

**HORSES; THEIR VARIETIES,  
BREEDING,  
AND MANAGEMENT IN  
HEALTH AND DISEASE**

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Horses; Their Varieties, Breeding, and Management in Health and Disease by H. D. Richardson

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**H. D. RICHARDSON**

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BY  
H. D. RICHARDSON,  
AUTHOR OF "DOGS," "PIGS," "THE BEE AND THE HONEY-BEE," "DOMESTIC  
POULTRY," "THE PETS OF THE FARM," ETC. ETC.

SEVERAL NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS,  
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## PREFACE.

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AGAIN, dear public, has my willing pen been called into requisition on your behalf, in order to contribute to your amusement, and, I hope, instruction. It is for you to pronounce upon the merits or demerits of my attempt; but, ere sitting in judgment, recollect that it is the duty of the judge to be counsel for the accused: I therefore trust that you will give me full credit for all such portions of this work as you approve of, and accord indulgence for all such as you may condemn. I have laboured under no small difficulty on the present occasion, by reason of the limits to which I have been necessarily restricted. The importance of the subject of the horse and his management furnishes scope for most voluminous detail, and all this detail was to be compressed into my hundred pages—exposing me to the constant danger of expatiating at too great length on one portion of the subject, to the necessary curtailment of the detail proper to another. Under these circumstances, and feeling a strong conviction that, where it is imperative to make the selection, zoological description must, in a *farmer's series*, be regarded as secondary to practical detail, I have endeavoured to condense the former into as brief a space as possible, in order to admit of devoting to the latter the full portion of attention which its

importance deserves. I conceive, at the same time, that I have not omitted any matter relative to the natural history of the horse, or his varieties, essential, or even useful, to be known.

Another difficulty which presented itself, was, the subject of the diseases of the horse. I feared that the limited space which would necessarily fall to the lot of that department of my work, would render it impossible for me to enter into such a dissertation upon the symptoms, history, and treatment of the many diseases to which the horse has been rendered liable in his present condition of artificial culture, and too frequently improper management, as would be of the slightest use; and, at the same time, it was impossible for me to disguise from myself the fact, that something of the kind would not only be looked for, but was absolutely essential to the completeness of the volume. In this case, it will be seen that I have adopted a middle course; I have presented the reader with a rapid summary of the most frequent and important diseases to which the horse is subject, describing their premonitory symptoms; and, in all cases where I conceived it could avail anything, I have given instructions for the preliminary treatment useful to be adopted, while a veterinary surgeon was being sent for. I am satisfied that anything more than this would have been not merely useless, but absolutely mischievous. The less the amateur doses or quacks his horse the better. Fortunately, veterinary surgeons are sufficiently numerous, and no written advice, however copious in its details, could at all supersede their services. For the proper treatment of an animal under disease, a thorough knowledge of his anatomy and physiology, with practical study of his pathology, is no less



necessary than for the treatment of a human being under similar circumstances.

As fully nine-tenths of the morbid affections to which horses are subject, are attributable to erroneous systems of management, it seemed to me that it would be more profitable to the reader were I to devote whatever space I could spare to the best modes for the *prevention* of disease, by persuading keepers of horses to substitute correct systems of management for incorrect; I have therefore been minute in my details connected with stable management, feeding, grooming; whatever, in my opinion, bore more immediately on the *preservation of the animal in health*; on what, in short, is called by medical writers, *hygiene*. I hope and think that some of my remarks relative to these matters will be found useful, as also my attempts to point out the best modes of correcting or curing certain *vices* or *bad habits* so frequently incident to horses in civilized countries; for in less artificial conditions, where this noble animal has but been adopted as a useful friend or willing servant, the vices to which I allude are scarcely ever known to manifest themselves. It is only where brutality and ignorance take the place of kindness and judgment—where from being a willing servant the horse is degraded into the fettered slave, that the natural noble gentleness of his nature is displaced by vice or insubordination.

With the above explanations, which I have deemed necessary, I now present my volume to the public, and await the result of their verdict. If I have failed, it has been with the best intentions to succeed in advocating the cause of a noble and much persecuted animal—probably the most valuable man has ever subjected to domestication.

H. D. R.

Dublin, May, 1848.

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# H O R S E S ;

## THEIR VARIETIES, MANAGEMENT,

ETC. ETC.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### INTRODUCTORY.

Of all animals with which we are acquainted, the Horse is, perhaps, the most calculated to impress the beholder with admiration. True, he does not possess the giant stature of the giraffe, the massive proportions of the elephant, the headlong power of the rhinoceros, the ferocious courage of the lion, or the wild and savage fury of the tiger; but, in wanting these qualities, he retains those proper to himself in a state so much the more unalloyed; they stand out in so much the bolder relief, and, consequently, *coerce* from us so much the more of our unqualified and delighted approbation.

Of all quadrupeds, the horse probably presents, in his aspect, the most perfect symmetry of form, and adaptation of part to part; his arched neck, his flashing eye, his expanded and almost transparent nostril, his flowing mane and his gallant crest, his wavy tail and his powerful quarters—all so many points of grandeur and beauty, that cannot fail of arousing the admiration and sympathies of even the most insensible beholder.

But we would be far from resting our demand for admiration solely upon the form of this noble animal. We even consider that the graces of his external conformation bear but a secondary proportion to those inner qualities of disposition and sagacity, which it but requires a brief acquaintance with this truly splendid creature to appreciate.