

there must be a place in which the birds can be placed as fast as dressed, where they can be left to cool,—left until the animal heat is wholly gone out of them. The shaping troughs furnish that place, and being left in them until the flesh is cold, will “set” the carcass which will retain its plump, attractive appearance.

There are some minor tricks of the trade, such as slightly drawing the meat upon the under side of the body forward towards the breast, to increase the appearance of plumpness, which must be done carefully so as not to break the skin if done at all; and some fatteners in England strike the flesh a sharp blow upon the breast and back, while it is still warm, to make it puff up and give an appearance of greater plumpness. This last would be of no value whatever in America, where birds are sold by weight, and the practice cannot be recommended, since it savors of dishonesty. It cannot be too strongly urged upon poultrymen to be free from all such tricks, since the better reputation which their products gets upon the market the better and more staple the prices obtained.

---

### THE DETECTION OF LAMENESS IN HORSES.

---

Among the many things which the intelligent horseman ought to know is, not only when a horse is in good health and condition or when it is sick or unfit for work, but also when it is lame and, if possible, where it is lame, as well as the cause of the lameness. This is indeed expecting a great deal from him, and in truth there are not many amateur horsemen who are privileged to possess this knowledge to such an extent as to meet every requirement; but the more he knows the more likely is he to keep his horses in health, to avoid being imposed upon or misleading others, and to be in a position to apply the stitch in time when anything is amiss and expert assistance not immediately available, say “The Rider and Driver.” These remarks are more particularly applicable to cases of lameness, as the ability to distinguish unrhythmical from rhythmical movement of the limbs is often of great moment to those who employ horses, and, only in a less degree, is the faculty of being able to fix upon the ailing leg or legs, and to detect the seat and cause of imperfect movement.

It is more important for the rider to know when a horse is lame than to be absolutely certain as to the part affected or the cause, for an expert can generally be trusted to discover this; whereas, if an animal suddenly becomes crippled and continues to be worked without this being perceived, great, and sometimes even irreparable mischief may be the result.

Lameness has been defined as the manifestation, in the act of progression, and by one or more of the limbs, of pain or weakness, inability or impediment in movement. Though pain is usually a cause of lameness, yet a horse may manifest irregular or halting movement of the limbs during a motion without experiencing pain. There may be stiffness of a joint or malformation of a limb, impeding movement, and yet no evidence present of any pain being suffered. For instance, the nervous affection of the limbs popularly known as “springhalt” is a kind of lameness, and yet there is no sign that it is in any way productive of pain. It is most important to remember this, as very often people who are not acquainted with horses or their diseases, imagine than an animal must be suffering if they see it limp or move unevenly, and very often unfortunate drivers or owners of horses are unjustly punished for cruelty to them because of this mistake—some deformity of a limb preventing its being used as freely as the other legs, but causing no more pain than a club-foot or a stiff knee does in a man.

Lameness may be only temporary, and be due to local causes, without disease being present. A wound, or bruise of the leg or foot, or even a stone lodged between the shoe and sole or about the frog, may induce limping: or lameness may be permanent from chronic disease, or the effect of such disease. Even weakness of muscle may cause lameness in one or more limbs, and the opposite of this condition, such as cramp of the muscles, will produce the same result, as will also partial or complete dislocation of a joint—that of the stifle, for example—in which there is complete inability to draw the hind leg forward.

An examination of the limb by eye and hand after movement will in all probability confirm and complete the information acquired by observing the horse during progression. It must be stated, however, that a knowledge of the anatomy of the limbs is of great value in the diagnosis of lameness. It is always advisable to have slight