

of nerves ; they consist of the nerves with the necessary accompaniment of membrane and blood vessels, on a very minute scale. For it must be remembered that nerves can perform no function unless supplied with blood, all qualities of life being supported through the circulating blood. These nerves, so prolonged within the villi into the hoof, receive the vibrations of that body. By this means the horse is sensible to the motion and pressure of its foot, or to its percussion against the ground ; and without this provision, there would be a certain imperfection in the limb.

In a former part of this treatise I have shewn by what curious mechanism the horse's foot is made yielding and elastic, for the purpose of enabling it to bear the percussion against the ground. But in made roads, and with the imperfections of shoeing, the pressure and concussion are too severe and too incessant ; so that the protecting sensibility of the foot is converted into a source of pain from the inflammation which arises ; and the horse is thus "foundered." There is a remedy for this condition in dividing the nerve across, before it reaches the foot ; the consequence of which operation is, that the horse, instead of moving with timid steps, puts out his feet freely, and the lameness is cured. If, however, we were to receive the statement thus barely, the fact would militate against our con-