

The Scrap Book.

Here Wit in bright effulgence glows, With Wisdom joined, through rhyme and prose.

Matrimony.

Matrimony is a nut For every man's digestion; When the shell is fairly cracked, Pop! goes the question.

A CHAPTER ON HORSES.

BY THE VETERAN.

The action, speed, and strength of a horse materially depend on its formation. Many animals that are deficient in beauty, are nevertheless capable of great exertion, and by nature are endowed with superior power in that part of their structure, which offends the eye of the superficial observer.

To be at once useful and handsome, a horse should have a light head; a full, sparkling, vigilant, and expressive eye; wide nostrils; fine tapering, flexible ears, with no unnecessary or down-dropping leather about his mouth, or bone about his jaw; a light, rising, rain-bow neck; a retreating scapula, blade-bone; a circular carcase, (the more like a well made barrel the better); a short back; large, long muscular quarters, his tail set on high, and stylish; a long projecting uina or elbow; a broad, flat knee; a lengthy and projecting os calcis; a powerful arm and thigh; flat legs; a proud chest, and mediocre feet.

Perfection in a limb consists in small bones, and long projecting processes or levers for the muscles to work upon. The smaller the bone (speaking within the bounds of reason) and the longer the tendons, the flatter the leg will be; and the horse's speed and strength are increased proportionally to the flatness of the leg.

How can a man who has no wings be said to be "winged" in an affair of honour? Because in fighting a duel he makes a goose of himself.

A Yankee jury set upon the man who died from drinking. They returned the appropriate verdict "Death by hanging—round a rum shop."

The costume of the Spanish ladies has not changed in two hundred years. They actually wear the same style of dress as their great grand mothers did.

A young lady, fond of dancing, traverses in the course of a single season about four hundred miles. Yet no lady would think of walking the distance in six months.

The Hartford (Ct.) Courant says there is a baby in that city, five months old, and weighs one hundred and fifty-six pounds! Either the baby or the story is a whopper.

A jocund farmer returning home in his wagon, after delivering a load of corn, is a more certain sign of national prosperity than a nobleman riding in his chariot to the opera or play-house.

"Wasn't that a waste of powder?" said an Irishman to a Kentuckian, who had just brought a coon to the ground with his rifle from a large tree. "Why so, Pat?" asked the hunter. "Sure the fall would a kilt him."

The hand of the generous man, saith a proverb, is like the clouds of heaven, which drop upon the earth, fruits, herbage, and flowers. The heart of the ungrateful man is like a desert, which swalloweth with greediness the showers that fall, but burieeth them in its bosom, and produceth nothing.

A young couple eloped from Indianapolis, lately, and were married in Cincinnati. Shortly after, an officer arrived in the city in pursuit, and traced them to the United States Hotel, where he entered their room without knocking, and found them snug in bed. He explained his errand, when the young lady said, with a ringing laugh: "Tell ma it is too late, we've been married half an hour! Te! he! he-e!"

be too great. A horse with a long neck and a heavy head, should be worked in a light, strong bit, with as little heavy or ornamental work about it as possible. From the situation of the head, every ounce in the weight becomes of consequence. To prevent a horse, whose toes are turned outwards, from cutting, he should be shod with a light shoe, fullered coarsely and stamped outwards. The top edge of the inside, should also be well filed away, and the shoe put on with great precision. This plan I have often found to succeed with horses of the above formation, even when performing long journeys over irregular and broken roads; and, indeed, have seldom know it to fail, except when the animal is pushed considerably beyond his natural pace, or greatly over-weighted.

Toes turned inwards, although they detract from a horse's beauty, rarely produce any material effect, unless they are extravagantly twisted, and this very seldom happens; but some animals have extremely long pasterns, and also turn out their toes. When this is the case, the horse, whatever may be his good points and qualities, must necessarily be materially deteriorated. The weight above is irregularly distributed; more burthen being thrown on the inner bones of the leg than the outer; and this fault is increased proportionately with the extent to which the toes are turned out.

Long springy pastern conduce greatly to the ease and pleasure of the rider, although they are not so strong, when of an extravagant length, as a moderate sized, or even short, straight, upright pastern. If the pasterns turn too much inwards, cutting will most probably ensue—although the animal may be gifted with extraordinary speed. Such horses should be shod with care; their inward heels turned upwards, and the outward cut level and even. The top edge of the inside of the shoe, should also be well taken away with a file before it is set on. By these means the cutting will (except in extraordinary cases) be prevented.

A pastern may also be too straight and upright, as well as too lengthy. If it be too upright, the concussion produced by work will be so great as to cause a slow, gradual, insensible inflammation, until the animal becomes puffed round the joints, and frequently falls lame; although he is by means so liable to become suddenly lame, as one who turns out his toes and sinks considerably in the pastern. A horse with a straight pastern is very uneasy to ride in consequence of the deficiency in the spring;—the shock which the hoof receives when it comes in contact with the ground travelling upwards in a straight line with little or no alleviating play. Horses with straight pastern are also liable to ring-bones and splints from the above causes.

A horse that turns out his toes generally cuts, more especially when he becomes somewhat fatigued. The reason of this, I apprehend, is principally because the supporters are placed more distant from the centre of gravity, and so obliquely situated, that the inner part of the foot is brought considerably nearer the opposite leg, when the horse is put in action. Such animals are liable to come down, especially if they have long necks and large heads; for every inch in the length of the former, and every ounce in the weight of the latter, beyond a regular proportion, materially increase the weight on the fore legs; which, if naturally or accidentally weak, must of course suffer. The weight of the head is augmented by the length of the neck; as the farther the weight of a steel yard is removed, by so much does its ponderosity increase. All above an adequate sufficiency of bone to protect the blood-vessels and nerves, and to give shape to muscle is unnecessary and fatiguing. As I have just observed, the longer the neck, the more heavy the head; and the probability is thereby increased of the horse's coming down. A very long neck also somewhat impedes full liberty of respiration. The cervical vertebra, or bones of the neck, should be of a moderate size; and the width of the nostrils, and of the nasal-bone cannot

whose knees are bent too much backwards. Such horses are unable to endure much work, and are more subject to come down than horses that are well formed in this part. The greatest attention should be paid to the shoe-toes of such horses, which ought to be turned upwards, in order to prevent their stumbling.

A horse is termed thick in the shoulders, when the scapula is too upright, and he appears altogether heavy and lumbering in the part. Such horses are liable to come down, especially if the hind legs are good and well placed. To avoid concussion, and to increase speed, the scapula or blade bone should be obliquely set on, and handsomely inclining backwards.

A narrow-chested animal is probably more disposed to diseases in the lungs than a circular-chested horse. A horse so formed, is frequently very fat, although unquestionably incapacitated from supporting the hardships which one with a chest of a reverse formation will endure. Animals with broad chest, circular ribs, short back and legs, placed well under their weight, are best calculated for heavy, slow work; but long processes for the muscles to act on, are indispensable to speed, or fine action in the animal. Where the turberosity of the *illium* projects far out, so as to produce a rag-

ged or outjutting hip, the strength of the lever is increased, (although some persons deem the appearance an eyegore) so that it may be considered an advantage, rather than a detriment, to the animal, inasmuch as his capacity for volition is thereby improved.

Horses with a light forehead, are more liable to contracted hoofs, than those which are heavy before; because, the weight on the foot is considerably less; their heels, therefore, should be well kept down, and the shoes made moderately thin behind, in order to procure the frog a sufficient degree of pressure to keep the foot open. Those with low heels and high action, are very much subject to corns, &c. They may be greatly relieved, and the condition of the foot ameliorated, by the application of a full, easy shoe, and proper attention in general. I have seen a French-fashioned shoe made by Woodin, of Gloucester Mevs, used with great effect in this case, as well as on horses, whose toes are turned outwards. It prevents the cutting, generally attendant on such a mal-formation, and is extremely beneficial to a flat-soled horse, as it preserves the wall of the foot by the snails being particularly small in the shank, although sufficiently strong in the head to hold the shoe well fixed to the foot, until it is completely worn out. This is a great advantage, particularly to persons who reside at a distance from a clever, well-informed, farrier's establishment. Although the veterinary science now bids fair to keep pace with the march of improvement in other matters, yet there are still so many opaque-nodded shoeing smiths, insufferably ignorant and conceited groom, and inattentive country farriers extant, that innumerable horses are destroyed or materially damaged, entirely through a want of that laudable and humane attention, which every man should deem it incumbent on him to pay towards his cattle. It behoves every sportsman, and proprietor of horses, to see that they are placed in the hands of proper shoeing-smiths. One ignorant block-head will do more injury in a moment of inattention or drunkenness, than the whole body of our most deservedly admired veterinarians can repair in a year.

I shall conclude my observations on the foreparts of the horse, by noticing that the longitudinal fissure on the inside of the fore, or the front of the hind foot, termed a Sandcrack, is often occasioned by a tendency of a brittle hoof to contract. Where this disposition is foreseen, the hoof should be restored, if possible, to a healthy state by poultices, &c, for when the sandcrack actually takes place, a considerable time elapses, even under the best treatment, before the hoof is enabled to bear the concussion of regular work again.

The Secret of Longevity. The means known, so far of promoting longevity, have been usually concentrated in short, pithy sayings as "Keep your head cool and your feet warm," "Work much and eat little," &c., just as if the whole science of human life could be summed up and brought out in a few words, while its greatest principles were kept out of sight. One of the best of these sayings is given by an Italian in his 116th year, who, being asked the means of his living so long, replied with that improvisation which his country is remarkable:—"When hungry, of the best I eat, And dry and warm I keep my feet; I screen my head from sun and rain, And let few cares perplex my brain."

The following is about the best theory of the matter: Every man is born with a certain stock of vitality, which cannot be increased, but may be husbanded. With this stock he may live fast or slow—may live extensively or intensively—may draw his little amount of life over a large space, or narrow it into a concentrated one; but when his stock is exhausted, he has no more. He who lives extensively, who drinks pure water, avoids all inflammatory diseases, exercises sufficiently, but not too laboriously, indulges no exhausting passions, feeds on no exciting material, pursues no debilitating pleasures, avoids all laborious and protracted study, preserves an easy mind, and thus husbands his quantum of vitality, will live considerably longer than he otherwise would do, because he lives slow; while he, on the other hand, who lives intensively, who beverages himself on liquors and wines, exposes himself to inflammatory diseases, or causes that produce them, labors beyond his strength, visits exciting scenes and indulges exhausting passions, lives on stimulating and highly seasoned food, is always debilitated by his pleasures.

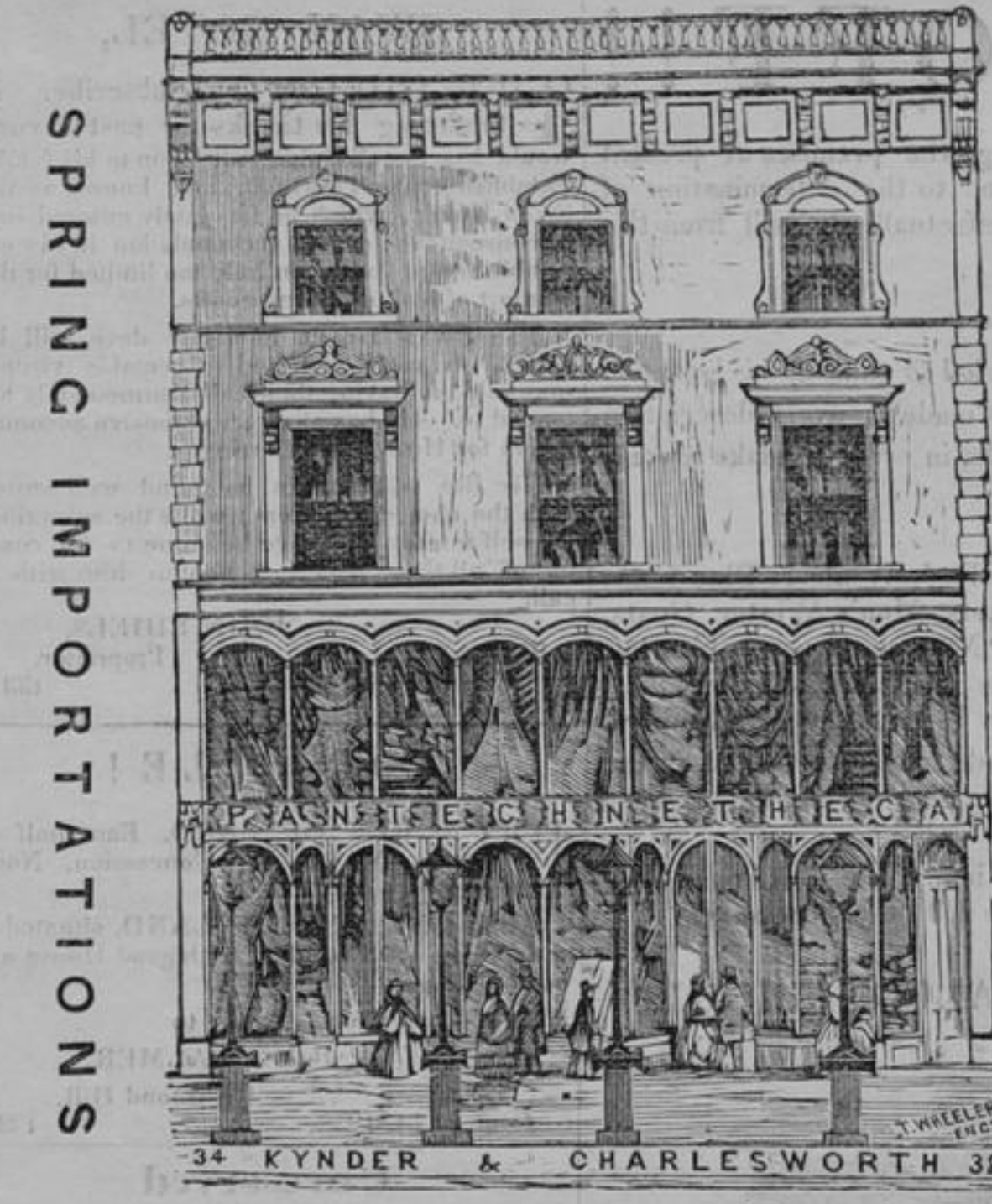
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