

A PLEA FOR CAB HORSES.

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A good suggestion has been presented to us in the last number of the "Sanitary Review." It is the establishment of a shelter for cab horses:—

The establishment of "shelters" for cab-drivers is a step in the right direction, and one which (as in the case of most simple improvements) excites wonder that so sensible a course has been so long delayed. But the appearance of one novelty often suggests another, and the sight of these protections for the men naturally leads to the enquiry, "Why should there not also be shelters for the horses?"

Cab horses have a hard life at all times, but particularly in winter, when their sufferings must be severe. Any true lover of the horse must have often felt his heart ache when he passed along a cab stand at night, and heard the hollow coughs of the poor beasts echo through the deserted street, and saw how (when called to exertion) they moved slowly and stiffly until the drivers' lash urged them to a quicker pace. It is astonishing that these useful public servants should be so little cared for. Many of them are well bred and have seen better days, but the blood horse, with his fine skin and nervous susceptibility, fares no better than the coarse and sluggish animal whose hide is impervious to whipcord and whose mouth has been jerked into the toughness of rhinoceros horn. There being no places where cabmen can find shelter for their horses without the expenditure of money, a good animal has often, after completing a long and quick journey, either to "dry" in the sun or cool under the biting influence of a north-east wind. The existing evil is one which the drivers have not power to remedy, and can only slightly alleviate, for in order to ply for hire they must either weary their horses, and expose themselves to penalties, by loitering in the streets, or must wait, possibly for hours, on the rank.

Practically it would be impossible to place shelters for cab horses in every street where there is now a cab stand, and their erection, in the form of sheds, would, in most cases, seriously im-