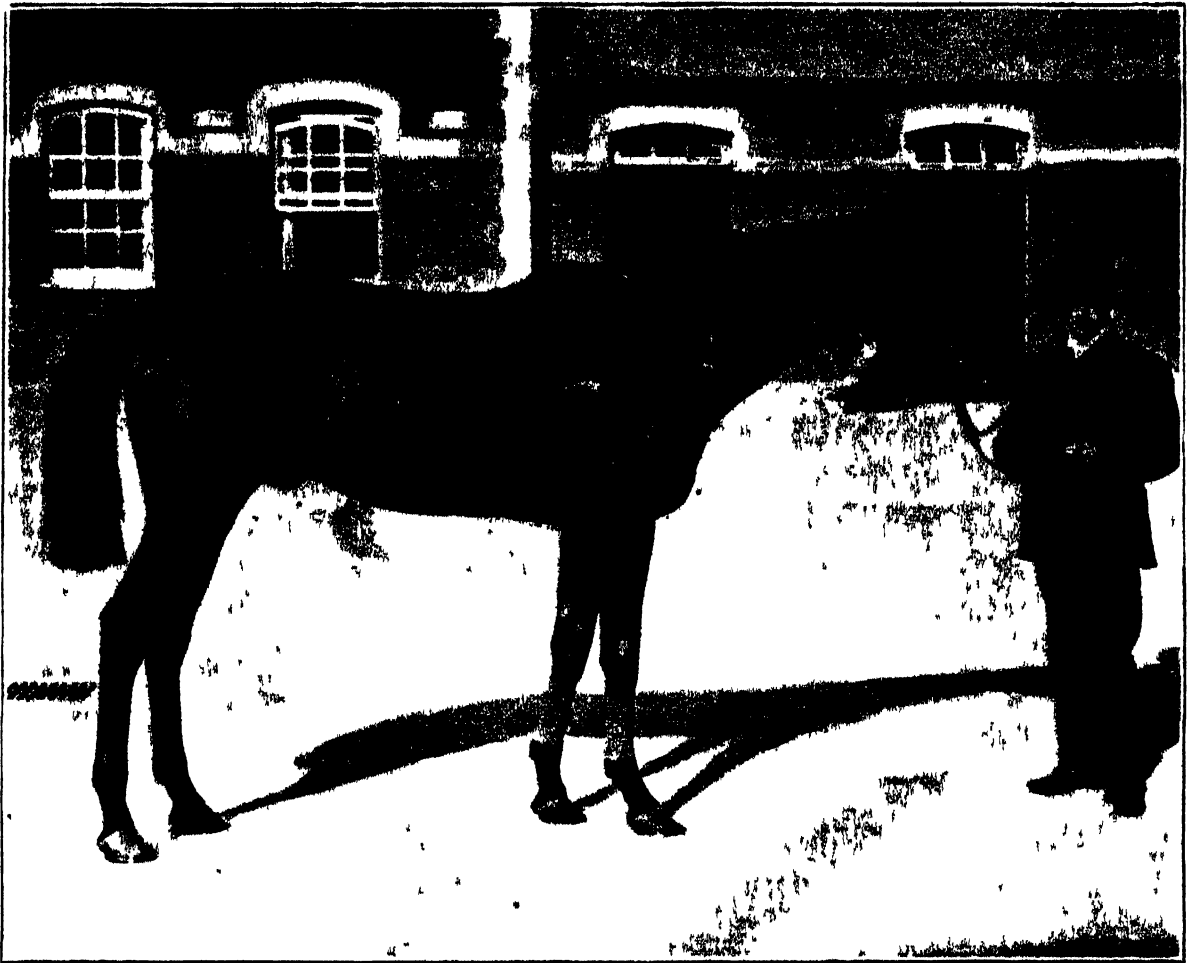
ATALANTA.



MOWERINA.

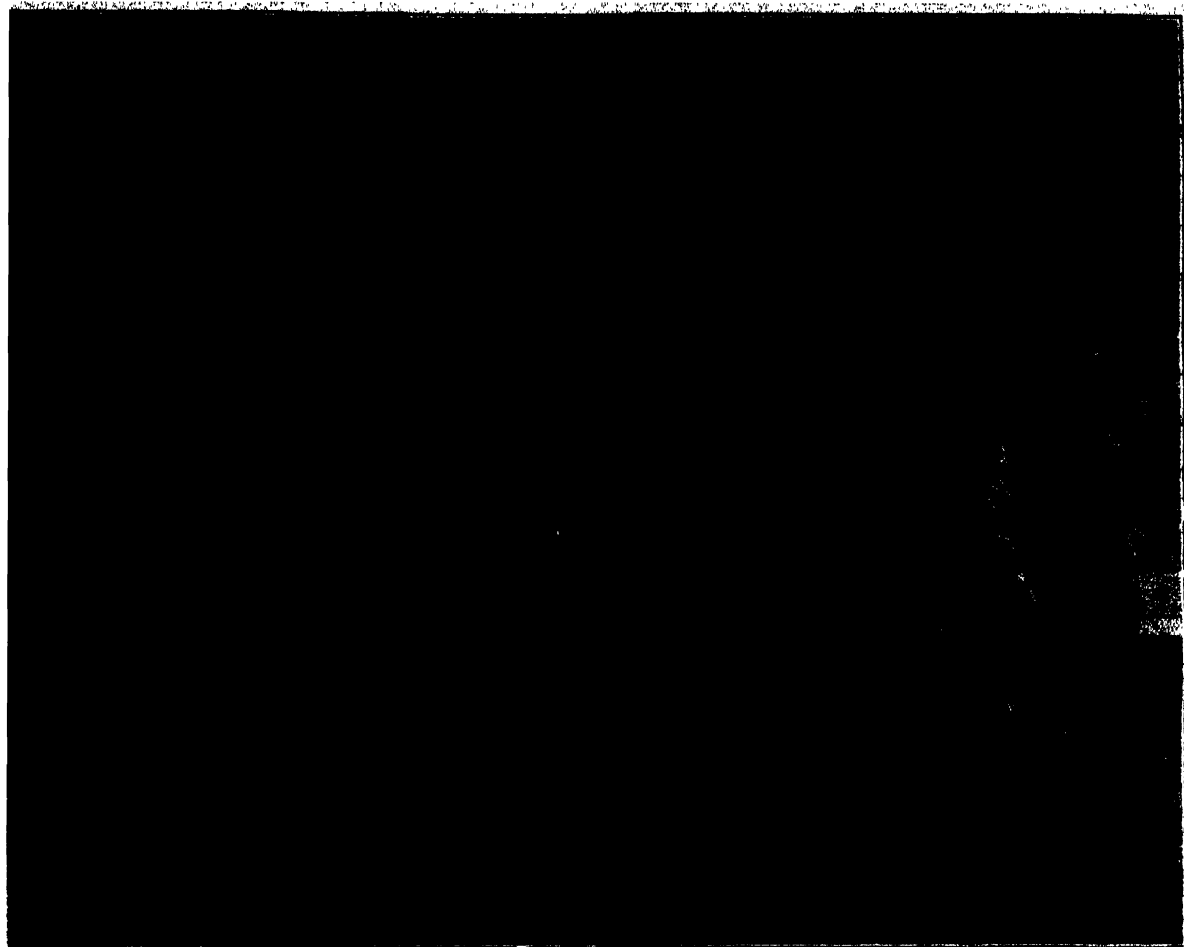
Here is given Atalanta's most successful offspring.

Ayrshire, by Hampton—Atalanta (No. 8), is shown in three phases of his career : first as a young colt while in training, but the portrait is very far from a good one, and much against his appearance ; the others are better exponents of the horse. He has a good stifle, very long humerus, well placed ; good shoulder ; hind legs fairly straight while

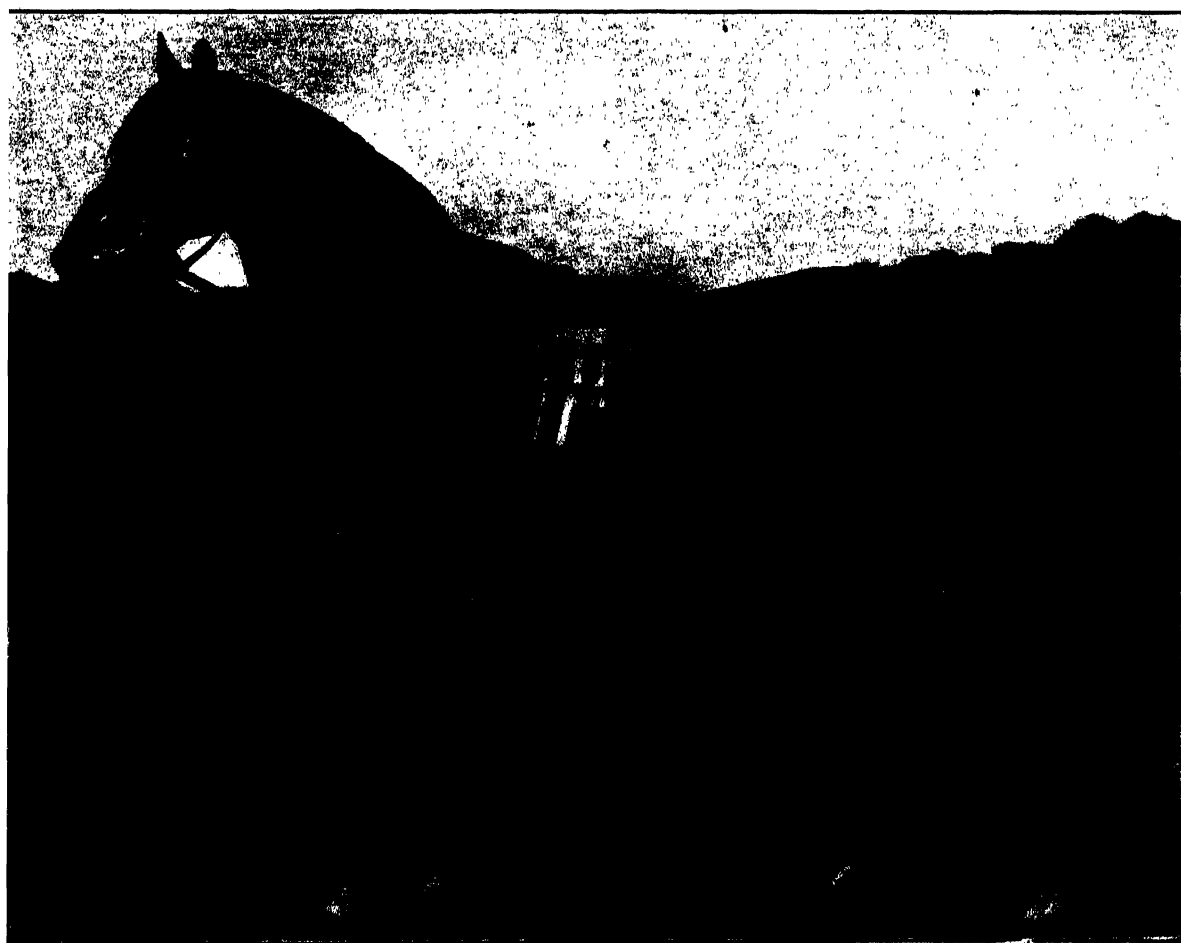


AYRSHIRE.

young, tending to sickle-shape when older ; but they are well let down ; is very muscular, good loins and quarters. He has not had the success at the stud which he was expected to attain, though he has sired some good offspring, as Airs and Graces, &c. He won the Two Thousand and Derby, and has lately improved his record as a sire.



AYRSHIRE.



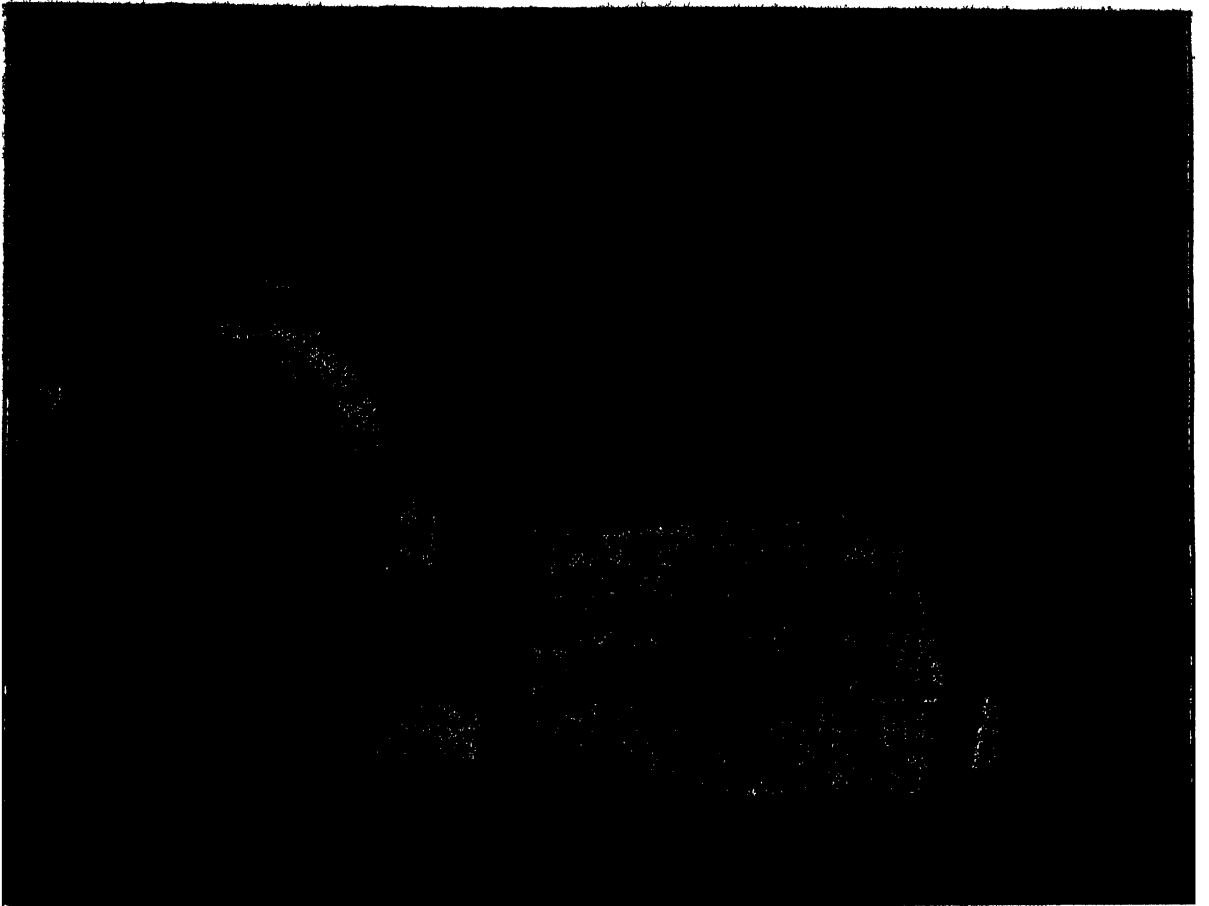
AYRSHIRE.

Donovan, by Galopin—Mowerina (No. 7), was a marvel on the turf at a time when the stakes were comparatively small, as he won, in only two years of running, a sum of no less than £55,153, an amount only exceeded by Isinglass, who was for four years on the turf, and won his greatest stakes as a four and five-year-old, taking not more than £24,000 in the first two years of racing. Donovan won not only the Derby and the St. Leger, but, what was even more remarkable, no less than eighteen out of the total of twenty-one races for which he



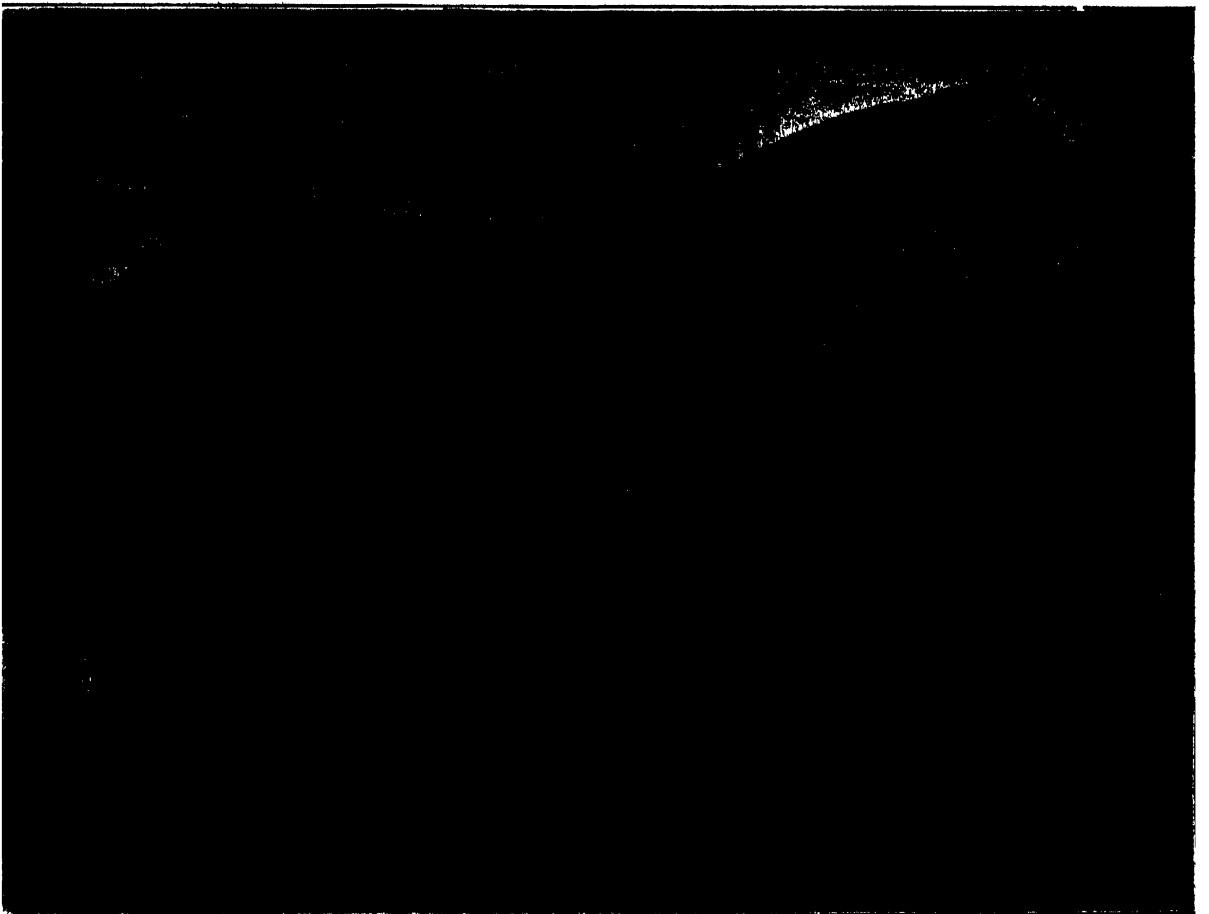
DONOVAN—MOWERINA'S MOST CELEBRATED SON.

contended. He has, however, not been so successful as others as a sire ; Velasquez, Matchmaker, and a few others represent him. His racing points are : a very low and excellent stifle, for which, in the first part of the book, he has been chosen as an example ; in addition to the above, he has a good and well-placed humerus, good shoulders, fine forehead, short back, good quarters, and a fairly straight and well-dropped hind leg. His portrait is here given in the different stages of his career. A fourth portrait of him is to be found on page 2.

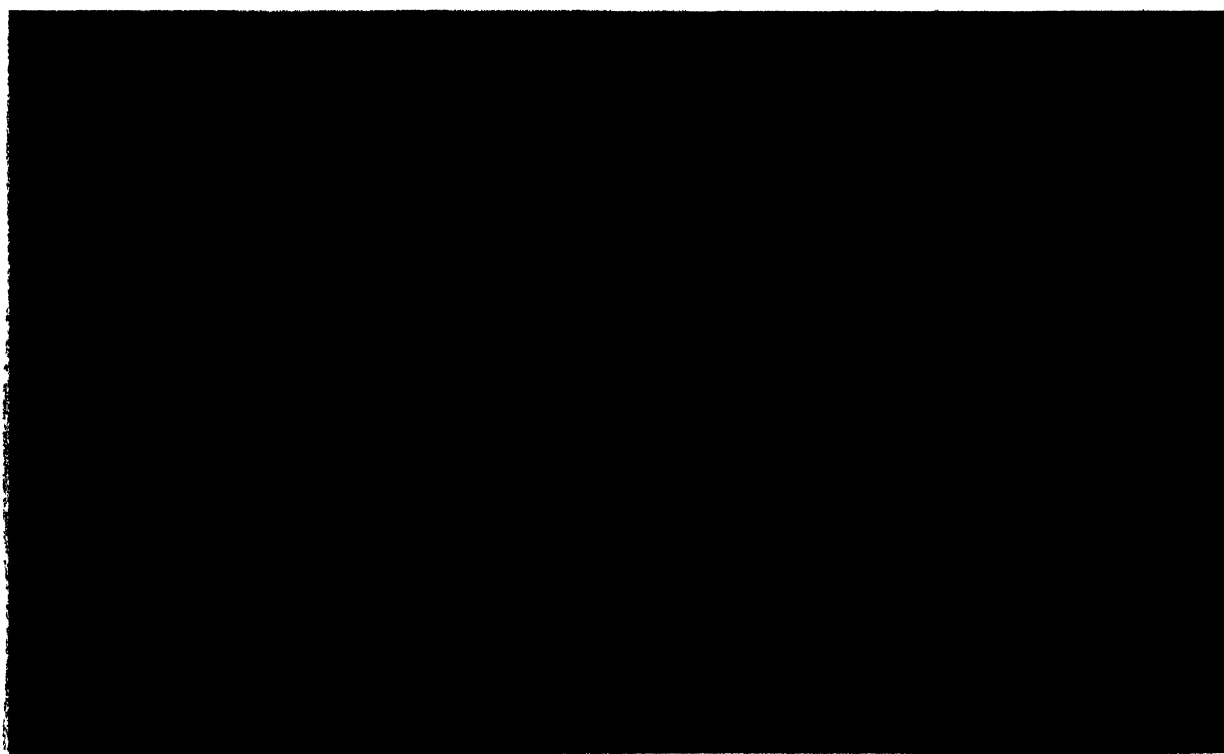


DONOVAN.

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DONOVAN.



St. Simon, by Galopin—St. Angela (No. 11), won the Ascot Gold Cup, the Goodwood Cup, and other races. He has, however, made for himself an extraordinary reputation as a sire. Some of his sons are :—

Adieu, dam Farewell.
Childwick, dam Plaisanterie.
Raconteur, dam Plaisanterie.
St. Serf, dam Feronia.
St. Frusquin, dam Isabel.
St. Maclou, dam Mimi.
Tarporley, dam Ruth.

Florizel II., dam Perdita II.	} Full brothers
Diamond Jubilee, dam Perdita II.	
Persimmon, dam Perdita II.	
Pekin, dam Lady Yardley.	
Raeburn, dam Mowerina.	
St. Florian, dam Palmflower.	
Simmontault, dam Datura.	

His daughters are many :—

Amiable, dam Tact.
Mrs. Butterwick, dam Miss Middlewick.
Semolina, dam Mowerina.
Saintly, dam Lonely.

Memoir, dam Quiver.
La Flèche, dam Quiver.
Signorina, dam Star of Portici.
St. Wendoline, dam Queen of the Spring.

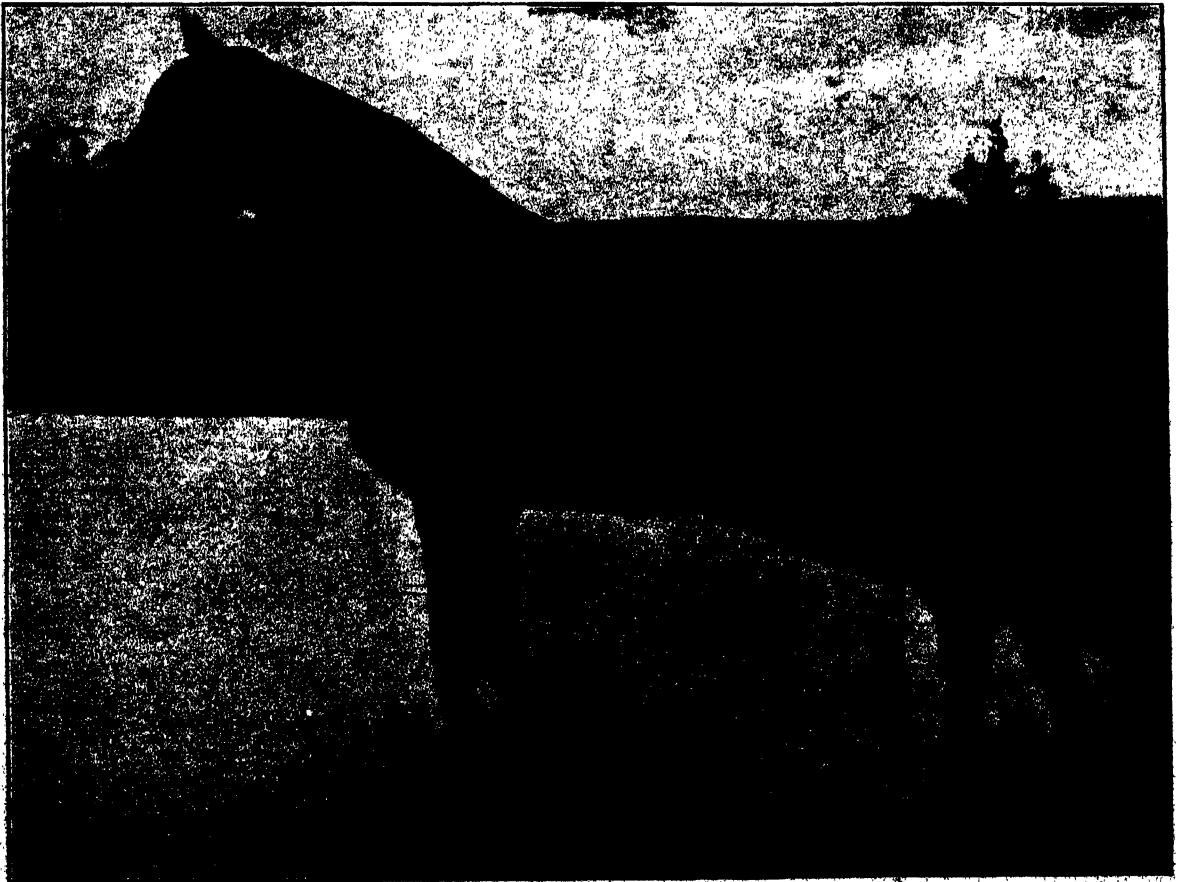
St. Simon is full brother to Angelica, the dam of Orme, and his points have already been described. A still older portrait of him is given, with a description of his points, in page 28.



ST. SIMON. BY GALOPIN—ST ANGELA.



ST. SIMON.



ST. SIMON.



PERSIMMON.



PERSIMMON.

PART II.

I AM rather opposed to the popular idea and acceptance of the term 'blood,' which is considered to be of such vital importance, and would rather depend upon shape and corresponding racing points. As these, however, are unquestionably more likely to be obtained from certain strains or families, it is very difficult to separate or diagnose between these two as to which is the correct interpretation—whether it is *blood* or *transmitted framework*, as the one more or less implies and comprises the other.

Osmer, a writer on form of racehorses, says on form and performance:—"For if a different formation of the parts, &c., and the degree thereof, be not the cause of difference in the performance, why, then, one of these horses, of the right blue blood, would act alike on all ground whatever and be just as good, though made like a hog. Conqueror and Othello were two full brothers, but one was a king and the other a beggar, with respect both to form and action. If, then, the difference in the performance of these brothers did not depend upon their different formation of parts, &c., pray tell me on what did it depend, for the cause of it could not be in the blood, unless you say this innate quality may appertain to one brother and not to another; and then, I apprehend, the bystanders will say, you have proved nothing."

Isinglass and Islington are full brothers, and yet the one was the best of his year, the other of little account; so also were Orvieto, Laveno, and Ortolo. The first two, great horses, one good enough to win a £10,000 stake, and other races, the third, Ortolo, nothing; and many other instances might be quoted. Their blood, as Osmer remarks, must be the same, and the difference in their performances can only depend upon the difference of their making up and the putting together of their framework.

First-class racers, no matter what their blood may be, or from what brood mare taken out of the forty odd mares quoted in Mr. Alison's book on the Figure System they may have been begotten, must have

possessed true racing points of excellence to start with, and unquestionably some of them have (as for instance, Galopin and St. Simon) possessed the innate faculty, or prepotency so-called, in a much greater degree than others, of transmitting not only their blood, but, what is more practically important, their racing framework : in fact, they have stamped their true racing points on their sons and daughters in a remarkable way ; hence the superiority of so many of their offspring. Similarly the Bend Or family, with Ormonde, Orme, Flying Fox, also appear to possess this innate power of transmitting what?—merely blood—or shape and framework?

How is it that so many racers of great excellence—as Gladiateur, Ayrshire, and the memorable Donovan—as stallions mated with noted mares, have not proved themselves to be so useful in the stud as others, except that, though they naturally must transmit their blue blood, they do not possess to an equal degree with some others the innate faculty of impressing and stamping their shape or racing points of excellence upon their offspring? Curiously enough, while Gladiateur himself did not so distinguish himself, his son, Gladiator, has made a remarkable record as a sire.

When we examine St. Simon's efforts, though it is true that he serves only a very choice collection of mares, we discover some extraordinary capabilities. Firstly, in the success of his connection with Perdita II. ; the results in offspring are Florizel II., Persimmon, Sandringham, Diamond Jubilee, and Nadejda ; while the produce of the same mare, Perdita II., by other stallions were poor racers. Secondly, by the numerous offspring of first-rate talent which he has sired,—St. Serf, Memoir, La Flèche, Raeburn, Childwick, &c. As a simple proof of his innate faculty over others of producing excellent results, a list of his stock now in training as three-year-olds is given, not one of whom is not above average merit, while many are first-class racers. Dark Duchess, Lauzan, Ondulée, Pietermaritzburg, St. Aldegonde, Santa Brigida, Santa Linda, San Francisco, St. Moritz, St. Maclou, St. Monans, and William III.

If to this list we add the stock of his son, Florizel II., we have Champagne, Doricles, Macintosh, Floriform, Volodyovski, Uncle Sol, &c., comprising, between the two, nearly every first-class three-year-old running last year. Two of these, Volodyovski and Doricles, are given on page 59.

Here are appended the portraits of Perdita II. and two of her distinguished sons—Florizel II. and Diamond Jubilee; and her last, her daughter Nadejda.

Perdita II., by Hampton—Hermione (No. 7), won the Liverpool Cup. She has become illustrious through being the dam of three first-class racers, Florizel II., Persimmon, and Diamond Jubilee, also of Sandringham and Nadejda.

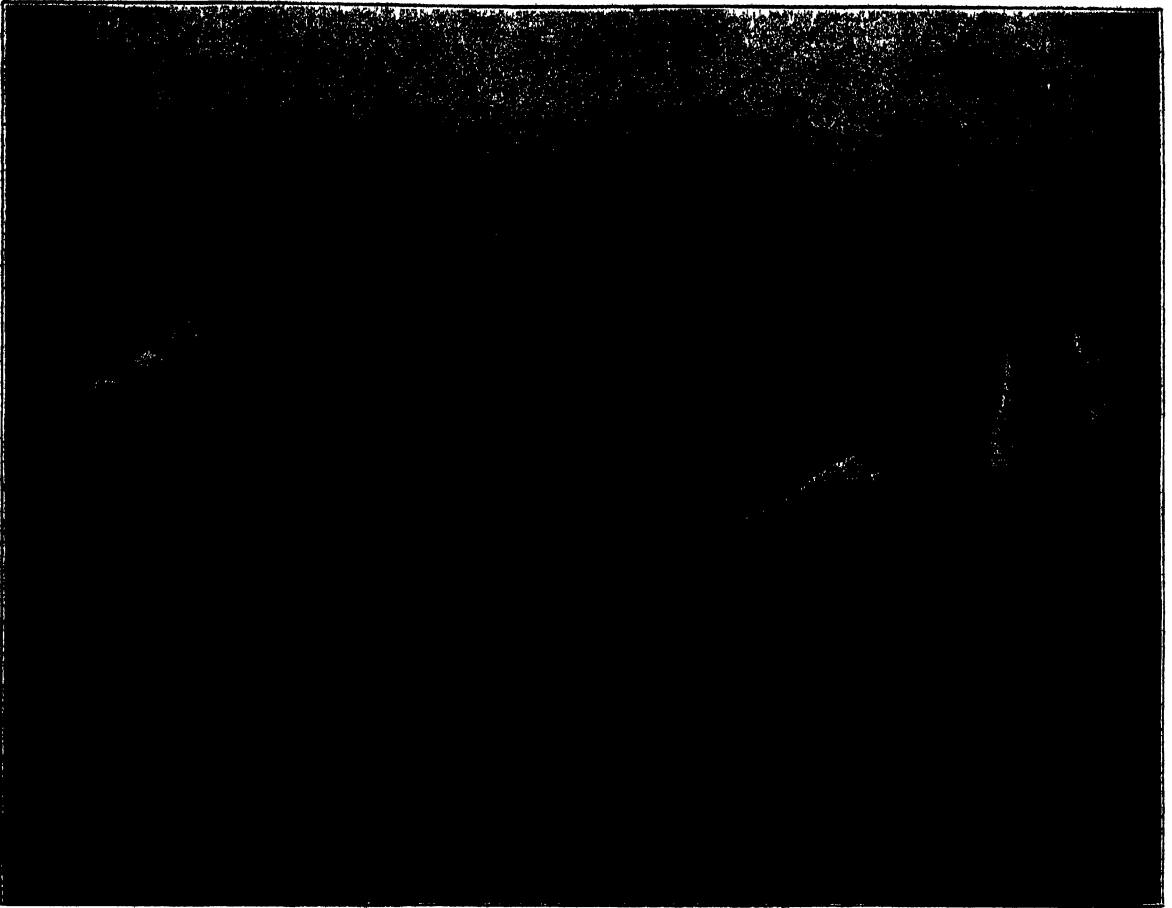
Her son, Florizel II. (No. 7), is a fine powerfully built colt; has an excellent stifle, straight hind leg, good loins and quarters, long and fairly placed humerus, and short back; his shoulder slope is not too good, and the point of the shoulder might be finer; he possesses the triangular wedge at brisket well developed. As a racer he won the Gold Vase at Ascot, the Goodwood Cup, and the Jockey Club Cup, and has proved a notable sire.

Persimmon has already been fully described and delineated as quite the model of what a racehorse should be in conformation.

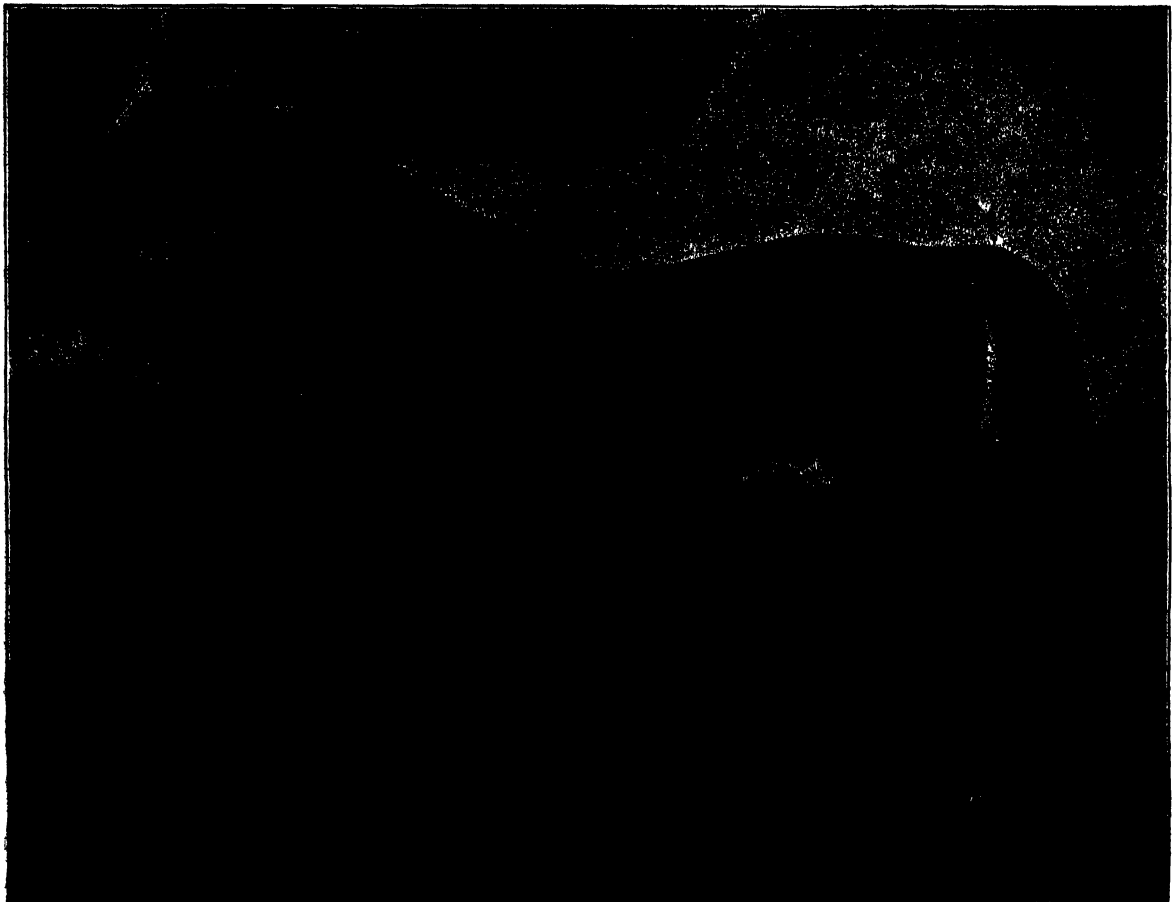
Diamond Jubilee (No. 7) won the Two Thousand, the Derby, and the St. Leger, and has thus followed in the footsteps of his elder brother; but latterly he illustrated the hazards and uncertainties which attend a racehorse afflicted with a temper. He possesses many excellent racing points—capital humerus and shoulder, straight hind leg, good quarter; his only slight deficiency may be a little extra length of back.

Sandringham, another son of the mare by the same sire, unfortunately split his pastern as a two-year-old. He was a very handsome and promising colt, with excellent points, but was almost too massively built to stand the tear and wear of severe training.

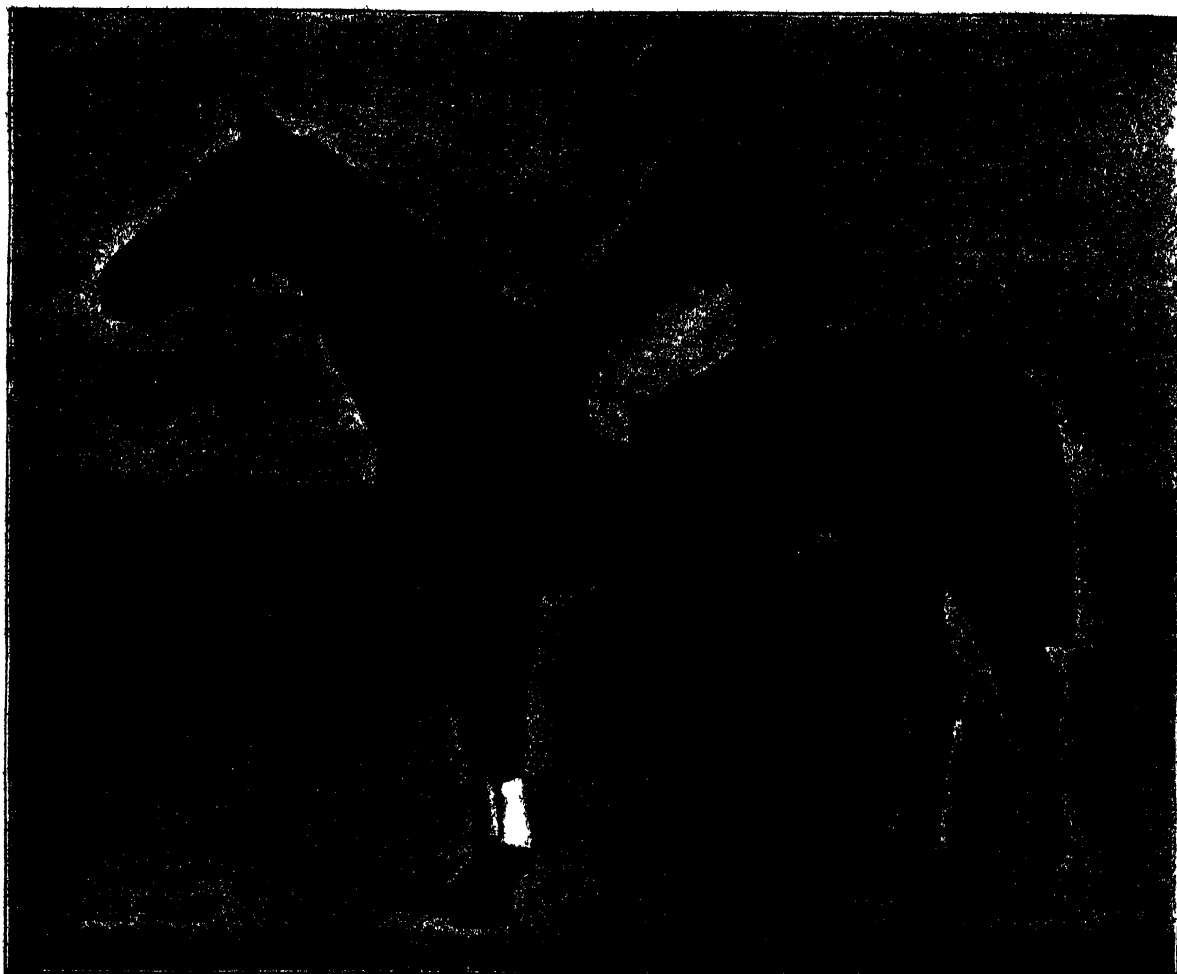
Nadejda, the last, a filly (No. 7), is shaped on lines the opposite of the above brother, and is if anything too slightly framed. She is well made, with the exception that the point of the shoulder is too prominent, and the humerus is not set at so perpendicular an angle as that of her brothers. She is moreover too slightly made in her middle piece.



PERDITA II. BY HAMPION—HERMIONE (No. 7).

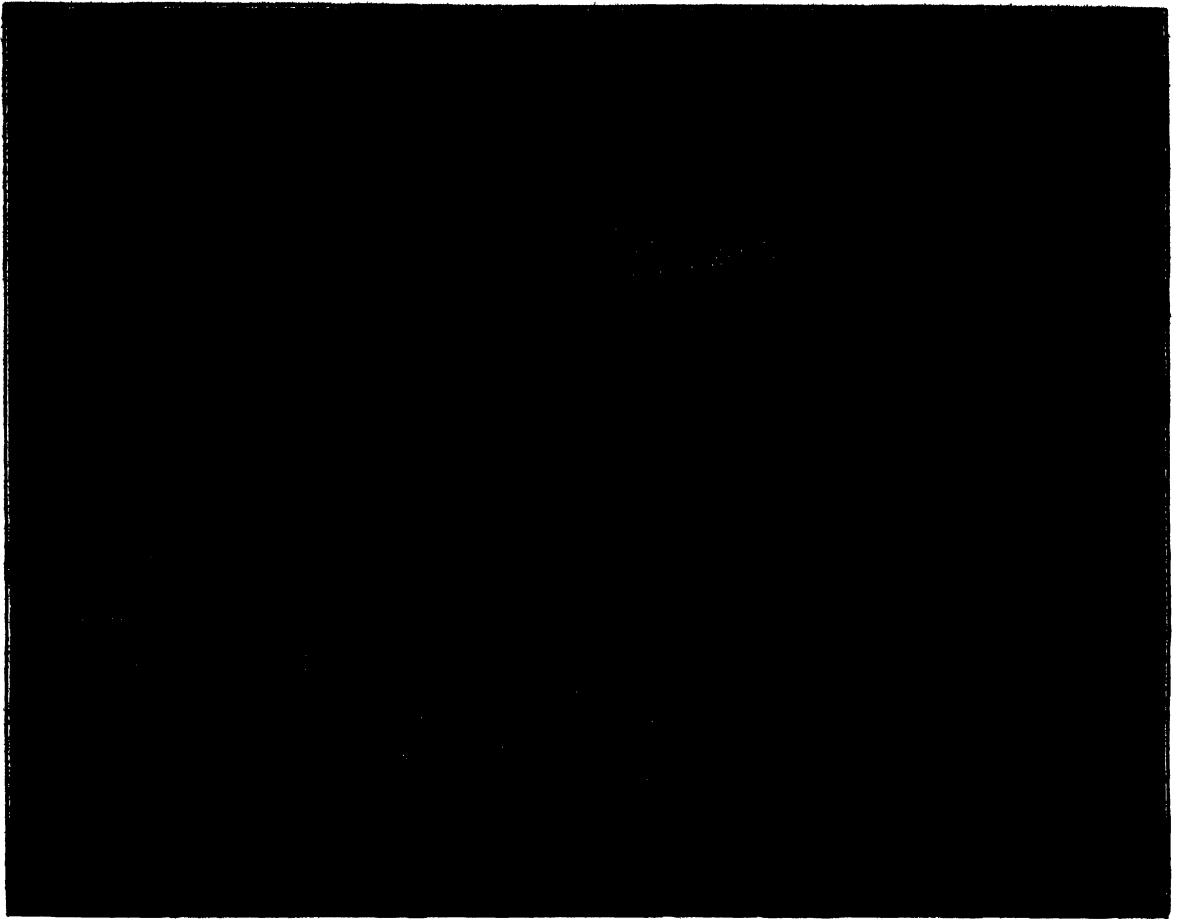


FLORIZEL II. BY ST. SIMON (No. 7).

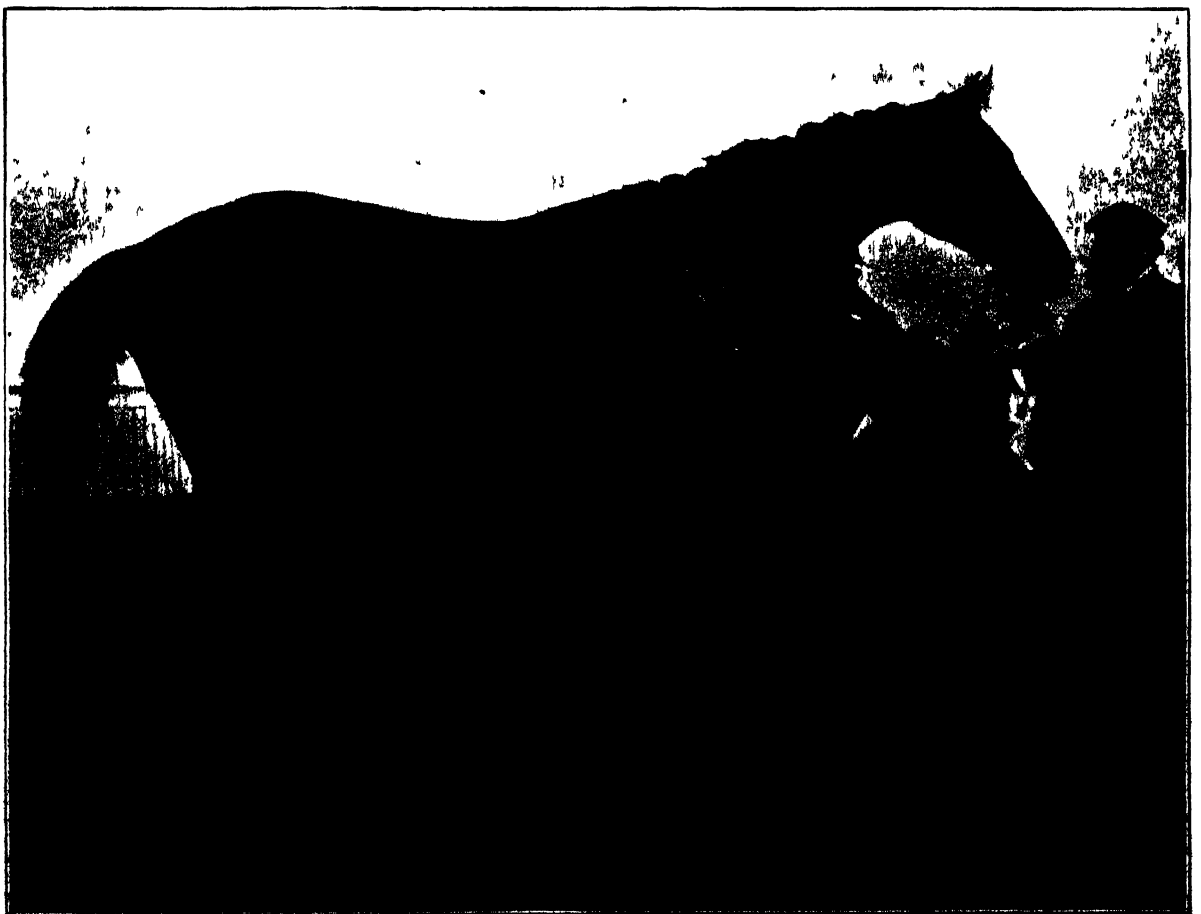


DIAMOND JUBILEE. By St. SIMON.





VOLODYOVSKI. BY FLORIZEL II.—LA REINE (No. 14).



DORICLES. BY FLORIZEL II.—ROSALIE (No. 20).

The two three-year-olds given on page 59 are the sons of Florizel II., who was the first offspring of St. Simon out of Perdita II.—one is the winner of the Derby, the other of the St. Leger.

Volodyovski, by Florizel II.—La Reine (No. 14), has a grand stifle, straight hind leg, well let down, broad gaskins, good barrel and loins, but has a shortish quarter and longish back; an excellently well placed though decidedly short humerus, a long and sloping shoulder. His deficiencies are, a shortish quarter and short humerus, which possibly may interfere with his future career.

Doricles, by Florizel II.—Rosalie, scores in the possession, not only of a well marked stifle, but one turned well outwards. He has a longer, though, on the other hand, not so well placed a humerus, has a straight hind leg, but his gaskins not so good, nor his shoulder slope, and he has a shortish quarter. Both first-class horses, though not up to the usual high standard of classic winners.

Similarly we have, in direct descent from father to son, Bend Or, Ormonde, Orme, Flying Fox, one and all beautifully proportioned and perfect in form. They are excellent examples of what the shape and framework of a first-class racehorse should be. In them we find a finished combination of all racing points of excellence, not one pre-eminent, so as to draw attention to itself, but all merging into a perfect whole. While, on the one hand, in grace and elegance combined, it would be difficult to paint a more perfect model than Orme presents; on the other, in Bend Or, and even still more so in Ormonde, we find, though plainer to the eye, an extraordinary combination of power and true symmetry, placing them on the highest pedestal.

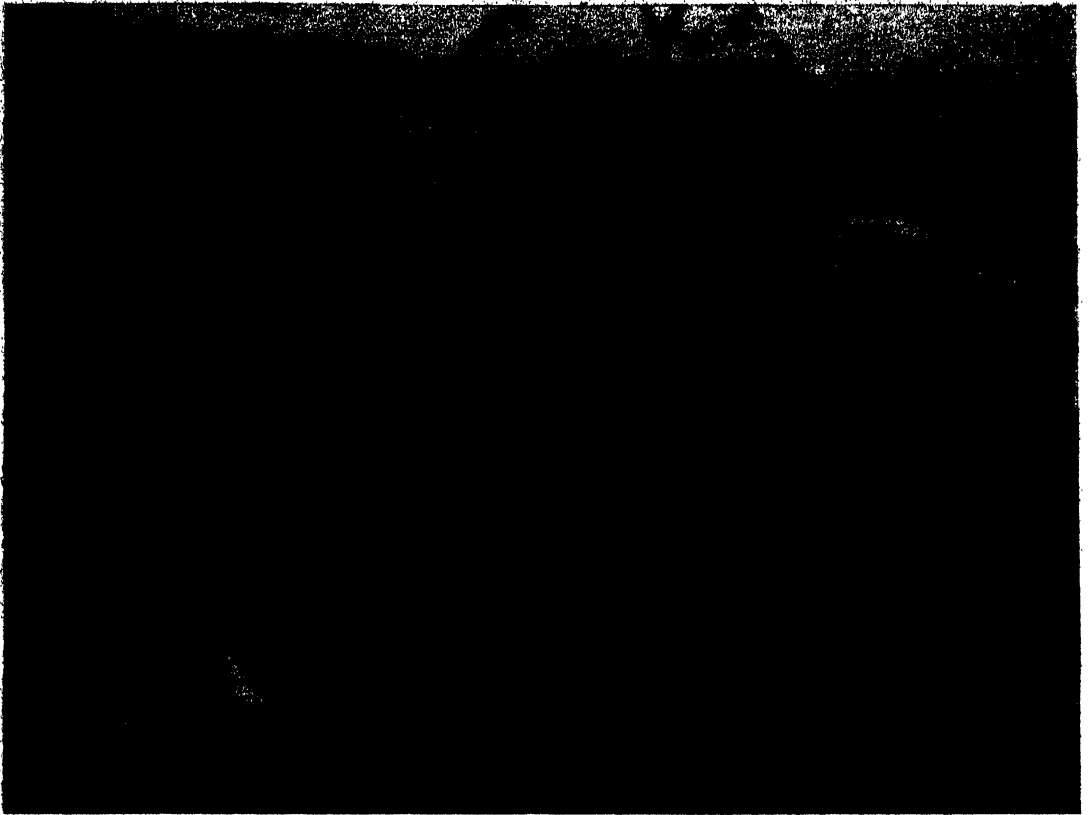
Bend Or, by Doncaster—Rouge Rose (No. 1), winner of the Derby, the Chesterfield and the Richmond Stakes, the Champion Plate, &c., possesses a grand framework, inferring great power, accompanied with a grand stifle, powerful loins and quarters, good humerus and shoulder—in fact, a great horse all over, and a most successful sire: to start with, he is the sire of Ormonde, who stands the premier horse of the age, and to him may be added Bonavista, Laveno, Martagon, Orion, Orvioto, &c.

Ormonde, by Bend Or—Lily Agnes (No. 16), holds the premier place among all racehorses, winning the Two Thousand Guineas, the Derby, and the St. Leger, the Great Foal and the Champion Stakes, and the Hardwicke Stakes twice, &c. He is not so finely drawn, or possibly so blood-looking as some of his sons, but presents an even grander combination of all the cardinal points of racing excellence; his humerus is particularly long and well placed. Its position, and the proportionate length of it with reference to the shoulder-blade, are well worthy of notice; his stifle low and well developed, his loins and quarters most powerful, and his hind legs and gaskins very good; to these a plain head and neck is added. Unfortunately he became a roarer, and for that reason was sold out of the country by his noble owner: still he left behind him Orme, Glenwood, Goldfinch, and other great racers to represent his qualities.

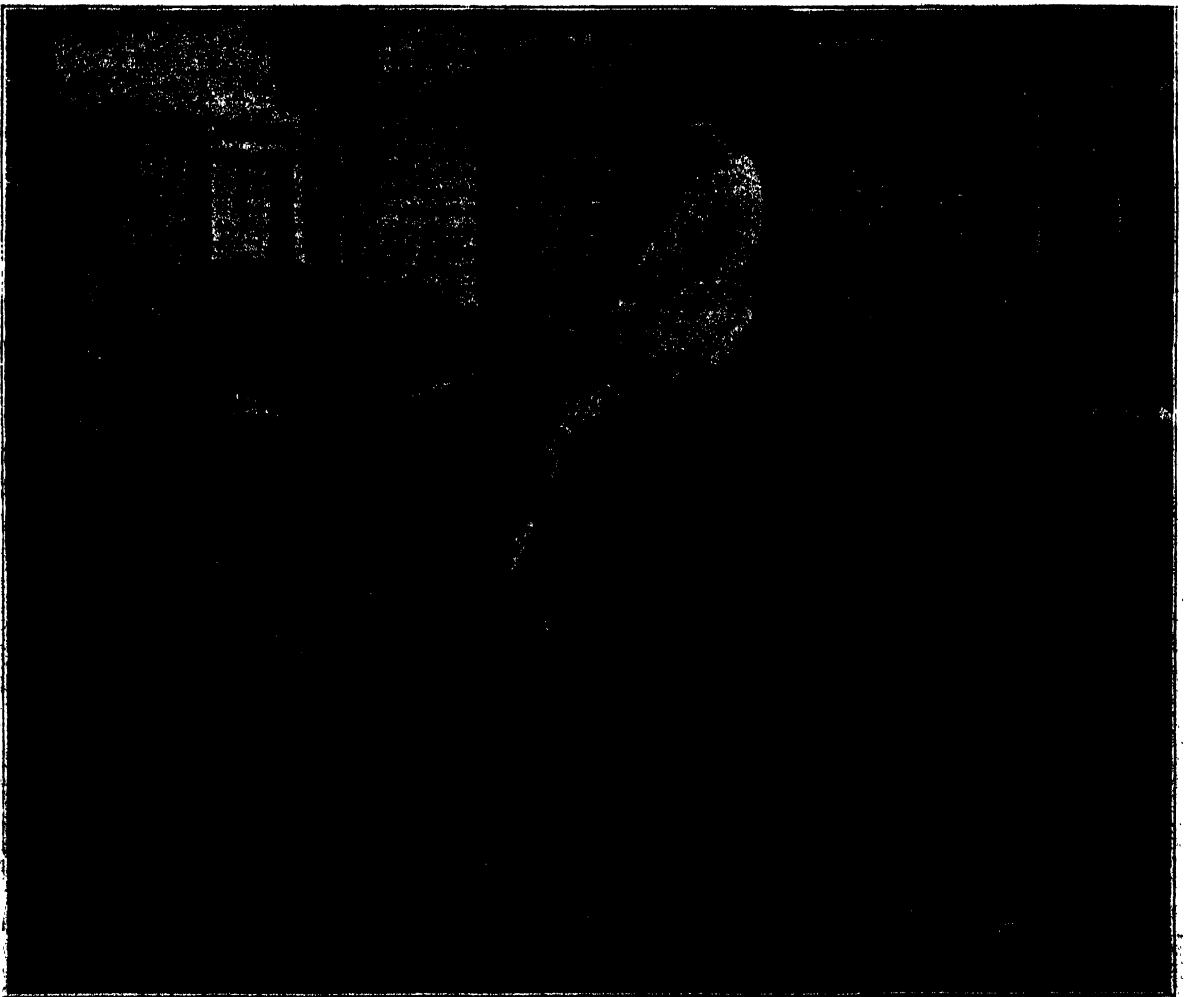
Orme, by Ormonde—Angelica, own sister to St. Simon (No. 11), is a perfect pattern and model of what a thoroughbred racehorse should be in appearance and in framework, not a blemish anywhere, but an excellent combination of all the points necessary to build up a true racehorse. He would have done still better on the turf had it not been for the sudden and unaccountable illness at the commencement of his three-year-old career. He fully proved this in his fourth year, beating the wonder La Flèche and all other competitors. He won the Eclipse Stakes twice, the Richmond, the Great Foal, and the Rous Memorial Stakes, and other races. He is the sire of Flying Fox, the Duke of Westminster, &c. Stifle, hind leg, humerus and shoulder, loins and quarters, all excellent. His second win of the Eclipse Stakes stamps him as one of the very highest class.

Flying Fox has been already described at page 38 of the first Part.

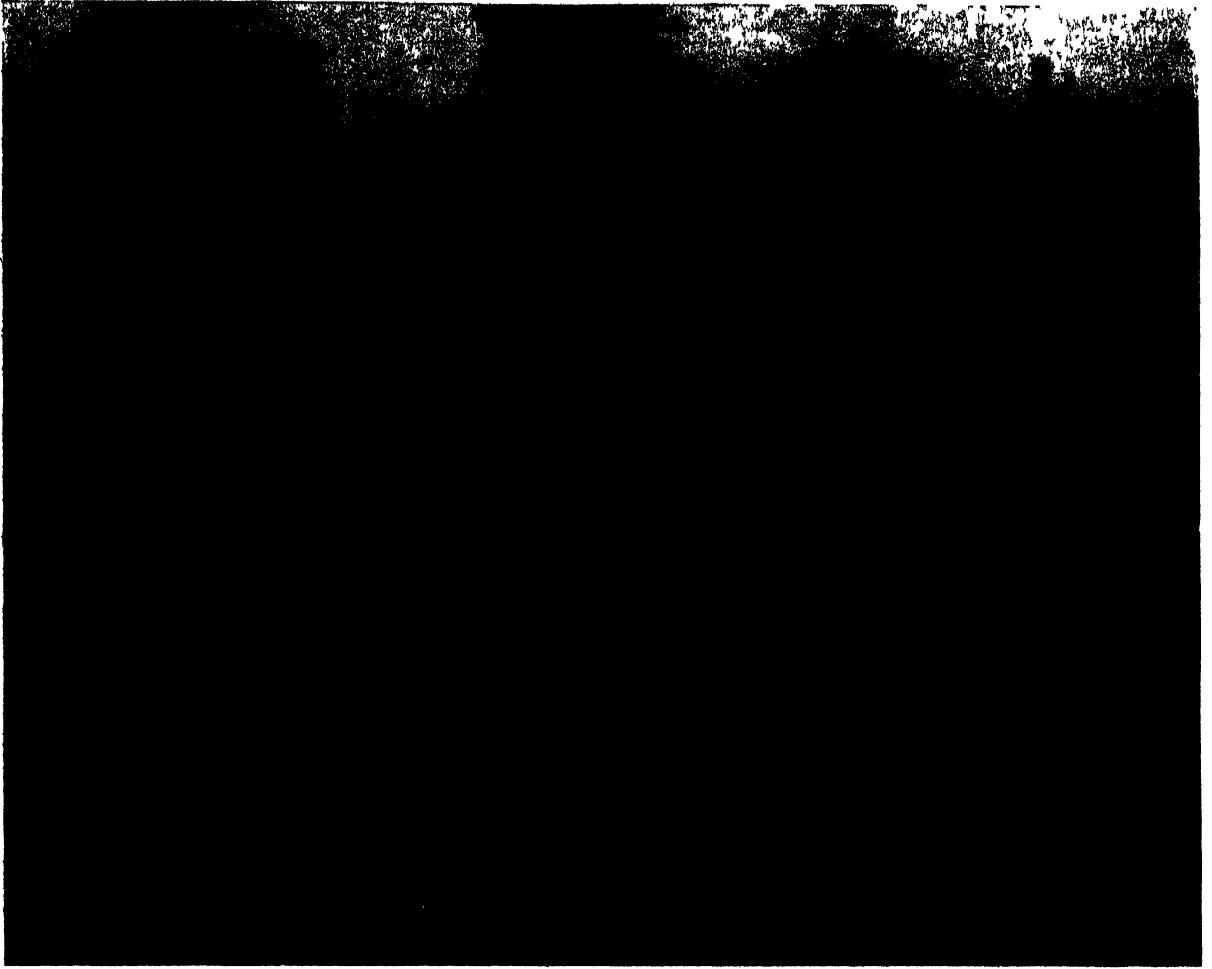
The more the form of the racehorses here illustrated is studied and appreciated, to the greater degree will the students of form become impressed with what should be the best conformation for racing purposes, viz., short back, long quarters, low and well-developed stifle, straight hind leg, relatively long and perpendicular humerus, free elbow, fair slope of shoulder-blade, but not too long, and a breast free from all lumber.



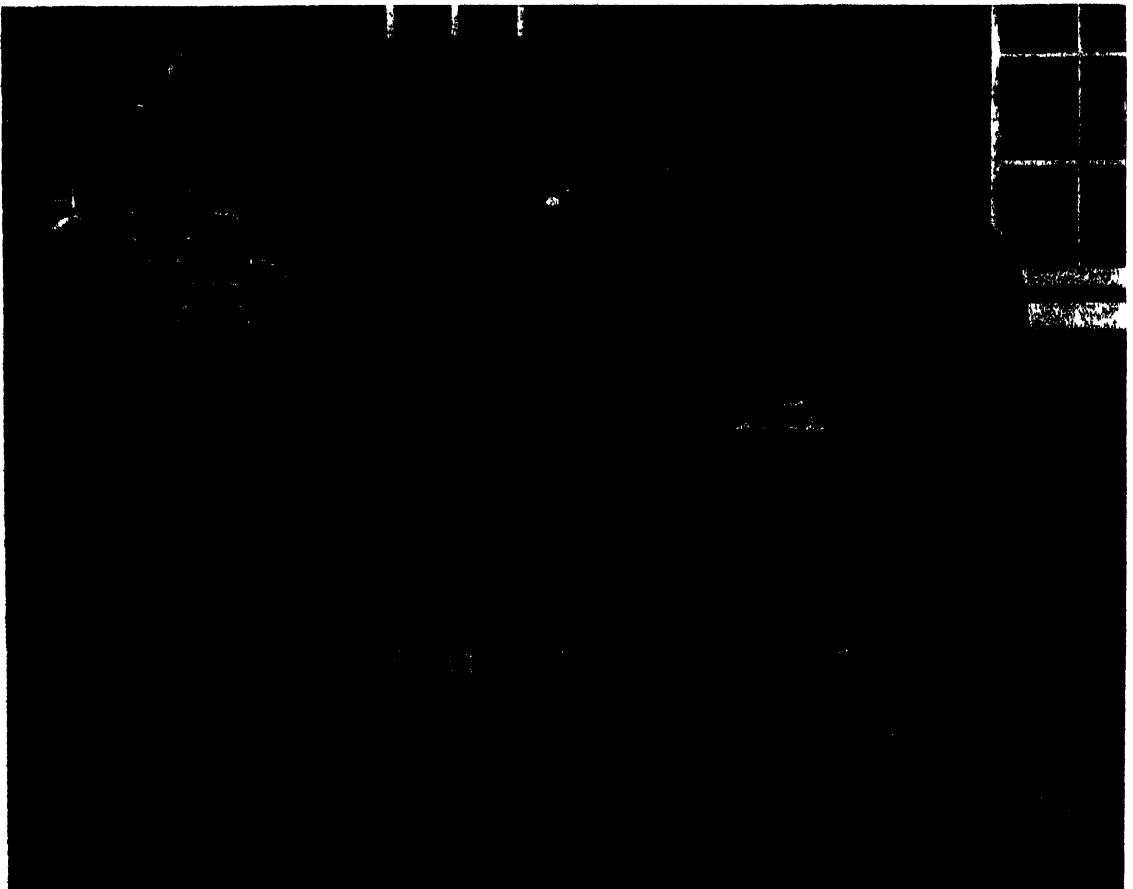
BEND OR.



ORMONDE



ORME.



It is a remarkable fact that many of our first-class mares, whose performances on the Turf have stamped their exceeding excellence, have, though covered by the choicest of stallions, been more or less a decided failure in the corresponding excellence of their stock. Others, on the other hand, have been wonderfully successful, and are the dams of more than one first-class racer.

We have, first, *Perdita II.*, who, when served by *St. Simon*, has given to the Turf three first-class sons, photographs of which have been given with herself—viz., *Florizel II.*, *Persimmon*, and *Diamond Jubilee*, while her offspring by other stallions were indifferent. We have also—

Atalanta, dam of *Melanion*, *Ayrshire*, *Troon*.

Vista, dam of *Bonavista*, *Sir Visto*, and *Velasquez*.

Mowerina, dam of *Donovan*, *Raeburn*, *Modwena*, and *Semolina*.

Quiver, dam of *Memoir* and *La Flèche*.

Napoli, dam of *Orvieto*, *Laveno*, and *Rappalo*.

On the other hand, *Memoir* and *La Flèche*, full sisters, daughters of *St. Simon*—*Quiver*, both wonders on the turf, have hitherto not brought forth any offspring above second-class merit, and hence have failed to accomplish the expectations formed of them; though *Baroness La Flèche*, a two-year-old daughter of the latter, has, since the above was written, shown herself to be a filly of extraordinary merit.

That some should be dams of such good stock, while others who were better performers on the Turf have been comparative failures, has been attempted to be explained on the grounds that they had had too great and too long a strain thrown while so young on their constitutions, which has exhausted their stamina and impaired their reproductive powers; but this can hardly hold good, for though such might reasonably have been accepted were their offspring only weedy and poor, it can scarcely apply to them when the produce is born badly framed, and without the possession of the necessary points of racing excellence, as is more or less the case.

To sum up, I believe it is more profitable to pick out a correctly framed colt, if possible, from among such families or strains as have displayed the innate quality and power of transmitting their shape and racing points to their offspring, than to rely, in one's purchase of yearlings, solely upon the fact of their possession of the so-called "blood," without any regard or reference to their outward form and shape.

Finally, to illustrate the slight difference, especially as to the racing frame about the quarters, which exists between the sexes in racehorses, four interesting and historical mares are presented as a study of true feminine conformation. The selected are Janette, Shotover, Lily Agnes, the dam of the renowned Ormonde, and Angelica, the full sister of the famous St. Simon, and the dam of the model racehorse Orme.

Janette highly distinguished herself in her career. She won, as a two-year-old, the Richmond and the Criterion Stakes ; as a three-year-old, the Oaks, the St. Leger, and the Champion Stakes ; and, continuing her winning career, she during her fourth season won the Jockey Club Cup at Newmarket, thus to some extent emulating the career of the "wonder La Flèche. She is the dam of Janissary, &c.

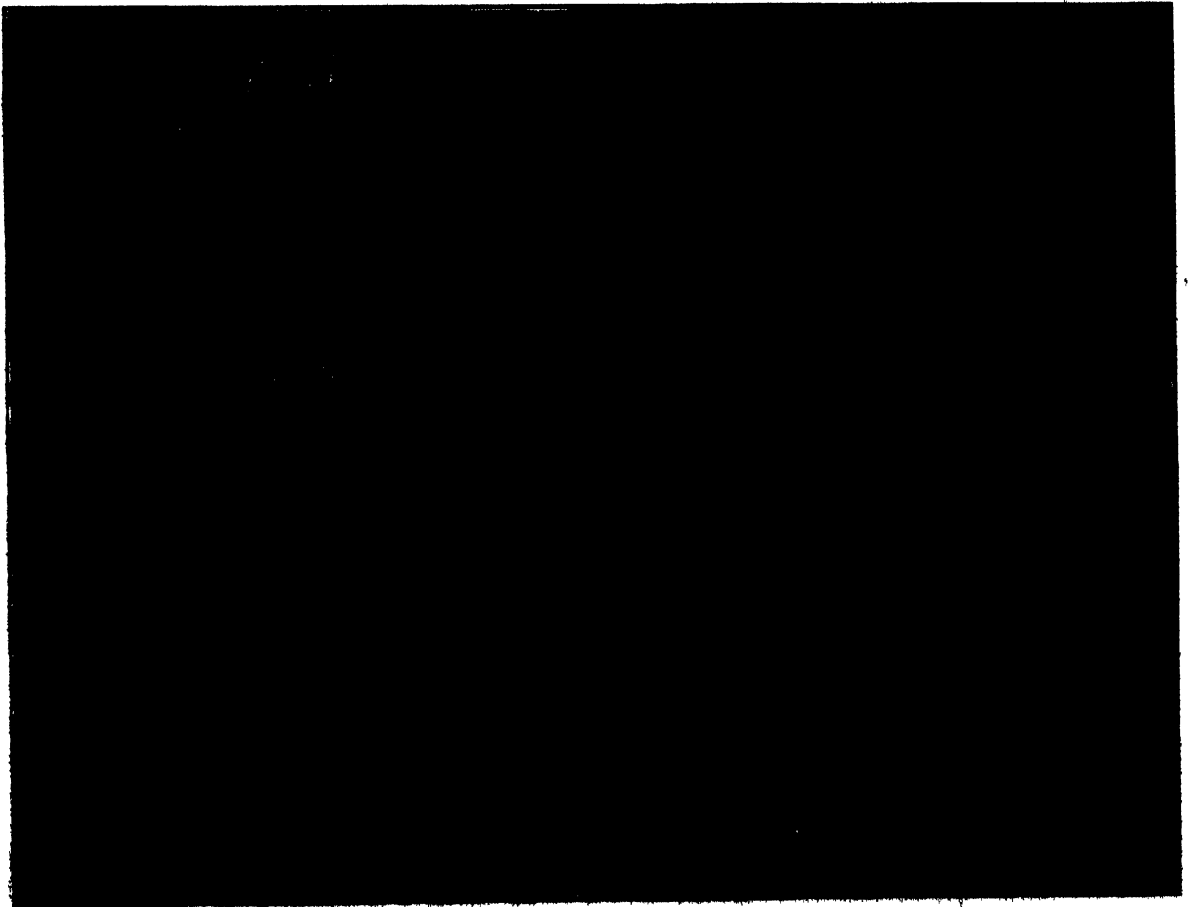
Shotover was a very delicate filly, and it is believed turned out a jade, but as a three-year-old she achieved a wonderful performance in winning both the Two Thousand and the Derby. She is the dam of Orion, Bullingdon, &c.

Lily Agnes proved herself to be a great mare on the turf, possessing staying powers of a high class. As a two-year-old she won easily the four races for which she ran ; no less than seven out of ten in her third year, including the Doncaster Cup and the Northumberland Plate ; as a four-year-old she won the Great Ebor Handicap carrying 8 st. 8 lb. Good as she was on the turf, she has made herself more celebrated still by bringing forth as one of her offspring the incomparable Ormonde.

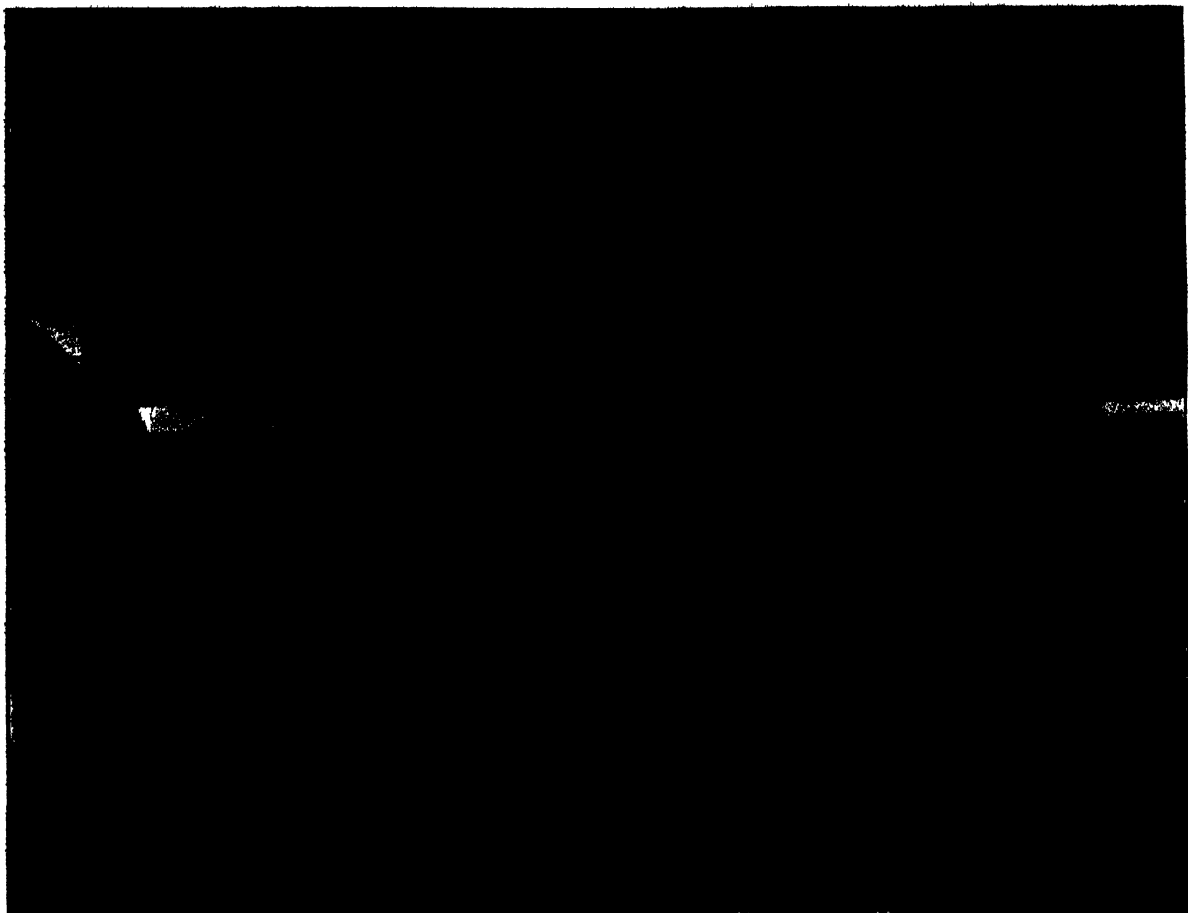
Angelica, thereby full sister to St Simon, is further interesting as the dam of the famous Orme, as well as of another first-class horse, Blue Green.



JANETTE. BY ISONOMY—ST. MARGUERITE (No. 1).



SHOTOVER. BY HERMIT—STRAY SHOT (No. 13).



LILY AGNES. BY MACARONI—POLLY AGNES (No. 16).



ANGELICA. BY GALOPIN—ST. ANGELA (No. 11).

PART III.

CRITICISMS ON MR. ALISON'S FIGURE SYSTEM.

THE writer has considered it necessary to make some criticisms on Mr. Alison's work, even though the subject may be considered slightly beyond the scope of his own treatise.

Mr. Alison, a disciple and expounder of the late Mr. Bruce Lowe's Figure system, has lately published a book, "The Thoroughbred," a marvel of research and labour, which, though not to be accepted as gospel truth, is well worthy of careful study by all such as take a strong practical interest in the breeding of thoroughbreds.

The key-note of the Figure system appears to be defined in the rather pronounced statement, "That the prepotency of a great brood mare cannot be calculated by the removes or quarterings of a pedigree; great brood mares by some superior vitality, constitution, and purity of blood establish families, and these families live on, repeated every now and again, by breeding back at the parent root."

In following out Mr. Bruce Lowe's Figure system, he works out the brood mares who have, through their successive offsprings, produced the greatest number of winners of first-class races, and has figured them according to their results, as No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, &c., up to over 40 in number. He has remarked that these first five brood mares have furnished between them more than half of the total winners of first-class races, and hence has placed them on a pedestal, as mares pre-eminently of running blood or strain. In working out this problem he has also noted that the mares of certain figures 8, 10, 12, and 14, and also No. 3, have distinguished themselves in begetting what he calls sire producers. The remainder, about forty brood mares, are apparently, in his opinion, of but little consequence or worth as brood mares.

Unhappily for the thorough correctness of his argument, Mr. Alison, on page 104, gives the total numbers of the brood mares of each figure, which have been in use in the Stud Book; from which we see it to have been no extra wonder that the first five figured mares produced more than half the winners, since they number, roughly, about half the total

number of the brood mares which have been, and are now, at the stud. And if we work out the proportionate rates between the mares and their winners in offspring, we obtain a somewhat different result, viz., Nos. 1, 7, 3, 4, 5. No. 2 drops out, though No. 1 family holds its own.

Mares' Figures.			Numbers of Mares.	Winners of Races.			Results.
				Classic Races.	Cups.	Total Winners	
No. 1	...	...	744	79	19	98	1 in $7\frac{1}{2}$ mares.
No. 2	...	...	1065	63	18	81	1 " 13 "
No. 3	...	...	721	65	20	85	1 " $8\frac{1}{2}$ "
No. 4	...	...	595	47	19	66	1 " 9 "
No. 5	...	..	510	39	19	53	1 " $9\frac{1}{2}$ "
No. 6	...	...	258	22	4	26	1 " 10 "
No. 7	...	...	252	26	4	30	1 " $8\frac{1}{2}$ "
No. 8	...	...	488	20	8	28	1 " 18 "
No. 9	...	...	332	20	8	23	1 " 14'4 "
No. 10	...	...	212	20	8	20	1 " 11 "
No. 11	...	...	334	11	15	26	1 " every 13
No. 12	...	..	378	19	6	25	1 " 15 "
No. 13	...	...	199	—	—	17	1 " 11'7 "
No. 14	...	.	233	6	7	13	1 " 18 "
No. 19	...	.	278	6	7	22	1 " 12'6 "

This is, of course, not quite accurate, in so far that some mares have had many, some very few foals.

Mr. Alison, however, in his remarks, further on in his book, seriously discounts the advantages possessed by the brood mares of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, as he writes:—"It does not follow, because a stallion's pedigree is rich in running strain (*i.e.*, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 figures), that he is going to be successful at the stud ; on the contrary, paradoxical as it may appear, it seems he is likely to prove a failure, except when mated with mares from the families 8, 10, 12, 14." This is surely a very grave disadvantage, as it practically cuts off half the total number of stallions at the stud, by implying that the brood mares of the best running blood must not be mated with stallions of their own figure.

He still further restricts the choice of stallions, when he states (a sound judgment when not carried too far) that it is useless to put the mare to any stallion, no matter of what pretension as regards blood and breeding, unless he has proved his own superiority, not only as a winner of first-class classic races, but as being the possessor of a framework and

constitution sound enough to withstand the strain which is required in the training and work necessary for the attainment of such a success. Hence, when all the pros and cons are taken into consideration, Nos. 3, 7, and 10 would appear to be the most hopeful strains from which to breed, Nos. 1, 4, and 5 coming next in order to them. At the same time, it appears that Galopin, Hampton, St. Simon, and Gladiator are instances of most successful sires who did not win any of the classic races.

Mr. Alison further deprecates the successive service of brood mares by the same stallion, and advocates a change of the sire. In support of his theory he advances the statement that the best offspring of the dam when served by the same stallion are the first comers, and that the later ones fall off considerably in excellence, and he gives three mares, Cherry Duchess and others, with their offspring, as examples proving his contention ; but in opposition to this view may be quoted the examples of Spadilla and Young Flora, full brother and sister, who severally won the St. Leger in two successive years ; Memoir and La Flèche, full sisters, who also won the St. Leger ; Orvieto and Laveno, full brothers ; and later still, Florizel II., Persimmon, and Diamond Jubilee, three full brothers.

A more reasonable explanation (were such the fact) of the alleged superiority of the first over the later foals would appear to be, firstly, that the brood mare when first put to the stud was in her sixth or seventh year, and hence in her prime, both in health, constitution, and fitness for bearing produce ; and secondly, that it is too much to expect from any dam more than one offspring of such super-excellence as to become a winner of the first-class classical races. It may be added, the above argument is seriously discounted by the fact that many of our best racehorses are the produce of mares of more than a respectable age.

However, adding one theory to another, as advanced by Mr. Alison, the ordinary breeder of racing produce (especially as the best and most distinguished stallions are in the hands of a few private establishments, and hence beyond his attainment), should he accept all the above theories, and piece them together, is left in a more or less helpless and hopeless state: the more so if he, in order to form the nucleus of a stud, has been persuaded to purchase some mares of the so-called running strains.

The question is still further complicated by Mr. Bruce Lowe's statement (page 170): "All our theories and systems are powerless in the face of the unpleasant fact that two full brothers are rarely equal in racing power"; and by Mr. Alison's (page 171): "The closer the type is fixed by in-breeding, the greater, of course, is the certainty as to what the produce will be like; but even so, I take it, the germ cells are apt to represent different ancestors, and the health and condition of the parents must always exercise a grave influence over their offspring."

In the writer's opinion the late Duke of Beaufort, on page 8 of Mr. Alison's book, advances the soundest solution of a very difficult and intricate problem in his statement: "The dam must possess speed, if even for a short distance," thereby demanding that the dam herself must, "as a *sine quâ non*," be built upon true racing lines, and have a framework possessing points of racing excellence, for, in verity, without such no mare can possess speed.

The Duke further adds:—"So much depends on the health of the dam during her pregnancy, and after birth of the foal; so much on the weather, and on the foal's health; his catching cold, having strangles, and other ailments." Again, on page 9:—"The fact is, the state of health of both parents, especially of the female, at the time of impregnation; her state during the whole pregnancy; the weather at the time of birth, and some time after—all have wonderful effect. No doubt the food of the dam and the offspring, too, greatly affect the quality of the latter." Mr. Alison, also, as above: "The health and condition of the parents must always exercise a grave influence on their offspring." It is to be noted here that similar views are held by all experienced breeders, on the subject of securing the birth of healthy, well set up colts.

Mr. John Porter, probably the first and most experienced authority on the subject of young racehorses, in his book "Kingsclere," not only fully endorses the opinions above expressed, but in order to put them to a practical issue, has strongly advocated the expediency and the necessity of altering the date of aging of all racehorses from the 1st of January, a wintry and bad month, to that of the 1st of April, or some time thereabouts, when the weather would be more open and settled, when fresh food is more abundant, and when every chance is given both to the mother and foal to do well and flourish, and by so doing to consolidate the

stamina, improve the vigour of the youngster, and diminish materially the risks of colds, strangles, and probably of roaring and other youthful ailments. The writer confesses, when so large a consensus of opinion is brought forward, he is at a loss to understand how hitherto no steps have been initiated by the Jockey Club to introduce some measure to improve upon the present existing rules, as any advance of the present time to that of a later date would be unquestionably a great benefit to all young racing stock, and it has been ordered by the Government with regard to other horses. In spite of these criticisms, the writer would strongly recommend Mr. Alison's book to all interested in horse breeding, as a work full of excellent matter, from which the reader may obtain valuable suggestions and facts regarding that difficult and intricate subject.

PART IV.

AMONGST all the horses which have distinguished themselves more or less on the turf it is very difficult to make a selection, but so far as it has been possible to obtain photographs, those considered to bear most directly upon the arguments and opinions to be placed before the public for discussion have been accepted. But in the following remarks, it must be clearly understood that the criticisms made, more especially with reference to the first-class racehorses, are naturally hypercritical, and are only intended to demonstrate here the extra excellence, there the comparatively small deficiency, of some racing point.

The principle which has been carried out, namely, to place certain horses in juxtaposition, entails the necessity of having a larger size of book than might otherwise be more convenient to the public. Still the advantage derived by having certain portraits brought close together is considered to balance any inconvenience. Hence whenever a family or cluster was considered to be favourable for closer inspection, their portraits are placed four by four, two on each page.

The first quartette to be so treated are the old but celebrated horses Gladiateur, the most famous racer in his day ; St. Gatien, the conqueror of Melton ; Minting, a true and well-known racer and competitor of the invincible Ormonde ; and Morion.

Gladiateur, by Monarque—Miss Gladiator (No. 5), in winning the Two Thousand, the Derby, the Grand Prix, and the St. Leger, has created a record which probably no racehorse will in the future succeed in surpassing. He apparently was an instance of a colt coming early to maturity, so much so that many racing men fully believed that he was truly at least a year older than he was said to be. He was invincible on the turf, but personally was not a great success at the stud, though greatly so through his sons Gladiator, &c. Grand humerus and shoulder; wonderfully well let down, good stifle, and straight hind leg.

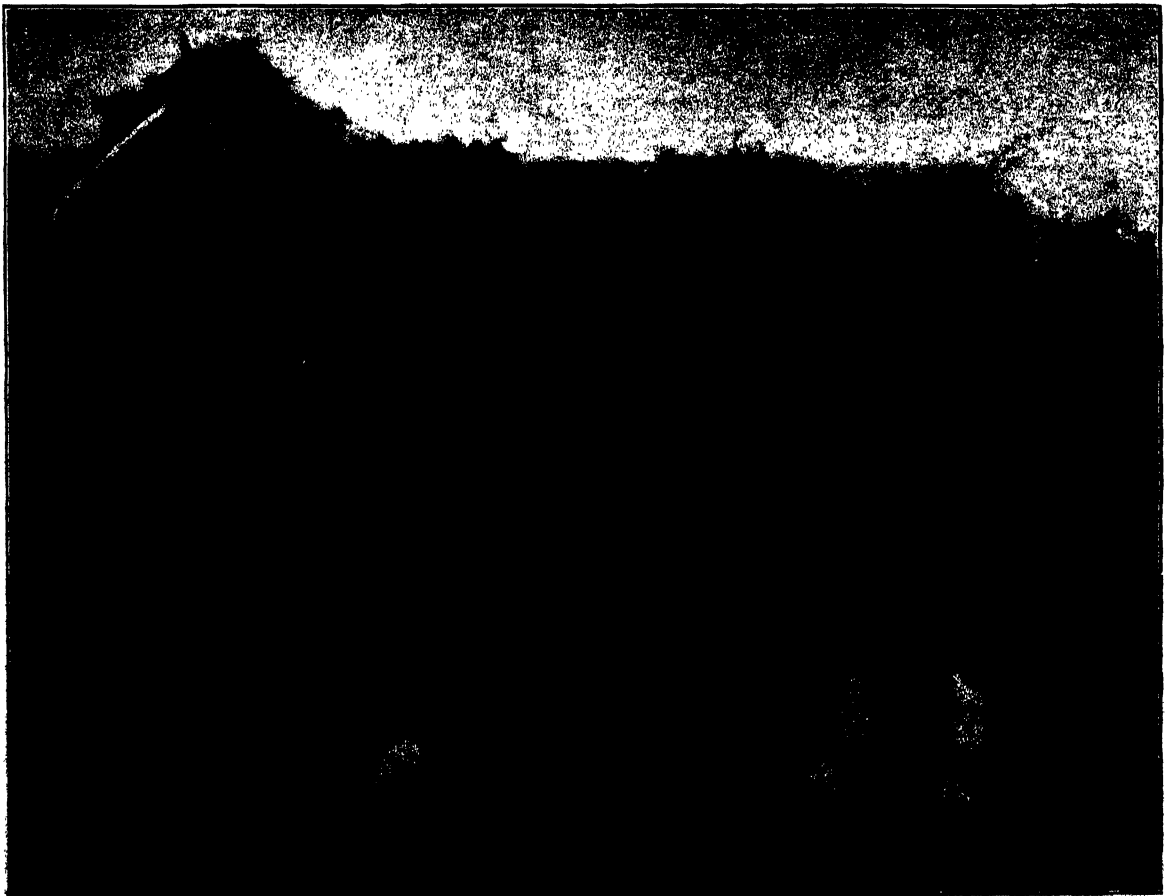
St. Gatien, by Rotherhill or the Rover—St. Editha (No. 16), a picture of a racehorse built on Arab lines. Distinguished himself by winning the Derby, the Gold Vase, and the Gold Cup at Ascot, the Cesarewitch Stakes, and the Jockey Club Cup, Newmarket, the latter no less than three times. He has good quarters, stifle, and hind legs, good humerus and shoulder, and good loins. Proved himself a first-class horse when he beat Melton.

Minting, by Lord Lyon—Mint Sauce (No. 1), a great horse, unfortunately overshadowed by the triton Ormonde. Won many races, Grand Prix, the Princess of Wales Stakes worth £10,000, the Hardwicke Stakes, and others. He has not so far succeeded as a sire in producing any first-class racers. Good stifle and hind leg, great quarters, humerus long but indifferently placed, good shoulder and back.

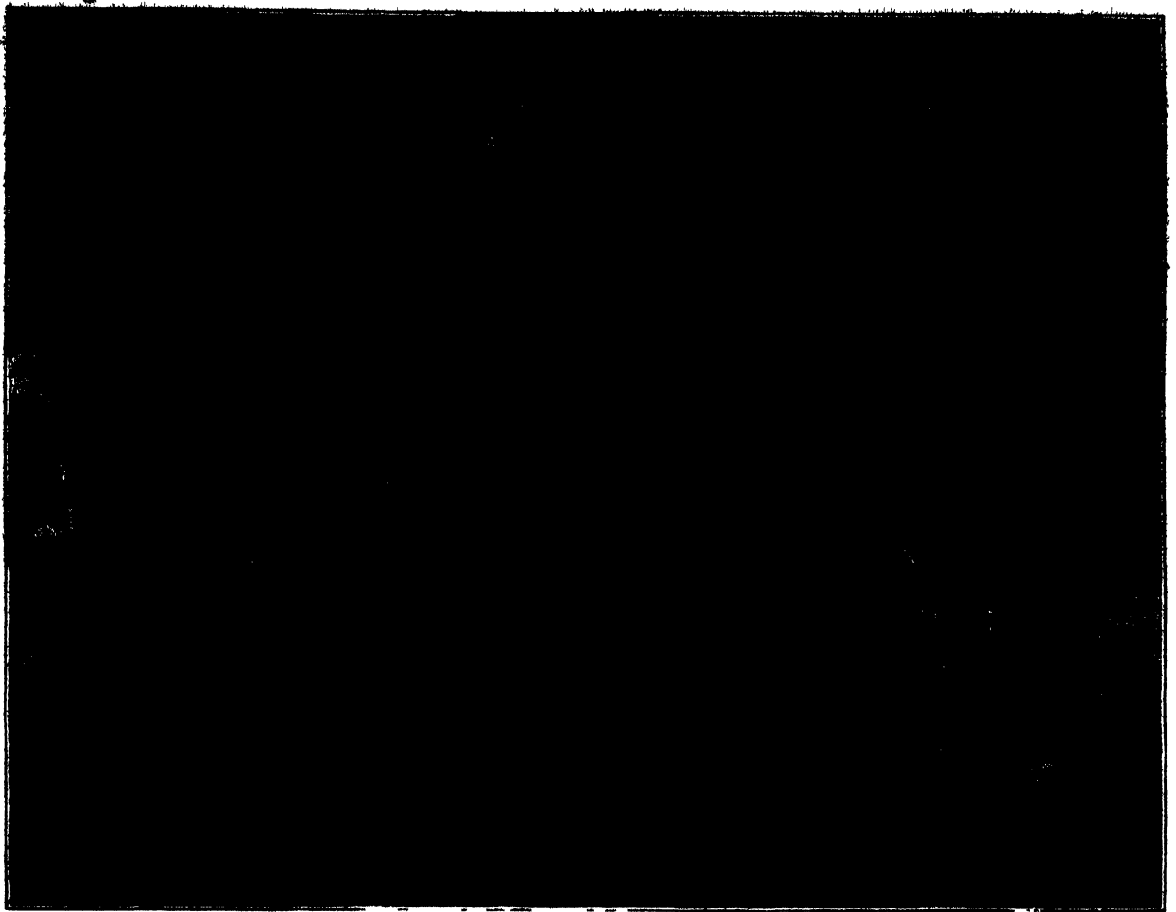
Morion, by Barcaldine—Chaplet (No. 16), won the Craven Stakes and the Gold Cup at Ascot. A well-made racehorse throughout, but with no particular prominent point. His back is longer than it should be for perfect symmetry.



GLADIATEUR.



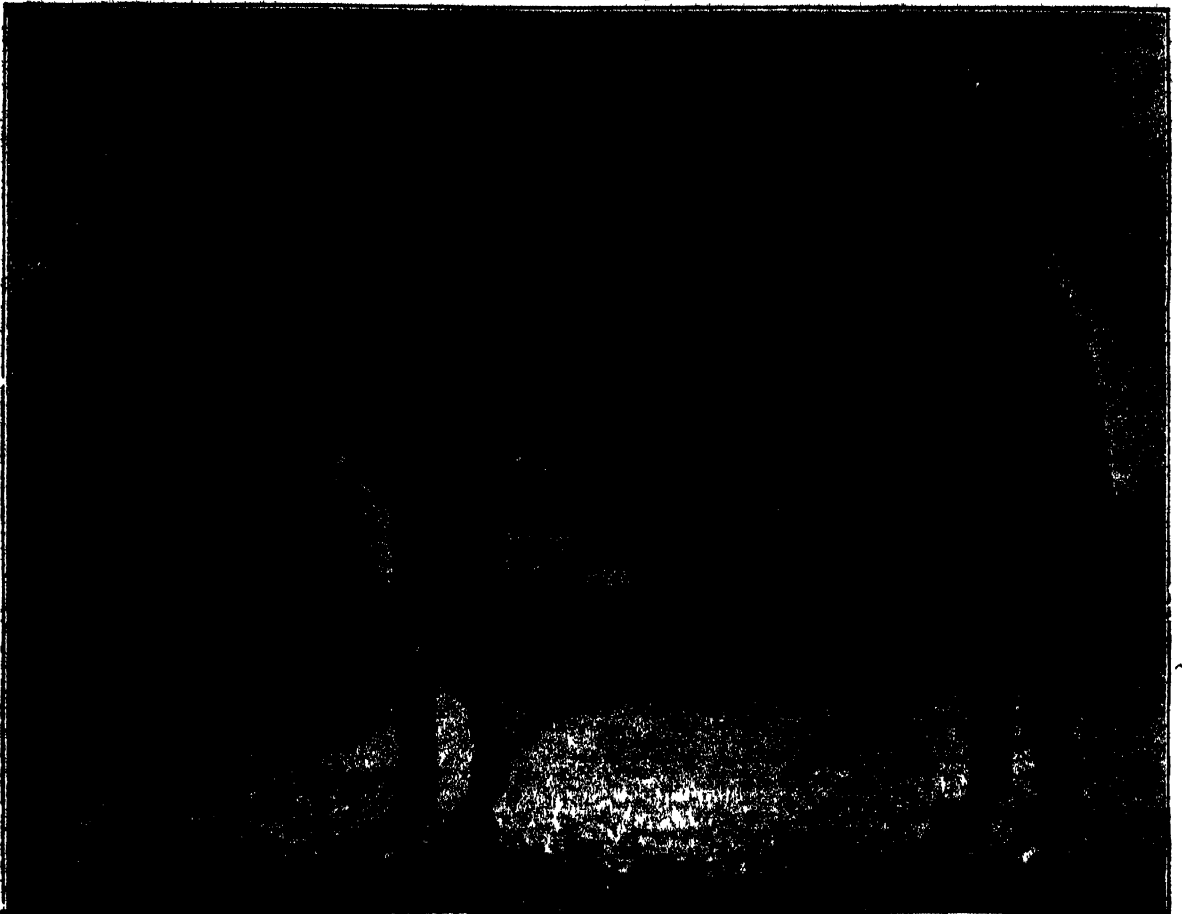
ST. GATIEN.



MINTING.



MORION. By BACALDINE.



GALOPIN.



ST. ANGELO.

Isonomy's photograph not being obtainable, three of his most celebrated sons and one daughter are here placed together.

Isonomy, by Sterling—Isola Bella, disputes, in many persons' opinion, the premiership of the turf. He won the Cambridgeshire, Manchester Cup, Gold Vase at Ascot, and the Gold Cup twice, and other races. But it is as a sire that he has still further become distinguished, as for instance :—

Common, dam Thistle.

Gallinule, dam Moorhen.

Isinglass, dam Deadlock.

Le Var, dam St. Marguerite.

Ravensbury, dam Penitent.

Fortunio, dam Formalité.

Ingram, dam Pirate Queen.

Janissary, dam Janette.

Prisoner, dam Lonely.

Satiety, dam Wifey.

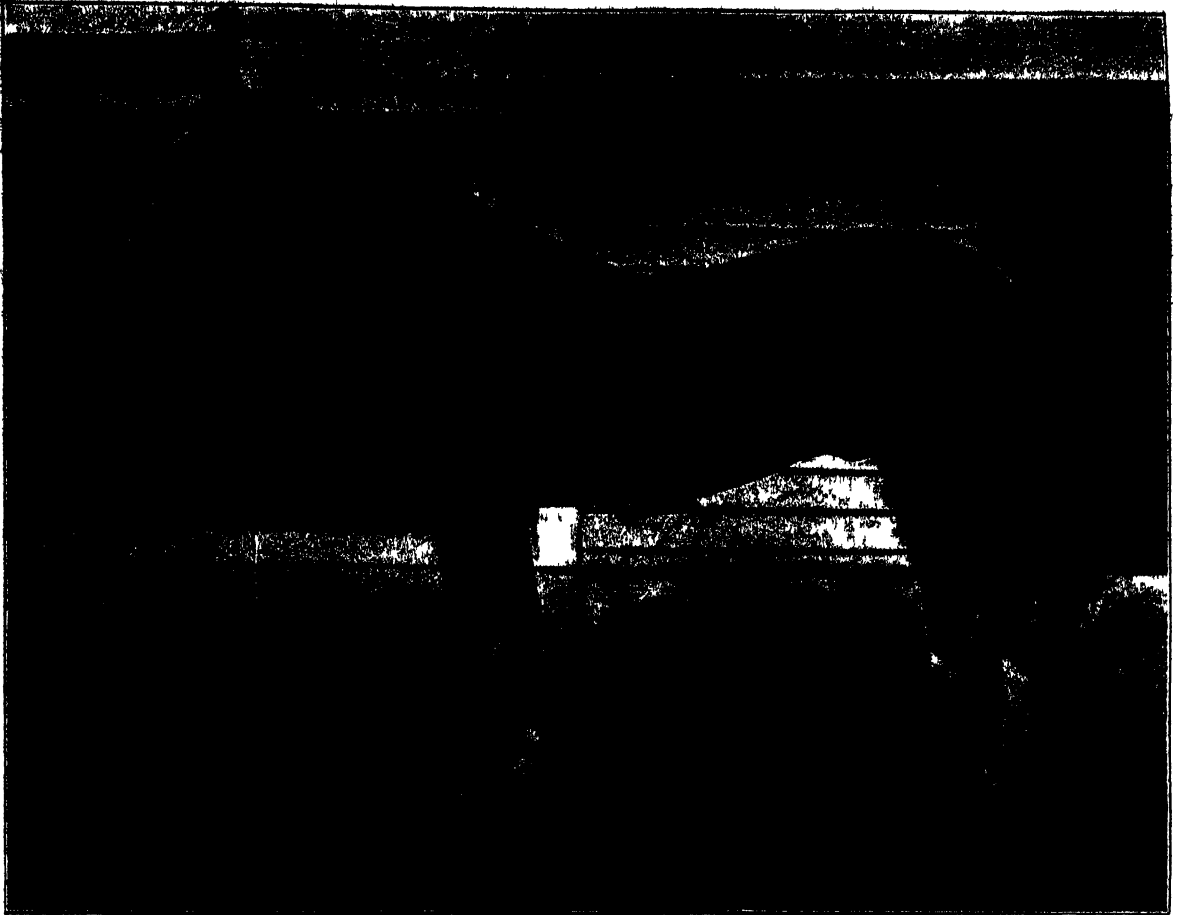
And daughter, Seabreeze, dam St. Marguerite, &c., &c.

Gallinule, dam Moorhen, has proved himself a fairly useful sire. Lesterlin and Portmarnock, Gauntlet and Sirenia, are of his offspring. Very well placed humerus, good stifle, straight hind leg.

Common, dam Thistle, was the winner of the Two Thousand, Derby, and St. Leger. In him we have a horse of extraordinary power throughout. It would have been better for our purpose if we had a portrait of him while in training. Grand stifle and good hind legs, excellent humerus, wonderful loins and quarters. He looks a much plainer horse than several of the other winners of first-class races, but his very powerful make, similar to that of Ormonde, tends to produce the effect of apparent coarseness. He was, in the writer's belief, one of the very best racers that has ever trod the turf.

Isinglass, dam Deadlock, represents a perfectly proportioned racer. He has grand hind legs, extraordinary length of quarter, great barrel and loins, excellent shoulder and humerus, and was a consistent mover of the first-class order. To be hypercritical, his stifle might have been a trifle lower with advantage, and it is probably to this slight deficiency in the length of the femur bone that we may ascribe the non-possession, for a spurt, of the high speed of Raeburn, and some other extra speedy animals.

Seabreeze, dam St. Marguerite, won the Coronation Stakes, the Oaks, and St. Leger. Is beautifully made, quite in keeping with her performances. Fine forehead and shoulder ; well placed humerus ; wonderful depth to brisket, and triangular wedge clearly shown ; back a little long, and quarter slightly short, probably to some extent fault of focussing. Very good stifle ; hind leg not quite straight, but extremely well let down.



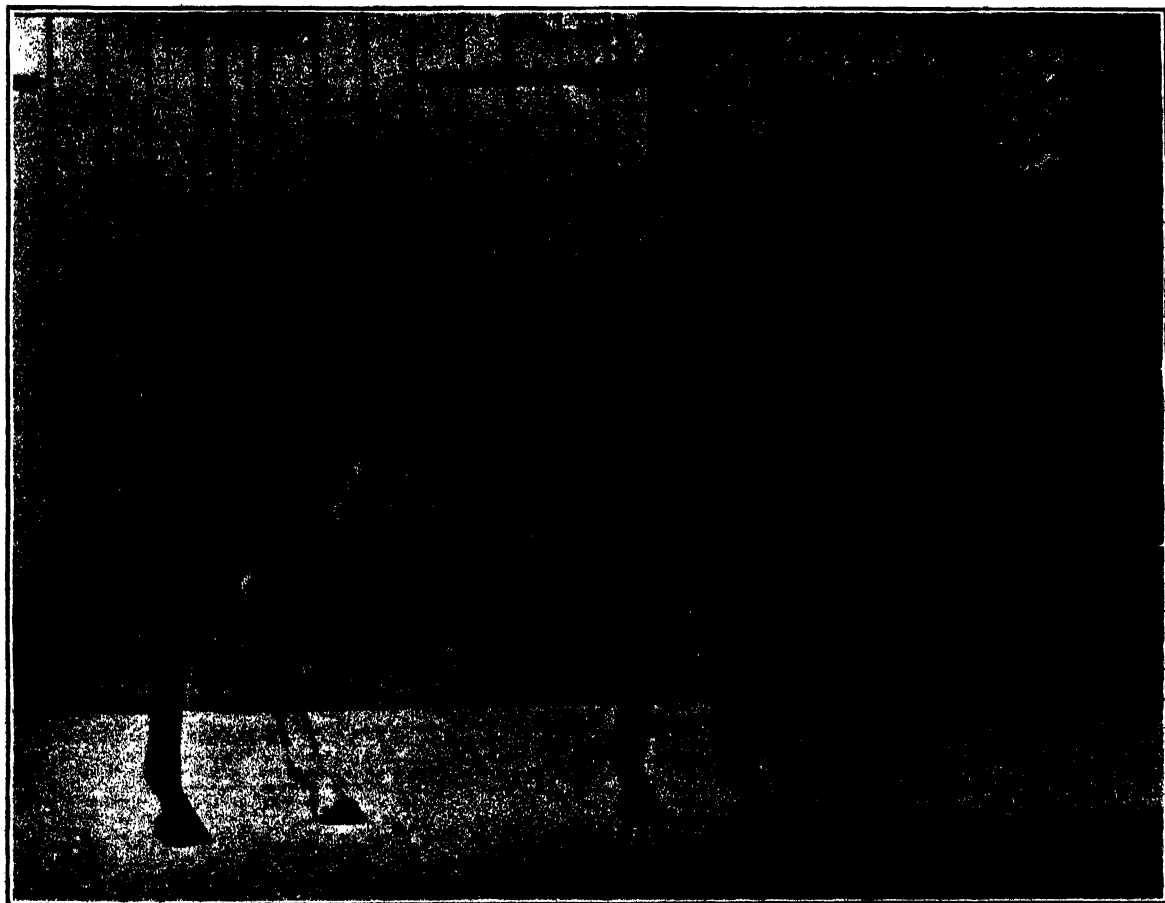
GALLINULE. ISONOMY'S SON BY MOORHEN (No. 19).



COMMON. BY ISONOMY—THISTLE (No.



ISINGLASS. By ISONOMY—DEADLOCK (No. 3).



SEABREEZE. By ISONOMY—ST. MARGUERITE (No. 4).

Hampton and his three selected sons, Royal Hampton, Sheen, and Ladas.

The portrait of him now presented was taken when aged, and so does not do him justice. He won the Metropolitan Stakes, the Goodwood Plate, and the Doncaster Cup. He shows good forehead and shoulder, excellent humerus and free elbow, short back, good loins and stifle, and straight legs. His quarters are inclined to be short; he has the triangular wedge below the brisket well marked, as have Persimmon and Florizel II., denoting staying power. It is, however, as a great sire that he has become renowned, as follows:—

Ayrshire, dam Atalanta.

Bushy Park, dam Semolina.

Ladas, dam Illuminata.

Sheen, dam Radiancy.

Bay Ronald, dam Black Duchess.

Earwig, dam Wriggle.

Royal Hampton, dam Princess.

Merry Hampton, dam Doll Tearsheet.

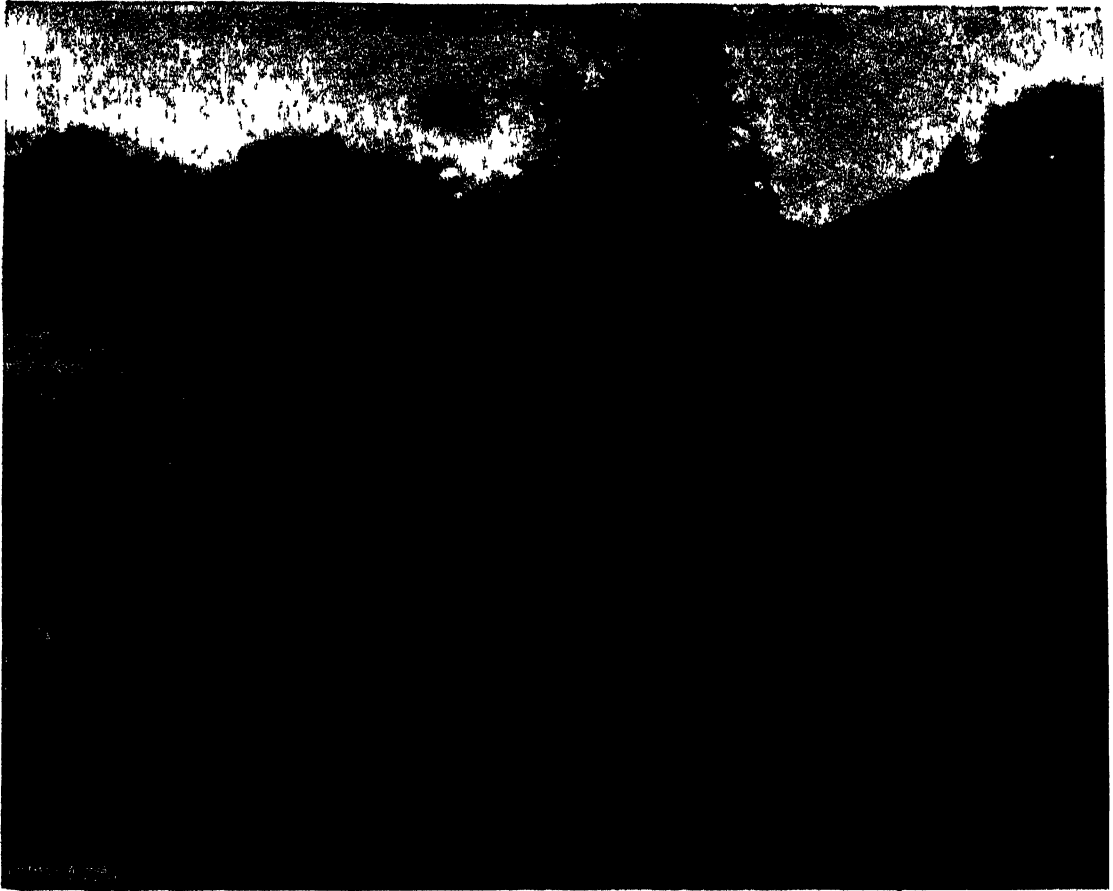
Mares : Reve D'Or and Perdita II.

Royal Hampton has done well at the stud. He won the City and Suburban. Powerfully made, with good humerus and shoulder, but longish back, good loins and quarters, highish stifle, hind legs not quite straight enough, and cut in below rump.

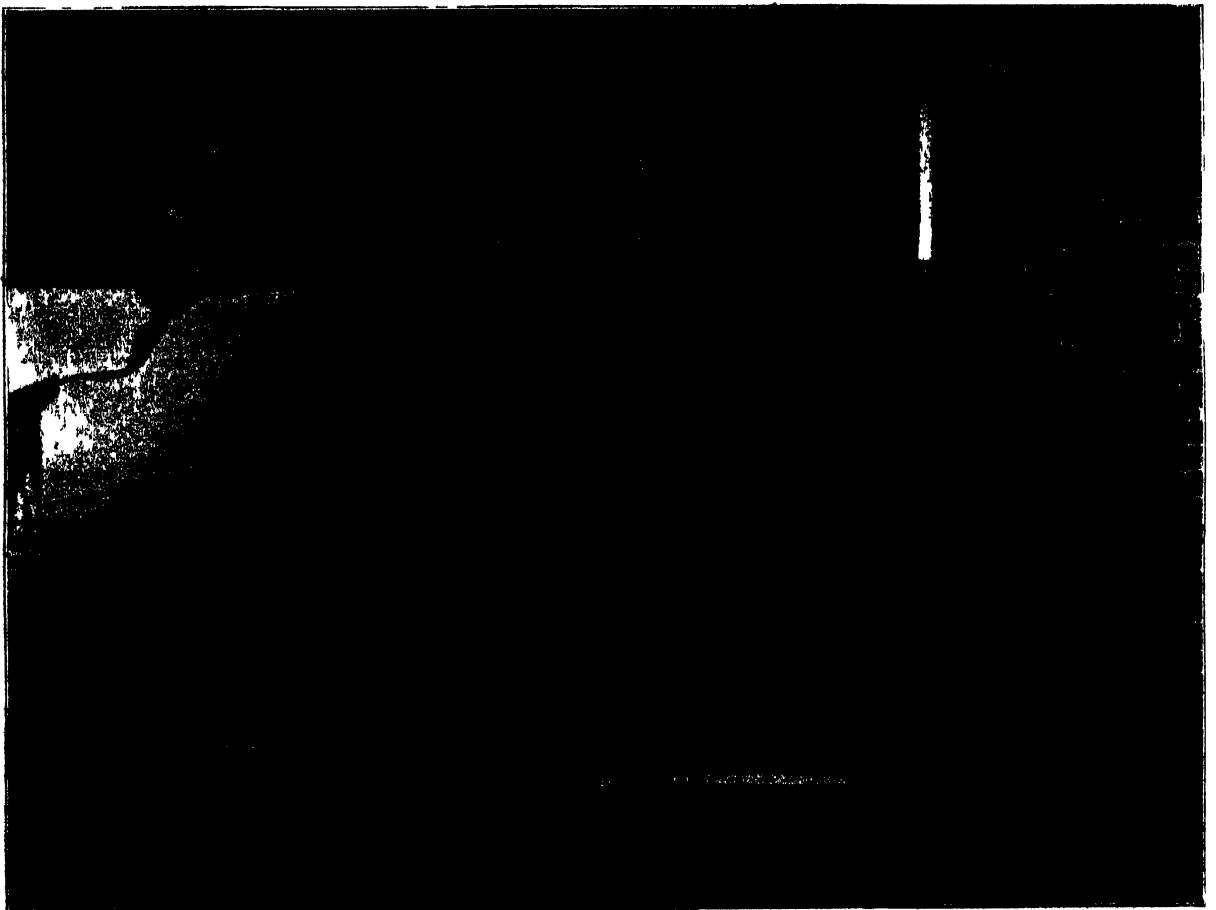
Sheen has a good stifle, but a little high; straight hind legs, good loins and quarters, short back; humerus good length, but inclining to be horizontal. Fair shoulder, looks a little high on the leg; a handsome animal. He won the Cesarewitch, carrying 9 st. 2 lb.

Ladas' points are all good and in unison, and his action smooth and nearly perfect, but withal he seemed to be deficient in the sturdy framework of Common, Bend Or, Isinglass, &c. He won the Two Thousand, the Derby, Newmarket Stakes, and several other races. He is the sire of Epsom Lad and Lavengro.

Ayrshire, a distinguished son of Hampton, has not been included here, as he has already been represented.



HAMPTON (NOW DEAD). BY LORD CLIFDEN—LADY LANGDEN (No. 10).



ROYAL HAMPTON. BY HAMPTON—PRINCESS (No.

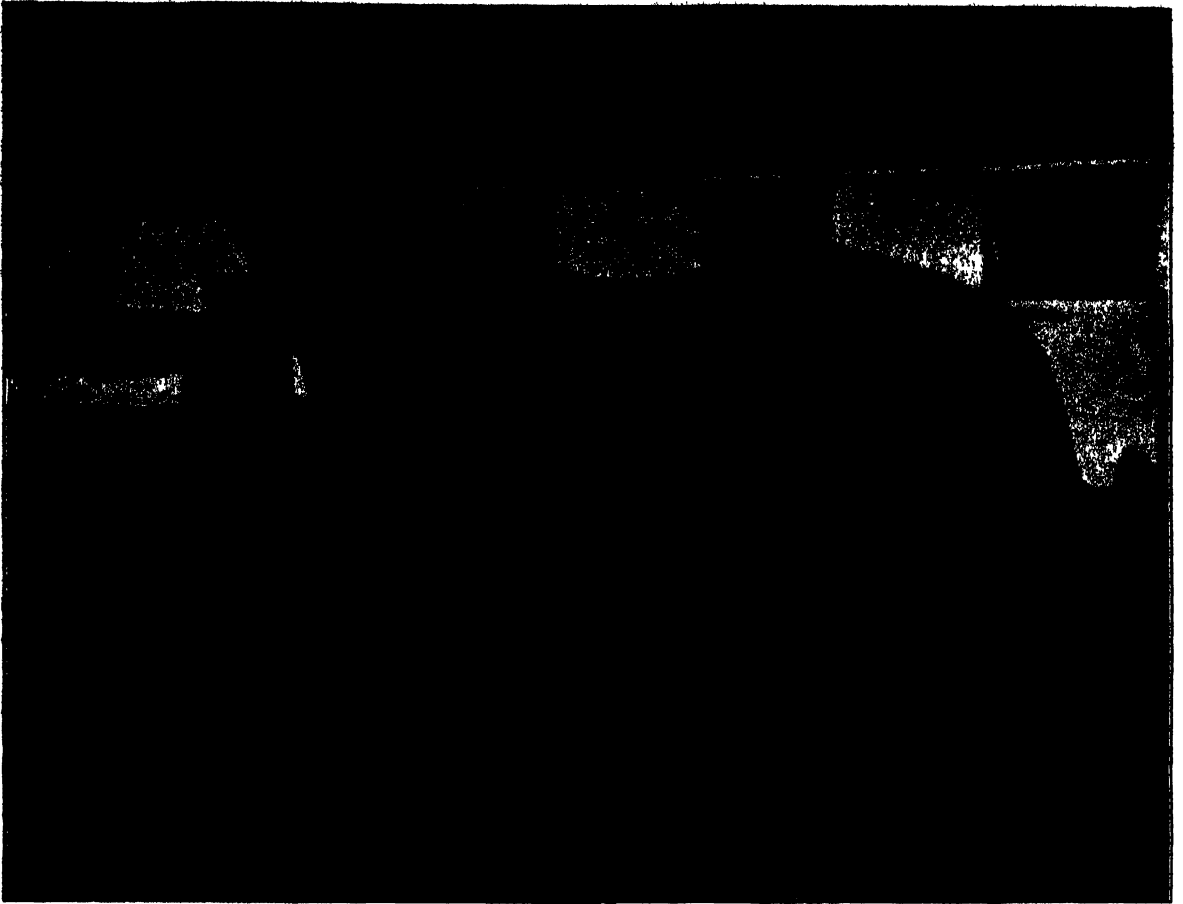
Melton and his three sons are here appended.

Melton, by Master Kildare—Violet Melrose (No. 8). His action was perfect, and was, like that of Ladas, the poetry of movement. The races he won were numerous: the Great Foal and the Criterion Stakes, the Middle Park Plate, the Derby, the St. Leger, and others. A thoroughbred in appearance and shape, he had been serving abroad for some years; but since his return, though he has sired some wonderfully smart performers as two-year-olds, they have one and all as three-year-olds failed to emulate or sustain the expectations formed of them. They mostly seem to have acquired as a part of their framework a shortish and indifferently placed humerus, which (it is believed, when set and fixed more firmly by increasing age) has interfered with and cramped their free movement; as, for instance, Toddington, Princess Melton, and others, not one of whom possesses so good a humerus as the sire.

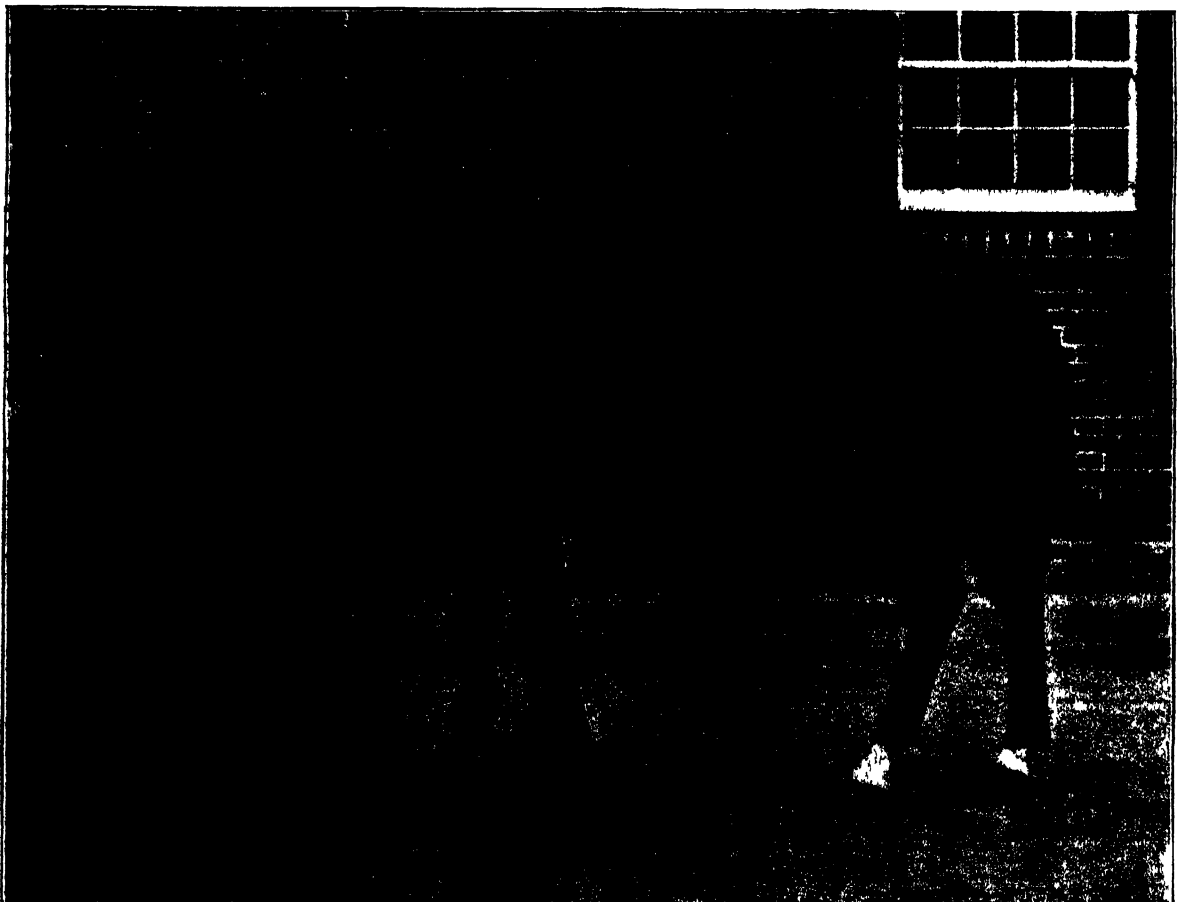
Bullingdon, his son by Shotover (No. 13), was, in the writer's opinion, a really first-class racer, and the best of his offspring. He, as Best Man and Avington did, would probably (though this is contrary to the experience of Melton's latest stock) have improved on his form, until he had at length arrived at the very top class. His early death put an end to all such conjectures. His dividing Isinglass and Ladas in the Prince of Wales Stakes at Newmarket was a very good performance; he won the Prince of Wales Stakes at Goodwood.

Best Man, by Melton—Wedlock (No. 12), won the Great Eastern Handicap and the Derby Cup. He improved from a second-class into a first-class handicap horse. He was in framework a level, well-balanced colt; long humerus but slightly horizontal, leg slightly crooked, but with no prominent points to catch the eye, all fairly in unison. A fast colt, as was his half-brother Avington.

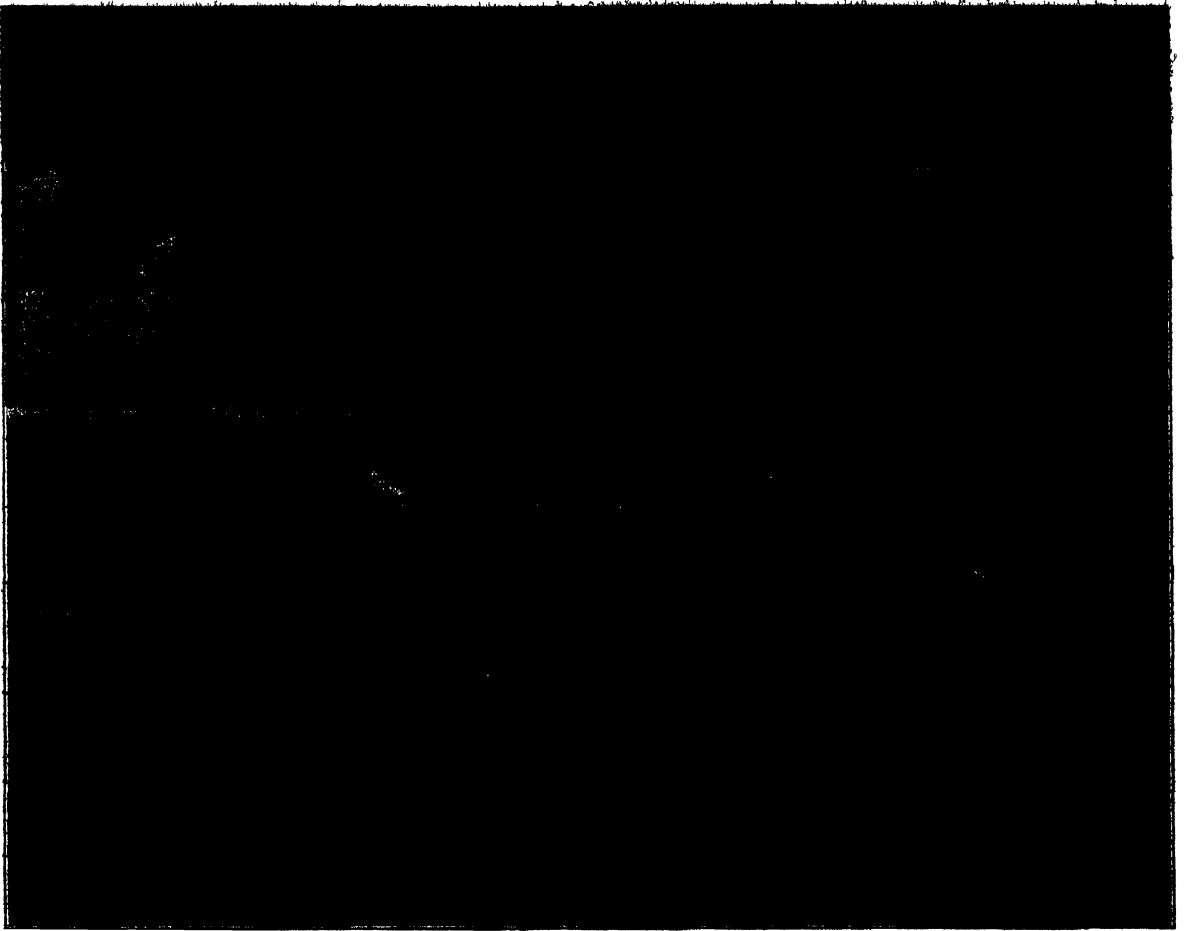
Avington, by Melton—Annette (No. 5), was a great handicap miler. He won the Jubilee and the Breeders' Foal Stakes, the Brighton Cup, and the Duke of York Stakes. He is a very compact and well-built horse. Both he and Best Man resemble in looks and shape their sire Melton.



MELTON.



BULLINGDON.



BEST MAN.



AVINGTON.

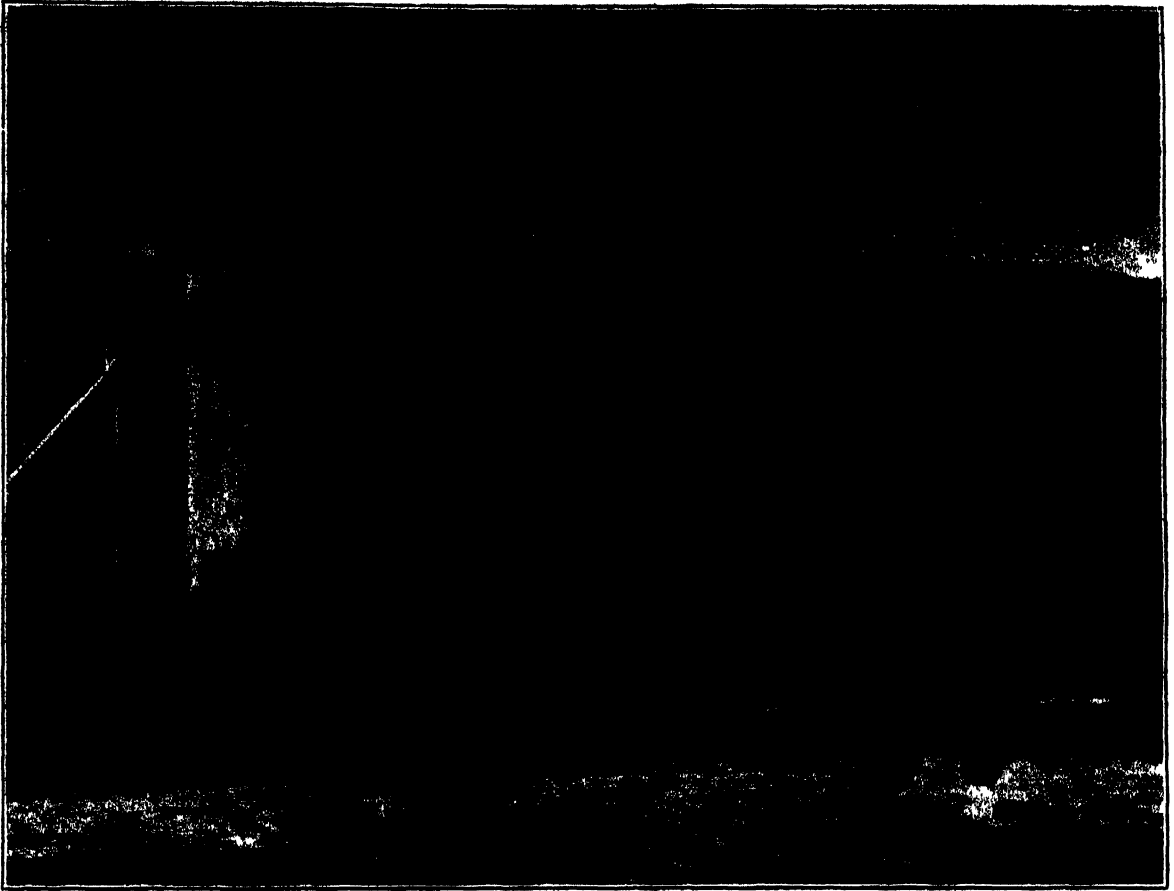
This quartette comprises the great sire (now dead) Barcaldine ; his son, Sir Visto, out of the dam Vista ; her son again, Bonavista ; and the latter's son, Cyllene.

Barcaldine, by Solon—Ballyroe (No. 23), won the Northumberland Plate ; but before his death distinguished himself as a great sire, with Bartisan, Bradwardine, Morion (winner of the Gold Cup), Sir Visto (winner of the Derby and St. Leger), Winkfield, and the mare Mimi. He possessed a grand framework, great loins and quarters, good hind legs, but he failed—hypercritically speaking—to have so perpendicular and so long a humerus, and so good a shoulder, as a very first-class racehorse should have, and is a trifle long in the back.

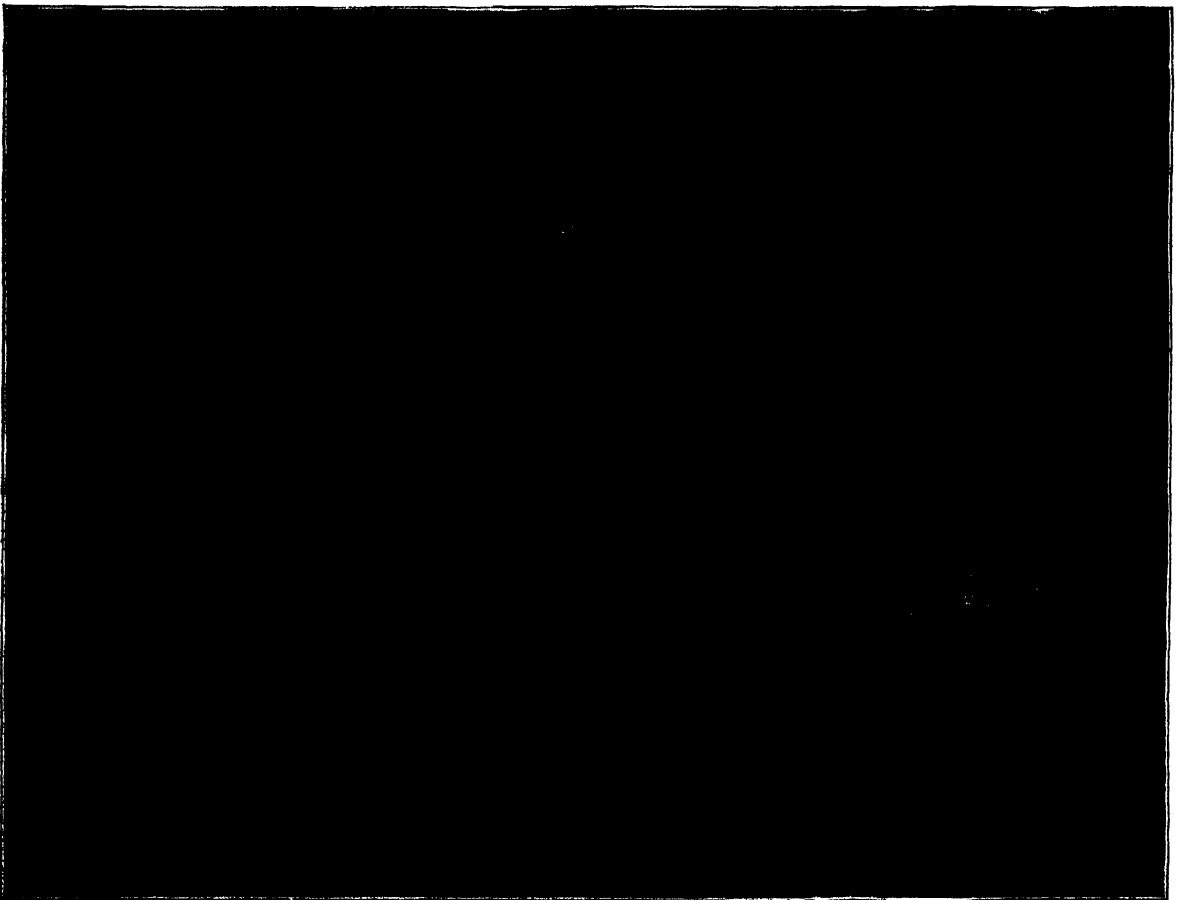
Sir Visto, son of the above by the mare Vista—which mare was also the dam of Velasquez, and the next colt described, Bonavista—won the Derby and St. Leger, and other races. He has an excellent stifle, free elbow, but, like his sire, has his humerus neither so long nor so well placed as it should have been ; hence, though he possessed a quick and powerful strike, his action was too high and not smooth enough, not so level as that of Ladas or Melton. A very excellent colt, but not the equal of Orme, Isinglass, and other classical winners.

Bonavista, by Bend Or—Vista (No. 4), was the winner of the Two Thousand, the Woodcote and the New Stakes at Ascot. Was not quite first-class, but proved himself to be a successful sire in his colt, Cyllene, and others. Humerus long but not over well placed, well let down, but hind leg not quite straight, and longish in the back.

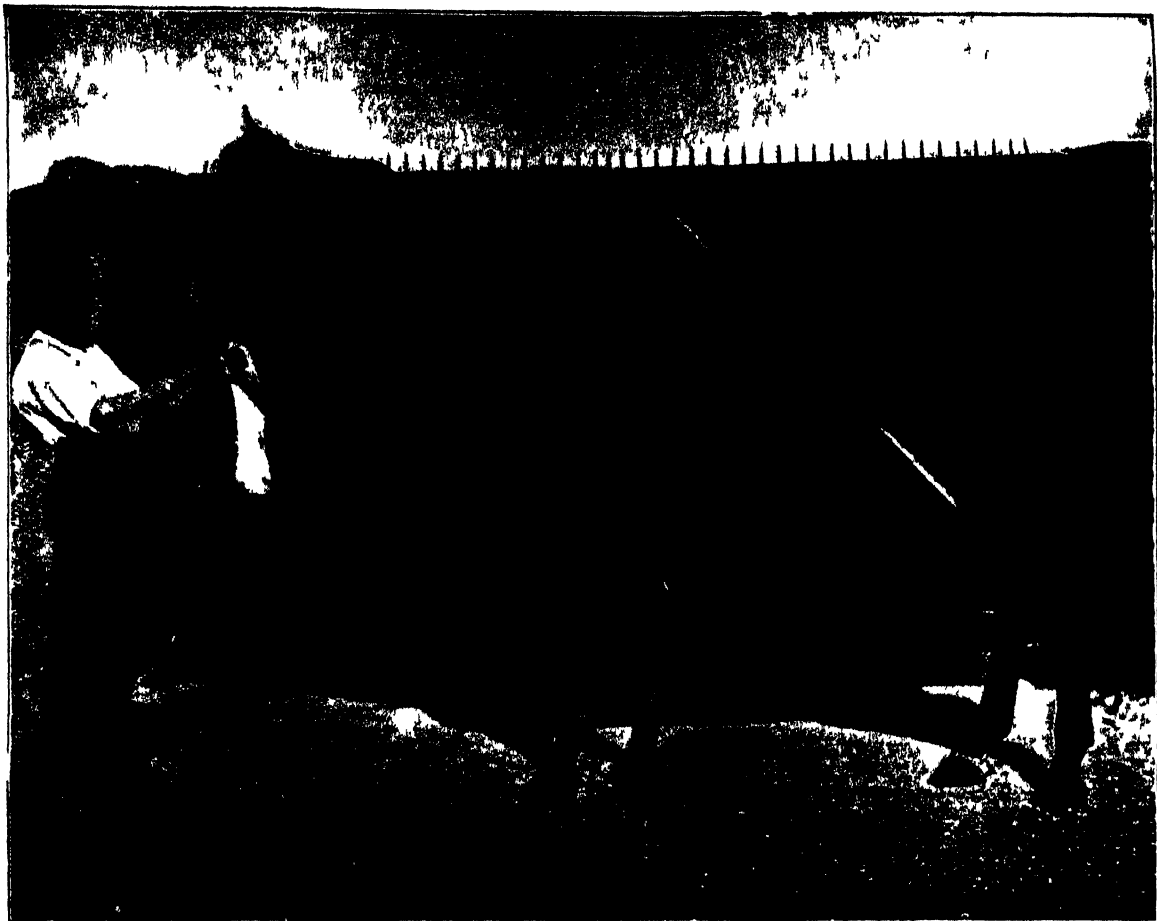
Cyllene, by Bonavista—Arcadia (No. 9), was quite first-class, winning the Breeders' Foal and the Newmarket Stakes, the Jockey Club Plate, and the Gold Cup at Ascot. He has long and powerful quarters, good hind legs, grand loins, but is slightly deficient in the position or placing of the humerus, which, however, is of good length.



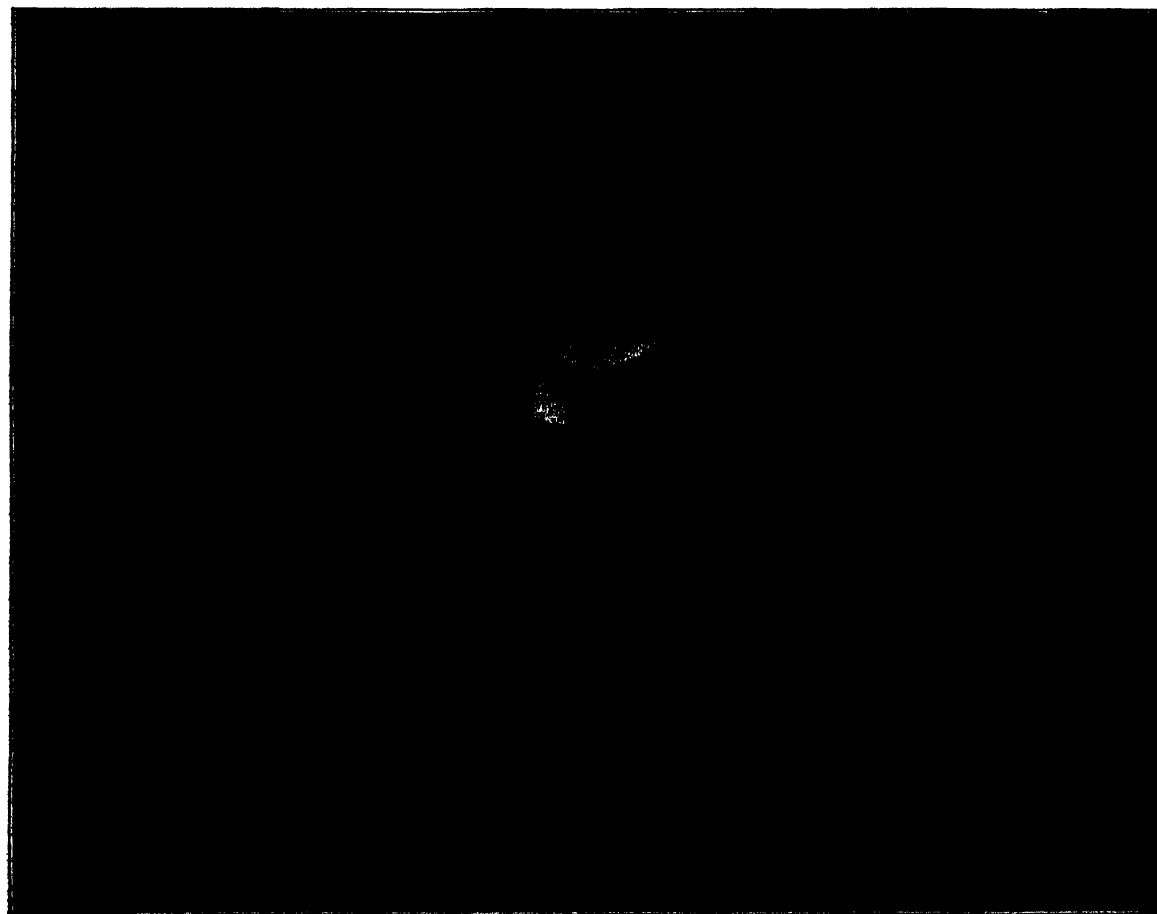
BARCADDINE.



SIR VISTO.



BONAVISTA.



CYLLENE.

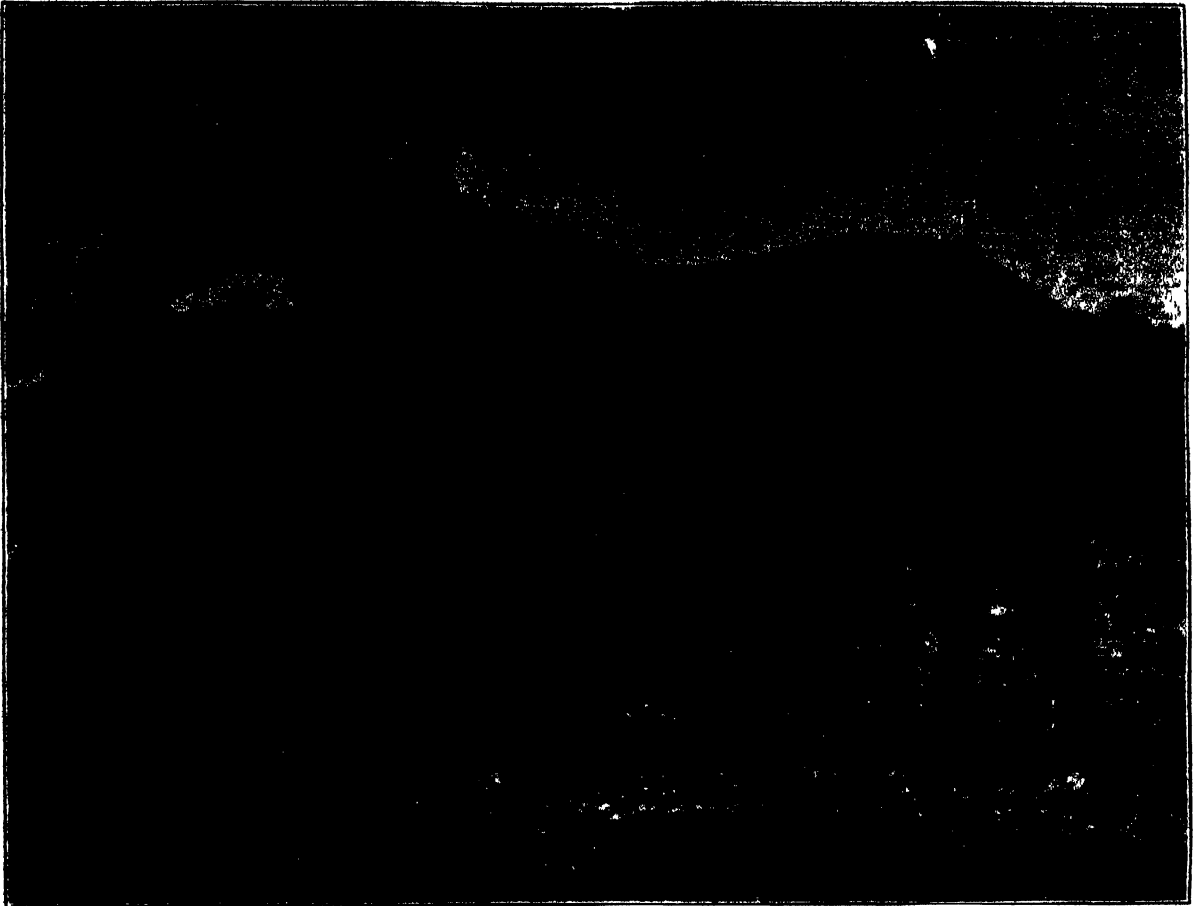
Following the precedent of St. Simon, here are placed the four sons of Bend Or, viz., Kendal, Martagon, Orvieto, and Laveno.

Kendal, by Bend Or—Windermere (No. 16), is a well-shaped, compact horse, an inferior likeness of his parent, higher in the stifle, shoulder slightly loaded, and humerus not so perpendicular; he was, however, good enough to win the July Stakes. At the stud he has been a great success, siring Galtee More, winner of the Two Thousand, the Derby, and the St. Leger, and others.

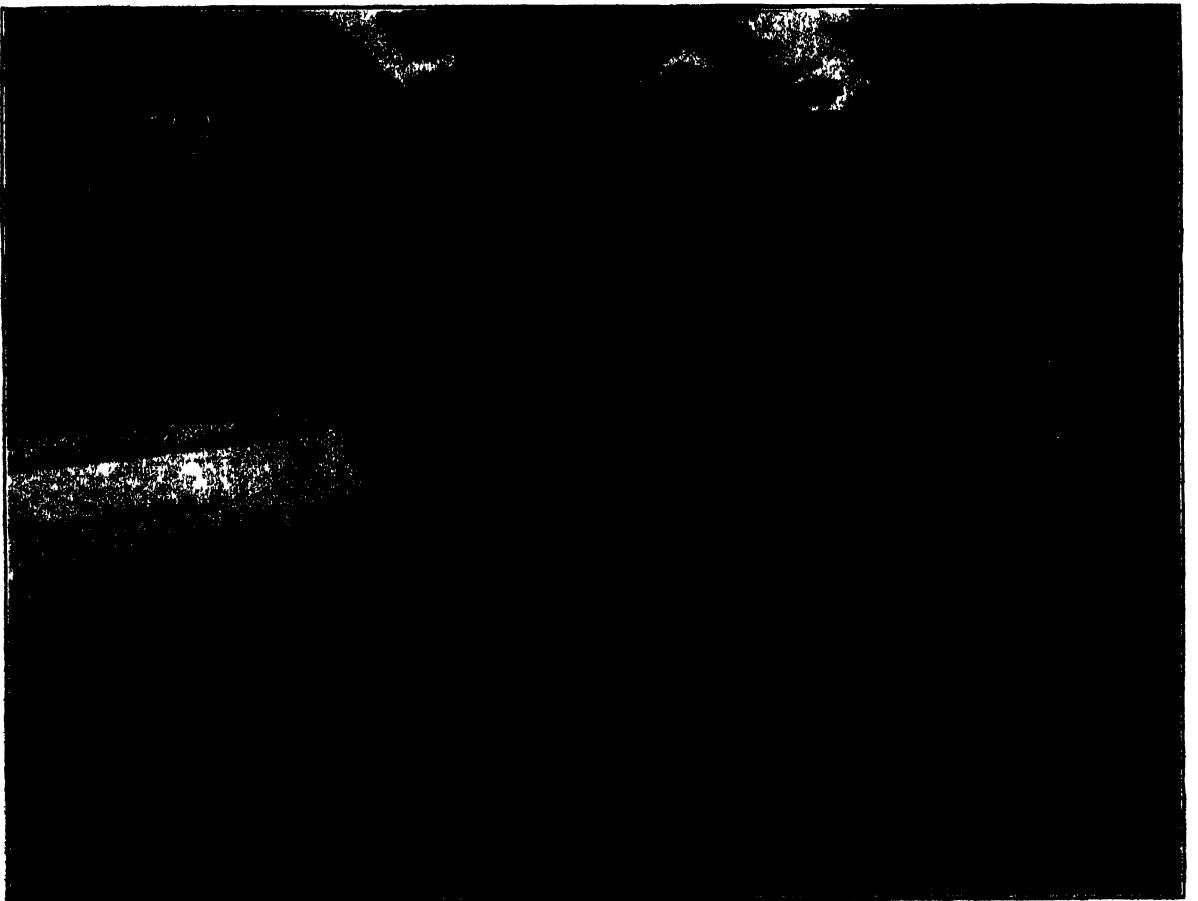
Martagon, by Bend Or—Tiger Lily (No. 16), is not unlike Kendal in appearance, but has a better stifle, a better placed humerus, and a straighter hind leg. He won the Gold Vase at Ascot, the Goodwood Cup, and he is the sire of Champ de Mars, Musa, and others.

Orvieto, by Bend Or—Napoli (No. 1), as may be seen from the portrait, is beautifully shaped, with excellent forehand, capital humerus, no lumber in front, good quarters and well dropped hind leg. He won the Rous Memorial and the Chesterfield Stakes, and the Great Yorkshire Handicap, and has been a fair success at the stud.

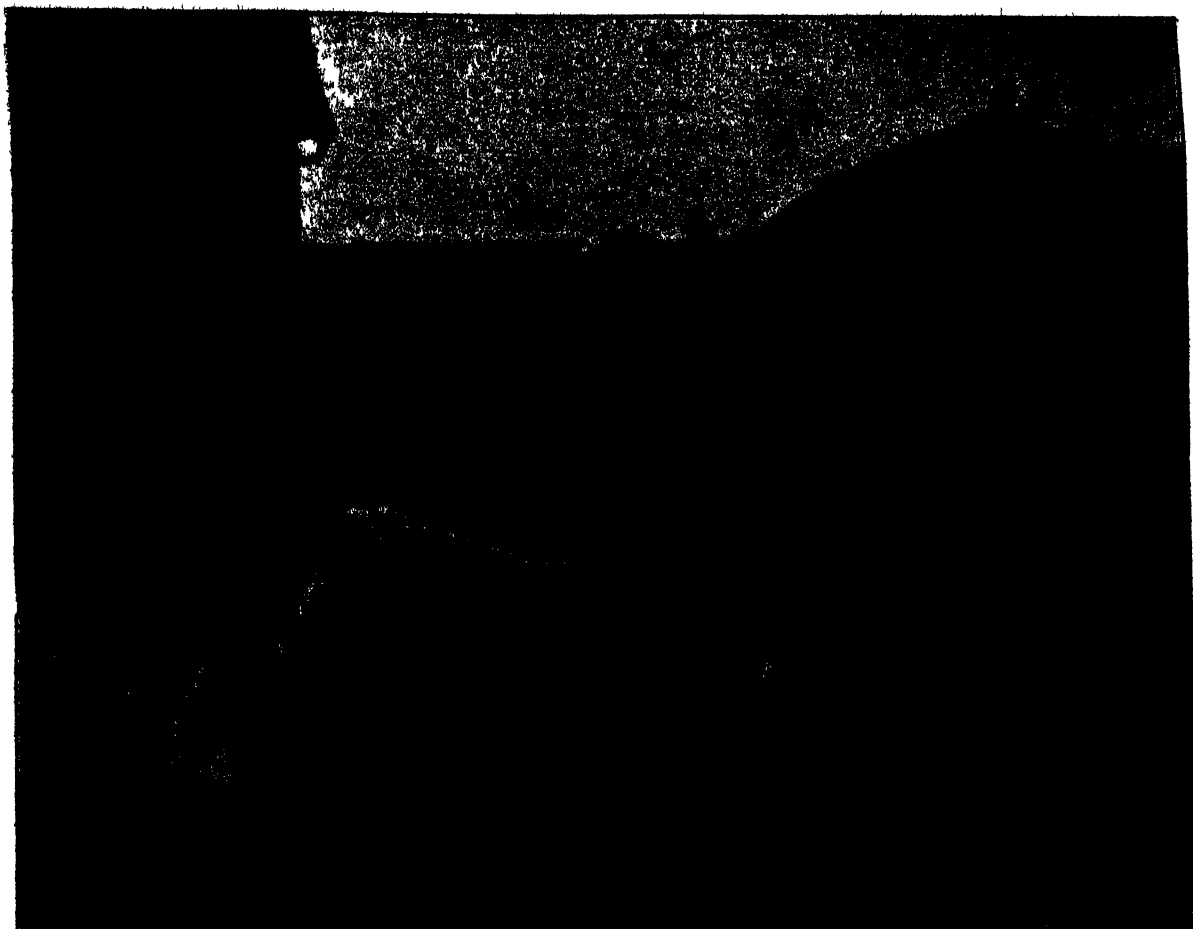
Laveno, by Bend Or, also out of Napoli (No. 1), hence full brother to Orvieto, has been selected as an excellent example of a low, well developed stifle, one which is moreover turned outwards (like that of St. Frusquin, Donovan, and others noticed earlier in this work), and has a long and perpendicular humerus. The proportionate length of this bone and that of the shoulder-blade should be taken notice of; the slope of the shoulder might have been better, and his quarters are too short. He won the £10,000 Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket.



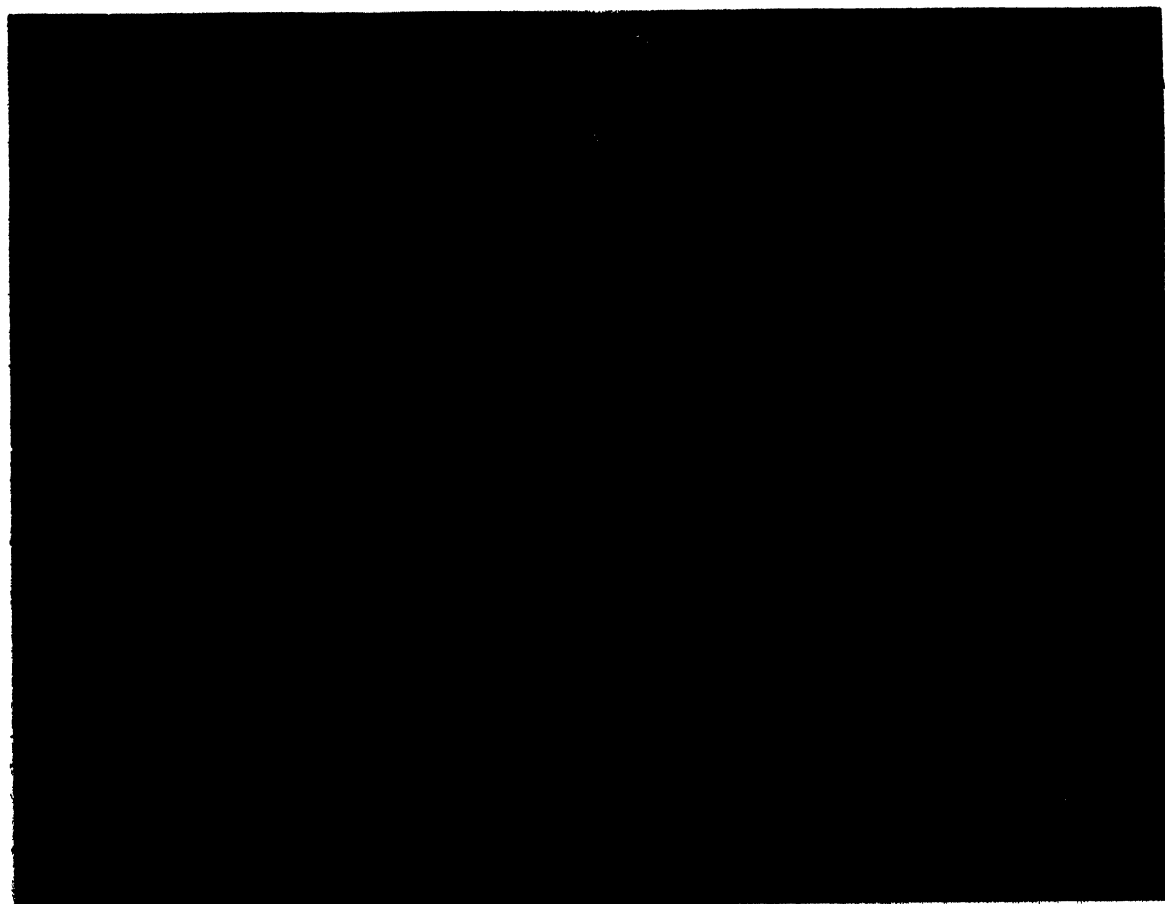
KENDAL.



MARTAGON.



ORVIETO.



LAVENO.

Four horses bred out of England are here selected for comparison ; Carbine and Trenton, two Australian, and Omnium II. and Elf II., two French racehorses. The two former are well-known winners in Australia, and were brought over to England at great expense in order to revive and regenerate the Musket blood.

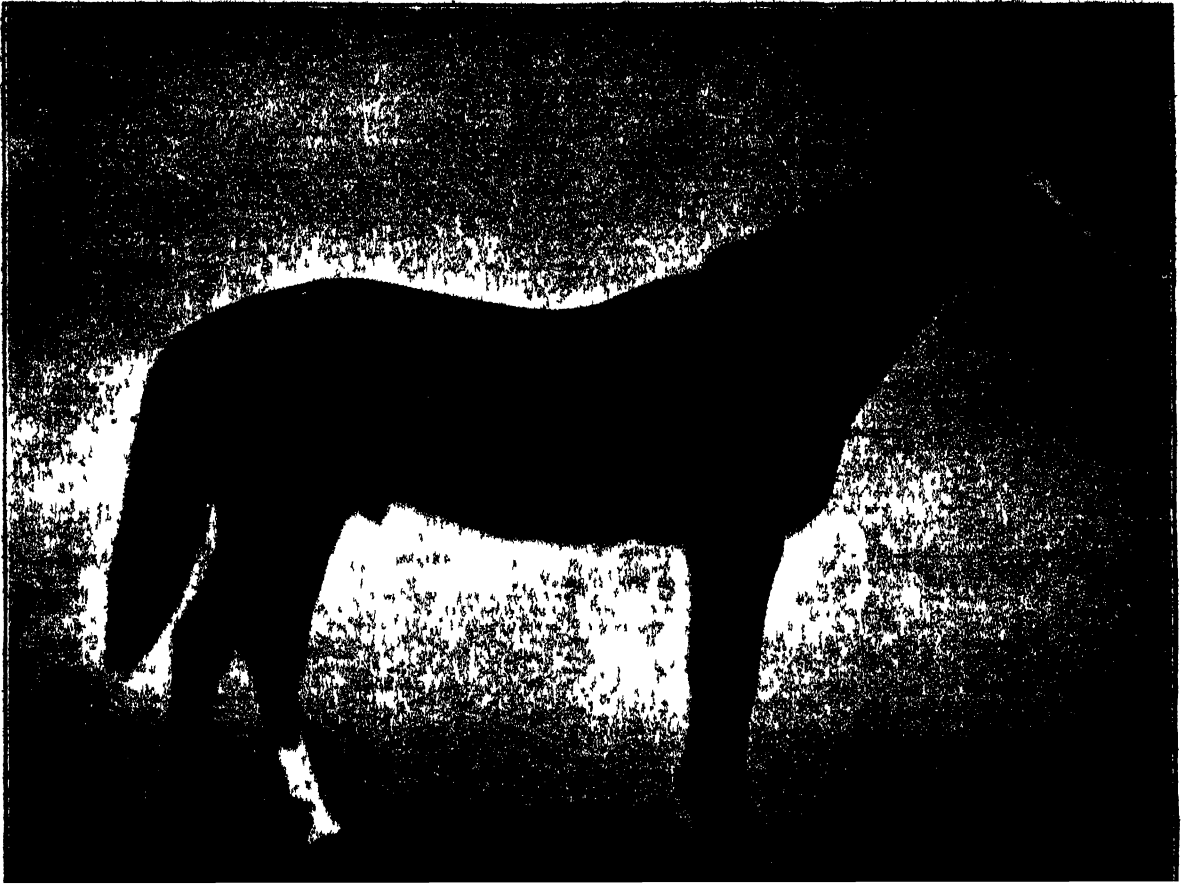
Carbine, by Musket—Mersey (No. 2), is a stoutly-made animal with an excellent and muscular stifle, powerful loins and quarters, fair shoulders, has the humerus fairly well placed, though a trifle short, and a straight hind leg.

Trenton, by Musket—Frailty (No. 18), is handsomer and finer built ; has a good forehand, straight hind leg. He is not quite so solidly framed, has a shorter humerus but better placed, is high on the leg, but has a good stifle.

Both have done well at the stud in Australia, and so far promise well at the stud here also.

Omnium II., by Upas—Blurette (No. 22), is a fine big racehorse, and won several of the best races in France. Very fine stifle, hind legs, and quarters ; long humerus, though not so perpendicular as it might have been ; good shoulder, short back, good loins, triangular wedge well developed ; his only deficiency, the position of the humerus.

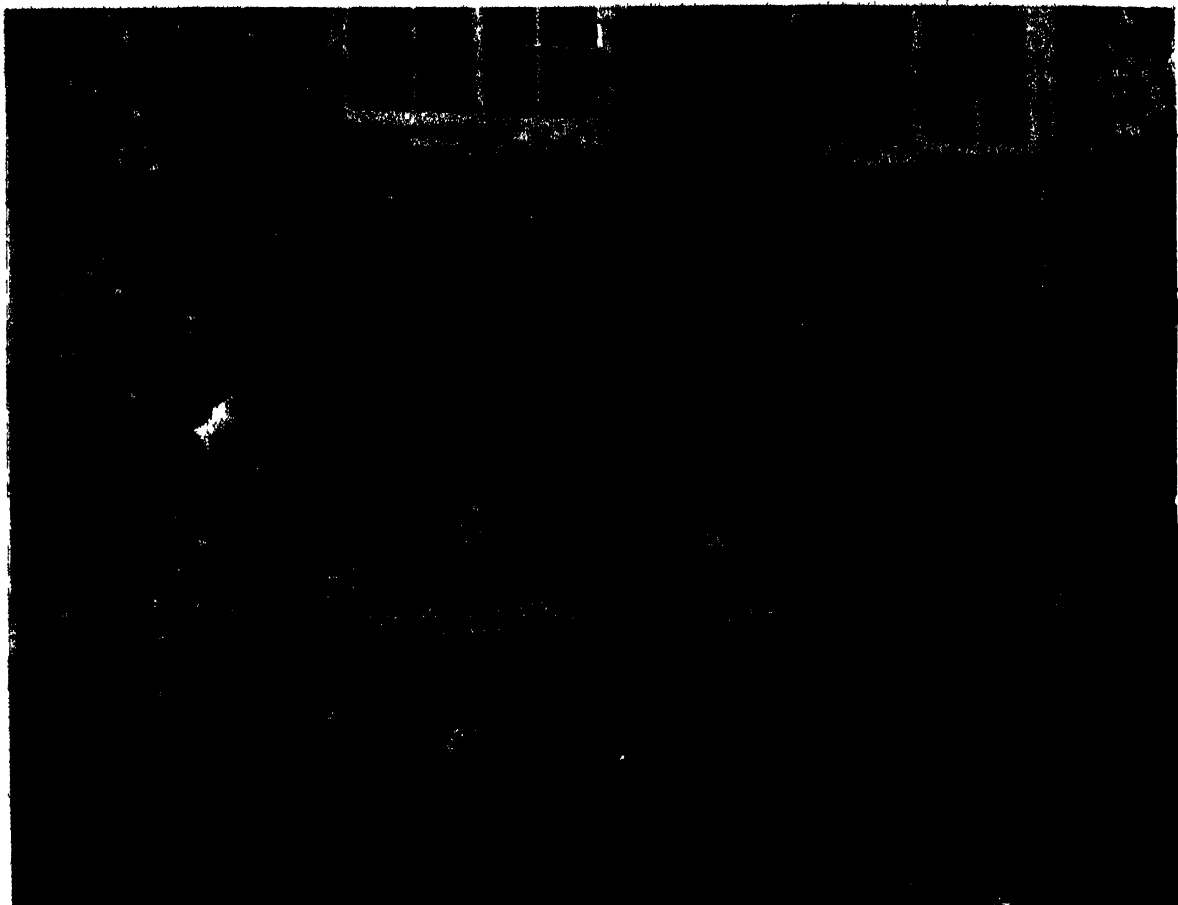
Elf II., by Upas—Analogy (No. 4), came over from France to Ascot, and won the Gold Cup. He was remarkable for the power and length of his stride, and his points therefore are worth examining. He has a very excellent and well-developed stifle, turning also outwards ; long humerus, well placed ; good shoulder, good hind legs well let down, and triangular wedge at brisket, good loins, and fair quarters.



CARBINE



TRENTON.



OMNIUM II.



ELF II.

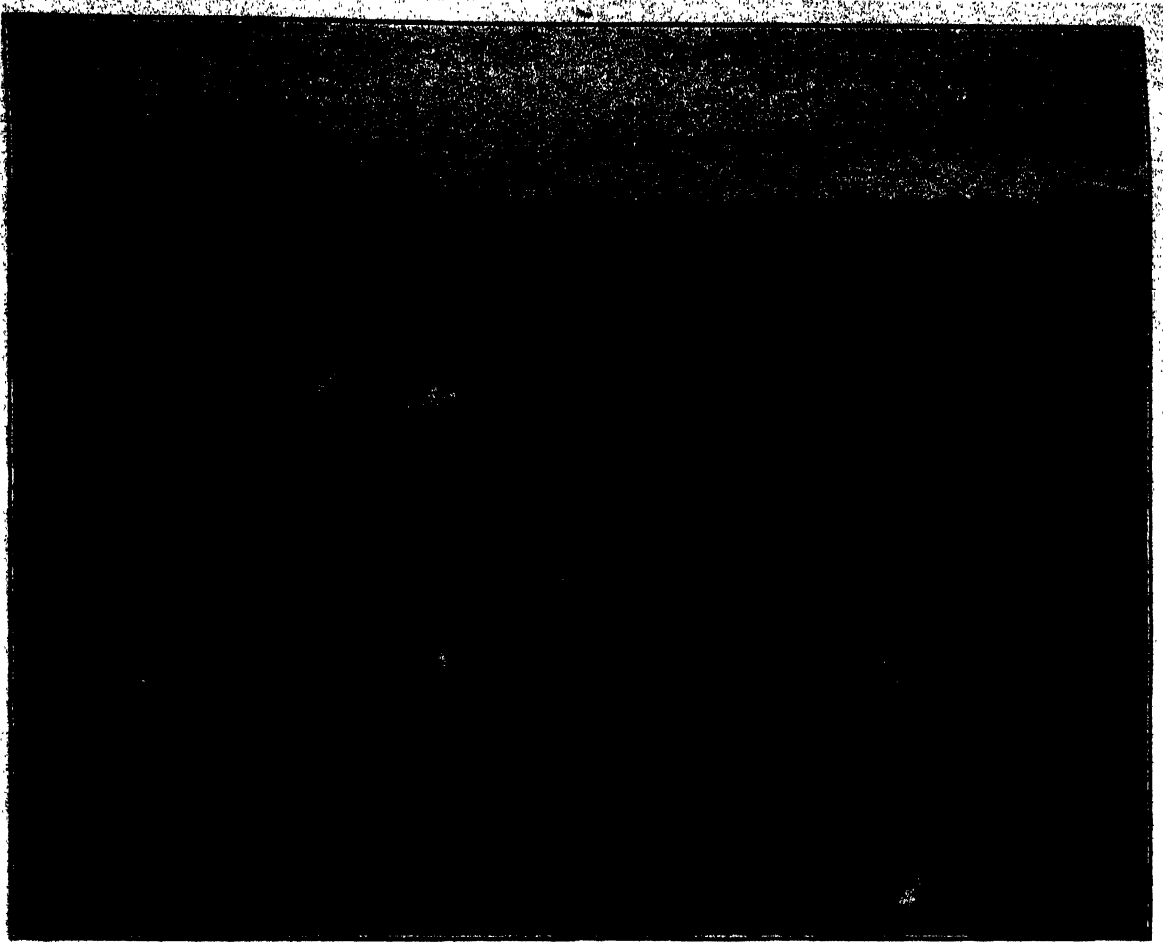
The four here represented are Amphion, Surefoot, Love Wisely, and Epsom Lad.

Amphion, by Speculum or Rosebury out of Suicide (No. 12), possesses not quite so perpendicular a humerus as he might have had, but, for all that, he is a grand specimen of a well-built and powerfully-framed racehorse. He won the March Stakes, carrying over 10 st., and in the Rous Memorial Stakes he gave (with the beating) over a stone to the crack mare Signorina, and had, moreover, Martagon and Gouverneur behind him.

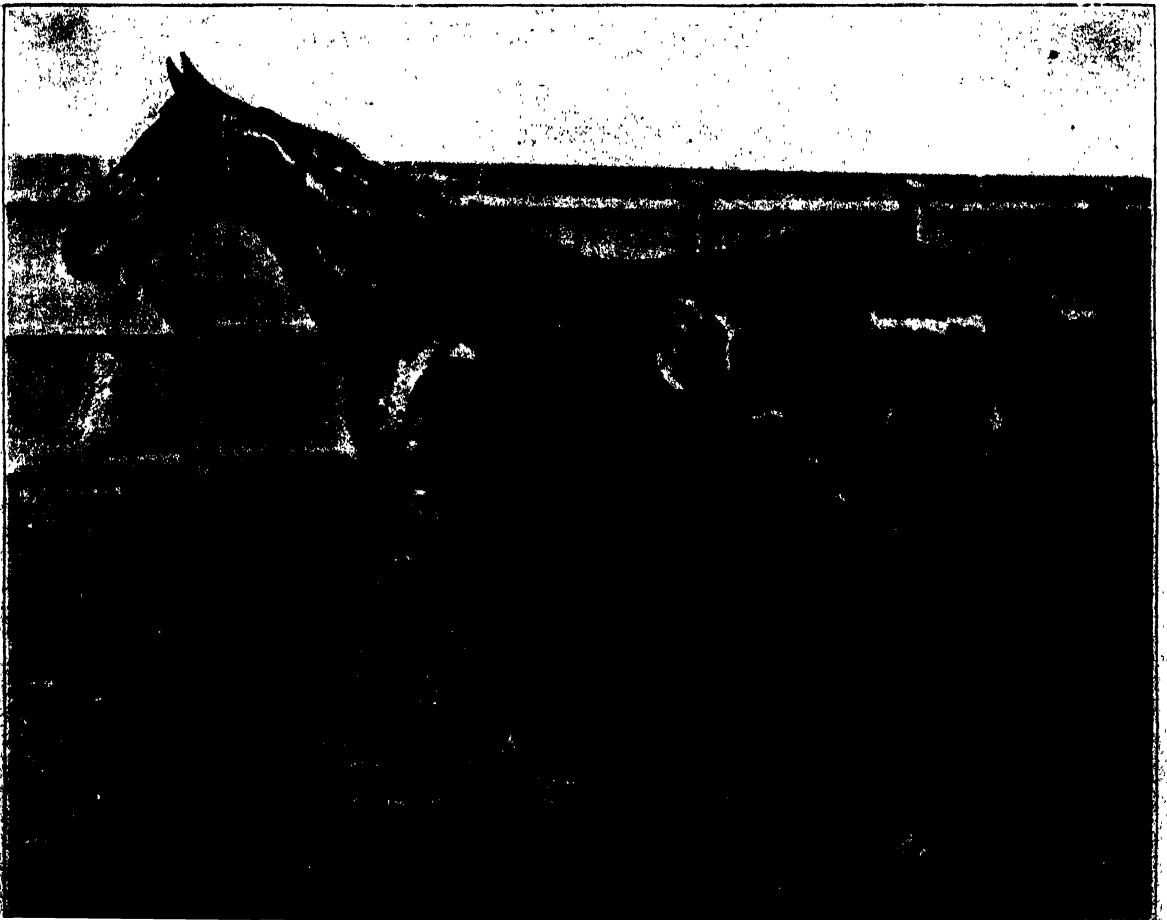
Surefoot, by Wisdom, dam by Galopin (No. 19), was a great horse, spoilt by his terrible temper. He possessed tremendous speed, combined with enormous power, as he proved when he won the Eclipse Stakes. His most prominent characteristics are good stifle, good humerus and shoulder, combined with enormous power. He won the Two Thousand Guineas, Woodcote and Eclipse Stakes, &c. So far he has not been a very successful sire.

Love Wisely, also by Wisdom—Lovelorn (No. 11), is particularly noticeable for his long quarters, powerful loins, and good hind legs, but is not so well appointed as regards his humerus. He did not compete in any of the classic races, but proved himself of top form by winning the £10,000 Jockey Club Stakes, and the Gold Cup at Ascot.

Epsom Lad, by Ladas—Disorder (No. 11), has a good stifle, straight drop of hind leg, a good shoulder, and free elbow; humerus fairly good, but encumbered with a little lumber in front. On the whole, he is a striking-looking colt. It is curious to note that, as a three-year-old, he was relegated to only short spins, in which he was certain to be handicapped, when competing with the very fastest animals, by the too prominent point of his shoulder, and the full weight of the flesh in front. As a two-year-old he won the Middle Park Plate, and as a four-year-old two of the £10,000 races, and in his last race beat the Derby and St. Leger winners of the year, Volodyovski and Doricles, as well as the cracked-up Santoi. He confirms the opinion already expressed: a horse with lumber in front may have pace, and, so long as he is not forced to extreme pressure for any considerable distance or time, will often be hard to beat, but, if pressed overmuch, he tires and fails, as he has done once or twice in his races.



LOVE WISELY.



Four fast mile handicap racehorses : Suspender, Euclid, Clorane, and Winkfield's Pride.

Suspender, by Muncaster—Garterless (No. 12), won the Royal Hunt Cup. Is a remarkably powerfully built horse, almost too much so ; has great loins and quarters, good humerus and shoulder, good hind leg but stifle high. A colt which was thought in the most astute stable to be one of the very best horses in training.

Euclid, by Prism—dam by Speculum, out of Nydia (No. 9), won the Lincolnshire and the Jubilee handicaps. Possesses an excellent stifle, one also turning outwards, a well dropped but not quite straight hind leg, good shoulders, free elbow, and a fairly placed humerus, all combined with good loins and quarters.

Clorane, by Castlereagh—May Girl, won the Lincolnshire Handicap and the Royal Hunt Cup. Is quite of a different appearance ; has a straight hind leg, though the stifle is higher, a well placed and a long humerus, a good shoulder, longer in the quarters, and with good loins.

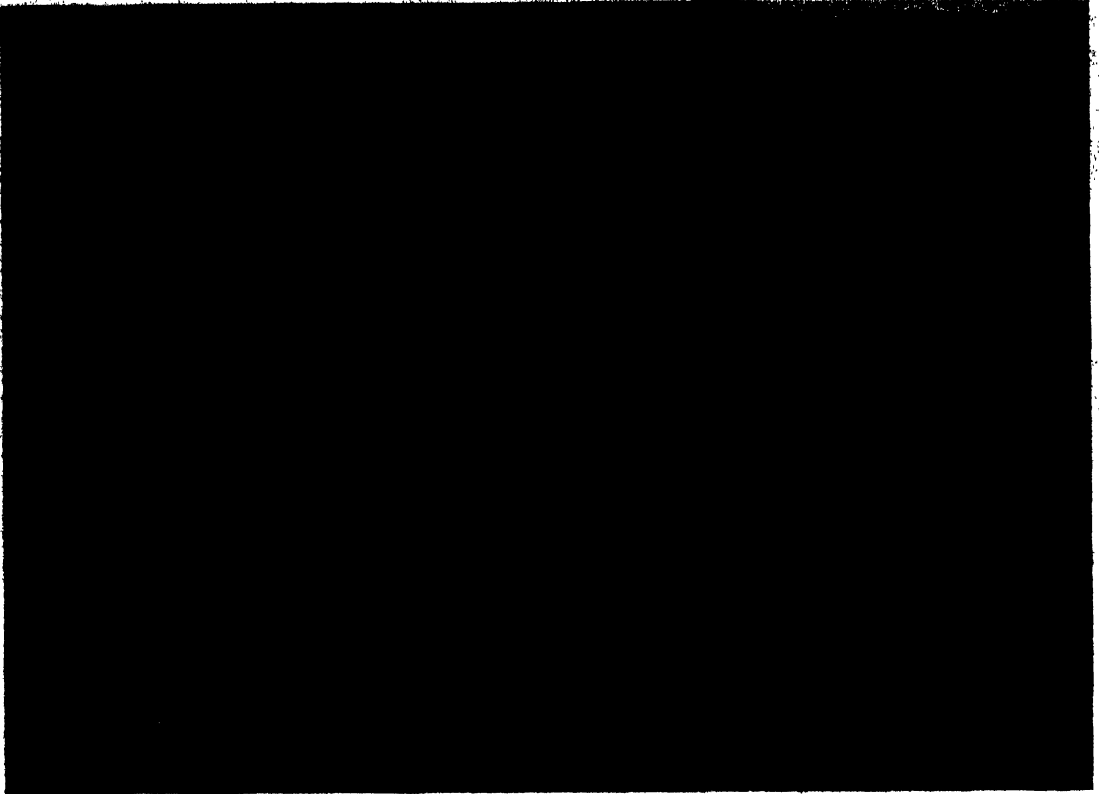
Winkfield's Pride, by Winkfield—Alimony (No. 9), won the Lincolnshire, the Doncaster Cup, and the Cambridgeshire. From a second he developed into a first class handicap racehorse. Has an excellent humerus, good shoulder, other points good, but is a little too long in the back and high in the leg ; was rated high enough by his admirers to be entered and run in the Gold Cup at Ascot.



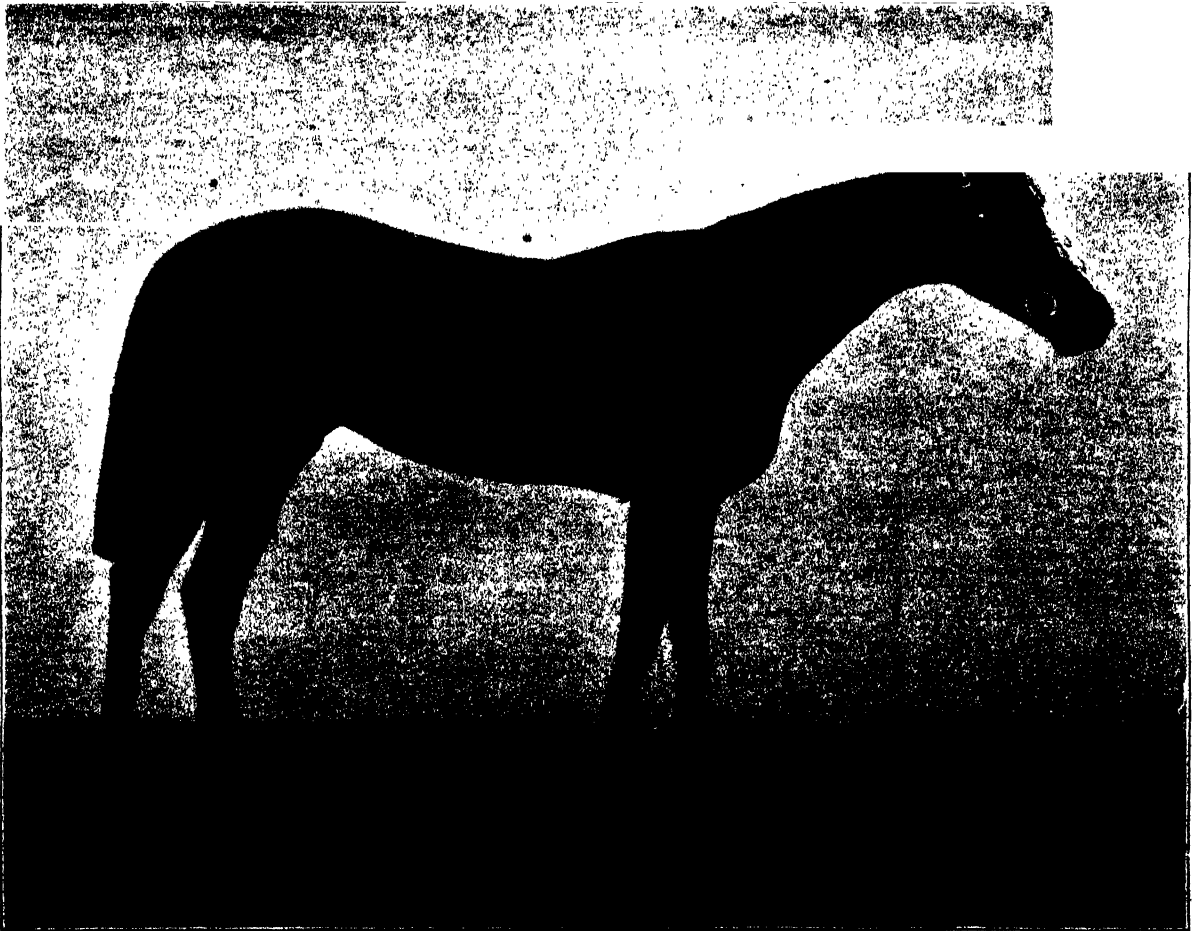
SUSPENDER.



EUCLID.



CLORANE.



WINKFIELD'S PRIDE.

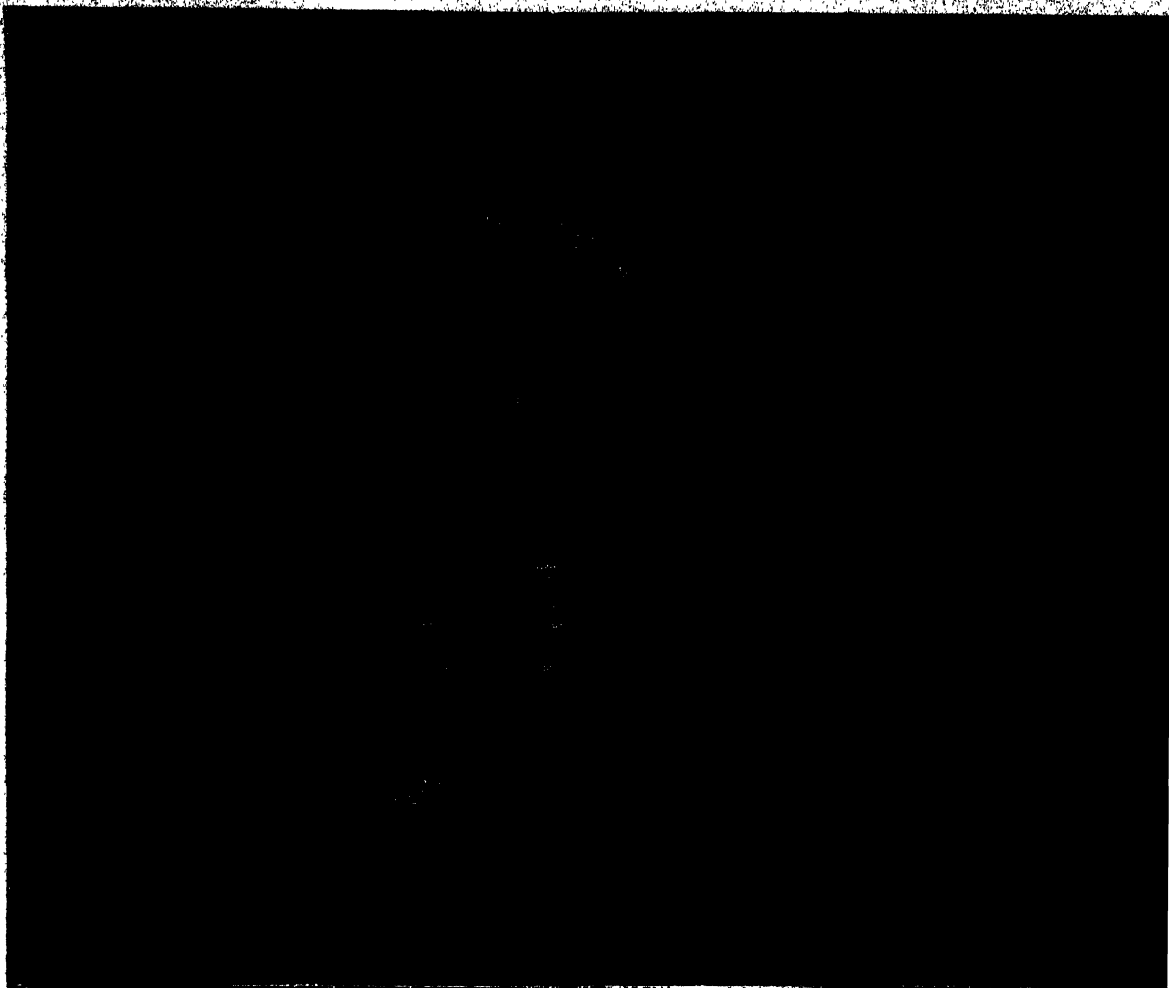
The writer has not been able to obtain more than the four good two-year-olds ; they are the Duke of Westminster, Ard Patrick, Sceptre, and Royal Lancer.

The Duke of Westminster, by Orme—Gauntlet (No. 20), won his races as a two-year-old, and appears to be a well-moulded horse. He has an excellent stifle, fair hind legs, not too straight, and is remarkably well let down ; has a good and well-placed humerus, good shoulder, only fair loins and quarters. At present appears to be rather lightly made and to want power, and the barrel is not sufficiently large or deep. He has not grown at all, and has failed signally as a three-year-old.

Ard Patrick, by St. Florian—Morganette (No. 5), and hence half-brother to Galtee More, by same dam. Is a powerfully built colt, quite the reverse of the Duke ; great quarters, good stifle. hind legs very well let down, but too sickle-shaped, and too much cut into below rump ; humerus and shoulder good, but latter inclined to thickness ; back a little long, like that of Galtee More. He is not built on such fine racing lines as Sceptre, but is very promising in power and scope. He won the Derby in good style, and is probably a really great horse.

Sceptre, by Persimmon—Ornament (No. 16), is a very blood-looking filly ; excellent forehand and shoulder, humerus very good both as regards perpendicularity of its position and its proportionate length ; good loins and quarters, short back, wonderful stifle, and well let down ; has the good straight hind legs and deep brisket of her sire. By far the best-shaped animal of the year, or of any year. The photograph does not do her justice.

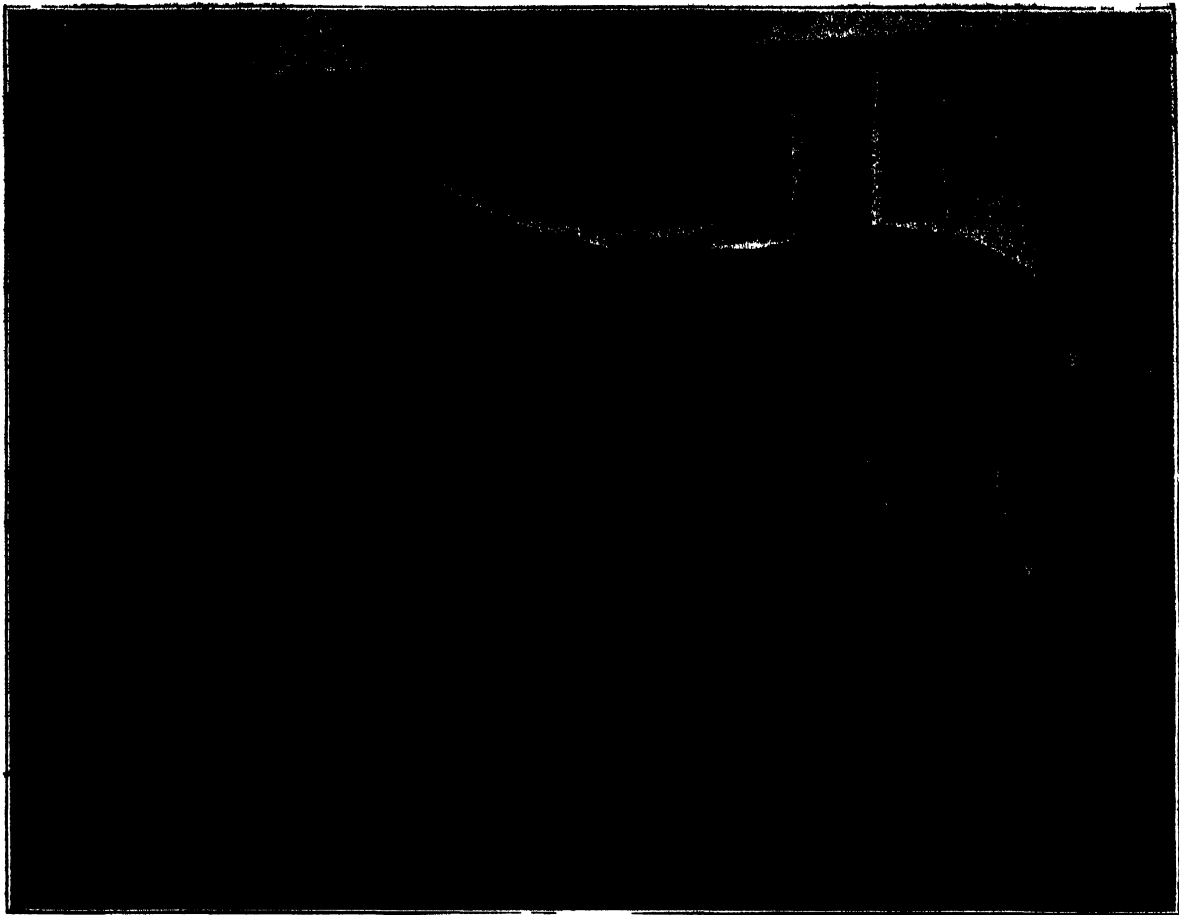
Royal Lancer, by Royal Hampton—Lightfoot (No. 1).



DUKE OF WESTMINSTER.



AND PATRICK



SCEPTRE.



PART V.

HINTS ON THE PURCHASE OF HORSES.

It is really a very simple matter, even if a purchaser possesses only the most rudimentary knowledge of the animal, to be fairly certain that he is buying a good and useful horse; for the points necessary to note personally are very few—only four—which are easily learnt and recognised. The rest of the examination should be left to the veterinary surgeon.

If pleased with the look of the animal, make the horse walk past at some little distance off, say 15 or 20 yards, and particularly note whether he places his hind feet, as he walks past, well in front of the impression left on the ground by his fore feet. If clear in front it is good; the further in advance (and if the impression of the hind is slightly outside the fore foot) so much the better. At the same time, mark whether the fore-leg moves freely and smoothly forward; if so, it is good. If the action appears stilty or short it is bad.

If the hind foot does not at least cover the impression of the fore, and if the action of the foreleg is short, have nothing to do with the horse.

In this examination it may assist the purchaser to note whether, as he is walking past, the point of his shoulder shows out prominently; if so, the chances are that the free motion forward of his forelegs will be interfered with, and hence that his action will be cramped and stilted. This is a decided disadvantage, and the animal should be passed over.

Secondly, have the horse then walked from a distance, say fifty yards, straight towards and afterwards away from yourself. When moving directly down on to you, see that his forelegs come freely forward, with no turning in or out of the toes, and with no round or dishing action of the hoofs and feet; the latter should be put straightly and flatly on the ground; no tipping of the toes, but he should rather almost touch

the ground first with the heels. In walking away note if the action of the legs appears smooth and regular. By the results of these two actions, you may depend (if they are good and satisfactory) on having a good useful horse before yourself.

In judging these two movements, see that the groom does not hold tight on the horse's head ; the halter or leading rein should be quite loose, to give him perfect freedom of action.

Thirdly, having satisfied yourself so far as regards the action, it becomes most necessary to examine the eyes, but not for soundness, which is the veterinary surgeon's work ; if you observe a heavy eyebrow and piggish eye, or one small and sulky, drop him ; his temper and obstinacy will prevent his ever becoming a satisfactory purchase. Again, if his eye is over large and prominent (a buck eye), he will probably be a bit wild and impetuous. If, on further examination, you find that he has a habit or trick of wrinkling up his eyebrows into a kind of gnarled or creasy knot, into the top corner of his forehead, especially by a quick impulsive action, pass him by, no matter how good he may be otherwise ; he is bound to be a nervous, shifty, and timid animal, and hence more or less unreliable, if not even dangerous.

A mild open eye, not over large, with fairly steady eyebrows, are indispensable, as such denote steadiness in temper and courage.

Fourthly, for strength and power a short back and long quarters are desirable—the latter is not of so great account for ordinary uses. There is a golden practical rule by which the tyro can ascertain the first of these for himself. First, measure the length from the top of the head, between the ears, to the end of his nose—that is, the length of the head—and see whether this measurement fits in, or with a small margin, between the innermost point of the shoulder-blade (which point lies somewhat below and behind the withers), and along the back to the big hip joint. If the head measurement tallies with this distance it is good. The longer the back is over this head measurement the weaker the power ; when they tally you may fully expect sufficient strength and vigour to give good results to the previously decided good action of the animal. A weedy-looking animal, with a good walk and a decidedly short back, will often do wonders.

These four points of observation are simple, and are all that is really required for any tyro to learn and note. The three first are absolutely essential, and the fourth almost equally necessary. Yet they are all

that are required to ensure to the purchaser that the horse in front of him is a good and serviceable animal. Soundness, ability to stand work and ordinary tear and wear, are questions to be left to the veterinary surgeon, who should, however, for the tyro's satisfaction, be asked to point out the other minor points hereafter discussed, and answer to questions put at the end of these notes.

A fairly high and flat lean wither, and a good slope from the withers to the point of the shoulder, as also a moderately straight hind leg from rump to ground, free from crooked or sickle hocks, are very desirable; also a chest not too broad in front between the legs—rather the reverse, so long as this latter is accompanied by a deep and angular brisket, and a largish and roomy barrel and waist, as they are generally attended by health and vigour. For action, an approximately perpendicular slope from the shoulder point to the elbow, and the elbow not tied in to the body of the horse, but free.

Finally, for comfort and pleasant riding, and as a most necessary requisite for chargers, the four following points are most desirable—even necessary :—

1st. A long forehead, and a long, well-shaped, and well-balanced—not ewed—neck.

2nd. Head well and correctly set on, to enable the horse to bend his neck properly to the bit. There are some horses whose physical formation of head and neck makes it impossible for them to bend to the bit comfortably, either to themselves or rider.

3rd. Little or no lumber of flesh on the point of the shoulder, or on the withers, which should be highish, fairly lean, and flat.

4th. Well-shaped, sloping pasterns, neither too short and straight nor too long and weak.

All these latter minor points are worthy of note (as their combination go to the making of a really good horse) by those whose knowledge is beyond that of a tyro, but they are overshadowed in importance by the first four cardinal points laid down, as necessary to be obtained, and examined by all those, whose knowledge of the shape and action of a horse is in a rudimentary state. These are—to reiterate them briefly—

- (1) The walk past.
- (2) The walk towards oneself.
- (3) The thorough examination of the eye.
- (4) The measurement between length of head and back.

To the veterinary surgeon the following questions should be put, and information obtained :—

Is the horse thoroughly sound ?

Is he tied in below the knees ?

Has he weak hocks ?

Is the elbow tied in or free ?

Are his pasterns well shaped and of good slope ?

Are the head and neck well set on ?

Has he fairly sloping shoulders and good withers ?

Has he got a long forehand ?

Are his barrel and loins roomy and good ?

Are his feet of moderate size and exactly a pair ?

Are his hoofs good and not shelly, and his feet not too flat nor too small ?

In trotting is his action good and equable—no dishing or round action—and in cantering is the action neither too high, nor too low, but a just medium, inclining to be low, but not daisy-cutting ?

To obtain a really good animal, of course, one must expect to pay a long price, but there is no reason, if the first three points are carefully looked at, why a reasonable price should not purchase a satisfactory and useful animal—fairly good shape, action, and a quiet, honest eye—a good useful servant, though, possibly, not high class.

Never buy a horse which has any enlargement on the inside of his fetlocks ; a small one outside may be chanced, if other things are good, but never one on the inside ; nor, out of England, any horse with scars and cicatrices on his back : the skin there will be thin, and probably will reopen with severe riding. These scars will always be found in all countries where the horses and ponies are used as pack animals.

It may be not out of place here to inform the tyro, lest he should form erroneous ideas from the photographs he may see of horses in motion, that very few indeed of the ordinary riding or driving horses ever get or place, during their forward action, their hoofs (if at all) more than a few inches in front of their own shoulder point. Such an idea may easily be gathered from the photographs shown in books which deal with the science of movement, but they are taken from quite exceptional movers. The tyro may pass many a day amusing himself in watching the action of the good riding, carriage, and cab horses, not to exclude the omnibus ones, and he may thus practically prove to himself the curious fact that, somehow or other, the hoof is always following and catching up the shoulder point, but never does pass in front of it ; though the knee, especially of the high-stepper, does so. When the foot is placed on the ground, the point of the shoulder is exactly above it.

It is as well, before concluding these brief remarks, to warn the tyro, and also elderly gentlemen, against a very popular fallacy and delusion about weight-carriers. When a stout, elderly gentleman is prescribed riding exercise, he and his friends go forth to purchase what they consider a horse up to his weight, which, as a rule, signifies an under-bred, heavily built, short-necked cob. It goes without saying that there are many wonderfully good, well-bred, and active cobs, but such are only to be obtained at very long figures. As the riding exercise never extends over a couple of hours at the most, and that at a very quiet jog-trot kind of pace, any pony would be able to do the work required. A Burmah pony of 13 hands would do it easily; and there is no possible advantage, but very much the reverse, in the search for a horse conformable in appearance to the rider's own build. As a rule, such heavily built-up animals have quite enough to do to support their own bodies, without carrying the additional burden thrust on them. It were better to buy an ordinarily framed horse of from 14 to 14½ hands in height, not more, one which is a thoroughly safe walker and trotter, and has a long forehead. In fact, a weedy-looking, smallish horse, which happens to be well bred and is thoroughly quiet and steady, and which is a good walker and active mover, if furnished with a long forehead and a shortish back, will often do wonders even in long, fast work, and in truth is really more suitable for the heavy, elderly gentleman than any class of cob. The so-called weight-carrier, when he makes by chance a mistake, cannot recover himself, but comes down heavily in a lump; the lighter and more actively built nag recovers himself, and thus saves the bones of the rider.

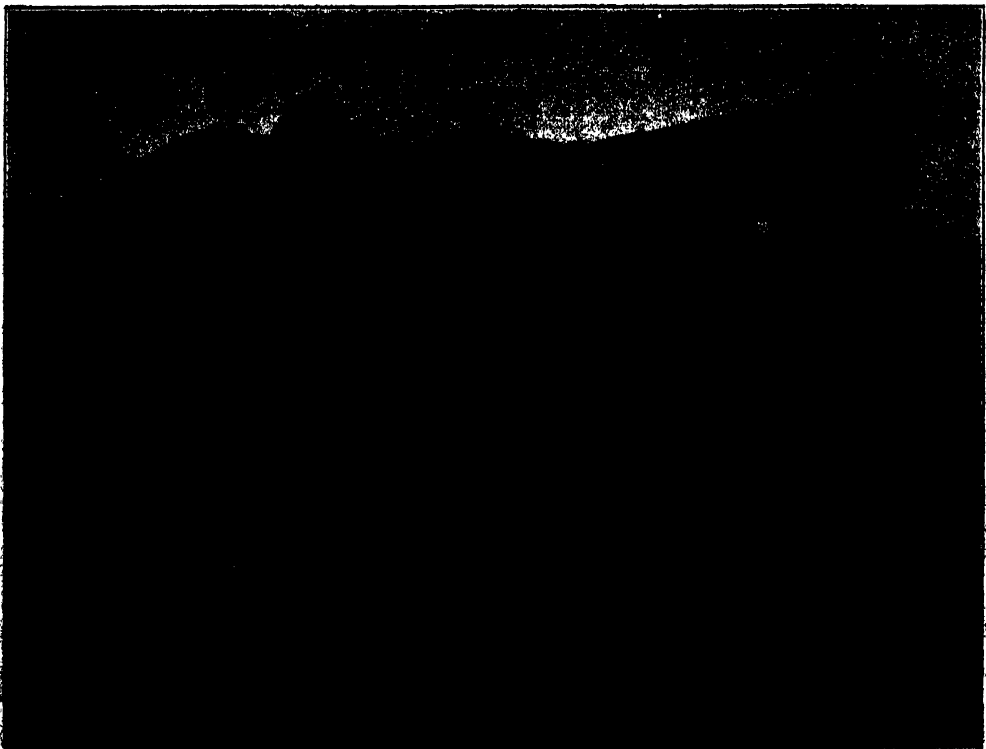
The writer personally, though a very heavy weight, especially in full regimental and war costume, after the first one or two trials of the weight-carriers class, quite discarded them, and rode for years quiet, sound racing Arabs of good action. They proved handy and active, and lasted through many a long day's work, at camp of exercises, on service in the field, and in the ordinarily long rides into and about the country; at the end of which, they, though tremendously handicapped in weight, could always more than hold their own in a short spin to the mess.

Of course, for a long day's hunting in England, over ploughed and heavy ground, the question is quite of another kind from that of tipiti-topping in the parks, or quiet rides of one or two hours' duration in the country lanes. For hunting and similar work, if a heavy person desires to keep in the front rank, he must be prepared to look out for

a well-bred, strongly built and well set up nag of good action, and to pay a long figure for his bargain. As an example of such a horse, the photos of Cloister and Ambush II., winners of the Grand National, are appended on the next page, forming models to study if one is a fairly heavy weight and is desirous of possessing good hunters.

So let all tyros and elderly gentlemen eschew the so-called weight-carrier, and purchase an ordinary small horse, or even pony, as before stated; an active, good walker, with a long forehead and shortish back, and he will find such not only a more satisfactory servant but a pleasanter animal to ride.

I append a photograph of an ordinary-looking typical South African pony, about 14'2, which carried an officer, no light weight, of the Gordon Mounted Infantry, every day for over four months, and that under extremely long and hard service, as may be apprehended when it is known that he was attached during the whole time to Colonel De Lisle's command, during his operations in the Orange River Colony after De Wet. During these months De Lisle did his record marches, twelve to twenty miles morning and evening, for some days.



SOUTH AFRICAN PONY.



CLOISTER

