

than falling, the blemish is the same, and almost equally detracts from his value. Next look inside of the leg just under the knee, and if any scars be visible, or the hair sticks up, you may conclude that he cuts in his speedy or fast paces. Mark well that a similar scar does not exist at the ankle, or hair appear brushed; for such marks are solely produced by the act of cutting, which, as before observed, is generally a natural and therefore incurable defect in action.

THE LEGS.—Take notice that the legs be not tottering, and inclining forward, either at the knee or at the ankle; and that the ankle joints be large in front. The back sinews, also, should not appear bowed out behind, nor feel thick—the symptoms of their having sustained some injury. The legs should be flat, and not round; neither should they be soft and puffy, but wiry and hard. Both legs should be alike, for if one be larger than the other, it is an injured leg. Never buy a horse for a sound one with a big leg, even though he be warranted. You need not mind a splint, or a bony excrescence on the shank, unless it be so situated as to interfere with the suspensory ligament, or project so much as to hit the other leg in going. Ringbones, or enlargements on the pasterns and coronet, are easily perceived from a difference in the two legs; as it rarely occurs, even when both legs are affected, that they are affected equally. Incipient ringbones will sometimes produce lameness, even before they are observable.

THE FEET.—Be particularly attentive to the feet; for, according to the old saying—no foot, no horse. First of all, observe that one foot should not be less than the other; and that they should not be indented, or hollow around the crust. The crust itself should not be brittle, and broken where the nails have been driven; nor should there exist in it any circular cracks, nor longitudinal fissures from the coronet downward, which last are termed sand cracks. The heels should not be drawn together and contracted; nor should the frog be small and ragged, nor discharge fetid matter, which is a disease called a thrush. The horn at the heel should be as high as the frog; for, if lower, the heels will be liable to corns; and the sole should neither be flat nor convex. It is obvious no horse can continue sound with these imperfections in the feet; and it frequently happens that horses with very finely formed feet, are very

lame from a hidden cause within the hoof. Some veterinary surgeons consider such description of foot lameness hereditary. Lameness in the feet (often erroneously taken for and called lameness in the shoulder) frequently proceeds from a slight strain in the back tendon, which, on inflammation falling down to the sensible sole, produces navicular disease, only curable by an operation, and which fortunately is a simple one, in really scientific hands, seldom failing to give relief. If the legs and feet be smooth, you may imagine that all is right in the fore part of the horse.

THE HOCKS.—Next examine the hocks; observe that as you stand on either side of them, there be no projection at the back of the joint, called a curb; and, as you stand behind them, that the inside of the joint down below be free from little knots, or bony excrescences, which are called bone spavins; and on looking at them in a slanting direction, that there be no tumor above, or blood-spavin. Look down between the horse's fore legs for these defects, as it frequently happens that they are better seen from that view. An enlargement of the cap of the hock does not often cause lameness, thought it is a blemish; but enlargements on each side of it, which upon pressure fluctuate from the inside of the joint to the outside, are termed thorough pins, which are in fact wind-galls, and often cause very obstinate lameness.

THE HIPS.—Look that both hips be of the same height, as horses are met with having the defect termed down of a hip.

SHOWING.—Having thus examined the horse as he stands, let him run down slowly on a rough or stony declivity, at the end of a halter, without any support to his head, or any whip near him. If he go boldly with his knees bent, and his foot flat and firm to the ground, without dropping his head, you may conclude that he is sound before; and if on running him up hill, he go with his hocks regularly together, and not dragging the toe, nor dropping from the hip, you may buy him as free from lameness. If he go pattering on the toe, and feeting, let him not be bought.

LAMENESS—How discovered.—Take notice that in examining a horse for lameness, you may often detect it by looking at his ears; for all horses that are lame before drop their heads when the throw their weight on to the sound leg; and those that are lame behind throw their heads up when the sound leg comes to the ground.