

INTERFERING.

"Cutting" or "Interfering" are the terms applied to the act of striking the fetlock of one limb with the shoe of the opposite limb. Every horse-owner imagines such an accident to be the fault of the farrier, and every farrier fancies he has a system of preventing or curing such injury. I must, of course, allow that the shoe inflicts the blow, but I am quite convinced that it is a passive agent, and that in 95 per cent. of cases no fault of the shoe, either in form or fit, can be shown to have occasioned the injury. Cutting is practically confined to young horses out of condition, or to old horses suffering from debility. It may also take place in tired horses. Of course, a shoe excessively prominent on its inside will facilitate injury to the opposite fetlock, and it is, therefore, right to fit the shoe close with a view to prevent or cure cutting. It is not right, however, in any case to rasp away the whole of the wall on the inside toe, and such a proceeding never yet stopped a horse from cutting. It requires about two months to get a green horse sufficiently into condition to stop him hitting his legs. During this time he should wear pads or "Yorkshire boots." His shoes may be fitted close, but the wall of his foot should not be damaged. As he gets into condition, he will cease striking his fetlocks, and whatever curious form of shoe he happens to wear when he begins to go strong and cleanly will get the credit of a cure, although it had nothing to do with the change.

The hind fetlocks suffer more from cutting than the fore. This is due to the different form of shoe used, quite as much as to the form and action of the limb. The hind shoe has calkins which interfere with the proper relative position of the foot to the limb, and so cause imperfection in the gait. Nothing so speedily stops cutting behind as removal of calkins, and the use of a level shoe. It is not the calkin that hits the opposite fetlock. In very few cases is the heel of a shoe the offending part. It is the inside toe which strikes, and this proves that the injury results from defective action, and not from prominence of the shoe.

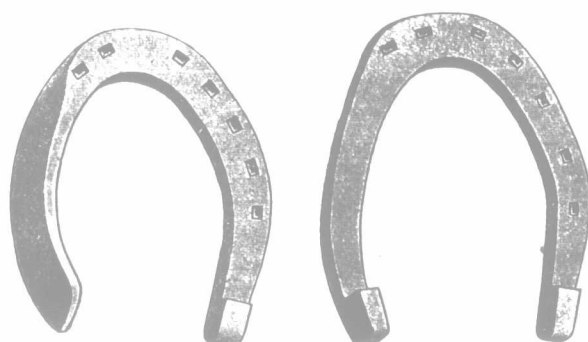
It has been found that a three-quarter shoe does good in cutting. It does so, not because the heel was the offending part, but because the movement of the foot is modified by the altered form of the shoe. The practice of raising one side of the foot higher than the other for the prevention of cutting is very widely adopted, and plausible theories are framed as to its effects. Sometimes it is argued that the injured fetlock is thrown farther outwards, and sometimes that the offending foot is made to move farther away from the opposite leg. The practice is not always successful, and the theory wants a true basis of facts. Not one horse in a thousand "cuts" when in good condition, and nearly every horse does when out of condition. Patience, good feeding and regular work are better treatment for cutting than all the usual alterations of foot and shoe.

Over-reach is an injury to the heel of a front foot by the shoe of the hind foot of the same side. It is not the outer edge of the hind shoe which strikes, it is the edge on the inner circumference of the toe of the shoe. To prevent over-reaching, the hind shoe must be so altered that the offending part is rounded off. As the accident only occurs during the fastest paces, it is confined to hunters and trotters, two classes of horses which ought always to be shod with hind shoes having rounded edges on their inner toe circumference.

Clacking, or forging, is the noise made by horses trotting when the hind shoe strikes the fore. It is not the heel of the front shoe that is struck, but the surface of the shoe just behind the toe, so that the foot is in the air at the time of striking. The part of the hind shoe that strikes is not the extreme point of the toe, but the edge on either side of the toe. Young horses, out of condition, and long-stepping, careless goers, are usually the animals that "forge." To prevent it, the front shoe is made concave on the ground surface, and the calkins may be removed from the hind shoes. Quite as important as alteration of the shoe is alteration of the horse's gait. He should not be driven "past his pace," and he should be made to go up to his bit. Patience, condition, and coachmanship are as necessary to stop "clacking" as a good farrier.

[Note.—The above article, with the accompanying illustration, is reproduced from Prof. Wortley Axe's book, "The Horse in Health and Disease." Horsemen will agree that it contains many good ideas, though they may not in all cases agree with the author's opinions. The statement that "not one horse in a thousand cuts when in good condition, and nearly every horse does when out of condition," is rather too sweeping to be accepted without qualification. While horses are much more prone to strike when out of condition, there are many that will not do so under any circumstances; while there are others of such conforma-

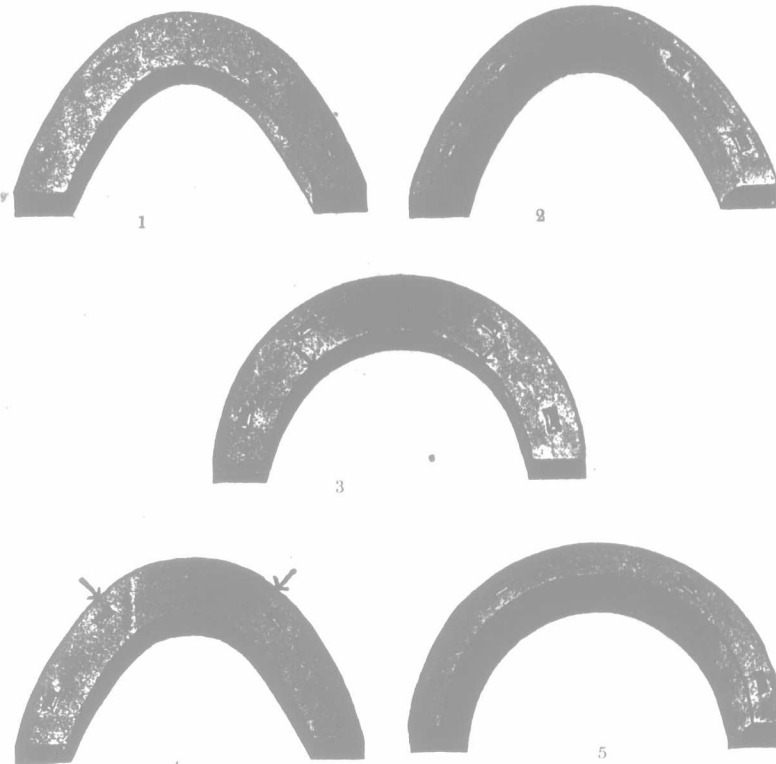
tion that they will strike under almost any conditions of flesh, strength, shoeing, etc., and in order to prevent injury in these cases it is necessary to wear boots. This applies to the fore-legs more generally than to the hind, but we see horses that will interfere behind in the face of all we can do to prevent it. Nevertheless, the value of strength and spirit in assisting a horse to handle his underpinning safely is worthy of due emphasis.—Editor.]



Shoes for Cutting.



Shoe for Cutting, showing position on the foot.



Over-reaching, Forging, and Clacking.

1, toe of hind shoe, showing the edge which cuts the heel of fore foot; 2, toe of hind shoe, showing rounded inside border; 3, toe of fore shoe, showing places struck in forging; 4, toe of hind shoe, showing the edge which strikes the fore shoe; 5, toe of hind shoe with inner border bevelled off.

LIVE STOCK.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER.

So much is frequently said by way of depreciation of the Scottish weather that we feel disposed here and now to state that we have been enjoying a season of lovely bright days during most of the leafy month of June. The sun has not only been shining, but shining brilliantly, in an almost cloudless sky. We have had some cold nights, and this sudden change has tended to ill-health; but, speaking generally, we have had quite a good time. Crops are looking very well indeed, almost everywhere, and it is long since the prospects of agriculture were as bright as they are to-day. Of course, there are dark linings to these silver clouds. Wool is just about one-half the price it was a year ago, and the prospect of a substantial advance in price is not

rosy. This is perhaps the least satisfactory feature in the outlook.

Exhibitions are this year numerous. We have one in Edinburgh, and there are several in London. I have not yet seen the Edinburgh affair, but I must acknowledge the splendor of the Canadian exhibit in the Franco-British Exhibition, known properly as "The White City," in London. I spent a few hours in that exhibition a week ago, and have never seen anything better worth seeing than the Canadian section there. You have a great country, and, what is more to the point, you have a splendid set of men engaged in letting men know how grand your country is. The products of Canada are many and most attractive. The whole of the Empire is Canada's debtor, and we want to acknowledge our debt. At present there is talk of the shortage of beef on your side of the Atlantic, and butchers here have taken advantage of the shortage to raise prices on the public. This would not be so bad were it not that we are passing through a period of acute trade depression. Money is not circulating freely, and we are feeling the pinch pretty badly. If the price of meat rises, fortunately the price of cheese keeps steady, and physicians are wisely setting forth the remarkably nutritive qualities of cheese. It is greatly to be regretted that more advice of this nature is not given by medical men. Far too little is made of milk and milk diets. Many a man would be healthier were milk more generously used in everyday life. Cheese and butter should also be used much more generally than they are.

Talking about butter, recalls the sagacious advice given at a conference recently held in Edinburgh, by Dr. Gillespie. The subject was "The Importation of Foreign Products." We are threatened in this country with very drastic legislation affecting dairies. The situation is such that many have given up dairying, rather than attempt to comply with all the conditions imposed. Here we are at the mercy of all imports. We take in butter to the tune of £29,000,000, and, of that amount, the sum of £4,000,000 is paid to Russia. We are surely entitled to know whether butter is being produced in Russia under conditions which would not be tolerated at home.

We want fair play, and, while wishing no ill to our neighbors, we are very anxious to see fair play done to ourselves. All the more is this necessary when it has been proved that butter made from tuberculous milk retains its virulence for 133 days. Guinea pigs inoculated with such, developed generalized tuberculosis up to 133 days after the butter had been made. This fact shows how needful it is that the British public and the British farmer should have fair play. When butter and cheese, and even milk itself, are allowed to come in here from anywhere, without inquiry as to the conditions under which they are produced, a bounty is practically given to the foreigner, who gets an opportunity to sell his produce, of which the home farmer is deprived.

The threatened legislation has caused great excitement among farmers, especially in England. In Scotland, we have for years become inured to legislation and regulations of a very drastic nature. Yet it is remarkable to find results which show how healthy and satisfactory our stocks are. An examination was recently made of all the dairy cows in the Lower Ward of Lanarkshire. Three thousand Ayrshire cows were subjected to examination and testing by veterinary surgeons, and, out of that

large number, only six were found to be affected with tuberculosis in the udder, and were put out of action. This fact explains how the public health has become more satisfactory as the consumption of milk has increased. It is in the highest interests of the community that the consumption of milk should go on increasing. The great thing is to make sure that children get milk, and plenty of it. I do not know how it may be in Canada, but in this country no one seems to think of offering you milk as a refreshment. There is no more wholesome or refreshing drink than milk and potash or soda water. It is just an ideal drink for everyone.

June is the great show month in Scotland. We have had a great time of it attending shows of late. Splendid exhibitions of stock of all kinds were seen at Paisley, Edinburgh and Sterling. All three towns are very famous, and all three were favored with ideal weather for their agricultural functions. Paisley was strongest in Ayrshires and Clydesdales. Renfrewshire is a