

## HOW TO SHOE A HORSE.

PROF. GLEASON GIVES SOME VALUABLE HINTS.

To Blacksmiths and Horsemen on this Interesting Subject—Every Man Who Owns a Horse Should Know Something on this Subject.

There is no subject before horse owners today that should interest them more than the subject of horse-shoeing. The force of this statement will make itself felt when we consider that there are in this country at the present time over 13,000,000 head of horses, and that fully half of them are crippled and almost spoiled by the sheer ignorance of the ordinary horse-shoer. I even claim that more lame horses are made so by this "botchery" than by any other cause, for the simple reason that the majority of blacksmiths in this country have not had experience necessary to do the work as it should be done, because they have not thoroughly mastered their profession in the first place.

The following is the way our blacksmiths deem it proper to shoe a horse. And I will also give some of its consequences: Any shoe is selected, and the bars, as well as a large part of the frog, are removed by the knife. This removal they term opening the heels. When the hoof is thus prepared the shoe is applied, generally thicker at the heel than at the toe, and broad in the web, having its upper surface convex. Four nails are then placed in each quarter. The high heels of the shoe prevent the frogs from embracing the ground, and the concavity of the shoe at the quarters, with the nails that are placed nearest the heels, will confine the growth of the crust and contract the hoof. After a horse has been shod in this way for a little while you will discover that the heels are beginning to crack, and a roughness will show itself around the feet. The horse will walk lame, and you will wonder what the cause is. You ask the nearest veterinary surgeon, and he tells you the horse is lame in the shoulder or has sweency, or perhaps shoulder-iam. He will undertake to prescribe and apply remedies to the same, but, of course, none of these will do any good, as the real affliction is passed by without attention whatever.

Now, the proper way to shoe a horse is to first take away the part of the sole between the whole length of the bars and crust with a drawing-knife, making the foot perfectly level. The heels can now receive the pressure of the shoe without causing corns. The sole must be made concave, and not allowed to come in contact with the shoe. The heel of the shoe should be made to rest on the angle of the bars with the crust; but if the bars are removed, then the shoe is supported by the crust only, and not by the solid, broad piece of crust and bars needed. The shoe should be made no thicker at the heel than at the toe, leaving the frog to come down even with the shoe, so that when the shoe strikes the ground the frog strikes the shoe at the same time, giving what is called frog pressure. When the shoe is applied, the cavity between the sole and the shoe should be large enough at every point to admit a large horse-pick, particularly between the bars and crust. If the picker cannot be admitted, then it is requisite to make either the sole or the shoe concave. The bars or frog should never be removed, but ragged portions of the latter may be cut away. Where the heels are higher than the frog, lower the heel by the rasp, for in every case we are to endeavour to bring the frog in contact with the ground. The reason why the bars should never be destroyed is that they are like the braces to a building. They run angle-ways to a horse's frog, and act as a wedge. The moment you take them away the heels are bound to contract, because the braces are all gone. The sole of the horse's foot should be cut only enough so that the shoe will not press on the sole.

The next point we will mention is the taste many blacksmiths have for finishing a job with the rasp, so as to make the foot look smooth and handsome, without a thought for the injury they do the horse. Under no consideration allow any blacksmith to rasp the foot on the outside above the nail beads. Why? Take a penknife and scrape your finger nail for awhile every day, and then notice the result. Soon they will grow rough, thick, and lose all shape. It is the same with a horse's foot. Although a nicely sandpapered foot may look very pretty for the first day or two, still it is a thousand times better to be satisfied with nature and not try to improve on it. Never let any blacksmith take a file and file under the clinkers; for the reason that the wall of the horse's foot is very thin, and in filing this crust under the clinkers you weaken the foot and stop the growth of the horn. When the blacksmith takes tongs and pulls off the shoe four or five different chunks will break away and come off with the old horse-shoe. The lower part of the hoof had become dead by filing with the blacksmith's file. This will not embarrass the ordinary blacksmith, however, who will put on the shoe as it were all right, and then scientifically sand-paper the whole job. This last part he has probably got down fine, and to the uninformed horse owner, who looks only for effect, the job will be considered all right.

As I find very few people who seem to know the functions of the horse's foot, it will not, perhaps, be out of place if I explain them; and with that end I would say that the frog in a horse's foot is a cushion to the horse and takes the same place as a spring to a wagon. If we take the spring out of a carriage and attempt to ride over five or ten miles of rough and stony road, we soon find that our nerves are being terribly jolted, and we lose the pleasure that usually accompanies the drive. Now,

when the Almighty made the horse, he gave him a frog to act as a cushion to his feet. The frog is of an elastic, yielding character, and when it comes in contact with the earth, stones or anything hard, it yields and gives like a spring, taking the jar off from the delicate machinery of the foot. As its convexity must make it liable to touch the ground at every step, I conclude that it was intended to receive pressure. Paring the frog, therefore, and raising it from the ground by a high-heeled shoe, annihilates its functions and produces disease.

When a horse has travelled upon these high-heeled shoes for a long time, taking the pressure off from the frog, the frog becomes dry and hard as a stone and the result is that when it strikes the earth, it jars the limbs and causes inflammation. Then the foot commences to contract, growing worse every day, until in a few months the horse is almost worthless.

Now let me say a few words about the weight of the horse's shoes. I have discovered in my travels through America that our horses are carrying from a pound to two pounds and a half of iron on each foot, and on figuring it up I make this seemingly outrageous calculation. A horse carrying one and a half pounds of iron on each foot, making one step a second, and eighty seconds a minute, and working eight to ten hours a day, picks up and puts down daily over seventy-three tons of iron; and an animal carrying one pound of iron, making the same number of steps etc., picks up and puts down fifty-two tons of iron. The following will tell you exactly how much a shoe should weigh. A horse weighing 900 to 950 pounds, up to 1,000 pounds, should wear a fourteen ounce shoe on the fore feet, and an eight ounce shoe on the hind feet; this is plenty heavy enough for driving and saddle horses. For heavy teams and dray horses, of course, you must use the heavier shoe, but never shoe a horse heavier than his own weight requires. The less iron on a horse's foot the better for the animal.

Another great fault I have discerned in my visits to blacksmith shops all over the United States, is their tendency to fit the horse's foot to the shoe, and not fit the shoe to the foot. The very thought of this is ridiculous; and to take a red-hot shoe and burn the place, I most decidedly condemn. I would make this statement. If the smith is any kind of a mechanic, and is paid well for his work, he can take the iron in the anvil and work it so that it will fit the foot in the proper manner; then fit it on cold, and not red hot; it draws a certain matter from the foot which stands to reason is very injurious. After a short time under this treatment it would be almost impossible for the blacksmith to pare the foot with a knife.

How do we get these ignoramus into the business? Well, young men will go into the blacksmith shop to learn the trade; they stay there six months. At the end of that time they have perhaps learned how to sharpen the point of a horse-shoe nail, and drive on an old horse-shoe. It always requires at least seven to ten years to do it right, as well as intelligence and common sense, combined with a strong inclination to study the anatomy of the foot of the different kinds of animals. I hope I may live to see a law passed in the various states prohibiting all persons practicing the art of blacksmithing, unless they hold a certificate of examination signed by the proper examiners, and oblige the applicant to spend a certain number of years learning the profession before being allowed to receive their diploma. Thus these "sprouters" will be weeded out, and at the same time, as the diseases they caused cease, the number of quack doctors will, in proportion, grow less.

Few doctors realize the importance of this question. There are in the United States 12,523,488 horses and 2,162,808 mules, and for information's sake I will say here there are 45,675,533 cattle and 18,443,120 milch cows, averaging one cow to every three inhabitants. There are 172,726 blacksmiths, and the value of live stock in the United States is \$1,990,400,000; consequently the preservation of this enormous quantity of usefulness is indeed important. This information was furnished me direct from Washington last year.

The apprentices think they know as much as their "Boss" does; and so they say to themselves, "what the world is the use of my staying here another year when I might be in business for myself and thereby make much more money?" So they hire a shop, get a pair of blowers and an anvil and a few more implements they have at least learned to call by name, and at once advertise to shoe a horse in the most scientific manner for seventy-five cents. The result is that a great many farmers and others owning horses, who are not well-informed, patronize them. In a few months the horse has corns, overreaches, interferences, suffers from sweency, shoulder-iam, and many other complaints too numerous to mention, and which are called by any name a quack doctor gives them. Suppose your animal has been crippled for life by a seventy-five cent blacksmith?

Let me say right here that no one can shoe a horse properly for seventy-five cents and exist. He must, in equity, be paid from \$2.00 to \$5.00. A shoe should never remain on over four to six weeks; then have it reset, and always patronize smiths who have been perfected in their profession.

I am often asked how to cure a horse of corns, and my invariable answer is: "simply remove the cause." If you have a corn on your own foot, you would either cut your old shoe or buy a larger and better fitting pair. Now, apply the same treatment to the horse. If he has corns, simply take the pressure off the quarter where the corn is. Cut off the top part of the corn, and after the pressure is removed, it will gradually get well. In winter time keep the foot covered. Put in tar or something similar. There are a great many so-called specialists who claim to cure corns, etc., but my advice is to patronize only a first-class blacksmith. If he does not succeed in the first few days, don't go off and try some one else, but stick to him as he will be more likely, after seeing the horse a few times to ascertain and remedy the complaint better than any one else.

When we say a horse overreaches, we mean that the horse, owing to the propelling power of the hind feet, cannot get the front feet out of the way quick enough. Now, to remedy this, have your horse shod with the toe weight shoe on the front feet; thus, having four ounces more on the toe than on the back, the powers are equalized. Have a wide web shoe on

the outside foot, and a narrow web shoe on the inside. The philosophy of this is that, by putting toe weights on a horse's front feet, you give him more knee action, and by putting side weights on the hind foot you spread his hind feet out when the horse picks them up. This will stop them from overreaching if properly done. The foot must be pared perfectly level. I also recommend this toe weight shoe for a horse that stumbles; he does this because he has not proper knee action—sometimes because he is too lazy, which the driver will understand.

If you have a horse whose foot is badly contracted in the spring of the year, apply the half shoe called toe tips. Place them on the horse's front feet, leaving the full frog pressure. They should be made cut down at the end of the shoe, leaving the heel of the foot perfectly level with the shoe. Do not have it slanted down, as a great many do, with a knife, but have it cut right off square with the heel to correspond. In poulicing, in order to soften up this foot, if the foot is dry, use the following preparation: Linseed meal, one quart; charcoal, one pint; raw onions, one quart. Mix all together with hot water, and make up with a poultice. Now take a piece of blanket about a foot or a foot and a half square, put the poultice into the middle of it, and step the horse foot into it, bringing up the cloth around the ankle. Do this every twelve hours for five applications, and at the same time use good strong liniment (but one that will not blister) on the cords of the animal's leg from knee to foot.

This will prevent inflammation. If you wish to expand the hoof, never put in any screws to force the same, as it is an impossibility to do it. If you desire to do it quickly, use your medicine on the hoof band of the horse's foot known as the coronet. When the top of the hoof is loosened and expands, the bottom is bound to go out with the top. This is the only practical way of expanding the horse's hoof. Now for another point. A great many specialists are going around advertising to cure sweency, shoulder-iam, etc. I wish to inform you that there are no such diseases known to the veterinary profession. Some quack, whose grandparents left him an almanac of about 1842, that tells how to cure three or four common complaints, thinks he has learned everything, and at once starts out as a horse doctor. He is the only one who knows what these diseases are, and for a certain amount of money he will guarantee to cure anything. To cure quarter cracks, you pare off all your horse's quarters, the same as for corns. I sometimes use in this case a bar shoe, which I consider a very good thing. In a great many cases you can work your horse every day, but let it heal gradually, as it takes some months to grow out a quarter crack. If it is a very bad case, grow it down as fast as possible, and when nicely grown down, sell or trade the horse to the best bidder.

Now about the nails to be used in horse-shoeing. Some smiths use one size nail for all sizes of horses, a nine nail for ponies and for horses weighing fourteen hundred pounds. For a horse which weighs from 900 to 1,050, I advise a six nail for the front foot and a five for the hind foot. Heavier horses require nails in proportion. The front shoe should be nailed on with six nails, three on each side, and not too far back at the heel. The hind shoe should be fastened on with three nails on the outside and two nails on the inside. Drive nails home snugly.

A few words in regard to the crack. This defect is from the same cause as a quarter crack, and appears in both fore and hind feet. Clean the crack well, cutting with a sharp knife the dead horn from each side of it, and shoe as advised for quarter crack, putting the bearing on the frog and three quarters of the foot. If the hoof is weak from long contraction and defective circulation, I use a shoe with four caulks, two heel caulks, and two caulks—one on each side of the toe. Have these caulks high enough so that the frog will not strike on the ground. The result is the weight of the horse is thrown on the outside of the foot; the pressure is now at the toe and not at the heel, and the result is every time the horse puts his foot down the crack closes together, and in a few weeks, working on these shoes will have a great effect.

Some riders have a habit which I do not approve of. When they come in from a ride, particularly in the spring of the year, and their horse's legs are covered with mud, they direct the groom to turn a hose on the legs. The cold water has a bad effect, and brings on sundry complaints. Let the mud stay on until it dries, then remove it with a brush. It will come out very easily, and look fully as well as if washed.



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## Journalists at the World's Fair.

The number of newspaper correspondents and reporters at the Columbian Exposition is large beyond all precedent. At no previous World's Fair has the press been represented by a fifth, or even a tenth, as many special writers; and in no country except the United States, it is safe to say, would the public demand for information concerning the Exposition keep busy so great an army of news gatherers. Foreign periodicals are numerous, represented, however—much more numerously than at Paris in 1889. Germany has one hundred and twenty-five accredited correspondents; they represent the best newspapers and periodicals of the Empire. England comes next with forty. France has already sent twenty-five; and Italy has formally introduced twenty. Austria and Australia have sent six each; and there are twenty-five others, from Sweden, Norway, Spain, Denmark, Belgium, Russia, Japan, Turkey, Mexico, and a few other countries. But the numbers from abroad sink into insignificance when compared with those from the United States. Fully 2,000 persons, men and women, in the employ not only of the great dailies, weeklies, and magazines of the large cities, but of rural newspapers and school monthlies, from Maine to New Mexico, have claimed Press privileges. Many of the aspirants may do but little actual writing for the Press; yet the number of active workers is very large, probably not less than 1,000. Among the American press correspondents are about seventy women, nineteen or twenty of whom are experienced workers, and very active in collecting information of all sorts.

## More Haste, Less Speed.

It was 9 p. m., and Herr August Glimmermann stood ready equipped in travelling costume. He put on his gloves and his hat, snatched up his plaid, turned the gas off, and was about to leave the room preparatory to starting on a long journey through Germany and Italy, when, in the dark, his sleeve swept over the table, in consequence of which something dropped on the floor, which, to judge from the sound, must have been a coin. Although during his absence no one could enter the room, as he was in the habit of locking it and taking the key with him, yet he thought it better not to leave the money lying about, but secure it in his purse. He therefore relighted the gas, and found that the coin was only a copper of the value of one penny sterling. Putting it in his purse, he hurried out of the room and quickly locked the door, for it was just striking nine and his train left at 9.15, so that he had only just time to catch it. Eight months later Glimmermann, on his return from Italy, unlocked the door of his room and went in. Ha! what is that? The gas was burning merrily just as he left it, after lighting it to seek the dropped coin, he having forgotten to turn it off again in his hurry, and a couple of days later he was presented with a gas bill to the amount of £1.5s. 3½d. "Hang it," he said, with a sigh, on paying the money; "the old proverb, *Festina lente*, is not so far wrong, after all!"—Humoristische Blätter.

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