

**SOUNDNESS AND AGE OF
HORSES: A VETERINARY AND
LEGAL GUIDE TO THE
EXAMINATION OF HORSES FOR
SOUNDNESS**

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Soundness and age of horses: a veterinary and legal guide to the examination of horses for soundness by M. Horace Hayes

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M. HORACE HAYES

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SOUNDNESS
AND
AGE OF HORSES.

*A Veterinary and Legal Guide to the Examination
of Horses for Soundness.*

BY

M. HORACE HAYES, M.R.C.V.S.,

LATE CAPTAIN "THE BUFFS."

AUTHOR OF "VETERINARY NOTES FOR HORSE-OWNERS," "RIDING ON THE FLAT
AND ACROSS COUNTRY," "TRAINING AND HORSE-MANAGEMENT
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TO

PROFESSOR G. T. BROWN, C.B.,

CHIEF OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL,
AND LECTURER ON CATTLE PATHOLOGY AT THE
ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE,

IN ADMIRATION OF HIS LABOURS FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF VETERINARY SCIENCE IN CONNECTION
WITH AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

P R E F A C E.

My intention in writing this book, has been: (1) To define, from a strictly legal point of view, what is meant by the term, "Soundness." (2) To furnish a guide, as to procedure and detail, to the examination of horses for soundness. (3) To supply, as far as possible, references to decisions in court, on the subject, with appropriate quotations. (4) To separate those diseases, alterations of structure, and other defects that might be considered, in themselves, absolute unsoundness, from those which, from their position, or degree, may, or may not be unsoundness. In this, I have accepted judicial rulings in all instances to which I have found them apply: failing such authoritative *dicta*, I have taken the weight of veterinary opinion on the particular points. (5) I have classified under one heading, those diseases to which the law of heredity specially applies. (6) As an examination for soundness by a veterinary surgeon, always, includes the "ageing" of the animal, I have added a somewhat comprehensive chapter on the dentition of the horse,

which I compiled and illustrated from MM. Goubaux and Barrier's admirable work on *L'extérieur du cheval*.

My chief hope in offering this work to the favourable consideration of the public, is, that it may help to reconcile, to some extent, the unfortunate diversity of opinion that exists, even among veterinary surgeons, on abstract questions of soundness. The difficulties which beset the subject will, I trust, be remembered, when judging my efforts to inculcate uniformity of ideas in this direction.

I am glad to have this opportunity of thanking my friends, Mr. G. A. Banham, F.R.C.V.S., and Mr. Fred Smith, F.R.C.V.S., for their advice and friendly criticisms, when the proofs were going through the press. In saying this, I, in no way, wish to shift, on them, the responsibility of any views I have advanced.

M. H. HAYES.

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