

horse's foot, from prepared specimens of the different parts, and proceeded as follows:—

Having thus briefly given an outline of this most beautiful and complicated organ, you will now be able to understand how such a delicate structure as the sensitive foot is preserved, and how it sustains the weight which is constantly being brought upon it, in galloping, leaping, drawing, &c. When man takes the horse and subjects him to the changes incident to domestication, when the stony roads and causeways are substituted for soft lawns and pastures, we find that the foot itself must have some artificial protection, to prevent it being worn down, as well as to enable the animal to perform the work required of him.

Accordingly we find, that, from a very early period, a covering in the shape of a shoe was provided for the foot, so as to protect it from the tear and wear to which it is necessarily exposed in travelling.

Archæologists have paid but little attention to the history of horse shoeing, consequently we find it difficult to determine the precise time when horse shoeing was first practised.

The Romans, we are told, used a covering, probably woven of hemp or rushes, which enclosed the whole foot, and was tied by a cord round the fetlock—this however must have been inconvenient and troublesome, as they would require to be removed repeatedly in the course of a journey; something more durable had to be substituted, so we find that mention is next made of iron shoes. Writers are not agreed as to the exact manner in which the Romans attached these iron shoes to the horse's foot; some suppose that they were fastened by means of a leather sock, which was bound round the foot by a thong of the same material. Others again suppose that they were acquainted with our modern methods of attaching them, and his last opinion is in some measure confirmed by the discovery of old horse shoes in some of the Roman remains in England, having the nail holes perfect and of a square shape.

It is evident that the Britons had some sort of protection for the foot of the horse, either at the Roman invasion or soon after, from their having given a name to it;—they called it *Pedol*, from the Latin *Ped*, a foot.

Some suppose that horse shoeing in Britain dates from the Norman conquest. This idea very probably arose from the great importance which William the Conqueror attached to Farriery. It is not so much my intention to enter into the history of the art as practised by the ancients, as it is to bring before you the most modern improvements, and point out the plans which I consider the best.

In applying a shoe to the foot it should be made not only so as to protect the foot against tear and wear, but likewise so as not to injure the foot itself by bruising the sole. A great deal has been written and much more said, as to

which is the best method of accomplishing this object. It would be useless for me to describe the many different plans which have been invented, as almost every country has its own plan. But that which is now become most general, and which is found to answer all purposes best, is the *common seated shoe*, which was first proposed and made by Mr. Osmer, and somewhat improved by Morecroft. It is made of the same breadth all round, presenting a flat surface to the ground, except the fullering for the nail holes around the margin,—the upper surface, or that on which the foot rests, is made flat round the outer margin for the crust to rest upon—this flat part, (the seat) being broader at the heels to support the heel of the crust. The inside of the web is well bevelled out, and made concave, so as to allow space for the descent of the sole; it is generally secured by from seven to nine nails; that is when nine, 4 in the inside and 5 on the out; and when seven, 4 outside and 3 inside.

Since the time of Osmer and Morecroft, a great many have written on the subject and proposed different forms of shoes, each possessing their own advantages, but none I think surpassing the seated shoe for general purposes. This is the shoe recommended and used by Professor Dick of Edinburgh, who has bestowed a great amount of attention to the shoeing of horses. In his manual of Veterinary Science he says:—After a personal experience of nearly fifty years in the service of the profession, commencing with the practical art at the anvil, and pursuing a long course of anatomical study, and being brought into daily contact with the horse, through practice, and clinical inspection, and otherwise, both in a sound and unsound state. I have come to the conclusion that the whole art of shoeing consists in applying a shoe so that it will serve as a defence to the shoe without injuring it—this is best done by what is called a seated shoe. Among those who have written on this subject, besides the above named, may be mentioned: St. Bel, Coleman, Bracy Clarke, Goodwin, J. Clarke, of Edinburgh, James Turner, and more recently Mr. Miles, Stewart and Col. Fitzwygram. We will touch on some of their plans when we come to speak of shoes for special purposes.

I have here what I consider a fair specimen of the seated shoe. The fullering should be made coarse, that is, not too near the margin, else the nails will have to be driven obliquely inwards and upwards, so as to get them high enough. This is apt to lead to picking, (that is penetrating the quick with the nails,) for the sensitive parts are readier bruised by the shoulder of the nail. This is an error into which horse shoers are very apt to fall; in fact, in many cases they are driven to it, as gentlemen who do not understand the principles of horse shoeing, sometimes find fault with the fullering being coarse,—thinking that the shoe is badly made. When pinched coarse they are easier driven.