

sign, and in many instances the writer has known the eye of a horse nearly stone-blind to be looked at casually by a purchaser, and passed as needing no further security.

"There is nothing," says Youatt, "which deserves so much attention from the purchaser of a horse as the perfect transparency of the *cornea* (or glassy and transparent portion of the eye,) over the whole of its surface. The eye should be examined for this purpose both in front and with the face of the examiner close to the cheek of the horse, under and behind the eye. The latter method of looking through the cornea is the most satisfactory, so far as the transparency of that part of the eye is concerned. During this examination the horse should not be in the open air, but in the stable, standing in the doorway, and a little within the door. If any small, faint, whitish lines appear to cross the cornea, or any part of it, they are assuredly signs of previous inflammation; or, although the center and bulk of the cornea should be perfectly clear, yet if around the edge of it, where it unites, with the *clerotica*, (or hard interior covering of the back of the eye), there should be a narrow ring or circle of haziness, the conclusion is equally true but the inflammation occurred at a more distant period. Whether, however, the inflammation has lately existed, or several weeks or months have elapsed since it was subdued, there is every probability that it will return. There is one little caution to be added. The cornea, in its natural state, is not only a beautifully transparent body, but it reflects even in proportion to its transparency many of the rays which fall upon it, and if there be a white object immediately before the eye, as a very light waistcoat or much display of a

"white neckcloth, the reflection may puzzle an experienced observer," "and has misled a careless one." It is hardly necessary to observe that the existence of a white filmy spot on any portion of the cornea, or, still worse, an opaque filmy condition of the whole of that beautiful and delicate membrane, is a fatal defect, the latter indicating a total loss of sight, the result either of specific ophthalmia or of cataract. But it may be well to mention a very practical and simple mode of ascertaining how far the powers of sight in a horse are or are not effected. Holding him gently by the head-stall, let the observer place himself in front of the animal, and, after caressing him and rubbing his nose, so as to avoid giving him sudden alarm, let him move his fingers rapidly toward and across his eyes, carefully noting how far he starts back, or winks his eyelids. Care must be had, in this experiment not to move the hand with so much violence as to cause a current of air; for that, striking on the delicate surface of the organ, even when it is totally bereft of vision, will sometimes cause the animal to wink and even to start back, as if he saw the motion which produced it.

Next to the eyes, the wind, as it is commonly called, or the condition of the lungs of the animal, is to be examined; and this is liable to so many modifications, and affects the animal so fatally as to his utility when required for even moderately rapid work, that too much care cannot be had to detect it. It is needless to say that a horse, with the slightest imperfection of his lungs, windpipe, or breathing apparatus, ought at once to be rejected; as there is no hope of its ever decreasing, being cured, or palliated, either by rest or by work; but, on the contrary, an absolute certainty of its growing worse, day by day, and the more so the faster and more regularly the animal is worked,