

# **PRACTICAL HORSE-SHOEING**

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Practical Horse-Shoeing by G. Fleming

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**G. FLEMING**

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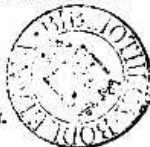
# PRACTICAL HORSE-SHOEING.

BY

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Tartary," "Horse-Shoes and Horse-Shoeing,"  
"Animal Plagues," "Rabies and  
Hydrophobia," &c.

WITH THIRTY-SEVEN ILLUSTRATIONS.



Second Edition.

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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It must be a source of satisfaction to those who are interested in the welfare and efficiency of the Horse, to find that at last there is some prospect of a common-sense and humane method of shoeing being introduced, and that a large amount of interest is manifested in the subject.

This is evidenced by the fact, that an edition of fifteen hundred copies of "Practical Horse-shoeing" was disposed of in a few months after its publication; and that its re-publication in the United States (unauthorised though it was) by Appleton & Co., of New York, immediately subsequent to its issue here, is as likely to be attended with even greater success, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals having alone taken a thousand copies for distribution among the farriers of that State.

This large circulation must doubtless prove eminently gratifying to the SCOTTISH SOCIETY for the PREVENTION of CRUELTY to ANIMALS, and still more so to the worthy lady by whom the prizes for essays on Horse-shoeing given by that Society were so liberally provided.

For myself, I rejoice to think that the principles which should guide us in the management of the Horse's foot, and for whose introduction I and others have contended for many years, are at length being adopted.

In the present edition, a few additions and trifling corrections have been made, and the number of illustrations has been increased. No attempt has been made to alter the plan of the essay, which was chiefly designed for farriers, or those who, beyond my own profession, took an interest in the matter.

The subject of pathological farriery is too large and complicated to be introduced, and, in fact, it did not come within the terms or scope of the essay, the main object of which was to indicate to what an extent disease might be prevented and utility increased. Pathological shoeing belongs more to the veterinary surgeon's than to the farrier's domain, but it has not been overlooked by me; and in due course a work on this very important section of veterinary science will be offered for acceptance.

GEORGE FLEMING.

BROMPTON BARRACKS,

*Chatham, February, 1873.*



**PREFATORY NOTE**  
**TO THE FIRST EDITION.**

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It is a painful reflection that the advance of civilization seems ever to be accompanied by an aggravation of certain evils,—and in no instance is this more marked than in the terrible amount of suffering unnecessarily endured by the Horse.

This animal, pre-eminently the most useful to man, is the one upon which is inflicted, either wantonly, or through sheer ignorance, or thoughtlessness, the greatest amount of cruelty. The records of all humane societies show that, of prosecutions for cruelty to animals, an overwhelming majority refer to the Horse; and of these, a large proportion are for working horses while suffering from lameness, in one form or other. So frequent are such cases, that observers have concluded that its prevalence must result from some specific cause, and, not unnaturally, attention has thus been directed to the various modes of management practised in relation to the horse's foot, to the manner of shoeing, and, in particular, to the way in which the hoof is prepared for the shoe.

Convinced that very much suffering results from imperfect knowledge of the Anatomy of the Foot, and of the true functions of its various parts, and from consequent mal-practice in its treatment, especially in the application of the shoe, the use of which is needed solely to prevent the undue waste and wear caused by severe labour over hard, rough, and unyielding roads, the Committee of the SCOTTISH SOCIETY for the PREVENTION OF CRUELTY to ANIMALS offered, in July, 1869, a series of prizes for "the best and most practical essays on Horseshoeing, in connection with the comfort and soundness of the Horse." By August, 1870, upwards of forty essays were sent in. These were submitted to Professor WILLIAMS, Principal of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, Mr. W. ROBERTSON, M.R.C.V.S., Kelso, and Mr. B. CARTLEDGE, M.R.C.V.S., Sheffield, Examiners of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and Mr. J. C. BROAD, M.R.C.V.S., London, by whom, after a very patient and careful examination, the prizes were awarded,—the *first*, to Mr. GEORGE FLEMING, for the treatise now in the hands of the reader; the *second*, to Mr. T. D. BROAD, M.R.C.V.S., Bath; and the *third*, to Mr. GEORGE ARMATAGE, M.R.C.V.S., late Secretary of the Central Veterinary Medical Society, London.

A large proportion of the essays exhibited much thoughtful care in their preparation, combined at once with scientific knowledge and practical acquaintance with

the subject in hand; and it has been most gratifying to find so general a concurrence among the writers in their utter condemnation of the common, but unscientific and irrational, practice of paring away the sole and frog as a necessary preparation for shoeing. The unanimity exhibited on this most important point sinks into comparative insignificance all differences of opinion on minor points. The Committee are thus able confidently to recommend the following pages as a clear and able exposition of the views, not only of the author of one of the best and most exhaustive works on the subject, but also of very many of the most enlightened veterinary surgeons of the day.

H. S. A. L. HAY, V.P.,

Late Secretary Scot. Soc., P.C.A.

EDINBURGH,

*February, 1872.*