

is still further thinned—no attention is paid to the natural bearing, or to the direction of the plane of the foot in relation to the action and natural position in standing.

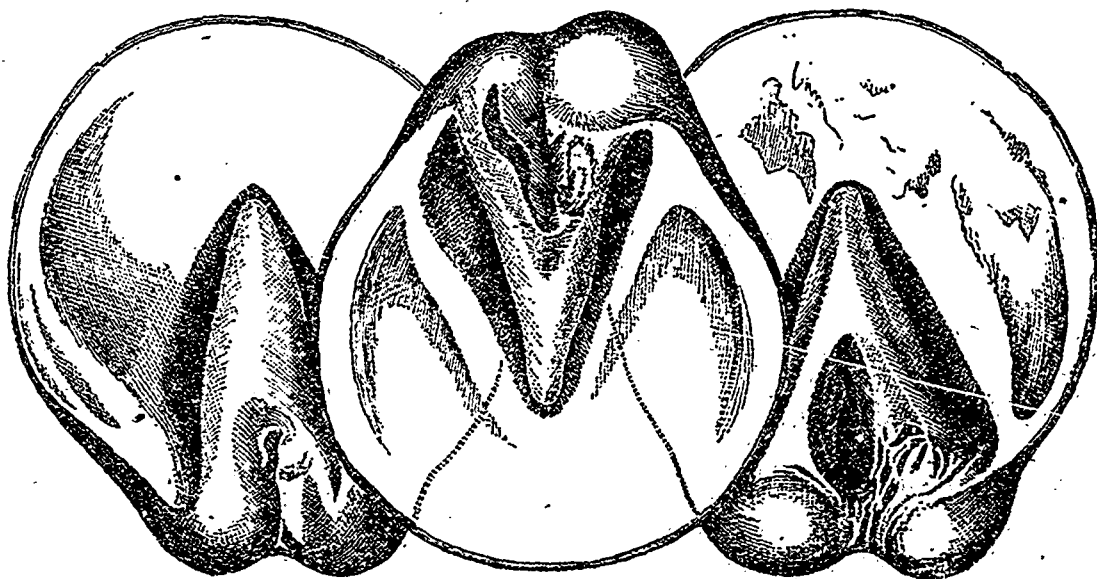
To the foot, thus prepared, a red hot shoe is applied, and a still further thinning of the sole round the margin takes place, till nothing is left to protect the sometime sole from the scorching of the hot iron shoe. The shoe being thus fitted to the foot, *or the foot to the shoe*, it is cooled and nailed on. Now, what is the result of all this? The unduly thinned, perhaps badly scorched, sole is so tender that it is further bruised by every uneven substance the colt steps on: then his action is cramped and tender; his feet are hot, and he prefers to lie down in the stable. The heat of the straw, dry and hot as it is, does not tend to lessen the fever in the feet; they become hot, hard and tender. In about a week or ten days, the feet have outgrown, and in a measure recovered from, the injury; and the horse improves in his action.

When the time for shoeing again comes round, his feet are again mercilessly dealt with by the knife, and the hot shoe; the thin soles and heels weakened by repeated bruising

intelligent supervision is given, the heels are unduly reduced, and the toe allowed to elongate, thereby throwing the weight on the posterior part of the foot, causing corns and tenderness of the heels. In others, the toe is the object of attention, and is made round and short, while the heels are left high and raised still more by caulkins on the shoes, so that the horse is thrown forward on the toe in a most uncomfortable manner.

The foot, thus prepared regardless of scientific principles, is next adapted, by burning and further paring, to the shoe.

The shoe is usually made nearly level on the upper surface on which the crust rests, but seldom indeed is the ground surface (made to meet the ground) level. Usually, on one pretext or another, the inner heel is raised more than the outer; thus, if the horse interferes, the inner heel is raised so as to twist the fetlock, outward if he has a corn. In many forges, the caulkin is cut off the inner heel, and only the toe and outside heel left; so that every step the animal takes the foot rocks, and ends by throwing the weight on the tender heel. Too often, the poor horse is made to travel on hard roads, and to draw heavy loads, with his feet and legs twisted by uneven shoes in the most uncomfortable manner.



become permanently tender, the colt loses action and courage, proves a disappointment to his owner, and is perhaps sold for a trifle, when, if he is fortunate enough to fall into the hands of a good master who understands his case, by proper care he may yet be saved; if not, he becomes a drudge and a confirmed cripple for life.

Let us now accompany the adult horse to the forge, and observe the operations of the farrier when left to his own will.

The removal of the shoe is the first step: this is done by the "driver" or "floor man," in English forges; in France it takes two men, one to hold the foot and one to do the work.

Taking the foot between the knees, the clinches are out with the "buffer;" which, often carelessly done, leaves rough clinches to tear through, and often break off in, the nail holes. With a few violent wrenches of the "pincers" the shoe is pulled off. The knife is now brought into play, the soft frog and flaky sole are speedily removed by the drawing knife; without any judgement it is thinned and pared, till the foot is moulded to the shape and size which the farrier imagines to be the correct one, but which imaginary model is not arrived at by any special study, and, as a rule, is anything but what it should be. In some forges, where no

If the farrier would only reflect, and practise wearing a boot which would twist his own foot for a few days, he would be more careful when nailing on an immovable iron shoe to the foot of the horse.

Not only is carelessness a marked feature in the paring of the foot and the fitting of the shoe; but the placing of the nail-holes in the shoe seldom receives the attention its importance demands.

In making the shoes, the nail-holes are placed in all shoes in the same position, and thus all shoes are nailed on alike, whereas no two feet are alike in strength of quarter or adaptability for receiving nails. Sufficient attention is not paid to the direction of the nail holes, which should correspond with the direction of the wall—thus, straight at the heel and oblique as they near the toe.—The shoe being nailed on, the clinches are turned down by hammering the end of the nail on to the pincers; then, with the smooth side of the rasp, the ends are shortened, and made even, when by holding the head on the pincers they are hammered down. In doing this, too much violence is often resorted to, and the nails are hammered down as if they were in a solid block of wood, instead of in a sensitive delicate structure such as a horse's