

to deal with ; gentlemen lovers of horses, without any pretension to horsemanship; farmers, horsebreeders, dealers and others.

I have met many gentlemen fond of horses, many dealers and farmers who could examine a horse and detect any unsoundness as quickly almost as any V.S. On the other hand, I have often been surprised at seeing men, fond of horses and having been brought up and lived among them all their lives, failing to notice unsoundness which ought to be plain to our friend "The Meanest Observer." (1). Especially is this the case with regard to dealers, men handling hundreds of horses yearly, and yet never learning to recognise a spavin unless it is as big as a walnut.

There are many dealers, especially shippers of draught horses, who seem only to look for three things : age, sidebones, and wind, the latter being tried by a punch in the ribs ; a most unreliable test in my opinion.

Of course I am now alluding to respectable dealers, men in a good business, who endeavor to buy sound horses and whose reputation is of too much value to them to knowingly sell an unsound one.

Then there is our old friend the dealer who knowingly buys unsound horses, and tries to pass them on at a good profit as sound.

He is not, as a rule, very anxious for a veterinary examination, although he holds Veterinary Surgeons as a class very cheaply and considers he has forgotten more about horses than the whole profession ever knew. He is a man of many and ingenious excuses. If you notice a cloudiness of one eye, with a discharge and a small fleck on the other, and are suspicious of periodic ophthalmia, he is ready : "Oh I forgot Doc, he has two wolf teeth ; you might just get your forceps and pull them out ; that 'll soon fix his eyes ; if I had thought of it, I would have knocked them out with a chisel."

If the horse roars like a bull, it is the first morning he ever did. He must have caught cold last night. He remembers, now, he did leave him standing too long after showing him to that other party who is so anxious to get him ; and that reminds him he has promised that party an answer to-night. With him, a big bone-spavin is a small jack or a double joint ; a bog spavin is a small puff, which would not show if the horse had not been in the stable for three or four days, and does him no harm.

Ringbones, sidebones, corns, and every other unsoundness, have their own excuses, and finally he leaves your yard swearing you are the D——st know nothing of a Vet in town, and the only one who would condemn that horse.

Another class with which we have to deal is composed of merchants, business men, and other persons who look on horses as a mere convenience, and who in most cases do not aspire to any horsey knowledge, but leave everything connected with their stable to their coachman or groom, with instructions to call in their V. S. when necessary.

I have noticed that men of this class either trust their V.S. implicitly to see that every precaution necessary is taken to procure a thorough examination, or else appear to wish to do most of the examining themselves.

One incident I shall never forget occurred when I was at college. A well known, respected, and intelligent gentleman of this city called at the college to settle his account for care and treatment of his horse during an attack of pneumonia. He said he thought the charge rather high, especially as Doctor McEachran had passed the horse sound only two years before !

I should like to say a few words on the subject of Examinations at Shows and Exhibition. I have noticed that in examining stallions and broodmares, especially in the thorough bred classes, veterinary surgeons are too apt to get into one of two grooves.

The strictly professional man is too apt to condemn a good horse for some slight unsoundness, thus giving a chance for a prize to a worthless brute with nothing but looks to recommend him, while the "horsey" Vet, or should I say the race horse Vet? is apt to look over

(1) Just our own case. ED