

of the hand, how much more will it yield the pressure of a stone, when the whole weight of the horse is thrown upon it? Now it must be constantly occurring when the lateral protection is removed, and frequent cases must in the end render the sole so tender that even its natural thickness will cause lameness, and consequently necessitate its regular removal by paring, and the substitution of leather and stuffing.

Thus it is that paring has become necessary in some cases:—but why render it necessary beginning at all? Why not allow the animal the protection for his foot which nature has given him?—Some will say,—How is the superfluous horn to be removed, if not by the farrier? Nature has arranged the fibres of the sole in transverse layers, which exfoliate in scales or flakes, in due time;—the under layer pushing off the upper; which till thrown off acts as a covering to the under layer, and preserves its moisture, so that although the upper layer may appear hard, the under layers will still be soft and elastic.

The frog must never be touched except, perhaps, to cut away the loose rags, and even that will be unnecessary. The crust should be pared down level, the old stubbs carefully removed, and the toe shortened; the heels should be left strong and the bars must not be cut with a knife.

The foot being thus prepared, the shoe is to be fitted. It must never be applied hot. However a little heat is generally necessary for the shoe to get a level bearing. It lies closely on to the crust at every part, except at the heels, which may be slightly

raised. On good feet the nails must not be driven too deep, the hold of the nails should be solid and as even as possible. The rasp must not be used to the clench, except to shorten it, if too long, but it must never be used. The hoof should not be furrowed by the clench in, but the clench turned full strength, and well hammered down, can always be done if the crust is not injured by rasping. The use of the rasp to the outer wall of the hoof must be interdicted, as it leaves the crust weak, porous and brittle, by removing the external unctuous covering of the crust, and consequently predisposes to sand crack, &c. In cases where the hooves have been kept on too long, it is frequently necessary to use the rasp to remove the superfluous hoof, so as not to allow it to grow beyond the shoe, but in no case allow the rasp to be used above the clenches. To preserve the foot in good condition the shoes must be changed every three weeks or a month. It is possible to have new shoes at every shoeing, and they are generally more comfortable. When the shoe is worn for a great length of time, the heels become wide and the seating is followed by the friction of the crust.

Having this hurriedly glanced at the principles of shoeing in general, I will now make a few remarks on shoes for special purposes.

1st. To prevent slipping on the ice. For this there are a great many plans in use—the most common is to sharpen the calkins and tips on the toes;—the outside heel should be sharpened transversely, and the inside one longitudinally, so as to prevent cutting the other foot, and also prevent lateral slipping.

2nd. To prevent interfering, cutting, or brushing. The shoe must be kept fine on the inside, and the margin rounded off; this will prevent it in slight cases, but in bad cases the nails must be placed around the toe and outside, so that the inside might be kept fine, and there will be no clenches, which frequently are the cause of the cutting, by being raised. The crust may be allowed to overlap the shoe a little, the inside heel should be raised by being thickened, and the outside heel kept low—in this way the fetlock is thrown more out of the way of the other foot.

I have here a shoe for the hind foot which is found effectual, even in the worst cases, when properly fitted. It is made you will observe similar to the common leather-heeled shoe, except the nails are round the toe, and the feather rises from the inner margin of the heel. By the use of this shoe, when properly made and fitted, the boot may, in most cases, be dispensed with.

In shoeing to prevent interfering, it is necessary that the farrier should know what part of the shoe cuts—this may be known by binding a piece of cloth round the fetlock, and rubbing it over with pipe clay; then by trotting out the horse, the mark will be seen on the shoe at the place where it touches, which must of course be kept closer. For speedy cut the same principle should be observed.

For tripping or stumbling—the toe must be shortened, and the turned up toe shoe applied. This is a system of shoeing which Mr. Hallen, V.S. to the Inniskillen Dragoons, has practiced in the army for about twenty six years. It certainly has many advantages besides preventing stumbling. It removes a great amount of leverage from the tendon, consequently, in a great measure, it prevents strain of the tendon; it also breaks the concussion which the foot has to sustain with the ordinary flat shoe. Lieut. Col. Fitzwygram, directs it to be made thus:—Let the shoe be made with a narrow web (three-fourths of an inch) of even width, except at the heels, flat towards the sole, concave towards the ground.

Turn up the toe of the shoe, (nearly from quarter to quarter) on the horn of the anvil. The degree to which the toe is to be turned up is to be regulated by what you find necessary in each horse to make the wear of the shoe (nearly) even all over. A simple method, and one which in some cases answer very well, is to champher the toe of the common shoe over