

continuously. A good sponge or a large piece of soft porous rug or flannel is the best means of application. If a poultice can be conveniently applied and secured, it may then be used. There is much diversity of opinion regarding the respective merits of the different sorts of poultices, and whilst some prefer bran, others use turnips, and others again affect oatmeal, linseed, or barley dust. But there is really no special merit in any particular ingredient. That is best which longest retains the heat and moisture, in which the virtue of the poultice essentially consists. For veterinary purposes a mixture of bran and oatmeal, or bran and one third of linseed-meal answers the purpose extremely well, and is always softer and better if properly boiled instead of being only scalded, as is commonly done by water over it. For many bruises, spongio-piline is now preferred, and when saturated with hot water and dexterously secured, it is usually more easily kept on than the poultice, whilst it is less apt when used for a considerable time to injure the adjacent sound skin.

When a contusion of the soft parts is extensive, and there is much tenderness and swelling, a few cuts with the lancet or knife will liberate the extravasated blood, unload the overburdened vessels, check the growing inflammation, and relieve the tension and pain. Of the propriety of such an operation, the properly qualified surgeon must be the judge. To keep down inflammation, perfect rest must be enjoined, a dose of laxative medicine given, oats, beans, and other such stimulating food withheld, and the diet mainly restricted to green food mashies and other such laxative and cooling articles. When an injury has been extensive, a portion of the injured structure frequently dies, and becomes gradually separated by a sort of natural dissection from the adjacent sound tissues, forming what is known as a slough. This dying portion must not be too hastily or roughly removed. By a bloodless amputation, as it were, nature closes up the vessels that connect it with the living tissues, and gradually separates the hopelessly diseased from the healthy tissues, whilst underneath and around the new structures are slowly growing and displacing the slough. Grooms and farriers often adopt a most rude and cruel method of getting rid of such slough. Into the wound they rudely insert some irritant matters which induce violent inflammation in the already excitable parts. Such treatment may certainly hasten the removal of the slough, but it also weakens and extends the wound, retards healing progress and increases the chances of a permanent scar or blemish. Perfect rest, with hot fomentations, moderate the inflammatory action; patience, poultices, and gentle traction usually suffice to bring away any slough; a little landanum and sugar of lead lotion alleviate the pain; the pressure of carefully adjusted bandages and an occasional touch of any convenient caustic prevent the undue growth of proud flesh; whilst as the tenderness disappears the removal of swelling or discoloration is expedited by friction, cold-water applications, and wetting with diluted solution of muriate of ammonia. When the

swelling continues after several weeks, and after all tenderness is gone, and any wound is perfectly closed, the hot oils, blistering ointment, or other such stimulants may be very properly tried. But it must be remembered that they are only useful after all inflammation is subdued, and that when used in recent cases they increase the irritation, and "add fuel to the fire."

FEEDING HORSES.

The feeding of horses is an important subject, on which we will give a hint or two. The actual amount of food consumed by a horse will depend upon his form and disposition. I have found that horses of a compact form and quiet disposition, weighing 1,200 pounds, and exerting a force equivalent to moving 150 or 200 pounds at the rate of two miles per hour, for 10 hours per day, and six days in the week, will require each 20 lbs. of oats, 14 lbs. of hay, and 70 lbs. of water, with a comfortable stable to keep them in order. Much depends upon the horse having a keeper who knows how to use him without harshness.

THE FEEDING AND STABLE MANAGEMENT OF HACKS,

A CORRESPONDENT from the neighbourhood of Arbroath evidently fond of his horses, and probably doubtful whether their stable comforts are duly attended to, requires our advice as to how they should be fed and managed; whether they should wear covers, and how they should be groomed when they return home wet, dirty, and heated. Our correspondent further hazards the opinion that information on such topics would be welcome to many "constant readers" besides himself, and we accordingly make his important queries the text of our weekly article.

It is somewhat difficult to lay down any rules as to the feeding of horses who scap acities differ almost to which the queries, we presume, mainly apply should be limited to a daily allowance of 12 or 15 lbs. of good old hay, and will eat besides about 10 lbs. of old oats, which should be given in three feeds along with along a little chaff or bran, in order to ensure their thorough mastication and digestion. A pound or two of old beans or better still of old peas is often added, especially for harness work. For some years we have been in the habit of allowing our horses a pound daily of linseed cake, which keeps the skin glossy, and helps to contract the heating tendencies of dry hard food. Unless they are being prepared for very severe work, even the lighter sorts of horses are the better of a bran mash once a week. Water should be freely allowed at least twice daily, but never within two or three hours of fast work. To bring well fed horses into good condition, and fit them for severe exertion, they must have at least two hours daily exercise, of which about one half should be at a smart trot. To prevent injury of the legs and feet it is important that horses be exercised on soft ground.

The propriety of keeping the horse clothed