

The natural number of pulsations in the sheep is about 70 per minute. In a healthy ox in Great Britain or Ireland, the average number of pulsations is about 40; but, from the observations which have been made, it appears that the number varies with the climate; for, in the temperature of Louisiana,* according to Dr. James Smith, the pulse of the ox, when in its natural state, varies from 68 to 75, rising on the slightest degree of excitement to 80. Here is an immense difference, and this may possibly account for the great difficulty the inhabitants of that country find in acclimatizing the ox—an obstacle which does not occur in the case of the horse, which, in the warm climate of Louisiana, is acclimated with considerable facility.

"No general fact appears to be better established in hippo-pathology," observes Mr. Percival; that disease is the penalty that nature has attached to the domestication of the horse. So long as the unbroken colt remains at grass, or in the straw-yard, even though he be houseless or shelterless, but little apprehension is entertained about his health. No sooner, however, does the time arrive for his domestication, than from the day, nay, from the very hour, when he becomes stabled, do we begin to look for his "*falling amiss*," and so prepared for this event do we feel in our own mind, that, should the animal escape all ailment during this probationary stage of his life, we are apt to regard this as a fortunate exception to what seems to be established as a law of nature.

Mr. Percival has published the following table, showing the ages at which horses appear to be the most disposed to certain diseases:—

Diseases.	Patients under 5 years old.	In the 5th year.	Above 5 and under 10 years.	Above 10 and under 20 years.	20 years and upwards.	Total.
Diseases of the lungs	170	30	20	50	10	280
" bowels	10	20	40	70	20	150
" brain	4	2	5	14	1	27
" eyes	30	10	70	35	5	130
Total	214	62	135	169	37	557

Of the 557 cases mentioned in the preceding table, which had been under medical treatment, 134 had a fatal termination. The deaths, therefore, were at the rate of 21.03 per cent. In 300 pulmonary cases, 77 died, or 25.66 per cent.

I have already condemned the apathy which is shown towards the degree of temperature and purity of the atmospheric air in which stables ought to be regarded; and when attention is drawn at all to the subject, then it is in general so badly managed, as to be also productive of

baneful effects. Professor Youatt* justly observed—that the temperature of the stable should, during the winter months, never exceed ten degrees above that of the external air, and during the rest of the year should be as similar to it as possible. It is not so generally known as it ought to be, that the return to a hot stable is quite as dangerous as the change from a heated atmosphere, to a cold and biting air. Many a horse that has travelled without injury over a bleak country, has been suddenly seized with inflammation and fever, when he has, at the end of his journey, been surrounded with heated and foul air. It is the sudden change of temperature, whether from heat to cold, or from cold to heat, that does the mischief, and yearly destroys a multitude of horses. The stable should be as large, compared with the number of horses which it is destined to contain, as circumstances will allow. A stable for six horses should not be less than forty feet in length, and thirteen or fourteen feet wide. If there be no loft above, the inside of the roof should always be plastered, to prevent direct currents of air, and occasional droppings from broken tiles; the heated or foul air should escape, and cool as well as pure air be admitted, by an elevation of the central tiles, or by large tubes carried through the roof, with caps a little above them, in order to prevent the beating in of the rain, or by gratings, placed high up in the walls. These latter apertures should be as far above the horses' heads as they can be conveniently placed, by which means all injurious draughts will be prevented. If there is a loft above the stable, the ceiling should be plastered, in order to prevent the foul air from penetrating the hay above, and injuring both its taste and its wholesomeness; and no openings ought to be allowed above the racks, through which the hay may be thrown into the rack, for they also will permit the foul air to ascend to the provender; and, in the act of filling the rack, and while the horse is eagerly gazing upward for his food, many a grass-seed has fallen into his eye, and produced considerable inflammation; whilst, at other times, when the careless groom has left open the trap-door, a stream of cold air beats down upon the head of the horse. The stable with a loft above it, should never be less than twelve feet high, and proper ventilation should be secured either by tubes carried through the loft to the roof, or by gratings close to the ceiling. These gratings or openings should be contracted or enlarged, by means of a covering or shutter, so that, during spring, summer and autumn, the stable should possess nearly the same temperature with the open air, and in winter a temperature not more than ten degrees above that of the external atmosphere. A hot stable has, in the mind of the groom, been long connected with a glossy coat. The latter, it is thought, cannot be attained without the former. To this

* Journal of Agriculture, vol. ii., p. 91.

* "The Horse," by W. Youatt, p. 246.