

# **HORSE BREEDING RECOLLECTIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649462001

Horse Breeding Recollections by G. Lehndorff

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**G. LEHDORFF**

# **HORSE BREEDING RECOLLECTIONS**



# HORSE BREEDING RECOLLECTIONS.

BY

G. LEHNDORFF.



LONDON:

HORACE COX,

"THE FIELD" OFFICE, 346, STRAND, W.C.

1883.

189. h. 2. 4.



## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

---

IN the beginning of last year I published a "manual for the breeder of horses," the second edition of which has been issued within ten months of its first appearance. From that book the following chapters are taken.

Although there is in England no want of similar publications, I have, urged by my English friends, ventured to translate that part of my book which refers to the thoroughbred specially; assuming that my personal experiences as a breeder of such might prove acceptable to some of my English colleagues, and form a not uninteresting addition to what has been written and printed on the subject.

England, no doubt, is the cradle of the modern thoroughbred horse; but, since the breed has spread over and thrives in all parts of the habitable globe, where its value as the quintessence of the equine race has been understood and realised, I am of opinion, that its cosmopolitan character should be acknowledged, and act as an inducement to experienced persons to comment on its production and progress, wherever it has found a home.

---





# NOTES

ON

## BREEDING RACEHORSES.

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE principal requisite in a good racehorse is soundness, again soundness, and nothing but soundness; and the object of the thoroughbred is, to imbue the limbs, the constitution and the nerves of the half-bred horse with that essential quality, and thereby enhance its capabilities.

The thoroughbred can, however, fulfil its mission only provided the yearly produce be continually subjected to severe trials in public. The only appropriate test, proved by the experience of two centuries, is the race-course, although its adversaries oppose it as too one-sided, and propose in its stead others of more or less impracticability. The last struggle for victory, in which culminates the exertion of the race, results from the co-operation of the intellectual, the physical, and the mechanical qualities of the horse, the development of which combined power is higher and more reliable than any that can be obtained in the same animal by other means. The combination of those three qualities forms the value of the horse destined for fast work: the

mechanical, in respect to the outward shape and construction ; the physical, as regards the soundness and normal development of the digestive organs and motive power ; the intellectual, or the will and the energy to put the other two into motion and persevere to the utmost. The attained speed is not the aim, but only the gauge, of the performance.

The grand ideal principal which places this test so incomparably higher than any other, based upon the individual opinion of one or more judges, is the absolute and blind justice, personified in the inflexible winning post, which alone decides on the racecourse ; and the irrefutable certainty, that neither fashion nor fancy, neither favour nor hatred, neither personal prejudice nor time-serving—frequently observable in the awards at horse shows—have biassed the decision of hotly-contested struggles, as recorded in the Racing Calendar for the space of one hundred and seventy years. This it is that gives to the English thoroughbred horse a value for breeding purposes, unequalled and looked for in vain in any other species of animal creation.

I apprehend great danger from the endeavour to improve horse-racing—like any other human institution, not without its shortcomings—by corrective measures, which might interfere with that principle of blind justice ; its fundamental laws would thereby become undermined, and the building, which it took centuries to erect, fall to ruins.

Nothing but the framing of the racing propositions ought to serve as indicator of what is required of the thoroughbred ; every state in need of an efficient cavalry, should be careful how to place authority for that purpose in experienced hands and see it used leniently, but on clearly established principles. As for the rest, it should be left to the immutable laws of Nature to gradually mould,

in outward form and inward composition, that horse which best answers those requirements.

The centre of gravity in all trials of strength and endurance is to be found on the racecourse: the straighter the running track the more infallible the result; the longer and steeper the gradient the severer the test.

As to the distances to be run over, I would recommend for three-year-olds and upwards from one mile to two miles at the scale of weights adopted in the rules of racing at present in force in Prussia, which is about 10lb. above English weights.

Two-year-olds should, due regard being had to the time of year and the state of the ground, never run less than four and a half, nor more than seven furlongs; shorter races ruin their temper more than those over longer distances, in which the pace from the beginning is not so severe, nor the start of so much consequence.

Whoever has had frequent opportunities for observing in a racing stable the development of two-year-old horses will, as a rule, have noticed an evident change about the middle of summer. They quite suddenly lose their foal-like appearance and become young horses. In general this alteration takes place at the same time as the shedding of the two middle teeth; all at once the youngsters are better able to resist the wear and tear of training and improve as the work agrees with them. Of course, this change does not occur simultaneously in all two-year-olds, although they may be equally well reared; nevertheless I have noticed at this period a greater degree of evenness in the development of late and earlier foals than seemed warranted, considering the difference in their respective ages.

As, however, at midsummer the ground frequently is too hard to admit of good work being done with two-year-olds without danger to their legs, I would advocate,