

The Farmer's Journal.

MONTREAL, MAY 1858.

CARE versus CURE.

“What can't be cured must be endured,” says the old proverb; a saying which is often brought forward as a sufficient reason for carelessness in cases where the convert of the apophthegm—“What can be cured needn't be endured”—would be the most appropriate of the two. This fact has often occurred to us, and not the less strongly since we have brought the want of educated veterinary skill, which exists in Ireland, prominently under the notice of our readers. It has gratified us to know that our views on this matter have been well received, and that some degree of eagerness has been evinced by the agriculturists of this country in a subject which so deeply concerns their interests. But we cannot forget that numerous cases arise requiring the services of a veterinarian, the origin of which are easily understood, and the prevention of which is, to a great extent, entirely within our power.

The artificial condition of our domestic animals seems to be a fact which is constantly forgotten by their owners; and to this much of the diseases to which they are liable can be traced. We cultivate in their case a delicacy of constitution, and, at the same time, we subject them to treatment which only those of a hardy and less artificial nature could endure with any degree of impunity. We see certain forms of disease existing, and yet we take every means to render the same hereditary and lasting. In fact, it would almost appear, on looking into the matter, as if all our energies were bent on creating work for the veterinary practitioner; and then we

find that the supply of educated men is not equal to the urgency of the demand which we have ourselves created.

Let us look a little into matters and see how far we are justified in saying that *care* might often prevent the necessity for *cure*.

When we go into any of our horse fairs, we cannot help observing the abundance of cases of unsoundness which come under our notice. Broken wind, spavins, and, in fact, every form of disease known as “unsoundness,” are to be seen on every hand. Whence, therefore, do these arise? Are they natural to the animal, such as cannot be prevented, or what share has previous treatment had in producing them? If we look at the farms of the breeders of those animals, we will probably find an answer to our inquiries. Mares which are useless for almost every other purpose, in consequence of unsoundness, are considered quite good enough to keep for breeding purposes: and with this view are sent to a sire which, it may be, is also unsound. Between the two the unsoundness is perpetuated, and the slightest exciting cause is sufficient to develop similar disease in the young animal. Besides this, it is quite common to find young horses at work, when they ought to be scampering through the fields, accumulating bone and muscle to enable them to endure the labours they are destined to undergo, instead of wasting their soft, unformed substance in the plough or cart, and bringing on premature age and disease. Many a promising young horse has been rendered permanently unsound, and his value thereby deteriorated, in consequence of his short-sighted owner putting him to work before he was able for it; and in such a case, if there exists any predisposition to disease, in consequence of descending from diseased parents, such treatment will only tend to develop the latent unsoundness all the sooner.

Now, these are no fanciful theories, they