

The Horse and the Wheel.

Ten years ago, when the bicycle was the rage, there was an avalanche of expression from the immature and the impulsive about the doom of the horse. The whirr of wheels propelled by human energy was heard in all sections traversed by good roads, and its echoes filled drawing-rooms. Waves of enthusiasm rose higher and higher, and the pressure was so great that boulevards were built or reconstructed for the use of riders of the wheel. What was the origin of the fever which proved violently contagious? An incident that we recall sheds light on the question. In one of the stately homes of the fashionable Long Island colony, a few charming ladies were gathered for luncheon, when a gentleman of high social position came from a neighboring house on a bicycle. He appeared to excellent advantage in knickerbockers, and when he joined in a waltz, after luncheon, the handsome and graceful figure appealed to the imagination. The tailor-made costume was better adapted to the drawing-room than dusty roads, and therein was the charm. The jaded appetite of fashion saw new possibilities in the wheel, and riding became a fad. People less exclusive than the arbiters of fashion caught the fever, and transmitted it to the ever-expanding circles of humanity, and hundreds of factories had to be equipped to supply the impetuous demand for bicycles. There was a flood of talk about the actual dawn of the horseless age, but cool-headed men were not influenced by it, and horses continued to be bred. It was in this period that the bicycle track, a half-mile oval, with sharp bevels and scientific specifications, was built in Garfield Park. A multitude of riders took advantage of the broad band of cement, and the entire circle was studded with lamps to prolong the amusement after the sun had winked his last wink from a couch in the west. Although the extinction of the horse was declared to be immediate, the city fathers, prompted by foolish sentiment, built a driveway around the bicycle track. It was regarded as a waste of money, but it was like a mile-stone in evolution—a reminder of bright but dead hours of achievement. The passing of years gave velvet-like richness to the lawns of the park, and saw puny saplings develop into sturdy trees, but a spirit of decadence now rules the bicycle oval. On Saturday last, while the horse was showing speed in races on the circular driveway, and boys and young men were keeping the infield alive with baseball—a game that appeals to a phase of human nature that does not change—heavy horses were assisting laborers in dragging great slabs of cement from the places so long filled by them. It was the doom of the bicycle, not of the horse, that was made clear. The hard, beveled track, over which wheels once whirled, will soon be a thing of the past. A wonderful transformation? Yes. And the cause? Well, when everybody took to the bicycle, when mistress and maid servant met on the boulevard; when the laborer went to and from his daily task on the wheel; when even harlequins lent color to the procession, fashion threw away short skirts and knickerbockers, and returned with ardor to horseback riding and driving. Each receding fringe of society flowered suit, and finally the multitude was indifferent or arrayed in opposition. In some things history repeats itself, and the bicycle may return to favor after fashion has discarded the automobile. Through all the stretch of recorded time, through all the steps of mechanical invention and progress, humanity has been faithful to the horse. In the first stages of civilization, when knightly instincts were taking root, when the tide of battle was turned by the spear, the horse contributed to the impressiveness of ceremonial occasion, as he does to-day, and his end is as distant as the stars which gem the sky of night. His form has advanced with the ascending waves of civilization, and love of him has not grown cold in the human heart. He comes to us from the twilight of antiquity, and he is here to stay until thoughts of vanity and rank are obliterated from the mind. Although motor-cars can raise more dust and take more complete possession of the highways than the bicycle once did, horses number higher in the country than ever before, and breeders are unable to meet the demand for individuals of merit.—[The Horseman.]

Now is the time when the town girl likes to visit her country cousin, dazzle the country boys, and smell the new-mown hay—unless she has hay fever.

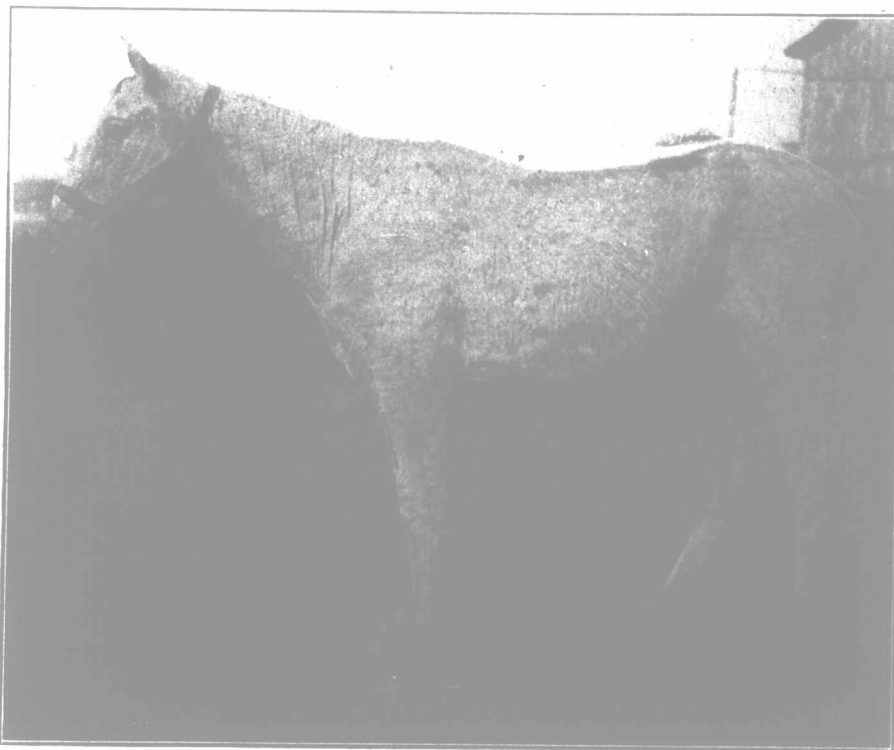
Many an act of boorishness is excused by the perpetrator on the ground of candor. It is not so excused, however, by anyone else.

Mange in Horses.

Unfortunately the various forms of skin diseases show in their inception general symptoms which mislead people or disarm suspicion. In horses two forms of skin disease are often confounded, whereas the relative importance of these diseases makes it imperative that their true nature should be understood at the beginning. It may be taken for granted that mange is due to a parasite, and is extremely contagious. Once that fact is thoroughly appreciated some advance has been made towards its suppression. This disease has, unfortunately, become more or less prevalent in some sections of Canada, due largely to the fact that its contagiousness, and, therefore, serious nature, was not fully appreciated.

THREE FORMS OF MANGE.

1. The most common form of mange insect is psoroptes, which chiefly invades those parts that are covered with "horse-hairs," and, consequently, infest the mane and tail, from which they may spread to the space between the branches of the lower jaw, the breast and thighs. As they live in colonies, their seat of attack may at first be within narrow limits, which gradually extends outwards. In this way the invaded portions of skin become united, until a considerable surface is implicated. Owing to the more settled habits of these parasites, this kind of mange is not so contagious as the second (sarcoptic) form. The punctures made on the skin by these insects give rise to an eruption of small pimples, which at first are the nature of blisters. When these blisters burst or are broken by friction a discharge of serum and pus issues from them and keeps the affected parts in a moist condition, which serves to distinguish this kind of mange from sarcoptic mange. The parasites live on the surface of the skin and under the crusts, which are formed by the drying up of the fluid from the pimples, and by the scaling off of the scarf-skin. Owing to the irritation caused by the



A Bad Case of Mange Brought to Ontario from Northwest.

wounds made by the insects and by the animal rubbing himself, the skin becomes thickened, hardened, wrinkled, devoid of hair, and more or less covered with sores.

2. The insects (sarcoptes, itch parasite of man, belongs to same class) of the second form of mange generally commence their attack on or near the withers, from which they spread over the neck and trunk. Their punctures cause an eruption of small pimples, which become filled with serum that soon dries up and forms crusts over the pimples. On this account, when the affected skin during the first stage of the disease is felt by the fingers, it presents to the touch a number of granular eminences. If one of the crusts is scratched off, it will leave on the skin a raw spot about the eighth of an inch in diameter. As the serum contained in the pimples dries up quickly, the skin in this form of mange will present a dry appearance.

The scarf-skin scales off more or less, and the hair falls out. In the later stage of the complaint the skin becomes thickened, rough and wrinkled. Vertical wrinkling of the skin, neck, shoulders and sides is always present in advanced cases of sarcoptic mange. Each pimple is the result of a pregnant female parasite penetrating the scarf-skin, and irritating the underlying sensitive tissues with her venomous saliva. She then burrows underneath the scarf-skin and away from her point of entrance to a distance of about half an inch, so as to form a tunnel or gallery, in which she lays her eggs as she goes along; consequently, by the time a pimple forms at the inoculated spot, the egg-bearing parasite has left it, and cannot be found if a search be made for her in the pimple, vesicle or scab. In a white-skinned human subject (affected by itch), the position of the characteristic gallery is marked on the skin by a red line, which somewhat resembles the scratch of a pin; but it is not visible in the skin of a horse,

owing to the thickness of the scarf-skin of that animal. If a pin be pushed into the gallery, the parasite can be removed at the point of the pin. The male parasites (which form only about a twentieth of the entire number), the unimpregnated females, and the larvæ reside among the crusts on the skin. Although the disease may be fully established on some portions of the skin—which will, consequently, become thickened, thrown into folds, and bald—it may be in its first stages on other parts, upon which the grain-like eminences made by the newly-formed crusts can be felt among the hairs of the coat. The disease takes from one to two months to become fully established. Rubbing the affected surface, and manifestation of pleasure when the mangy spots are scratched with the fingers, are prominent symptoms of the complaint.

3. The insects of the third form of mange are called symbiotes. Their invasions are confined practically to the legs, and extend very slowly from one part to another. They commence their attack at the back of the pastern, and work upwards, but rarely go higher than the knee and hock, and are seldom found except on coarse, hairy-legged animals. They affect the hind limbs oftener than the fore, and those of young horses more frequently than those of old ones. Strange to say, they manifest their presence, as a rule, only during winter; the probable reason of this being, as explained by Neumann, that the excretions from the skin during the summer are sufficient for their nourishment. Possibly for a similar reason, namely, that the skin is more active during work than during repose, the horse suffers more from their attentions at the latter time than at the former. The symptoms are: itching, the formation of crusts, cracks and sores, thickening of the skin, and falling out of the hair. When the pasterns are affected, the symptoms may resemble those of grease or grapes. At the commencement of the attack, the only important symptom which attracts attention is the habit which the mangy horse has when he is at rest, of

abruptly striking the ground with a hind foot for hours at intervals, and especially during the night. Some horses kick. All scratch and bite the fetlock." (Friedberger and Frohner.)

ERUPTION.

The nature of the eruption is due to the venomous bites of the insects and to friction in the efforts made by the suffering animal to relieve itself from the itching by scratching or rubbing itself.

The second form is the most contagious; the parasites of the first form may live under favorable circumstances two months, those of the second form one month. The eggs take from two to ten days to hatch, and remain fertile for a month.

TREATMENT.

Mange, especially of the first two forms, does not run on to spontaneous recovery, hence vigorous measures are necessary for its suppression. The second form has a very bad effect on the health, in some cases resulting

fatally, owing to the debility caused by the continual bloodsucking and irritation of the parasites. In order to find the insect it is necessary to scrape the surface of the skin of the affected spots with a knife, and examine with a small magnifying (50 diameters) glass in the warm sun. The second form is apt to be mistaken for skin trouble, due to poultry lice.

Clipping of the coat is almost essential. Wash the affected parts thoroughly, using the ordinary carbolic soap and a brush, or use soft soap and warm water, in which is an ounce of soda carbonate to the quart; afterwards apply any of the coal-tar dips, as advertised. Continue the treatment every two or three days for two weeks. Disinfect the stable stalls, etc., with hot lime wash, containing either one ounce of crude carbolic to the gallon, or corrosive sublimate, half an ounce to the gallon of lime wash. Wash all the harness used in warm dip solution. Quarantine affected stock.

More Uniform Type.

How to produce a more uniform type of Standard-bred horses, is a problem that should interest breeders. Great achievements have been accomplished in the line of speed, conformation, beauty, style and action, but in accomplishing the above distinctness in type has not developed rapidly. The reason, no doubt, is due to the fact that breeders have followed the families that produce extreme speed, and have not applied that part of the science of breeding that produces, or rather reproduces, uniform type. Many potent sires that have failed of patronage because perhaps they did not produce great speed, might have done greater service to the breeding industry in fixing the type, if they had been given the