

the latter only being a faster gait than the former.

The pace, to my mind, is when the horse goes off in a shuffling sort of a way, twisting himself from side to side. It is a disagreeable action for me to look at, and I presume the motion is never perfectly agreeable to the rider. For one, I have generally found it unpleasant.

The amble is described as a fox or a cat-trot, and surely nothing is more graceful and easy. The back of the horse is kept on a straight line, and he moves off as if shot from a gun. So little jolting either up or down, or from side to side, a tumbler full of water might be carried on his back, at a fast gait, without spilling a single drop. Amble is the word that the old monks centuries ago used for this gait, and ladies of ancient times for their palfreys, and both of them knew well which was the pleasantest and most agreeable gait to them for a riding horse. I dare say the fastest ambler was scarcely less swift in those days than the runner when they were in a hurry or wished to travel at full speed.

The old Narragansett horses I saw in New England when a mere child had this amble, and I intuitively set it down in my mind as the perfection of a saddle gait. I have seen horses occasionally at the South which had this gait, and some also imported from the island of Cuba into New York. I presume these were of Andalusian descent, the ancestors having been taken from Spain to Cuba. I am told that many of the Andalusian horses amble beautifully and are reasonably fast at this gait. These, as all know, are descendants, more or less pure, from the Barbs brought over from Africa by the Moors when they conquered and settled that part of Spain. Having never been in Andalusia, I cannot speak personally as to the horses now bred there; but as I was once riding from Gibraltar to Algesiras, I met a finely-equipped young Spaniard on the road, mounted on a handsome ambler, which he rode with a grace and ease that delighted me quite as much as the figure and gait of his horse.

You say that pacers "go so close to the ground that there is danger of their tripping." I have never observed them to trip or stumble more than trotters. The latter, as well as the racer, when on a fast gait, does not usually lift his feet high, and must consequently, to move safely, speed it on a smooth, even road.

[REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.—Our highly esteemed correspondent has misunderstood our distinction between the pace and the rack. The latter is a modification of the former, but it is wholly distinct in its mechanism. In the pace there are but two strokes in the revolution, and in the rack there are four. In the rack each foot strikes by itself. Seven hundred years ago Fitzstephen described the action of the ambler in England. Three hundred years later Polydore Virgil did the same thing, and two hundred years later the Duke of Newcastle, a noted authority, described the action of the ambler very minutely. All these writers, and others that might be named, agree in describing the ambler as advancing the two feet on the same side and striking the ground with them at the same instant. There is no mistake about these descriptions, and this is what we call in modern times the pace. Hence the amble and the pace are two words meaning the same thing. If our correspondent will study the action of the pacer he will see that the old monks described that action with great precision. It is the clean, natural and fast pacer that carries his backbone as straight and nearly as swift as a ball out of a rifle.

In supposing that the few pacing horses that were brought to New York from Cuba were of Andalusian descent, and that the Andalusian horses are amblers, our friend is quite out of the way in his horse lore. In the latter part of the last century the Cubans and other West Indians carried off all the pacing horses they could find in Rhode Island and neighboring States, at enormous prices, and still wanted more. No Andalusian or Saracenic horse ever paced naturally. The pacers Mr. Allen saw in New York from Cuba inherited the gait from their Narragansett ancestors. If there were pacers in Spain why did the Cubans come here to get them? If there is any authority in the world going to show that there are natural pacers, or amblers if you please, among the Andalusian or Spanish horses, we would be very glad to have it pointed out to us.]

The Law of Sex.

THE author claims to make known "a new discovery of a great law of nature, nothing less than the law which governs the sexes, and whereby the sex of offspring can be controlled." He has worked for twenty years at the subject, carefully counting the