

I should say; do not reject the horse, but by all means clearly explain the position to both purchaser and seller, and if the latter is unwilling to keep the horse until perfectly recovered, advise the would be purchaser to have nothing to do with him.

Dean McEachran says: What ever alteration in structure or function so affects a horse as to lessen his usefulness or value constitutes unsoundness.

Examination of horses for soundness is one of the most difficult and often most unsatisfactory duties which the veterinary surgeon has to perform. It differs from attendance in cases of sickness, inasmuch as, in the latter case, the V.S. is given all the information and assistance possible by those in attendance, except in a few old cases, where he has to deal with a lazy or dishonest groom or stableman; whereas, in examination for soundness, frequently every attempt is made to throw dust in his eyes. Then the conditions under which examinations are made are frequently very unfavorable.

For my own part, I should like to look a horse over thoroughly for all defects; then, drive him; of course not omitting to thoroughly test the soundness of his respiratory organs. Then, I should like him brought to my own stable for the night, and be myself the first to lead him out of his stall in the morning. I should then like to have him ridden, or jogged by the halter, for a short distance. One thing more I should like, in cases of horses with flat or suspicious looking feet; i. e., to have the shoes removed and the feet pared out and thoroughly examined.

This would of course be an ideal examination from the veterinary-surgeon's point of view; but I am afraid the seller would complain of trouble, loss of time, and the greater chance of the horse being condemned, as unsound; while the purchaser would complain, of the cost of such an examination, as well as of loss of time, and probably also think that any man with any pretensions to veterinary knowledge ought to be able to discover everything worth knowing about a horse in much less time.

In most examinations for soundness a horse which you have never seen in your life is brought to your stable, as often as not thoroughly warmed up by a sharp drive, to be examined and passed as sound or be condemned, within a few minutes.

If unsuccessful under such unfavorable circumstances in discovering some unsoundness which later on develops itself, you are blamed by the purchaser and probably lose him as a client and are laughed at and extensively advertised by the seller. One cannot be too careful in looking for unexpected unsoundness; for instance, a V. S. very seldom allows a splint, ringbone, sidebone, spavin, or curb, to escape his notice.

The two narrowest escapes from serious mistakes I can at present think of as having happened to myself were, first in the case of a horse with doubtful looking forefeet which I had the seller lead to the nearest forge in order to have the shoes removed. On entering the forge I thought I noticed the horse blunder, and on taking the halter myself I was able to lead him right against a wall. This horse was perfectly blind from *gutta serena* (paralysis of the optic nerve).

In these cases the eye appears normal or, according to some authors, even unusually bright and clear. In this case I had to thank the horse's bad feet for my escape from a serious blunder.

(To be Continued)

WM. WARDLE, JR. V. S.

THE AMERICAN TROTTER.—CANADIAN BLOOD.

The Southern states were settled largely by that class from England which indulged in horse-racing and fox-hunting, consequently the sport of running horses developed there. In the North it was too cold to ride comfortably in the winter, so driving became the general means of travel. While the Puritans, on account of religious scruples, were generally opposed to racing, they could not resist the temptation of "speeding" their horses on the road. This soon led to public trotting races where horses were matched against each