THRUSH,
OR RUNNING THRUSHES,

Is a disease of the foot, attended with inflammation and suppuration of the sensible frog, occasioned by the contraction of the heels, in consequence of an erroneous principle of shoeing; for if the farrier was cautious that the frog received due pressure, the heels never could contract, and the horse would be free from running thrushes, even if shod with the most common ill made shoe.

It may seem obvious, that a wedge in the centre of the heels, aided by pressure from below, must be calculated to keep them expanded, or even when contracted to force them open; but the very reverse is the fact; for the frog, when suffered to be long elevated above the ground, is very generally contracted; and the unnatural lateral pressure excites inflammation of the sensible frog, and deprives, in a great degree, the blood vessels of the power of secreting horn.

When the horny frog is exposed to perpendicular pressure, it gives health, and not disease, to the sensible frog; the blood vessels secrete their due proportion of elastic horn;
and then the cavity of the frog is preserved, expanded, and fully equal to contain the sensible frog, without the smallest degree of lateral pressure.

I have given this summary description of the cause that produce running thrushes, in order to convince (if possible) those, that are in the habit of raising the frog above the ground, with the false notion of avoiding this disease, and to convince them that their method of paring the frog, and raising it from the ground, annihilates its functions, and ultimately, if not immediately, produces a contracted foot, and the disease now under consideration.

To effect a cure of running thrushes, the shoe should be removed, and the heels lowered, if possible, without doing any injury to the foot, so as the frog may come in contact with the ground; after which the horse should stand without shoes for several days, and the part should be washed with soap and water, and afterwards with a strong solution of alum and water, when the part is clean and free from every particle of gravel or dirt. Let the frog be dressed, with an ointment composed of a pint of tar, with two or three ounces of vitriolic acid.

If the inflammation be considerable, it will be necessary to bathe the feet in warm water,
previous to the dressing above recommended. If the running thrushes proceed from contracted heels, and not possible with any shoes, or even without shoes, to give the frog pressure on smooth surfaces, the only certain remedy in such a case, is the use of the artificial frog, where an astringent thrush powder may be applied between the natural and artificial frog.

THORN.

Horses of every description, but hunters in particular, are very much exposed to be wounded by the puncture of a thorn. If the accident is known, we must endeavour to find out the thorn, and carefully draw it out with a pair of sharp pointed forceps; or a small incision may be made into the skin, so as to enable the operator to dislodge it from the part. The sooner this is done after the accident the better, as the operation will be rendered impossible, or at least extremely difficult, when the inflammation becomes considerable, as is generally the case, a few days after the accident.

Where it cannot be removed, suppuration in the part must be encouraged by emollient poultices, fomentations, &c. until it breaks of itself, or is fit to be lanced. If a thorn happens to be on the tendons, the wound must be
dressed with any of the digestives, mixed with spirit of turpentine, or tincture of myrrh and water; but if on the fleshy parts, nothing more is required than the common digestive ointment and cleanliness, until the animal is completely recovered.

TUMOUR.

All animals, and every part of their body, is subject to swellings or tumours of one kind or other; as well as the bones, ligaments, tendons, muscles, membranes, and other soft parts. This proceeds either from an external or internal cause. External tumours may arise from blows, bruises, violent strains, &c. Tumours, arising from internal causes, will be found owing to fevers, cold, strangles; by which means nature seems to endeavour to throw off the offending matter, which has for some time circulated in the blood, and produced a variety of disorders; as the mange, farcy, and even the glanders, which frequently terminate, when improperly treated, with bad and fatal consequences.

Tumours are divided into four different classes in the human species; but in animals they are such as cannot easily fall under any of these denominations, as they are generally
of a mixed kind, partaking partly of one and partly of another, arising either from their original formation, or from what they were at their first appearance.

For the cure of tumours, we refer the reader to the article strangules, farcy, and ulcer.

ULCER,

Is a solution of continuity in any part of an animal; wounds degenerate into ulcers, when by a defect in the humours there is a loss of substance: a loss of substance in the bones from erosion, is called caries. Though when an abscess is opened for the discharge of its contents, it is usually spoken of as an ulcer. Wounds, bruises, and other accidents, improperly treated or neglected, occasion ulcers; as well as a depravity of the blood and juices, which in the first only produce tumours. The internal ulcers are those of the lungs, liver, kidneys, and other viscera, where they produce wastes and decays.

Ulcers receive different names from their different causes, their figure, the parts they affect, &c. viz. The first is termed a simple ulcer, which is only superficial, and easy to cure. A compound ulcer is, when not only