

CONTENTS

Preface, by Stuart Cloete	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Translator's Introduction	xix

PRELIMINARY CHAPTER

The horses of the Sahara—Sources of information—Guarantees of exactitude—Difficulty of obtaining information—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader—Numerous treatises about horses written by Arabic sages.	3
---	---

CHAPTER TWO

Dealing with the origins of the Arabian horses—A singular letter written by the Emir Abd-el-Kader—Four great eras—God created the horse from the wind—The horse, according to the Koran, is the supreme blessing—The colors of horses according to the terrain in which they live—The moral attributes of horses.	6
---	---

CHAPTER THREE

The Barb or Barbary horse—Call a horse Arabian, Barb, Turk, or Persian, he is still the horse of the Orient—Letter from the Emir Abd-el-Kader—Letter from M. Ferdinand de Lesseps describing horseraces in Alexandria—Weights carried by horses in Africa.	21
--	----

CHAPTER FOUR

The horses of the Sahara—Traditional love for horses as a religious duty—Proverbs—Popular verses—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader—The horses of the Sahara are superior to those of the Tell.	28
--	----

CHAPTER FIVE

The undoubted purity of blood of the Barbs of the Sahara—Families of Arabian horses—The perfection of the horse; the noble horse—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader—Horses divided into two families: Arabian and foreign horses. . . . 41

CHAPTER SIX

About stallions and mares—Mating—Gestation—Foaling—Care and feeding of the mare and foal—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader—The foal takes after the sire—Strictness with regard to the purity of blood lines. . . . 55

CHAPTER SEVEN

The training of the colt—Very early training—Training after weaning—Exercise—Names given to horses—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader. . . . 74

CHAPTER EIGHT

Feed—Camel's and ewe's milk—Dates—Feeding according to the season—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader—Rest and fat are the enemies of the horse. . . . 101

CHAPTER NINE

Grooming, hygiene, and proportions—The choosing of feed and water—Methods of predetermining the height and qualities of a horse—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader—Method of judging the size and future qualities of a horse. . . . 108

CHAPTER TEN

Colors—Attributes of certain colors—Plotches—Whorls or tufts—Favorite colors—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader. . . . 115

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Selection and purchase of horses—Reasons for disqualification or elimination—Selling methods—The Arabic horse-dealer—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader—Genealogical trees Poetic quotations and anecdotes. . . . 122

CHAPTER TWELVE

Farriery—Master smith, their prerogatives, their tools—Cold shoeing—Drawbacks of European horseshoes. . . . 132

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Tack—The Arabic saddle, *et cetera*—Superiority of Arabic tack. . . . 138

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

General principles of the Arabic horsemen—Frugality—Sobriety—Respect for a horse—The study of the nature of horses—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader—Horseracing among the Arabs. . . . 144

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Veterinary medicine among the Arabs—A word about the Arabic veterinary art—Veterinarian sages—Free services—Diseases of the horse—Observations of the Emir Abd-el-Kader. 153

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Gelding of the Arabian horse—Methods employed—Superstitions—Observations of the Emir Abed-el-Kader. . . 171

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

The usefulness to be derived from the native horse—Notes on the Barb or Oriental horse—The use of the Arabian horse—Quotations from the Bible and the Koran. . . . 174

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

The Opinion of the Emir Abd-el-Kader with respect to the Arabian horse—The number of days an Arabian horse can journey—The distance covered in one day—An example of sobriety and endurance—Reasons for training horses from an early age—Why mares are more expensive—Pedigrees—Tribes which own famous horses—The homogeneity of Barbs and Arabians—Precepts for the care and feeding of the horse—Draft or work horses. . . . 181

CHAPTER NINETEEN

The war horse—His conformation and attributes. . . . 188

CHAPTER TWENTY

Letters to the author—Opinions of some of the leading horse-
men in France—The deplorable conditions into which horse-
breeding has fallen. 191

Appendix 223

Bibliography 233

Index 235