

THE EVIL OF SHOEING HORSES.

For some time past an active controversy has been going on in England between those who adhere to the usual style of shoeing horses and a few innovators who contend that the old method is the cause of more than half the diseases to which horseflesh is heir.

The subject is treated very fully in a series of papers, which appeared originally in the *Farm Journal*. The writer, who goes under the nom de plume of "Free Lance," has recently published these productions in book form, and it is on the opinions advanced therein that the following remarks are founded—altogether "without prejudice," as the lawyers say. "Free Lance" tells us that during his working days the horse suffers perfect martyrdom owing to the interference with nature which results from shoeing. The animal is forced to adopt an artificial gait which sends aches and pains through all the nerves, tendons, and muscles of his legs; he strains himself severely by slipping on greasy roadways; he is worn out unnecessarily by being deprived of his natural grip of the ground; and frequently suffers mutilation or injury through inability to keep his feet. But not only are shoes responsible, it is said, for a great deal of unnecessary pain and inconvenience to the horse while at work; they are the fruitful source, according to the same authority, of numerous diseases of the feet and legs which render him prematurely unfit for use. Shod horses, according to "Free Lance," are constantly afflicted with corns, side-bones, sand crack, greasy heels, sea toe, dropsies, ring-bone, thrush, guttrot, ossin, cartilages, spavins, curbs, splints, windgalls, navicular disease and other maladies; while those who go without shoes enjoy almost total immunity from these ailments. If this is true, it is evident that the money loss involved in the maintenance of the present system must be enormous. Several eminent veterinary surgeons maintain that a horse, and most other animals, should live five times as long as it takes to reach maturity. Horses do not usually reach the full perfection of their powers until seven years old, and consequently ought to live until they are thirty or thirty-five years old. Under existing circumstances, however, they are termed old at ten and very old at twenty years of age, while fully three-fourths either die or are destroyed before they reach the age of twelve. If horses beginning to work at three are worn out before they reach twelve years old, then it is evident that the working life of the animal is shorter by fourteen years than nature intended it should be. In other words, three horses, are used up in doing what ought to be the work of one, and this extravagance in the United Kingdom necessitates an expenditure within a given time of about £200,000,000 instead of £68,000,000. The causes of this unnecessary mortality, according to "Free Lance," are: The absence of springs and brakes from the vehicle horses are compelled to draw. The use of dangerous nostrums, together with hoof ointments, stoppings, &c., by prejudiced farriers and ignorant grooms. Last, but not least, the use of shoes and the method of applying them. Horseshoes are of comparatively modern origin. "Xenophon, who wrote the most complete work on horsemanship of his day, makes no mention of horseshoes; while, on the other hand, he is particularly explicit as to the means to be taken to harden and toughen horse's hoofs. He recommends specially for this purpose bare stone pavement, which, he says, 'will cool, harden, and improve a horse's feet merely by his standing upon it, while the same benefit will result to his hoofs as if he were made to travel on stoney roads every day.' Another writer, Vegetius, says:—'The floor of the stable should not be made of soft wool, but of solid hard oak, which will make the horse's feet as hard as rock.' It will be observed that these writers, so far from considering that a horse's hoofs should be spared because they are unprotected, insist that constant contact with hard and rough surfaces is essential to their preservation. They probably are induced from observation the principle which has been thus formulated by Mr. Miles:—"It is an invariable law of animal economy not to continue to unemployed structures the same measure of efficient reparation that is extended to parts constantly engaged in performing their allotted tasks." If the horse's hoof is

intended by nature to bear rough travelling without injury, it stands to reason that constant subjection to the conditions it is designed to meet can alone maintain it in a thoroughly efficient state. "The constant use of litter (in stables) makes the feet tender, and causes swelled legs; moreover, it renders the animal delicate. Swelled legs may be frequently reduced to their natural size by taking away the litter only. Let any proprietor go to his stable, upon returning on a Sunday from morning church service, when the horses will perhaps have been left to themselves for three hours, and he will find that his horses have been trying to get rid of it by scraping holes in it, in which to stand at ease and comfort on the bare floor, having pushed as much as they can into the gangway. It is probable, also, that instinct takes part in their dislike to it, on the score of its being unhealthy as well as uncomfortable to them.

"Even at the present time in many parts of the continent of Europe, and in a considerable portion of the rest of the globe, horses run about over rocks, through ravines, and up precipitous ridges, unshod; yet all this is done without difficulty, and to the evident advantage of their hoofs, for these animals never suffer from contracted feet, or from corns, sand cracks, &c., until they become civilized and have been shod. Again: "During the mutiny in India many of our cavalry horses went unshod, because they could not get shod, and they never went better in all their lives." The special military correspondent of the *Morning Advertiser* and recently of the irregular cavalry employed in the Zulu war:—"Few of the men have their horses shod in front, some do not shoe at all." On one excursion he made in company with this cavalry, they had to go over "sheets of polished, wet and slippery stone in the torrent beds, making one wonder how our unshod horses could keep their feet. All through the reports on the war, not a complaint was made as to these horses falling lame. Surely there must be something in this. Sheets of wet, slippery rock, and rolling stones in river beds, would be calculated to try the hoofs to the utmost, yet in the pursuit of the Zulus, when they fled at Ulundi, these 'ponies' (from 145 lbs down to 100) were able, we are told, to follow miles farther than the shod horses. In North, Central, and South American countries, where, outside the pastures, hard, rough, stony ground largely predominates, horses and mules do very heavy work without any protection to their feet. In some parts of these countries," says our author, "it rains every day in the year, and in other parts they get dry roads during six months and wet ones during the other six. The horses have to travel over either, and over naked sheets of rock, as they in turn present themselves, and, as Mr. Douglas says, 'without difficulty, and to the evident advantage of their hoofs, for they never suffer from contracted feet, or from corns, sand cracks, &c.' Yet their work is of the hardest. Many of them bring down from the interior (some hundreds of miles) two bales of cotton, which weigh, with pack-saddle, &c., over 300 cwt., and in fording rivers have to carry across the driver also. This is the way in which all the commerce of the country is carried on. There is not a horseshoe or a nail to be obtained over the whole route, and on some roads at crop times, nearly 2,000 pass daily, some ascending to the coast, and others returning inland. In Ireland 'donkeys are worked unshod in draught and over macadamised roads, even over loose broken stones, and not only are their hoofs uninjured by such treatment, but they actually outgrow the wear and tear of work, becoming turned up at the toes if not periodically rasped."

July.

During this month summer complaints commences their ravages. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry is the best preventative and cure for all forms of bowel complaints and sickness incident to the summer season.

August.

The summer season now reaches its climax, and is prolific in developing bowel complaints. Overindulgence in fruit, immoderate drinking of iced waters and summer beverages, a few hours produce fatal ravages among children, an adult. Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry is the most reliable remedy for all forms of summer complaints. Safe, pleasant, and prompt in its effects. All dealers keep it.

E. S. VINDIN,
Commission, Shipping, Forwarding and
General Agent.

LUMBER MERCHANT

Office, Tempest's Block, Port Hope. L11

A BARGAIN. GIBST AND SAW MILL FOR SALE,
paying 12 per cent. clear, price \$2,000; and above
is ready to be guaranteed. Apply to

JOSEPH DAVIES & Co.,

Lumber, Coal, & Commission Merchants,
48 CHURCH ST. TORONTO. L1410

St. Lawrence Hall,
PORT HOPE.

Is noted for its superior home-like comforts—a well
furnished, equaling the best hotels in Toronto, and
large, well furnished rooms, good sample rooms on
ground floor—Walton Street, Port Hope.
W. M. MACKIE, Proprietor.

Caledonian Hotel,
GRAVENHURST.

JOHN SHARPE, Proprietor. This Hotel has been
newly opened out, pleasantly situated on Main Street,
within the minutes walk of Northern Railway station.
The hotel with best assorted Wines, Liquors and Cigars.
Every attention paid to guests. Good stabling. L1415

The American Hotel,
BARRIE, ONT.

Collier Street, Adjoining the Market.

RATES REASONABLE, CENTRAL LOCATION,
FREE BUS TO AND FROM ALL TRAINS.
Every accommodation for Commercial and
LUMBERMEN.
W. D. McDONALD, Proprietor.

Fraser's Hotel,

GRAVENHURST, ONT.

HENRY FRASER, proprietor, (successor to Douglass
Brown) Mr. Fraser having purchased and thoroughly
renovated and refitted this old established hotel, so
long and popularly kept and owned by Douglass
Brown in the Village of Gravenhurst, is now in a position
to attend to the wants of the travelling and general
public. Parties en route to the Muskoka District, will
find "Fraser's" a comfortable stopping place. The
Bar and Larder are well furnished. Convenient Sample
Rooms for Commercial Men. Good stabling and
attentive hostler. Free bus to and from trains and
steamboats. L120

TRUSSES.



CLUTHES PATENT SPIRAL TRUSS
all attachments improved. No more
buckles, all on solid brass casting.
Back on rupture and human frame free.
Send address in full post card. Best
true information about rupture and
definitive CHAS. CLUTHES, Surgical Machinist,
1159 King Street west, Toronto. L1213

CANADA TRUSS FACTORY

(ESTABLISHED 1856.)

F. GROSS,

Manufacture of SURGICAL and ORTHOPEDIC AL
INSTRUMENTS ARTIFICIAL LIMBS made to order
INDIA RUBBER GOODS of every description. L191y

688 and 690 Craig Street, Montreal.

GRATEFUL-COMFORTING.

EPPS'S COCOA

BREAKFAST.

By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws
which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition,
and by a careful application of the fine properties of
well selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our break-
fast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which
may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the
judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution
may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist
every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle mala-
dies are floating around us ready to attack wherever
there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal
shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure
food and a properly nourished frame.—*Civil Service
Gazette*.

Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold in
packets and tins only (4-lb. and 1-lb.) labelled
JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists,
London, England. L191y



Has no equal for the permanent cure of
Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Asthma, Croup,
Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, and
all Lung Diseases.
Every bottle guaranteed to give satisfaction.
T. MILBURN & CO., Proprietors Toronto.

PORTLAND FOUNDRY.

JOSEPH McAFEE,

(Late Andover, Mass.)

Warehouse, Main St., St. John, N.B.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

MADE IN U.S.A.

Cooking, Ship, Parlor & Office Stoves

MILL CASTINGS

Ship Windlasses, Capstans, and
Ship Castings of all kinds,
(MADE TO ORDER)

Power Capstans, Patent Ship Pumps

With Copper Chambers. L29

Lead Scuppers & Water Closets & all
goods in my line for Ships' use.

Work done to Order with Quick Despatch.

IRWIN & BOYD

Commission
Lumber Dealers,

FORWARDERS,

Shipping & General Agents

PORT HOPE.

KERR BROS.

PRACTICAL

Founders, Machinists,
And Millwrights.

Manufacturers of Marine and Hori-
zontal and Portable

Engines, Boilers

Grain Elevators & Steam Hoists,

Saw and Flour Mill Machinery.

With Latest Improvements A SPECIALTY.

The ABEL EDWARDS CENTENNIAL
TURBINE WATER WHEEL.

RODEBAUGH'S SAW FRAME, MILL
DOGS AND SAW GUIDES.

WATER WORKS, THE LATEST AND
MOST IMPROVED, MADE TO ORDER.

LIGHT and HEAVY BRASS AND IRON
CASTINGS.

Plans and Specifications on application. L23

The Walkerville Foundry

AND

MACHINE WORKS.

Walker, Ont., Dec. 18. L1

L116