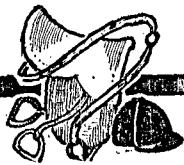


ALL ABOUT PONIES



A QUESTION OF COLOUR

Here is another article in our popular series, specially written for CN by an expert on ponies.

BLACK, brown, bay, chestnut or grey—not to mention piebald or skewbald; there's a saying that a good horse is never a bad colour; and the same applies to ponies.

We all have our fancies, of course. A bright bay is a good colour, and so is a liver chestnut. I don't like a "washy" chestnut, nor do I care for too much white about the legs. If I really had to

by

Ralph Greaves

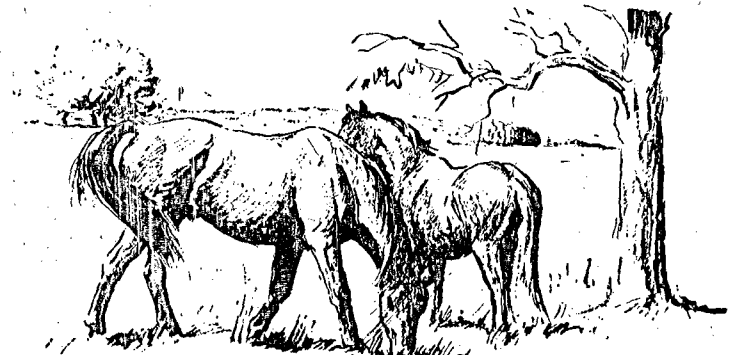
choose a pony for its colour, I think I should go for a strawberry roan. All the roans I've ever known have been real good 'uns, and with wonderful constitutions.

Mare or gelding . . . ? I've always been fond of mares; they have great personality but are sometimes a bit temperamental. In any case there are not many for sale as a rule. So we'll make up our minds at last! And we've got a roan six-year-old gelding standing 13.2—a pony which we hope has all the virtues. And having got him, we'll now put him in his field.

It will be as well to watch him for a bit to make sure he settles down in his new home. If he gets his head down straight away and starts to graze he'll probably be all right. But he may go off at a trot, staring about him with his head in the air, perhaps making a tour of inspection of the fences as though looking for a way out. In that case it's as well we remembered to stop up any

means he's happy enough and we shan't have to worry.

You'll probably find, too, that whenever he's put back in his field after a ride he'll do just that, choosing the muddiest place to do it in. I like to see them roll; it's a good sign. By the way, when you turn him out don't leave his headcollar on, as some people do. I know he'll be easier to catch when the time comes, but there's



Two ponies always get on well together

gaps before turning him into the field.

However, he may just be showing a natural curiosity as to what sort of a place he's in; and if he ends up by going down on his knees, turning over on his back and having a good roll, that

always the danger of a pony getting caught up in a branch of a tree or a fence; he may then start to struggle and injure himself.

When turning a pony out with farm animals we've got to be quite certain they're going to settle down together before we leave

them. So it's as well to go back half an hour later to see what's happening.

Ponies can be as mischievous as small children. I remember once turning out a pony of ours called Shandy with a bunch of young bullocks. I left them all grazing together quite quietly but when I went back for another look I found Master Shandy having a game of cowboys, galloping those young beasts round and round the field as hard as he could. Luckily the farmer wasn't there to see it!

Some ponies, too, have a habit of walking sheep round and round and not letting them graze. Nor is this very popular with the farmer. But two ponies always get on well, for they love company; although a mare with two geldings may sometimes lead to jealousy.

Fatness causes trouble

At this time of year, with the spring grass growing, there is just one thing we have to be careful about, for this young grass is a rich food and very fattening. Ponies are inclined to be greedy, and if they get too fat it will cause trouble—not in their tummies as you might expect—but in their feet.

The fact that the feet have so much extra weight to bear and that rich food overheats the blood may cause fever in the feet—or laminitis as it is called; that is inflammation of the laminae which are thin layers of vertical tissue inside the hoof. This causes a good deal of pain. The feet are hot to the touch and the pony will go lame.

Starvation the only cure

If there are any signs of this, call in the vet. Some ponies are more liable to laminitis than others, and if they get it once, it may happen again. Starvation is the only cure. If you think your pony is getting too fat tie him up in a stable or shed for several hours a day, so that he can't feed. He won't like that, but it's better than getting laminitis which, in a bad case, must be agony for the poor pony.

ELEPHANT NUMBER PLATES

WHOEVER heard of elephants carrying their own number-plates? Well, in Uganda some of them do.

For a long time zoologists have wanted to know more about the wanderings of elephants. But it is difficult to keep a check unless you have a reliable means of identification. Numbering is the obvious answer—but how do you number an elephant?

An elephant is selected from a herd, and a syringe like a big dart, containing a powerful anaesthetic, is fired at it from a special type of rifle, powered by carbon dioxide and effective up to a range of 40 yards.

The elephant hardly feels the syringe penetrate its skin. But it soon begins to feel drowsy and sinks to its knees and rolls over. If all goes well, the elephant stays under the anaesthetic for 20 minutes—plenty of time to give it a good look over and paint a number.

Huge Number

When it regains consciousness, the animal rejoins the herd, unaware it now carries a huge number, three feet high, on its side.

Already valuable information has been obtained. Elephants not only frequent definite areas on their migrations, but they sometimes travel to other countries. An elephant numbered in Uganda seven months ago is now a thousand miles away in Tanganyika. Another has visited Kenya three times in the past year.

Numbering elephants is not a job for everyone. You need strong nerves and nimble legs. Sometimes the anaesthetic fails to work properly and the numbering team has had to beat some hasty retreats when giants have lumbered to their feet with their numbers only half painted.

K. G. SANDS

well! WHAT D'YOU KNOW...

CARS ON WATER-SKIS! When cars travel fast on wet roads, a 'wedge' of water builds up in front of the tyres and forces its way beneath them. Under certain conditions this can cause some tyres, particularly when worn, to lose contact with the road. To prevent this dangerous 'aquaplaning' Dunlop developed for the C.41 tyre a special tread which breaks through the water film so that the Dunlop 'road-hug' rubber can grip the road.

DESERT RESERVOIR! Here is a reservoir which, like the Arabs' tents, can be folded up when not in use! Actually it is a rubber Collapsible Container made by Dunlop in sizes to hold up to 50,000 gallons of water, fuels or other liquids. Construction engineers working in remote places use them—and so do transport companies, because the containers enable any truck to be converted into a tanker.

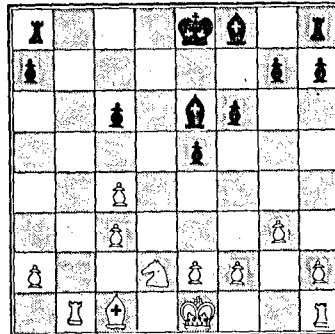
THERE'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS! Take a close look at your tennis racket and see if you can count the number of pieces of wood used to make it. In the Dunlop "Maxply", used by the world's champions, there are nineteen in all, including nine separate laminations of ash, beech, hickory and cellulose fibre strip in the frame alone. These ensure that the racket is light and strong and will keep its shape.

DUNLOP

SYMBOL OF PROGRESS

CN CHESS CLUB

IN an earlier article I wrote to explain the rules of castling. I said that the King could not pass through, into, or out of an attacked square (i.e. check).

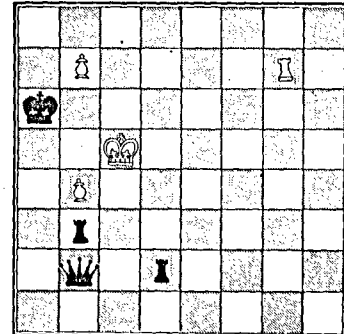


However, this does not apply to the Rook. Even a grandmaster forgot this once! In the diagram Black castled on his Queen's side (0-0-0) and White claimed that his opponent had made an illegal

move. This was nonsense, as only the Black Rook had passed through the attacked KNI square (as seen in this diagram).

Although it is not illegal to castle in these circumstances, it is usually very unwise, as the King is exposed to attack.

Now see if you can solve this week's problem: White plays and mates in one.



Answer on page 12
T. MARSDEN