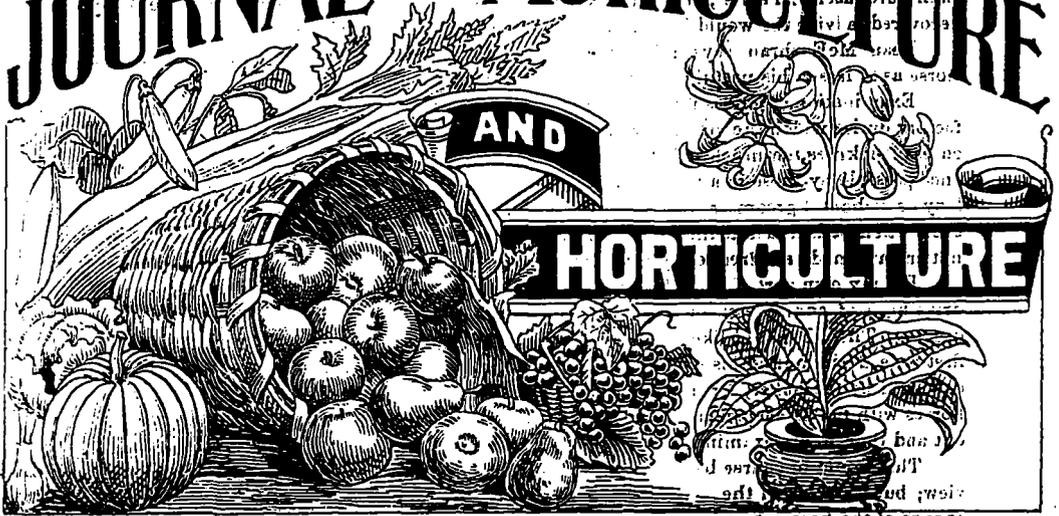


THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE



VOL. 1. No. 4.

This Journal replaces the former "Journal of Agriculture," and is delivered free to all members of Farmers' Clubs. FEBRUARY 15, 1898.

The Horse.

SOUNDNESS OR UNSOUNDNESS OF HORSES

By W. Wardle, Jr.; V.S.

There is probably no subject connected with horses on which so much has been written and upon which there has been so much discussion and difference of opinion as that of soundness vs. unsoundness of horses.

Even among Veterinary Surgeons, I am sorry to say, there is no uniformity of opinion as to what does or does not constitute unsoundness. To this our Law Courts bear witness; whenever a disputed sale of unsoundness comes before them. It is not surprising, but pleasant to hear three or four Veterinary Surgeons swear they consider a horse sound, while many more are equally sure he is unsound.

Of course there is much more excuse for this state of things than appears at first sight, on account of the difficulty of defining the meaning of the term *soundness* as opposed to *unsoundness*.

Among the definitions of soundness which I can at present recall to mind, are: first, Lord Ellenborough's, who says: any infirmity which renders a horse less fit for any present use or convenience constitutes unsoundness.

Oliphant says: When a horse is free from hereditary disease, is in his natural and constitutional health, and possesses as much bodily perfection as is possible with his natural conformation, he may be passed as sound.

Chief Justice Eyre says: A horse suffering from a temporary disease, which can be quickly and easily cured, need not be considered unsound.

This does not seem at all reasonable to me; for instance, how often we see what appears a very slight cold develop into a case of laryngitis, pneumonia, or pleurisy; or what appears a simple tread result in a quittor?