



On a new secret powder for horses

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ON A NEW SECRET POWDER FOR HORSES.

AT this present time there is a strenuous effort being made for the sale and administration of certain Secret Powders, for helping the food and condition of Horses; and very true it is, that by well arranged tonics and stimulants, considerable relief can be afforded to subjects defective by over and oppressive work, and worn out by age, for most unreasonable tasks, are but too often imposed upon them, by unfeeling men of no mercy, who care not what they do, if they can by any measures, however cruel, obtain work from them. Such a state of things is revolting, and ought not in any, especially any Christian Country, to be suffered. At length, these poor defenceless creatures, no longer even by the severest usage being able to work, are obliged to be destroyed.

We can, however, ourselves testify, from actual experience, that debilitated Horses, can be much assisted by tonics and spices, opportunely applied, such as bitters, spices, and certain metallic salts, and forty years ago we gave in our *Pharmacopoeia equina*, a formula, containing a small quantity of cantharides among other things, see p. 35, however, after many trials, and considerable use, we found that the dose of this powerful article, cantharides, was too strong for a continued use; and in a supplement, published some years after, we reduced the cantharides. These powders so constituted, were rapturously extolled by my Nephew Charles Clark, and his associate Isaac Brightwin, of Moorfields, who used them extensively, with Horses under their care.

Succeeding to the above prescription in the same *Pharmacopoeia*, at p. 35, is a prescription of Tonic Powders with sulphat of zine, without the cantharides, and with bitters and spices, which we found very useful, and on the same page, below the above, is a formula still more simple, and which we designated the *Pulvis Utilis*, consisting principally of inert, or merely frumentous articles or of meal, with a small dash of bitters, which formula was intended for use where rest and remission from labour and patience was more required than medicine, and this mixture has a considerable resemblance to the said secret powders, above alluded to.

The chief objection we have to any secret administration of this kind, is, the door it opens for the introduction of unknown drugs, and perhaps filthy powders obtained cheaply from the druggists, and dosing the poor Horses with them, so very easily will the use be abused in the hands of boys and ignorant stablemen, and the druggist taking advantage of the said secret, will not be long in supplying them with a cheap article, against which they will have no resource, perhaps the refuse of their warehouses and shops, till these hard working inoffensive animals, would refuse their food so adulterated, with disgust, thus disabling them from performing their often hard tasks. Immoderate use of these animals also, sooner or later, brings on decrepitude or downright disease and inability, and thus a kind providence has made it also to be the most profitable an indulgent or reasonable employ. Men however, buy up these debilitated and worn out subjects, and by flogging and ill treatment, draw from them their small remains of service, and this often by the most abominable cruelties, beating them at last on parts revolting and indecent, as on the head

and eyes, and on the very tender thin skin inside the thighs, or on their sheath, which, as the animals, when well, are ever ready and willing to work and do their best, ought not to be permitted, and often are these things carried on in the dark, in order to avoid notice and remark from the public, in the open day.

We may also remark that by the noble invention of Railways, and gliding or rolling on the impenetrable surface of iron bars, urged by steam pressure, four-fifths of all these cruelties are removed, and an incalculable amount of suffering is done away. But if we mean to remove from these meritorious inoffensive animals the remaining fifth, it appears to us to be necessary that a fund should be raised, perhaps out of the millions raised by government, or by the rich corporate bodies of large towns, or by a benevolent association of humane individuals, to buy up at the cheapest possible rate, debilitated, weak, infirm, and lame subjects, and have them mercifully slaughtered. It would be at once objected, the cost of doing this, but we believe such would not be so very heavily felt. For many horses exposed in the market, of this description, can be had for two pounds, and the *carcase* as food for dogs, at two-pence the pound, the present price, the *skin* for boots and shoes, the *bones* for the Chemists, the *hoofs* for the workers in steel, the *intestines* for parchment, the *liver* as food for dogs, the *lights* as food for cats, the *ligaments* can be sold to the glue makers, and the *long elastic hair* of the mane and tail, to the Upholsterers, for stuffing cushions; the *short hair of the skin* to the Bricklayers, for lime and hair, or pargettin as they call it, for lining chimneys, would altogether pretty well realize and bring back the sum afforded.

Much commendation is due to the Royal Society for repressing cruelty to animals, but the carrying before a magistrate once a fortnight or three weeks, a hardened sinner of this sort, will not do much in removing such a vast amount of dreadful suffering as we daily have to witness.

And though much is said about the cruelty of flogging horses, and it is truly revolting to see an animal exerting his utmost, flogged because he cannot do more, yet but little is said about another grievance of not less amount, if not greater, and that is overloading them. The *quantum* of work that a horse of given size should fairly afford, has never been laid down, or any rough approximation towards it, and left in this incertitude, avaricious, unfeeling men, often treat them most unmercifully, it is not at all impossible, however, that such a table of weights of horses and their loads and work, should not be found, and some sort of compliance insisted on, but we see daily and hourly loads of most preposterous bulk and weight imposed upon these poor inoffensive creatures, perhaps already injured and disabled by previous ill usage, nor can we conceive anything more abominable and painful than to move with a weight, we have not the power properly to wield. Something therefore, in this respect ought to be done for them, where at present there is nothing. All we wish in writing this is to call up some sort of attention to the misery and ills of these most worthy suffering creatures.

Finally, we again revert to the powders, in expressing our belief that kept a secret they will not long benefit these worthy obedient slaves, who well deserve for their inestimable aid, clean unsophisticated relishing food.