

Veterinary.

Laminitis, Founder.

The disease known as founder or laminitis, or fever in the feet, is one often noticed among the horses of this country, and as its name, *laminitis*, implies, it signifies inflammation of the sensitive laminae. The inflammatory action is however not confined to the laminae alone, but the other sensitive structures are also attacked. Laminitis occurs in the acute and sub-acute form: acute laminitis is a very serious disease, and is one of the most painful the horse is liable to, the parts attacked are extremely sensitive, and its hard and resisting hoof adds to the severity of the diseases of the foot generally.

In laminitis the same changes occur as in inflammation in the other parts of the body. After producing separation of the sensitive and insensitive laminae of the sole, etc., the bone is allowed to descend, causing a bulging of the sole which is known as pumiced foot.

CAUSES.—The heavier breeds of horses that have broad and flat feet are predisposed to laminitis, but it may occur in a very violent form in any kind of feet. The great exciting cause is hard and fast work when an animal is not in a fit condition to undergo violent exertion. The shoe being upon the sole is another common cause, especially in horses with flat feet. It is apt to follow derangement of the digestive organs, and therefore very violent attacks frequently supervene upon an attack of indigestion, or from an animal eating a very large quantity of oats, wheat or barley, or from drinking of cold water immediately after a fast drive, a very common cause in the hot months of summer.

SYMPTOMS.—The acute form of laminitis exhibits all the symptoms of high fever, attended with great pain and disturbance of the normal functions, therefore the pulse is quick, full and bounding, the horse is so sore and stiff that it is with the utmost difficulty he is got to move. The fore feet are oftener affected than the hind ones, and when the disease is altogether confined to the fore feet the action is marked, and peculiar. He throws his weight to a great extent on the hind legs, causing an arching of the loins and trembling at the flanks. When both the hind and front feet are affected, the action is somewhat different; every movement gives him intense agony, and there is a peculiar twitching of the hind limbs at every step. The plantar arteries are throbbing and the feet are extremely hot, the breathing is also quickened and in most cases the bowels are very constipated. If you attempt to force him backward he draws his fore feet along the ground, sometimes he will lie down upon his side with his head stretched out and every now and again pawing with his fore feet. From these symptoms one might fancy that he is suffering from some bowel affection, but if he is forced to rise, the true nature of the disease is very evident.

TREATMENT.—The constitutional symptoms are best relieved by sedatives and purgatives, and in some cases the abstraction of eight or ten quarts of blood is beneficial and the operation of blood letting has been very much extolled in the treatment of laminitis. Experience however tells us that often sedatives are equally as powerful and effective as blood letting, and in most cases I would decidedly give the preference to the *tincture of aconite* which should be given in ten to fifteen drop doses every three hours, and a full dose of purgative medicine, as aloes, eight to ten drachms, should also be administered in all cases where the bowels are constipated. There may be exceptional cases where diarrhoea is present, when, as a matter of course, purgatives would be inadvisable.

The shoes should be removed and the feet enveloped in warm poultices, and bandages applied to the limbs as high up as the knees or hocks. The patient should be placed in a comfortable box or stall, and if he lies down, so much the better, and the body clothed according to the state of the temperature.

Give pure cold water, a little at a time but frequently, which is grateful to the sufferer and also appears to have a sedative effect. In cases where the pain is very severe, it may be considered desirable to administer an opiate.

Clysters of soap and water should be given occasionally until the bowels act.

By the third or fourth day, if the symptoms have become less severe, the sedatives should be discontinued and diuretics given instead, one drench of Iodide of Potassium or Nitrate of Potash morning and night. Whenever the patient can move tolerably well a shoe should be applied, and the best description of shoe is the one recommended by Mr. Broad of London, England. The shoe is thick at the toe, gradually becoming thinner towards the heels, therefore throwing the weight to a great extent upon the frog.

Bleeding from the toe is often practised by farmers in the treatment of laminitis and in most cases it is decidedly injurious, from the emotion produced by cutting into the parts. When however effusion is suspected, the sole must be opened near to the toe and the effusion allowed to escape.

Laminitis is not a fatal disease, but unless it is checked by the fourth to the seventh day, it proves very tedious and may render an animal almost useless. Where a tenderness remains after the acute symptoms are abated it may be advisable to apply a blister along the coronet.

Inflammation of the Bladder in Sheep.

In ordinary fed sheep retention of urine and inflammation of the bladder is not of very frequent occurrence; but highly-fed rams and wethers seem to be peculiarly liable to it. This is a disease which requires the most delicate, and at the same time the most speedy treatment. The animals which become affected are generally those intended for some particular use, such as for exhibition, which have received liberal feeding, and are consequently of more than ordinary value to the stockowner. Being in a highly fed condition, they do not withstand, so well as other sheep, the operations necessary to get rid of the disease, and the fatality from the complaint is great. The disease is induced by gravelly sediment forming in the bladder of the animals, caused, there can be no doubt, by the rich food of which they partake. The first thing to be done when the disease makes its appearance is to endeavour to pass the sediment off by gently rubbing the part where the inflammation is. The part at the same time should be bathed with warm water. Should this have no visible effect upon the inflammation, immediate puncturing of the bladder becomes necessary, or the inflammation being communicated to the kidneys, and subsequently to other parts of the internal organization, the animal will soon succumb to the extreme pain. Some sharp instrument should be used—such as a pair of scissors to penetrate the part with, when, if successfully done, the sediment may be removed. This operation is the only one calculated to save the animal after the disease has exceeded its primary mild form, and should there be any appearance of straining, the sheep should be at once killed. Too much roots, particularly mangolds, are, to a great extent, blameable for this disorder in sheep, so that the farmer should regulate the quantity of this feed when given to his highly-fed animals. While the animal suffers, a small quantity of carbonate of potash—about a drachm dissolved in water, should be given to it once or twice a day. Easily digested food should also be given.—*English Live Stock Journal*.

Hints for Calving Time.

The troubles which attend the calving time of cows are oftentimes and best met in advance by the ounce of prevention, which is better than the pound of cure, or the many pounds of attempt to cure. Especially is this true in the case of heifers with their first calves, when it is all-important to establish a good and healthy habit of coming in right. Old or middle-aged cows, which are well established in good habits of this sort, may be left to go through by themselves, after having been carefully tended in the main operations of feeding and keeping from exposure to cold and wet. But the heifer is entering upon a new experience, which will subject her vital forces to the most extreme tension. A general carefulness in the treatment of all the breeding cows should be rigidly enforced. They should be kept from all sorts of violence and from the fear of it; they should not be made to strain or jump in getting over bars, fences or water gullies; they should not be made to travel faster than a walk; they should not be roughly spoken to; they should not be crowded and jostled among other cattle, or subjected to the pushing or hooking of others; but in all ways they should be handled gently and be made to feel that their master is their friend.

The swelling udder of the heifer should be carefully watched in this, its new experience, the most important function of her existence, since, without a good bag, she will be of small account as a cow. In the case of heifers

and cows which come in early in the season, there is less danger of inflammation from a too great flow of milk than in those which come in when grass is abundant; but this thing should be attended to at all seasons. If the udder is full and hard before calving time, and is likely to become inflamed, the best thing to be done is to draw off some of the milk before resorting to outward applications. If no milk can be drawn, in consequence of the bag having become hard before it was attended to, it should be carefully bathed with warm water, in which a little salt has been dissolved, or in a warm, weak soap-suds. An ointment of hog's lard and cream, or fresh butter with camphor in it, may be rubbed on the bag and teats by the hand.

If everything seems to be going on right with the animal, it is best not to interfere with the healthy process of nature, only to provide nutritious food, dry beds and shelter from the cold storms. If it seems necessary to administer internal preventives or remedies for milk fever, the most approved medicine among our dairymen is a solution of saltpetre, two teaspoonfuls a week for two or three weeks before calving, given as a drench. Plenty of pure water to drink, as well as plenty of good food to eat, is a staple item in the care of cows at the time of calving, as well as at all other times. Cows which are in high flesh are most likely to be troubled with milk fever.

Immediately after having dropped her calf, the cow should be treated to a pailful of warm, thin mush of mill-feed in water, which will assist her vitality to expel the afterbirth, and enable her to go on with the motherly care of her calf, which she knows how to do, and in the doing of which she should not be meddled with, if the calf is able to get upon its feet and go for its dinner.—*Country Gentleman*.

A FRENCH SURGEON, noticing that the foot and mouth disease does not attack cattle affected with the cow-pox, vaccinated twenty five oxen, and not one of them had the disease, though living with animals largely infected with it.

KILLING TICKS.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* sends that paper the following receipt for preparing a mixture to kill ticks on lambs: "One lb. of arsenic, 1 lb. of sulphur, 1 lb. of potash. Take a boiler large enough to hold 6 pailfuls of soft water; heat to a boil with the above mixture; add 1 gallon of soft soap, then stir until all is dissolved, when it is ready for use. To apply I use a pint oiling can with a spout; put carefully on by opening the wool around the whole body. The operator's hands should be free from cuts. I have used the above for many years with success for a flock of 100 sheep."

SADDLE GALLS.—To prevent saddle galls, the saddle should be lined with some smooth, hard substance. Flannel or woollen cloth is bad. A hard finished, smooth, raw-hide lining, similar to those of the military saddles, is preferable. Then, if the saddle is properly fitted to the horses' back, there will be no galls unless the horse is very harshly used. Galls should be washed with soap and water, and then with a solution of six grains of copperas or blue vitriol, to one table-spoonful of water, which will harden the surface and help to restore the growth of skin. White hairs growing upon healed galled spots cannot be prevented.

"BISHOPS" HORSES.—The *Rural World* describes this fraud which consists of operating on the teeth of an old horse with a rasp or file, so as to make them resemble the teeth of a young horse. As the horse grows old the gums shrink away, making the teeth look long—one of the best evidences of old age. The horse's mouth is opened and an instrument put in it, so it can't close it, and the head is tied up high and the bishop rasps down the teeth to about the length of those of a young horse. Sometimes the indentations in the teeth are also made so as to resemble those of a horse six or seven years old, and horses have even been taken by government inspectors, thus operated upon, without detection. The name, we presume, comes from a man by the name of Bishop, who probably introduced the practice. The operation is only carried on in our large cities by sharpers.

FOOT ROT.—The only preventive and perfect cure known to me is a dip in a solution of arsenic. At first my reason for dipping with arsenic was to destroy the parasites which are so injurious to sheep. At that time I dipped in October or November, at length I found September a more suitable time, at which time foot rot, as formerly stated, is very prevalent. I observed that in about two or three weeks after dipping, the cases of foot rot were comparatively few in number. I now dip, if weather permits, about the end of February, which I find to be the most suitable time for the destruction of the parasites, and at the same time for the prevention of foot rot. So perfect is the preventive and cure that in October I now dispose of my draft ewes almost free from the disease. As to murrain or foot-and-mouth, I have not seen much of it, but what I have seen leads me to infer that it is an epidemic of a kind analogous to scarlet fever or smallpox, or as it were a combination of these. I believe the whole system is affected in the same manner as the foot and mouth, only it is more apparent in these parts. In a case of small pox, for example, very severe pain is experienced in the feet, in consequence of the unyielding nature of the sole, the covering of which must be thrown off, so as to allow the inflammation to expand. In like manner the hoof must break up in both mouth and foot-rot.—*Cor. North British Agriculturist*.