

margin of the crust; the sole never touching the ground, unless it has become diseased.

Xenophon, speaking of the Persian horses, says that their grooms are careful to curry them on a pavement of round stones, that by beating their feet against a firm and irregular surface the texture of the foot may be put into exercise. It corresponds curiously with this, that our high-bred horses are subject to a disease of the foot, from which our heavy draught horses, and Flanders horses are exempt. Horses for the turf move with the foot close to the ground; no time is lost in lifting high the foot in the semicircle, the race horse being light; and the foot coming thus down gently, it wants the full play of the apparatus, whilst the heavy horse with less blood, lifts its foot in a circle and comes forcibly on the ground. Hence it may be understood how the lighter horse is subject to contractions of the foot. The bones, ligaments, and crust are out of use, the sole becomes firm as a board, the sides of the crust are permanently contracted, the parts have no longer their elastic play, and the foot striking our hard pavement suffers a shock or concussion; then comes "a fever of the foot," which is inflammation, and that goes on to its total destruction. The proof of all this is, that by paring and softening the exterior of the hoof, so as to restore its elasticity, the veterinary surgeon cures this contracted foot, unless the