

FAST GERMAN HORSES.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RACING IN GERMANY AND HERE.

We Race Mainly for Pecuniary Gain, While the Sport is Encouraged There for the Improvement of the Horse for Army Purposes—A Strict Governing Body.

Leopold Ricker, the German pedigree expert now in the United States, said a few days ago, while discussing the difference between racing in Germany and in that country:

"The great difference between racing in the United States and Germany may be characterized on one hand as racing conducted by private individuals or racing associations for pecuniary gain, and on the other hand as sport under the supervision of the government, the object being the improvement of half-bred horses for army purposes.

"Foreign competition is excluded in the ordinary run of flat racing in Germany, so as to encourage the home bred. Among the more valuable prizes the Union States and the North German Derby alone are open to Austrian horses, and the Baden, Baden Jubilee Prize for all comers. The inferiority of the native material makes these steps necessary. The value of this system can be determined from the fact that the two former races were carried off by Austrian horses at a rate of two to one in their favor, whereas the Baden-Baden Jubilee Prize for the last twenty years has been won but three times by a German stable.

"The German-bred horse must be improved, and steps are being made in that direction. Private individuals are not able to buy a high-class stallion in England, as racing returns, stallion fees, yearling prices, and other incidentals do not warrant a big outlay. In a minor degree those reasons militate against the purchase of high-class mares in England. But the same conditions prevail in Germany as in the United States. Horses imported from England are in the main more successful in the studs than the native-bred ones, and from time to time American breeders have to depend on the English market for stallions to improve their home-breds. This is done in Germany by a so-called 'importation' fund. In Germany betting is only allowed by the totalisator. A certain percentage goes to this fund, and a commission of four, with Count Lehndorff at its head, has the disposition of it. In buying mares in England a representative secures what he considers desirable animals. They are brought to Germany and are auctioned off, no matter what they bring, to German subjects, with the condition that these mares cannot be sold to any foreigner. Generally a big deficit (and there has never yet been a surplus) is the result of these purchases. The deficit is made up by the importing fund.

"Buying a stallion is somewhat different. Should the Government want to buy a stallion, and let the breeders have a chance to get services for their mares, a merely nominal cost—say \$25 or \$50—the importation fund gives a certain amount of money on behalf of the breeders. Or, when a private individual like Baron Oppenheim, who bought Charibert, brings a horse of note into the country, the importing fund pays a certain amount of money, stipulating that ten services of the horse must be placed annually to the credit of the fund. A breeder wishing to take one of his mares to this stallion sends his nomination, and the committee decides which mare shall be bred.

"A very peculiar institution is the Government stud and racing stables at Graditz. The express purpose of the institution is to breed thoroughbred stallions suitable for getting half-bred horses for army purposes. There was for many years a good deal of animosity on the part of German racing men against Governmental competition, and very plausible reasons were advanced against the institution. Of the money won by Graditz horses, the training expenses, forfeits, &c., are paid, and the rest is returned to different clubs in the form of 'Graditzer stud prizes,' for which neither Graditzer nor foreign-bred horses can compete. Taken in all, it can scarcely be claimed that the Graditz racing stables are a blessing for the country, inasmuch as the stud, with almost unlimited capital, has not yet succeeded in breeding horses good enough to prevent the annual success of Austrian or French horses in some of the principal events. Should Graditz-bred horses be good enough to keep the big money added to some of these international races in the country and be able to win in England more than an occasional plate or little handicap, nobody would kick against the racing ventures of Count Lehndorff.

"Racing associations in Germany differ widely. Those of the big cities, where the attendance is great, are in clover, while the provincial organizations are always in need of some kind of subsidy to hold a meeting about four days a year. These provincial meetings have for the most part steeplechase and hurdle-racing programme, with here and there a trotting race. This is, generally speaking, due to the fact that several cavalry regiments are in garrison at such points. Officers of the army are enthusiastic riders over obstacles, and as they have a large following the success of cross-country sport is always assured. It requires time and opportunities to observe the beauties of flat racing, and with only four racing days in the year, this knowledge is not found in the provincial districts as regards the sport on the flat.

"On the other hand, a steeplechase is of much longer duration, and the excitement attendant upon it, coupled with the interest taken in the riders themselves, gives such racing a more personal character and appeals to the hearts of the provincials. Such meetings are great occasions and partake of the holiday, Sunday being a favorite day for the sport. Many of these provincial meetings are held at the capitals of the many small states composing the German empire, and the reigning families offer many prizes, usually in the form of valuable cups. The nobles appear in person at these meetings and lend encouragement by their presence. It may be added,

that most of the cups are offered for races in which gentlemen riders take part, and that the German rule awards the cup to the rider, not to the owner of the winning horse. The rules for flat and obstacle racing are issued by the Prussian Government and accepted by the majority of the clubs in the other States comprising the German empire. In these rules the Union Club is vested for the time being with all the powers of a high court for racing purposes. These regulations were drafted after the English rules, but have much more individuality than the Jockey Club rules issued last year for the Eastern States. The Union Club, in connection with the Prussian Secretary of Agriculture, made the rules, which by the signature of the Prussian King became law. The Union Club is a body very similar to the English Jockey Club, and comprises among its members the best names of Europe. Under its auspices the races at Berlin Hoppergarten are held. The other racing associations are affiliated with the Union Club. They have to recognize the Prussian racing rules and obey all the decisions of the Union Club, for which they in turn receive a subsidy from it. The Union Club takes these subsidies from the surplus of the Hoppergarten track, which, through the percentage of the totalisator money, is very considerable. In this way \$30,000 is paid annually to other associations. Other subsidies given to the different places come from the Graditz surplus, as already explained. The Prussian Government makes an annual donation of about \$50,000.

"The biggest racing places are Berlin with the flat racing course at Hoppergarten, and the steeplechase, Hamburg, where the German Derby is run. Hanover, Frankfurt, Leipzig, and Baden-Baden. At the latter, city the real international and aristocratic meeting, founded during the time of high gambling at this beautiful place is given. The stories of Baden-Baden are being revived.

A FISH THAT GOES FISHING.

It Has Three Fishing Rods and Two Sets of Teeth.

The American angler, in many respects a remarkable fish, takes its name from three curious growths projecting from the top of its head with which it angles for prey. These growths are something like flexible, proportionately slender quills from which the leathery web upon the sides has been entirely stripped except for a little tuft upon the end. Each quill-like projection is made to serve as a rod and line, with a bait upon the end of it. When not in use they lie together flat upon the angler's head, extending back in a line between the eyes and are scarcely distinguishable except upon close inspection. They do not start from the same point in the fish's head, but are all in line, the first one not far back from the point of the upper jaw, and the last one on a line between the eyes. The middle one is a little the longest of the three. There is an angler at the New York Aquarium. It is about three feet in length. Upon this fish the first of these growths starts from a point about two and a half inches back from the point of the jaw, the next is about two inches in length to the tip of the tassel, the others each about six inches in length.

The angler is a bottom feeding fish and it lives mostly upon the bottom. Like all fish it can in some degree change its color to match its surroundings. The angler lies upon the bottom, perhaps partly covered with mud or sand, or partly imbedded in seaweed. Big as it may be its make-up is such that it is practically invisible. It opens its capacious mouth and erects the quill-like growth, or flexible spines, upon its back. It curves these spines over forward, bow-like, in front of and over its mouth, and there it dangles the tassels in the water as bait. As the spines are set at different points and are of different lengths the baits are not all together, and the attraction is multiplied. It is like a man putting three hooks on his line a little apart. The angler does not intend that the fishes shall take the bait, but only that they shall be attracted, and when it has drawn them near enough it snaps its big jaws together upon such as are within reach.

The angler is variously known as the goose-fish, all-mouth, bellowfish and devil-fish, though it is difficult to see why it should be called devilish, for in appearance it is rather comical than devilish. The larger of two at the city's aquarium, is, as already stated, about three feet in length. It is about fifteen inches wide across the body, and about 2½ feet across its extended fins; its weight is 35 to 40 pounds; it is not full grown. At its full growth the American angler is generally about four feet long and sometimes grows a little longer.

The American angler is ordinarily chocolate-colored or drab, and its back is mottled all over. It has a fringe of barbels all around the under side of its body. Its mouth extends almost entirely across its body; its under jaws project greatly. Its side fins look something like elephant's ears; it uses them mainly to balance itself with and to facilitate its movements up or down in the water, making but very small use of them as an aid in swimming. It propels itself mainly with its tail, which is very powerful. The angler uses its tail as one might use a single oar in sculling, and as it moves forward its body with something the motion that sculling might impart to a square-bowed skiff. It is rather slow and sluggish in movement, and yet it is a fair swimmer, and it moves with an appearance of momentum and power.

The angler lives on fish and crustacea; a full-grown angler will eat a codfish weighing five or six pounds, or a good-sized lobster. It has two sets of teeth, the first set, which are from one-quarter to seven-eighths of an inch in length, being just within the lips; with these it rends and tears its food. Further back in its mouth it has another set of shorter, flat teeth for crushing; with these it cracks the shells of crustacea. Suppose it catches a lobster the angler might bite and kill it with its first rows of teeth, and it would then pass it back to the crushing teeth, where the shell would be taken off. The angler can clean a lobster of its shell pretty well; sometimes it rejects the big claws, meat and all. At the same time it may swallow some fragments of shell; and often there are found in the angler small lobsters and crabs, with the shells complete, which it

may have swallowed intentionally or inadvertently. Sometimes a codfish caught on a hook on a trawl line set on the bottom makes a live bait for an angler.

The American angler is found along the Atlantic coast as far south as the Capes of Delaware. They most abound in the spring and fall. They like cool water, and they stay in water under 60°; when it gets above that they make for the north or out to sea. Powerful as the angler is and rugged, too, in its native home, it is rather delicate in captivity; it wants sea room. The angler at the aquarium, which have now been kept in good condition for about four months, are as well provided for in this respect as they could be, being in the great central pool which is thirty-eight feet in diameter. They are fed on crabs and small fishes.

EDUCATION OF THE DEAF.

Prof. Bell Has Some Original Ideas on the Subject.

A Chicago exchange says: Professor Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, addressed the Board of Education and 100 guests in the Board rooms yesterday. He deplored the system by which the deaf were isolated from others, saying that it tended to promote hereditary deafness. This was proved by statistics showing that the birth rate among the deaf was greater than among the normal population. He added:

"The changes are, if the deaf were taught with hearing persons, that many of them would speak even if they did not hear. The children should be brought in constant contact with hearing and speaking persons. It is better that the children should be kept at home, because the children more readily learn a language than the adults. An effort should be made

to teach speech from the lips. Deaf pupils should be taught in the public schools in classes which might be separated from the regular ones. The brighter of the mutes, however, could join in the classes of the speaking children. By this system the deaf pupils would become acquainted with those with whom they will have to mingle all their lives and by so doing will lose the diffidence which drives them away from the pupils at large."

Silencing a Nuisance.

Speaking of the young man who talks in public places, I heard a retort made to him last Thursday night which was so good I was surprised never to have heard it before. It was at the theatre, and the young man had seen the play before. He let every body for four seats around know that, and he kept telling just what was coming and just how funny it would be when it did come. He had a pretty girl with him, and he was trying to amuse her. At length he said:

"Did you ever try listening to a play with your eyes shut? You've no idea how queer it seems."

A middle-aged man with a red face sat just in front. He twisted himself about in his seat, and glared at the young man. "Young man," said he, "did you ever try listening to a play with your mouth shut?"

And the silence was almost painful.

Horses Drained of Their Blood.

In connection with the new cure for diphtheria, there are some 150 horses set apart for immunizing purposes at the Pasteur Institute at Paris. The British Institute has about 25; the most notable of which is a grandson of Blair Athol, presented by Dr. Bond. Although this steed, has gone into the medical profession it is

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not thereby disqualified for other purposes but will probably wear its saddle many times yet. We are told that the amount of blood taken at a time from these horses averages 10 quarts, yet the animal suffers no perceptible exhaustion or harm, as it must be remembered, the sixteenth part of an animal by weight is blood, so that taking the weight of a horse as 50 or 60 stone, there is a pretty large stock of serum to draw from. The tapping is simple, and is said to give the animal no apparent concern.

Another Box at the Same Figure.

The representative of a wholesale tobacco house, on his last round before last Christmas, called at the co-operative stores at X—; and as usual, he offered a box of fifty cigars to the manager. But the manager at X—is a good man, and religious,

and objected to receiving the box as a gift, saying that he would pay for them.

"Very well," said the commercial: "give me a shilling for them."

The manager, having thus squared his conscience, began to search his pockets, but found nothing less than a florin. As the commercial had no change, he said—

"Never mind; pay me next time."

"No," said the manager; "keep the two shilling piece, and send another box."

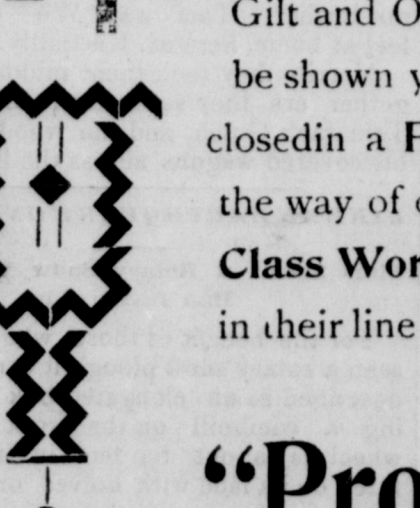
And then that "commercial" went out to give vent to his feelings.

An Irishman, contemplating the numerous ranges of New Hampshire, exclaimed: "I never was in a country before where they had so much land they had to stack it."

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