

**THE HORSE-TRAINER'S AND
SPORTSMAN'S GUIDE: WITH
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS ON
THE DUTIES OF GROOMS, ON
PURCHASING BLOOD STOCK, AND ON
VETERINARY EXAMINATION**

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The horse-trainer's and sportsman's guide: with additional considerations on the duties of grooms, on purchasing blood stock, and on veterinary examination by Digby Collins

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DIGBY COLLINS

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BY DIGBY COLLINS.

LONDON :
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1865.

PREFACE.

A BRIEF TREATISE on the formation of the horse, so far as it is of importance with regard to his action—of training the racehorse, steeplechaser, and hunter—together with his management in health and disease—has long since appeared to me as wanting in the sportsman's and groom's library.

I was induced to believe that a work on this subject, published at as small a cost as possible, so as to bring it within the reach of every stableman in the land, might be beneficial in rooting out old and carefully-cherished prejudices, which have thriven with greater luxuriance in stable management than in any branch of industry with which I am acquainted.

I am unwilling to lay myself open to the suspicion of wishing to claim for this work any importance as a literary or scientific production. I have endeavoured, in each portion of it, sedulously to avoid all technicalities, and never to use two sentences where one would sufficiently explain the matter in hand.

It is a practical subject to which tiresome and long-spun paragraphs would be utterly meaningless and irrelevant.

I am encouraged, in laying this before the public, by the conviction that my conclusions have not been arrived at by unprofitable conjectures and high-flown theories ; but by careful study of, and practical labours in, each branch treated of.

Perhaps some apology may be thought necessary for treating the veterinary portion of the subject so feebly ; but I was less afraid of saying too little than too much, and have endeavoured to direct the course of treatment of diseases which would be the safest, and, if insufficient, at any rate not injurious.

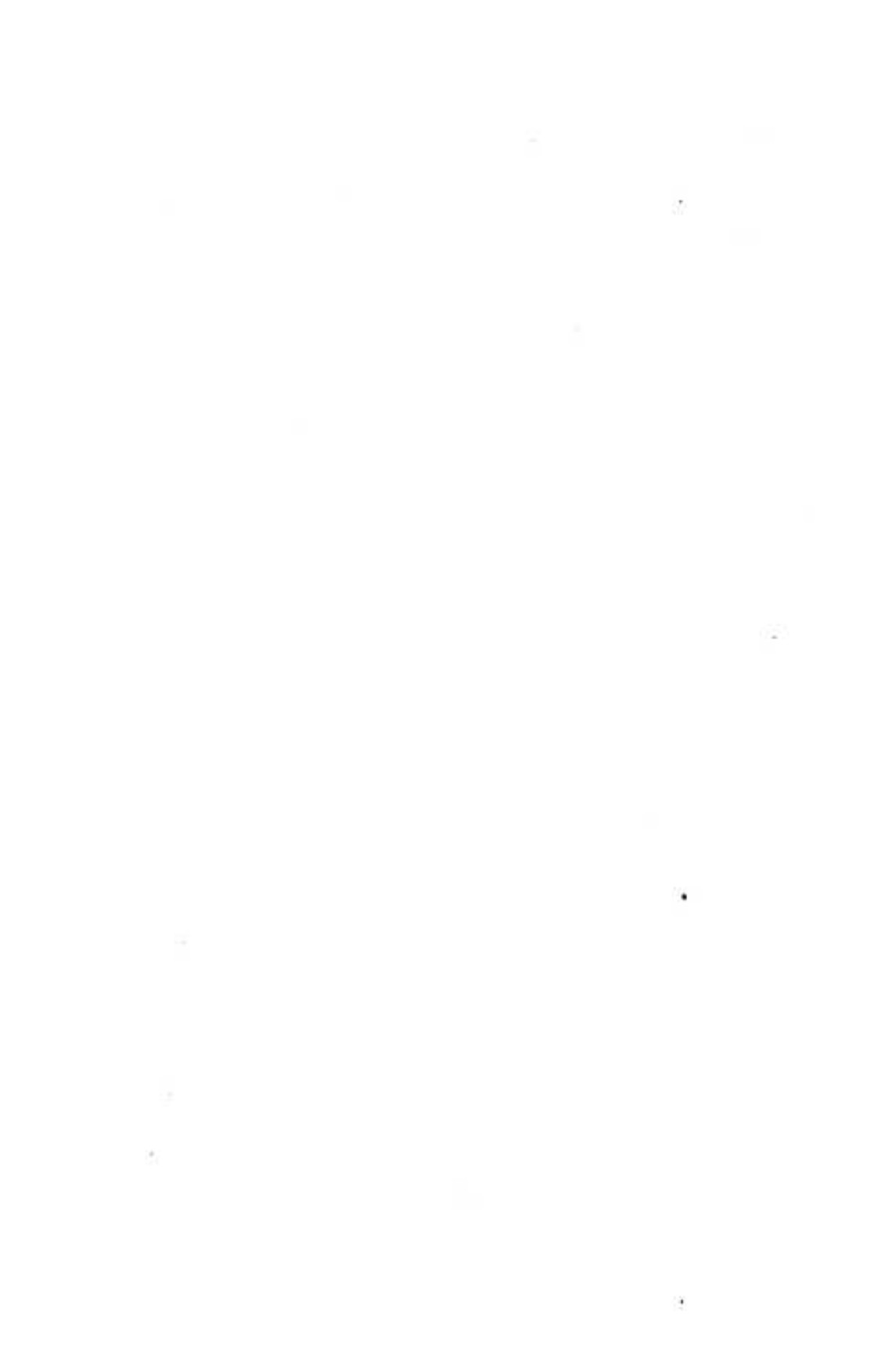
It is impossible, without going more deeply into the veterinary art—which would have defeated the object of this work—to explain the nature and treatment of every disease ; and, therefore, it occurred to me that, by setting forth as briefly as possible the nature of some of the diseases most frequently met with, and explaining the symptoms of each in sufficiently clear a manner to lead to their detection and treatment—previous to the services of a professional man being available—I should go as far as would be prudent in addressing the class of persons for whom this work is intended.

It has been my endeavour to explain in every in-

stance the reason why the treatment recommended is desirable, in order that in simple matters those persons who may follow it may not be acting in the dark.

For the use of trainers or the veterinary student, no portion of this work is intended; since the one has access to men of superior practice and information to myself, and the other to works which treat of each subject discussed more fully and elaborately, but which would be at once both wearisome and unintelligible to the greater bulk of sportsmen and grooms.

RUGBY, STAFFORDSHIRE: *Sept.* 1865.



CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION.

	PAGE		PAGE
Size	3	Race riding	65
Formation	4	After the race	67
The head	5	The steeplechase horse	73
The neck	5	Action	74
Shoulders	7	Further qualifications	74
The chest	9	Blood	75
Fore limbs	9	Size	76
Fetlock joints	14	Breaking	77
Pasterns	14	Riding	81
The foot	14	The character of the steeple- chase horse of the present day as compared with the past	82
The trunk	15	Hunters	89
Ribs and back	17	Breeding the hunter	94
Loins	19	Jumping	99
Hind quarters	19	Condition	102
The hock	22	Work	111
On breeding the racehorse	24	Summering the hunter	117
Training for the turf	37	The riding horse	120
Training the two-year old	41	The lady's horse	123
Training three and four-year olds	49	The covert hack	12
Training of five-year olds and upwards	49		
Quick work	54		

CHAPTER I.

DISEASES OF NERVES.

Apoplexy	128	Paralysis	132
Tetanus—Lock-jaw	129	Megeims	132
Stringhalt	132		

CHAPTER II.

DISEASES OF THE ARTERIES AND VEINS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Accidents and wounds of		Glanders	136
arteries	134	Farcy	137
Aneurism	136		

CHAPTER III.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

Common cold	139	Chronic cough	144
Sore throat	140	Pleurisy	145
Influenza	141	Congestion of the lungs	146
Bronchitis	141	Inflammation of the lungs	147
Broken wind	142	Roaring	149
Thick wind or high blowing	143		

CHAPTER IV.

DISEASES OF THE ABDOMEN.

Inflammation of the liver	152	Inflammation of the kidneys	156
Dysentery	153	Inflammation of the bladder	157
Diarrhœa	153	Spasm of the bladder	157
Colic	154	Inflammation of the intestines	158
Gastritis	155	Worms	158
Inflammation of the womb	155		

CHAPTER V.

DISEASES OF THE EYE.

Simple inflammation	160	Cataract	162
Ophthalmia	161	Glass eyes	163

CHAPTER VI.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Grease	167	Surfeit	172
Cracked heels	169	Warts	173
Swelled legs	170	Saddle galls	173
Mange	171		