

time blood-letting was practised to a great extent in the treatment of colic, but at the present day it is seldom resorted to in the treatment of this disease, because a simpler remedy is more effectual, and the risk of *phlebitis*, or inflammation of the vein, is prevented. An excellent remedy is an ounce each of laudanum and nitrous ether, or sulphuric ether, given in from eight to ten ounces of cold water, allowing the patient to have a good roll in a comfortable and well bedded box. In some cases a smart trot for a short distance will dispel the attack. When the pain is very severe and the animal wishes to lie down, he should be allowed to do so, as he chooses that position which affords him relief.

Often horses are seriously injured by being whipped and kept running around with the view of preventing them lying down and rolling. This, instead of relieving, in many instances has a tendency to produce inflammation of the bowels. Clysters of soap and water are also invaluable in removing the spasm, besides relieving the rectum of its contents. In cases where the bowels are overloaded, six drachms of Barbadoes aloes may be given in solution.

In slight cases, a pint of warm ale combined with a dessert-spoonful of ginger is a useful and simple remedy. When the violent pains are prolonged, it is necessary to administer repeated doses of opium. We may also mention that a great many nostrums are recommended for the cure of this disease, many of which have a very injurious effect.

### Overworked Horses.

Overwork annually destroys many horses, especially in the omnibus, cab, and heavier draught work of our larger towns. Very frequently the locomotive organs first fail. More than one-half of the animals sent to the knackers' yards are incapacitated from lameness. The tendinous cords running down the limbs are repeatedly and severely strained, causing painful shortenings of the limbs. Navicular disease shaves many well bred steeds. Often the joints are stiffened by irremediable disease. Treads, falls, broken bones, and other accidents, are all greatly increased by the weariness and distress accompanying overwork. In fast trotting or galloping, the tough tendinous suspensory band passing immediately behind the cannon bones is sometimes torn, causing the breaking down so familiar to racing men. But the tear and wear of severe exertion tells not only on the extremities. In animals unused to it, and especially if the work is rapid as well as violent, blood is driven from the surface to the interior of the body, the internal organs become congested, and amongst horses the lungs and the sensitive laminae of the feet frequently suffer.

Severe exertion also operates injuriously in greatly increasing the disintegration of the

structures. The blood is thus loaded with effete particles, which, unless rapidly removed, give rise to serious derangements. To favour the elimination of substances so injurious, well-cared for horses, after a hard day's work, are washed with tepid water, well dried, comfortably clothed, and their legs bandaged. The skin is thus left in a condition in which it fulfils its share in the process of purification. Gruel and mashies, rather than dry food, form the bulk of the dietary for twenty-four hours, especially if the exertion has been very violent, and thus the bowels and kidneys are encouraged to drain away by these two important channels any deleterious matters.

But amongst hard-wrought, ill cared-for horses, no precautions are thus taken to mitigate the evils of severe work. The poisonous products of active tissue—metamorphosis—are not got rid of; the chills to which so many horses are exposed when overheated and exhausted interfere with the important purifying influences of the skin; the retained excrementitious matters gradually but certainly undermine health; for a few days there may be only dulness, listlessness, and feverishness; and the animal may still be kept at work; in expressive popular phraseology, the horse does not always die the day he is killed, and three or four days or even a longer period may elapse before the animal is entirely laid up with gastric fever, farcy, glanders or diabetes.

The effete putrescent substances so largely generated by severe exertion cause, as already pointed out, much harm when retained. They are, moreover, apt to irritate and injure the channels or organs by which they are expelled from the body. In this way are explained the diarrhoea which in many horses follows violent exertion, particularly of the description to which an irritable animal is unused, and the inflammation of the kidneys and bladder which sometimes succeeds long and exhausting journeys.

Notable amongst the ways in which horses are overtaxed, is their being urged beyond the pace for which their breeding or condition fits them. Many a good horse that might last for years if driven at six or seven miles an hour, becomes irretrievably knocked up by a few journeys performed at the rate of ten or twelve miles an hour. Proverbially, it is "the pace that kills." Agricultural horses, although their work is seldom very violent or severe, often suffer in busy times from being kept too long in the yoke. Their times of eating and of rest being thus unduly curtailed, derangements of the digestive organs, lassitude, and loss of condition, are entailed. A regularly recurring day of rest is requisite for hard-worked beasts as well as for hard-worked men; and so thoroughly is this now recognised that in all well conducted coaching, bus, and other such establishments, one day of rest per week is allowed to each horse. Many young green horses are overworked, not so much from the actual

severity of the labour required of them, as from their being immature, fat, or unprepared for any work. Hundreds of horses just out of the breeder's, farmer's, or dealer's hands, possibly plump, well made up, but without the condition which properly-regulated exercise alone can give, are put, with little preparation, to severe and even to fast work. They flag at the lightest labour. If urged on, they are, to use an expressive coachy phrase, "knocked out of time," and they largely contribute to fill the veterinary case-book with strained and injured limbs, catarrhs, sore throats, congestion of the lungs, gastric fever, farcy and glanders.—*North British Agriculturist.*

### Veterinary Queries.

A correspondent over the signature "North Dumfries" writes:—

"Can you or any of your numerous correspondents tell me the disease which killed my pigs? I have had seven died with the same trouble. The symptoms were as follows:—they invariably work into a corner of their pen and try to climb up the wall; not succeeding in this, they begin to push with their snouts into the ground with considerable force, when presently they become paralysed and fall down; this shock does not last over two seconds, after which they get up and go round half a dozen times, with some froth coming from their mouths. They die in about fifteen hours from the first attack. I have opened some of them, but they appear to be all right as far as I could judge. No symptoms of inflammation could be seen; liver, lungs, kidneys, and stomach, were all right. Their feed was bran and slops from the kitchen. They were in good condition, about four months old. I gave medicine to some of them, but it did not appear to do any good. The medicine I gave to them was epsom salts, saltpetre and sulphur. I can assign no reason why they should have sickened. Their food was wholesome, their sty was clean and dry, and they were in a thriving condition, until they took this strange trouble, and all died within 18 hours. Please to let me know what you think about it, and give the cure if you have any idea what it is."

Judging from the symptoms presented during the illness of your pigs, we are of opinion that death resulted from disease of the brain, and what is known as frenzy. The causes of this affection are ravenous feeding, &c., and therefore it is most apt to occur in very fat pigs that are full of blood.

As regards treatment, very little can be done, as the disease runs its course so quickly; however, we would recommend a good dose of castor oil, say from six to eight ounces, and also give the tincture of aconite in five drop doses every hour, and apply cold water or ice to the head. As a preventive, feed sparingly for a short time, and give a change of food.