

are facts of every day experience; nay, more, we will scarcely find any one who will deny their truth; and yet, year after year; similar disease-perpetuating courses are followed. It would, we think, be better, therefore, if we were to take a little care, in the first instance, only to breed from sound animals, and next to avoid everything which might tend to induce disease, instead of doing all in our power to create and perpetuate it, and thus place ourselves under the necessity of crying out for educated men to remedy the evil.

But the horse is not the only class of our domestic animals in which *care* might be advantageously employed to prevent the necessity for *cure*.

When we look at the state of our various breeds of cattle, we find that disease is as often traceable to the effects of management as it is in the horse. It may be, perhaps, that there is apparently more obscurity in their case; but, still, there are many forms of disease to which they are subject, which, if we investigate step by step, we can have little difficulty in detecting the exciting causes. On this point, the late William Youatt is most positive, and in his descriptions of many of the diseases of cattle, that eminent authority distinctly traces them to causes entirely under the control of the owner. Take the following, amongst many others, as an example:—

CATARRH OR HOOSE—In a great many cases it is the *result of mismanagement*. When cattle are crowded together they are seldom without hoose. If the cow-house is suffered to be heated to a considerable number of degrees above the temperature of the external air, it is sure to be present. Many a sad cold is caught at the straw-yard, and particularly by young cattle; the food is scanty there; it is not sufficient to afford proper nourishment, or to keep

up the proper warmth; * and the more forward drive the others about, and permit them to obtain only a small portion of their proper share of the provender; and then the depressing effects of cold and wet and hunger so debilitate these poor beasts that they are *seldom* without catarrh, *and that catarrh too frequently runs on to a more serious disease*.

“Some breeds are more subject to hoose than others. The natives of a southern district are seldom naturalized in a northern and colder clime without several times passing through the ordeal of severe catarrh; and when the system of breeding *in-and-in* has been carried to too great an extent, and been pursued in defiance of many a warning, hoose, perpetually occurring, difficult to remove, and degenerating into confirmed phthisis, will painfully, but somewhat too late, convince the farmer of his mistake.”†

This is only one instance, and we think the facts are sufficiently obvious without filling our columns with additional proofs drawn from Youatt, or any other authority, except the evidence of our daily experience.

Of late years, what we may call “the high pressure” system has been introduced into our management of cattle and sheep. A disposition to become fit for the butcher at an early age is considered as the greatest perfection in an animal; and we have therefore, introduced almost into every corner of the land that breed of cattle which possess this quality in a greater degree than any other. That the short-horn is, in many respects, the most valua-

* This remark is applicable to the practice which exists in some parts of England, of keeping young cattle in the straw-yards during winter, on barley straw and water only.—Ed. F. G.

† Youatt on Cattle.