

### MURRAIN,—BLACKLEG OR QUARTER EVIL,—BLAIN.

These diseases have a strong resemblance to each other, and may be accounted varieties of one disease; they are all contagious in a greater or lesser degree, the Murrain being a terrible Epidemic, at times spreading from country to country, and sweeping off the greater part of the Cattle. We have been informed by an eye witness that about the time of the battle of Austerlitz when great numbers of women and children were dying with hunger in the track of Bonaparte's "Glorious Wars," a pestilence broke out which swept off indiscriminately both men and cattle, making it very difficult to procure provisions for the army. For the three past years there has been a great loss of cattle, in England and Ireland by the Murrain.

These diseases at times prove suddenly fatal, but Youatt states that the Murrain is often preceded by a cough for a week or more—then follows heaving at the flanks, the dung black—tenderness along the back and particularly over the loins—the cough increases, with a brown or bloody discharge from the nose and mouth—blood passes with the dung—the beast staggers, and boils and swellings appear. If these go through the process of suppuration like common boils the animal may recover, otherwise death is certain. When disease comes on thus gradually there is time to try the effect of medicines, but they have almost always failed to do any good; bleeding followed by purging are recommended but we have no accounts that they have ever succeeded. We would recommend the trial of a strong decoction of the (*Lichen pulmonarius*) Maple Lungwort. Some cattle would readily eat it if moistened. It can be procured in large quantities in thick woods, chiefly growing on the White maple and Dogwood. The (*Lichen Caninus*) Ash colored ground Liverwort has done much service in the putrid sore throat, a malady greatly resembling these diseases of cattle, but it is not easy to procure any considerable quantity, and the Lungwort is always a sufficient substitute for it in curing coughs, only requiring a larger quantity, as it is somewhat less astringent.

The Quarter Evil appears to be the disease which has appeared here,—and here as well as in England, it appears to commence in some cases with mortification, causing death in a few hours, while in others there is a fever of several days continuance, and in some instances there is but little appearance of mortification, but in all cases the disease appears to be communicated by infection, not only to other horned cattle, but in numerous instances to horses and swine, there are persons who for many years have annually lost cattle by it, while most of their neighbors have escaped it. It certainly is highly probable that the infection had remained from the preceding year and prudence would dictate that great pains ought to be used to clean the stable where a beast has been affected with a distemper of this kind, and after cleaning it should be well fumigated with brimstone, aqua fortis, or chloride of lime. Many doubt if the disease is produced by infection because the greater part of the cattle exposed to it escape, but it should be remembered that there are various degrees of contagion, a very few escape the small pox when exposed to it; a greater number the measles and putrid sore throat; and far the greater part of those who are exposed to the slow fever miss taking it, except when it is much worse than usual. Yet all these diseases are infectious. At certain seasons of the year particular kinds of infection appear to be more easily taken than at others. We have known more than one instance in which a person was affected with the slow fever in a house where it had never been before; and for several succeeding

years it appeared in the same house in Autumn, although in some cases a different family had moved into it. The quarter evil here most frequently attacks young stock, and milk cows that are very highly fed. In England it has been found useful, when the disease appears, to remove all the cattle from low or rich pastures to dry hills where the feed is but short; and in some places in the States where the disease is frequent, it is believed that the practice of giving salt mixed with a little ash to the cattle is a sure preventative.

In these diseases when violent putrefaction appears to commence before death; in addition to the sudden mortifications, puffy swellings frequently appear, in which a crackling sound may be heard, indicating a decomposition of some part of the fluids. Caution should always be used in handling sores on these animals, or in skinning parts that are mortified; and as a fatal infection has been communicated to men who had slight scratches on their hands, it would be most prudent to bury animals that die of these diseases immediately without skinning them. It is supposed that the Murrain does not attack cattle who have once had it. Several cases were inoculated, had the disease and recovered; they were then put with a drove of infected cattle but did not again take the infection.

### STRANGLES.

This disease does not generally attack all horses here as it does in Europe, but when it has appeared it has been more than commonly severe. It is a swelling near the centre of the channel under the jaw, which suppurates and breaks, discharges a quantity of matter, and quickly heals. A cough attended with "drawing" of mucus from the mouth attends this complaint. Like the mumps, this disease never attacks the second time, and the greater part of the dangerous cases, are produced by attempts to scab the swelling, and prevent it from breaking.

In most cases it will not be necessary to do more than frequently wet the swelling with ointment of Marsh mallows, or goose grease, and to give the horse his drink by holding up a bucket to his nose while he swallows with difficulty; and also some mashes of scalded Bran: but should the swelling very soon produce difficulty in swallowing, a Blister should be laid on it; and in some rare cases that threaten suffocation it may be proper to burn it with a torch so as to produce the effect of a blister immediately; but the blistering ointment will soon take effect if the hair is clipped closely or shaved off, the skin then wetted with sharp vinegar, and the ointment thoroughly rubbed in. The ointment should be made by melting together one part of rosin and four of lard, to which one part (by weight) of powdered Spanish Flies should be added when it has cooled.

### THE IVES, OR VIVES.

This is a swelling of the kernels under ears, affecting the swelling as much as the Strangles, and attended with cough, and often with fever, it generally wears off gradually without breaking. The horses head may be covered with a warm hood, and the swelling rubbed with oil, but no attempt should be made to scab it. Watergruel, and scalded bran may be given when the horse is willing to eat.

Sometimes when persons unacquainted with the disease, have succeeded in repelling the Strangles or the Ives, a different part of the body is attacked, and the swelling will form on the breast, the foot, or some other part, making an ulcer that discharges a great quantity of watery matter but will not heal, the horse continuing to lose flesh till he is completely exhausted. In a