

every revolution of the wheel, and even worse, the animal showing evident marks of bad feed, and hard treatment. To laugh at such persons is too light a punishment; they ought to be followed, and hissed, and shouted. But to return to my subject. To have a horse properly shod, good iron, and a skilful practitioner are requisite. The nails, at least, ought to be *Swedish*; the shoe to be nicely formed, and a *good fit*. Let the seat of the shoe be pared even and plain, so that the web may lie solid, and not press more on one part than another; more of the toe-hoof may be pared off than of the heel of the forefoot, for the weight of the fore quarters rests on the heels, and therefore they ought to be left somewhat higher than the toes. Let the spunges of the shoe be a little thicker and broader than the other parts, so that they appear somewhat outside, in order to guard the coffin, which is the strength of the hoof. In piercing, the holes should be directed towards the toe, and the nails ought to be driven in that direction, and not towards the heels, because the hoof is thicker forward more than backward, and, therefore, a better hold can there be taken. The punch and neck of the nails ought to be of the same size and shape, so that the nails fill the holes in the shoe exactly; nails of a wedge-shape in the neck are the best; this is little regarded by many smiths, who make the holes above as wide as below, and the nails of so great a shouldering that they cannot enter the hofe so as properly to fill it; the shoe rocks, and when the head or shoulder of the nail is worn, it falls off. The nail at first should be driven with a small hammer and light strokes till it has well entered. In shoeing fine, delicate horses, grease the points of the nails, that they may enter more easily. Drive the two talon nails first, then see whether the shoe stands fair or not; if not set it to rights; then drive in another nail. Let down the horse's foot and see if it fits evenly every part. If it appears more on one side than the other, lift up the horse's other foot, that he may stand firm on the shoe, then strike the side of the hoof where the shoe is scant with your hammer, and the shoe will come that way; drive in the other five nails then, when you rise the foot; and let their tops, when the points are broken off, form a circular line, not zigzagly, nor in and out, like the teeth of a saw; then clench them evenly with the hoof, which you may do by paring the hoof a little under the clench. This done, with your rasp pare the hoof, so that the shoe may appear all round, give it a rub of the rasp and that fore foot will be secured. Treat the other fore foot in a similar manner. When the feet are badly shaped, you must somewhat vary your operations, viz. :—

1st.—In the *broad hoof*, take as much as possibly can be spared off the toe with your butteris, but do not touch the quarters or heels at all, save only what may be requisite to make the shoe fit

evenly; drive five nails on the outside of the hoof, and four on the inside, because he wears more without than within. Let the shoe be also made answerable to the wear. A trench should be in every shoe to save the heads of the nails from wearing.

2nd.—In the *rough and brittle hoof*, which is usually weaker without than within, though for the most part better than other hoofs, the raggedness on the outside of the coffin should be rasped off, and the hoof anointed with *neat's-foot oil*. The shoe ought to be lighter than for other hoofs; the nails, five outwardly, and four inside.

3rd. *The long hoof* should be well pared at the toe, and the shoe made rounder there, that the breadth may take off the evil sight of the length. If the foot be *very long*, let the shoe disboard without the hoof. Use eight nails, as in the perfect hoof.

4th. *The crooked hoof*—In this hoof pare the unworn side even with the other. Pare the worn side as little as possible. Have the shoe thicker for the worn side than the other. Set it on with nine nails—five on the stronger, and four on the weaker side.

5th. *The flat hoof*, or, as it is oftentimes called, the *pumiced hoof*, should be shod with a broad-webbed shoe, for the more it covers the weak sole the better. It ought to be stronger inside, towards the ball, than outside. Let it be easy and long. Pierce it round the toe to favour the heel. Make ten nails for it. Leave the heel and ball as strong as possible, but pare the toe a little.

6th. *The hollow hoof* ought to be well pared, especially the seat of the shoe, in order to lessen the cavity within, which should always be kept moist with some *proper stuffing* to prevent *hoof-binding*. Make the shoe the same as for the perfect hoof, and the nails the same in number.

7th. *As to broad frushes*, which cause weak heels, there is little or no need of paring, except for the seat of the shoe and a little about the toe, leaving the heels as strong as may be; but the shoe should be broader and stronger towards the heel than about the toe. Form the shoe like that for the perfect hoof, and set it on with nine nails.

8th. *The hoof with narrow heels* should have a broad web to defend the heels from the ground, and the spunges should nearly meet for that reason. Punch it towards the toe for eight nails, sparing the heel as much as possible.—*Vide Dictio. Rusticum, & unde decerp.*

9th. But I have said sufficiency, I think, with regard to shoeing the *fore feet*. I will now make a remark or two respecting the hinder ones. The forepart of the hoof of the hinder feet is weaker than the heels, and, therefore, should be spared in the paring, and defended and strengthened by the formation of the shoe, which should be stronger at the toe, and pierced nigher the heel than the toe; and the outside