

shedding of the teeth. Is one eye smaller than the other? it indicates impaired or lost sight. Wrinkles in the upper eyelid betray a weak sight. Periodical inflammation of the eyes may be recognised by the peculiar position of the inside corner of the eye, continuous slight flow of tears, hairless shiny spots below the eyes, and shunning the light.

Next in order comes the examination of the mouth. Finding out the age, but be not deceived by artificial marked teeth. Often the dealer likes his horse to seem older than he really is, which he effects by drawing two milk-teeth, thus making the horse appear one year older. If the fore and middle teeth appear badly worn, it indicates a crib-biter. Knots on the lips, as large and larger than peas, betray farcy: also knots and stringy swellings on the throat, the ribs and the inner part of the hind leg. The nose and the throat deserve careful looking into. A greenish yellow or whitish flow, from one or both nostrils, more or less swelling of the glands of the throat, and a cough, with expectoration of phlegm, shows the strangles. Suppuration of the glands of the throat results from the same cause and is not dangerous. A sticky, ash-gray flow from the nose, and milk-white membrane, with a hard, moveable, and almost painless appearance of the glands of the throat, are bad signs; but if at the same time there are ulcers on the inside partition of the nose, then it is a complete case of glanders.

Dishonest dealers clean nose and nostrils, put oil or fat inside to produce an easy flow, and prevent the hardening of the same. They also employ caustic to produce a healthy appearance of the glands.

The examination of the horse out of the stable should both be in a state of repose and action. A healthy, lively animal breathes, on coming into the air, easily and with open nostrils; while a wind-broken horse breathes with widely extended ones, making a most singular motion with the same. Horses thus effected are exercised before the sale, which improves their breathing. Drooping or hanging the lower lip is a sign of prostration. Nettlesome horses are apt to hang their tongues out. A touch with a hot iron is the rogue's cure of this fault.

After having carefully examined ears, gullet, crest and posture of the head and neck, the mane, chest, withers, shoulders, forearm, knee, shank, pastern and hoof, lift his fore-foot to look at the sole, and also to find out whether the horse can be shod; and proceed likewise with his hind legs. Look also at the spot where the animal might have been bled, or had application of an issue, on head, chest, belly and throat.

Lifting the hoof, stepping (or reaching), and putting the foot down are three actions which should take place at the same time,

regularly, vigorously, and quickly. Horses with lame withers or shoulders cannot lift well the leading fore-foot, and are not sure in the act of reaching. A bad hoof is seen in the incomplete act of stepping and treading. The tread of a horse with the staggers is insecure and heavy. Avoid horses that strike the fore-feet with their hind-feet; those that throw their fore-feet outward too much; those with too fleshy hock; and those that interfere or kick. Aside from all that has been said above, it is of the utmost importance that the buyer should always bear in mind for what purpose he wants to buy a horse.

Stiff horses are improved by exercise, prior to the sale; lame horses are exhibited on soft ground. Lazy animals, or stupid and inattentive are made active by the sound of the whip. Common or even cayenne pepper is introduced into the passage, to make the horse carry his tail high, and improve the position of the croup. The latter trick may be discovered if the horse passes dung frequently during the examination. Gray hairs over the eyes of old horses, light spots, and even the feet are dyed, which trick can only be found out after the horse sheds its coat. To guard against all the tricks of the trade requires a knowledge of the outward appearance of the horse, as well as its anatomy and physiology, to which may be added pathology; and no connoisseur or veterinarian should be without these qualifications.—*Horse Owner's Guide.*

IRRATIONAL CUSTOM OF APP'YING BANDAGES AND KNEE-CAPS TO HORSES.

To point out bad customs is to make one step towards the introduction of good or better methods of practice, and is, perhaps the most certain, though indirect way to effect good. The custom of bandaging horses' legs has gone on increasing until it has reached the extreme bounds of absurdity. The most valuable of our horses are those the most exposed to the custom. Bandages are of various kinds: flannel and linen are used in the stable and on other occasions when horses are at rest, whilst other material is often applied when they are in work. To ask a reason for bandaging would be to solicit an answer in no way tending to enlighten one. By different people, all manner of excuses will be given to explain the *modus operandi* of bandaging, for the very good reason that no one rational explanation can be found. Bandages, we shall be told, keep horses' legs warm; they are also said to cool the legs, make them look fine, save labour—viz., hand-rubbing. Then the various elastic bandages, acting by comparison, are thought to sustain, and also defend from cutting. The above are only a few of the apologies ready to defend the