

and the only palliation of the evil is obtained from the application of a shoe so bevelled off from the crust that it shall not press upon or touch the sole. This, however, is only a temporary palliation, for the sole will continue to project, and the horse will be useless.

**Contracted Feet.**—By this is meant an increase in the length of the foot, and a gradual narrowing as the heels are approached; and as the necessary consequence of this, a diminution of the width of the foot and a convexity of the sole. In point of fact, the whole of the foot, including the coffin-bone, becomes narrowed, and consequently elongated. This change of form is accompanied by considerable pain; the action of the horse is altered; there is a shortened tread, and a hesitating way of putting the foot to the ground.

The frog and heel would expand when the weight of the horse descends and is thrown upon them, but the nailing of the shoe at the heels prevents it. Thence the pain and lameness. Mr. Turner of Regent-street obviates this by a very simple method. He puts four or five nails in the shoe on the outside, and only two on the inside. There is then sufficient room for the natural expansion to take place, and the foot and action of the horse are little or not at all changed. This is an admirable contrivance, and recourse should always be had to it.

**The Navicular Joint Disease.**—There are many horses with open and well-formed feet that are lame. In every motion of the foot there is a great deal of action between the navicular bone and the flexor tendon which passes over it in order to be inserted into the navicular bone.—From concussion or violent motion, the membrane or the cartilage which covers the navicular bone is bruised or abraded, the horse becomes lame, and often continues so for life. This disease admits of remedy to a very considerable extent; no one, however, but a skilful veterinary surgeon is capable of successfully undertaking it.

**Sand-crack** is a division of the crust of the hoof from the upper part of it downward. It speaks brittleness of the foot, and often arises from a single false step. If the crack has not penetrated through the horn, it must nevertheless be pared fairly out, and generally a coating of pitch should be bound round the foot. If the crack has reached the quick, that must be done which ought to be done in every case—a skilful surgeon should be consulted, otherwise false quarter may ensue.

**False Quarter** is a division of the ligament by which the crust is secreted. It is one of the varieties of sand-crack, and exceedingly difficult to cure.

**Tread or Overreach** is a clumsy habit of setting one foot upon or bruising the other. It should immediately and carefully be attended to, or a bad case of quittor may ensue.

**Quittor** is the formation of little pipes between the crust and the hoof, by means of which the purulent matter secreted from some wound be-

neath the crust makes its escape. The healing of this, and of every species of *prick* or *wound* in the sole or crust, is often exceedingly difficult.

**Corns** are said to exist when the posterior part of the foot between the external crust and the bars is unnaturally contracted and becomes inflamed. Corns are the consequence of continued and unnatural pressure. The thorough cure of corns will put the ingenuity of the operator to the trial.

**Thrush** is the consequence of unnatural pressure on the frog. It is the cause and the effect of contraction, whether it is found in the heels of the fore feet or the hinder ones. It is not difficult to cure when taken in time, but when neglected it often becomes a very serious matter.

**Canker** is the consequence of thrush, or, indeed, of almost every disease of the foot. It is attended by a greater or less separation of horn, which sometimes leaves the whole of the sole bare. Thus, also, like the diseases of the foot generally, is difficult of cure.

Few things are more neglected, and yet of greater importance to the comfort and durability of the horse, than a proper system of *shoeing*. It is necessary that the foot should be defended from the wear and tear of the roads, but that very defence too often entails on the animal a degree of injury and suffering scarcely credible. The shoe is fixed to the foot, and often interferes with and limits the beautiful expansibility of that organ, and thus causes much unnecessary concussion and mischief.

The shoe of a healthy foot should offer a perfectly flat surface to the ground. The bearing or weight of the horse will then be diffused over the surface of the shoe, and there will be no injurious accumulation of it on different points. Too often, however, there is a convexity toward the inner edge, which causes an inequality of bearing, and breaks and destroys the crust. Round the outer edge of the shoe, and extended over two-thirds of it on the lower surface, a groove is sunk, through which pass the nails for the fastening of the shoe. At first they somewhat project, but they are soon worn down to the level of the shoe, which in the healthy foot should not vary from the heel to the toe.

The width of the shoe will depend on that of the foot. The general rule is that it should protect the sole from injury, and be as wide at the heel as the frog will permit.

The upper surface of the shoe should be differently formed. It should be flat along the upper end, outer supporting the crust, or, in other words, the weight of the horse, and widest at the heel, so as to meet and withstand the shock of the bars and crust. The inner portion of the shoe should be bevelled off, in order that in the descent of the sole, that part of the foot may not be bruised. The owner of the horse should occasionally be present when the shoes are removed, and he will be too often surprised to see how far the smith, almost wilfully, deviates from the right