

**THE HORSE: HOW TO FEED  
HIM, AVOID DISEASE,  
AND SAVE MONEY**

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The Horse: How to Feed Him, Avoid Disease, and Save Money by George Armatage

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**GEORGE ARMATAGE**

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**THE HORSE.**

# THE HORSE:

HOW TO FEED HIM, AVOID DISEASE,

AND SAVE MONEY.

BY

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## INTRODUCTION.

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In the preservation of our domestic animals, the capabilities and resources of Veterinary Science are too frequently ignored.

The question of feeding and housing is almost exclusively considered apart from the relationship which it bears to science. These have paved the way for absolute carelessness and quackery, and almost obliterated the aspect in which the practitioner of veterinary medicine should be regarded.

It is the province of the Veterinary Surgeon to study, not only the principles by which disease runs its course, its indications and cure; but also, and especially, those means by which it is primarily induced and *prevented*.

The means by which disease is prevented have not hitherto been generally understood, nor have they been properly taught or studied in connection with the lower animals, hence the results in many individual cases have been manifest in utter ruin.

It is high time that they are thoroughly persevered in and encouraged, studied philosophically by the Veterinary Surgeon, and encouraged



by the public, and suitable information disseminated in order to place those interested on the right road towards mitigating, if not producing a total immunity from, unnecessary evils and mortality.

It is a plan in which all owners of horses and other domestic animals are particularly interested, but are excusably ignorant.

Their attention cannot be directed to a profound study of those laws which are ever present, and govern the principles to be understood.

They require information and assistance, in order to apply it from time to time.

It is the province and duty of the Veterinary Surgeon to provide both, and I am convinced from experience that, were the disposition more frequently present, nothing would enhance so much the relations which exist between himself and employers, nor tend more to elevate our profession to that eminence which it deserves in the social economy.

The public is not such a short-sighted body as is generally supposed, and in watchfulness of its interests is ever ready to embrace those means by which an advance can be made. Neither is it such a selfish body, for when valuable information is ungrudgingly rendered, it quickly demonstrates its approbation, and the benefit derived is seldom allowed to pass without suitable acknowledgment and reward.

*In an age of sensationalism, it is almost an*

error to be otherwise than productive of startling fact or fiction.

The idea pervades more classes than one, and, it is to be feared, usefulness is thereby frequently neglected for the purely decorative. In many circles, the spirit crops out and displays the infection. Our limited professional arena forms no exception to the general condition of affairs, and demands our sympathy rather than censure.

I claim, however, to be useful in the following pages. The ornamental has been disregarded, while old matters are reproduced and presented under features which, it is hoped, will prove instructive and interesting.

In presenting this little treatise to the owners of horses, I am but carrying out the wishes of many excellent friends obtained throughout my professional career in various parts of England and Scotland. To them I cannot sufficiently express the obligations which are felt for the willingness with which I have been allowed to test the accuracy of my statements in regard to feeding, as a means of preventing disease, or otherwise, the immediate adoption by themselves of the principles which have been submitted.

Some with whom many hours of useful conversation on these topics have been held, are now no more—amongst them was foremost the Right Hon. the (fifth) Earl of Jersey—but their good-

ness still lives in memory as haloes of the past.

My thanks are especially due to W. Mirfin, Esq., Sheffield; to Richard Heckels, Esq., Monkwearmouth Colliery, and George Suthern, Esq., Hallgarth House, Durham. Also to Mr. Charles Hunting, M.R.C.V.S., South Hetton, Durham, and Mr. Luke Scott, M.R.C.V.S., Hetton, Durham, whose practical information, together with numerous opportunities afforded me to visit their horses and ponies below ground, have proved invaluable. There I have been enabled to witness the practical demonstration of that which they described, and farther testing the accuracy of observations previously made by myself.

To several gentlemen in Glasgow, particularly my colleagues and professional brethren, I am equally indebted, and thank them one and all.

It remains to be added, that the calculations as to cost of feeding have been placed in contrast in order to show that, although prices may fluctuate, and even rise considerably, by a judicious selection of grain and leguminous seeds the same amount of nitrogenous or nutritious matter may be supplied, and that too, at the same cost, or thereabouts.

English weights and measures are adhered to throughout.

VETERINARY COLLEGE,  
PARLIAMENTARY ROAD, GLASGOW.

*28th February, 1868.*