

eyes are remarkably flat, or sunk within their orbits, it is a bad sign; also when they look dead and lifeless. The *Iris*, or circle that surrounds the sight of the eye, should be distinct, and of a pale variegated cinnamon colour, for this is the sign of a good eye.

When the horse is first led out of a dark stable into a strong light, be sure to observe whether he wrinkles his brow, and looks upwards to receive more light; for that shews his eyes to be bad.—But if you observe that the dimensions of the *pupil* are large, and that they contract upon his coming into a strong light, it is almost an infallible sign that his eyes are good.

Sometimes what are called *Haws* grow on the corner of the eye, and cause the horse to go blind. You may take them out, and although it will disfigure the eye, yet it will be but a little worse.

In the next place examine the *Teeth*, as you would not wish to purchase an old horse, nor a very young one for service. A horse has six teeth above and six below, in the fore-mouth, which are called the *Cutting-Teeth*. At two years and a half old it changes two on the top and two on the bottom, which are called the *Nippers*; at three years and a half it changes two others, called the *Separators*; at four and a half it changes the *Nook Teeth*; and at five years old has a full mouth; when the *Tusks*, commonly called the *Brille-Fangs*, rise.

Horse-dealers have a trick of knocking out the nook teeth at three years and a half, to make the horse appear five years old when only four; but they cannot raise the tusks. At six years old the *Nook Teeth* are a little hollow, and at seven there is a black mark, like the end of a ripe bean. Afterwards you will observe the flesh to shrink from the teeth, which grow long and yellow.

Horse-dealers have also a method which they call *Bishoping a horse's mouth*; that is filing the tusks shorter, rounding them at the ends, taking a little out of the nook teeth, so as to make them rather hollow, and then burning them with a hot iron. I was hired by an Anthony Johnson, of Wincolmlee, Hull, as farrier to a number of horses that were going to the city of Moscow, in Russia, for sale, and we had a little grey stoned horse, called *Peatum*, that was seventeen years old, the mouth of which I bishoped, and he passed for six years old, and was the first horse sold, and for £500 English money! I only mention this as a caution to horse buyers.

The *Feet* should next be regarded; for a horse with bad feet is like a house with a weak foundation, and will do little service. The feet should be smooth and rough, of a middle size, without wrinkles, and neither too hard and brittle, nor too soft; the *Heels* should be firm and not spongy and rotten; the *Frogs* horny and dry; and the *Soles* somewhat hollow, like the inside of a dish or bowl. Such feet will never disappoint your expectations, and such only should be chosen.

Particular regard should be had to the *Shoulders*; they should not be too much loaded; for a

horse with heavy shoulders can never move well; and on the other hand, one that has very thin shoulders, and a narrow chest, though he may move briskly so long as he is sound, yet he is generally weak, and easily lamed in the shoulders; a medium should therefore be chosen.

Be careful to observe the creature's *Motions*:—that the *shoulders*, *knees*, and *pasterns* all act together, and have but one spring of motion, for in that case alone can they be said to move well.

The *Limbs* should be free from * *Splents* and † *Windgalls*. The *Knees* should be straight and not bending, or what is called a calf's knee: the *Back-sinews* strong and well braced: the *Pastern Joints* clean, and free from swellings of all kinds; and the *Hocks* lean and dry, and free from ‡ *Spavins*, § *Corbs* and *Flatulent Tumors*.

The *Body* or *Carcass*, should neither be too small nor too large. The *Back* should be straight or have only a moderate sinking below the *Withers*: for when the back of a horse is low, or higher behind than before, it is both very ugly and a sign of weakness. The back should also be of a proper length. The *Ribs* should be large, the *Flanks* smooth and full, and the *Hind-parts* or *uppermost Haunches*, not higher than the shoulders. When the horse trots before you, observe if his haunches cover his fore-knees. A horse with a short hind-quarter does not look well.

The next thing to be regarded in a horse is his *Wind*, which may be easily judged of by the motion of his flanks. A broken-winded horse always pinches in his flanks, with a very slow motion, and drops them suddenly, which may be easily perceived. Many horses breathe thick that are broken-winded; indeed, any horse will in foggy weather, or if foul fed, without sufficient exercise; but if a horse has been in good keeping and had proper exercise, and yet has these symptoms, there is some defect, either natural or accidental; such as a narrow chest, or some cold that has affected his lungs.

There are other particulars that should be observed in choosing a horse. If his *Head* be large and fleshy, and his *Neck* thick and gross, he will always go heavy on the hand, and therefore such should never be chosen. A horse that has his *Hocks* very wide, seldom moves well, and one that has them too near will chafe and cut his legs by crossing them. *Fleshy-legged* horses are generally subject to the Grease, and other infirmities of that kind, and therefore should not be chosen.

* There are four kinds of Splents, viz., the Bone Splent, the Blood Splent, the Osselet, and the Horn Splent.

† Windgalls are soft Tumors, seated on either sides of the Fetlock Joint.

‡ There are two kinds of Spavins, viz., The Blood Spavin which lies in the joint of the hind leg, something like a Windgall, going quite through the joint, and is then called a Thorough Pin; and the Bone Spavin which lies just below the joint, on the inside, and is called by dealers a Dry Knot, or Jack.

§ A Corb lies on the back side of the hind leg, near the lower part of the joint.