

has led people to mistake it for the disease itself, instead of merely one of its effects. The sole admits, under some circumstances, from its peculiar structure, to some extent, even of sanguineous percolation taking place. In the horse, corns are, in the majority of instances, rendered more likely to produce lameness by being pared than by being left alone, at least as far as the application of the knife. The paring, certainly, diminishes the appearance of the redness, but generally does more harm than good to the part causing the redness—namely, the tissue that secretes that portion of the sole and bar.

The great majority of horses with good action on the road get corned; yet if the feet be well formed, and fairly shod, it is not one in twenty cases in which the corns are found productive of any inconvenience. It too often happens that corned horses, even with well-shaped feet, are made lame merely from the injudicious application of the knife to remove the discolored sole in the angle between the internal bar and quarter. The principal cause of corns is shoeing. It is exceedingly rare to see a corn in an animal that has not been shod. The inner heel of the shoe seems to be the cause of the mischief. Horses that are shod with three quarter shoes, or tips, are very rarely affected with corns—not, perhaps, one in a thousand. It is generally thought that corns proceed solely from bad shoeing. But there are horses, even with finely shaped feet, that no shoe covering the inner quarter, however well made, fitted, and put on, will prevent from having corns. It too often happens that the shoeing smith is blamed for the presence of corns without reason, many imagining that if a horse be properly shod there can be no corns, no matter what his action, or work: a most mistaken idea. There are many farriers, grooms, horse fanciers, and even veterinarians, who state that whenever there are corns it is the fault of the shoeing, and that good shoeing is a certain preventive against the affection. Never was there a greater fallacy.

**Treatment of Corns.**—This will much depend on the state of the affection, and the peculiarity of the foot. If there be merely redness of the sole between the bar and quarter of the crust, and that the foot is well shaped, a three quarter shoe should be used. In case it is determined to use a full shoe, there should be a portion cut out of its foot surface, for about an inch and a half on its inner quarter, so that when the shoe is nailed on, and the animal is standing, with the opposite leg lifted up, there will be a space between the inner quarter, and the shoe. If the foot have weak quarters, be very broad and flat, or have a pumiced sole, a bar shoe is desirable. But the paring, or the thinning, of the reddened sole of the heel should be avoided, as it should in all cases of corns, no matter how the foot is shod, excepting where there is a formation of matter, which should be let out as soon as its existence is ascertained with certainty; and a poultice

applied to the foot until all pain and inflammation shall have subsided. The animal should not be worked until the horn that had been cut away shall have been replaced. It is the habit of farriers to, what they call, "dress corns" with butter of antimony and other caustics. The practice is a bad one, and is often productive of serious mischief. I have on several occasions seen fatal results from the injudicious application of caustics to suppurating corns. Some practitioners go even to the extent of applying a heated iron. I lately saw a case in which fatal tetanus (locked-jaw) was the result of such treatment.

Corns, however trifling, legally speaking, constitute unsoundness. Yet, if the animal have a well shaped foot, goes free from lameness, and that the horn of the affected portion of the sole seems strong and sound, with no alteration in its structure excepting discoloration, the horse should not be rejected by the purchaser merely on that account; although such is the established custom and the state of the law, that the veterinary surgeon is obliged to pronounce him unsound. These cursory observations are not intended as a complete treatise on the subject, which is a very extensive one, but merely for the purpose of correcting the principal errors generally received as truths relative to corns in horses.—*Irish Farmer's Gazetteer.*

## Miscellaneous.

### The Fox-Hunting Pretender.

BY BALLINASLOE.

To my thinking the genuine Fox-hunter of the present day is the *beau-ideal* of a sportsman. There was a time when the fox-hunter could not mention racing, and racing men, but in terms of contempt. Those old times and old prejudices are happily gone by, and the fox-hunter and racing man are now found in the same person.

The nobleman or gentleman with a stud of hunters during the season, is frequently seen as an amateur donning the silk in the summer, and often steers his own or his friend's horse to victory. This is cheering to the heart of the general sportsman when he sees it, and though he may prefer one sport to another, he is ever found ready to promote *all sport*, where it is in his power to do so.

The truly noble science of fox-hunting, like all pursuits, as well as phases of society is, however, not without its pre'enders, men who are too conceited to be considered amateurs, and too ignorant to be taken as professors.

The first exhibition of the fox-hunting pretender is at the cover-side. He wishes to be, indeed he thinks *he is*, the observed of all observers;