

custom of keeping horses' legs tightly bound up in swaddling clothes

As to knee-caps, they are almost as customarily used now as the bridle, or any other essential thing amongst stable equipments. If horses go to exercise they are knee-capped; if they are taken to be shod, the same; and if sent a journey on foot, by rail, or the sea, their legs are benumbed by knee-cap constrictions. Knee-caps must be endured; and, to be kept in position under the varied movements of the leg, they require to be buckled so tight as almost to stop circulation in the limb; which would certainly be the case but for the wonderful provision of nature in so bountifully distributing the blood-vessels which keep up the circulation in the foot. But for these provisions the loss of a foot, or even a part of leg, would be common occurrences amongst horses. As it is, though these extreme consequences are rare, the writer has seen a case, in a valuable horse, where mortification in one fore leg resulted from a tightly applied bandage.

A few words on the use of bandages, to deny the value of which would be to under-estimate one of the main resources in surgical art; but there is a wide margin between use and the abuse to which we are directing attention—water dressings with the nicely applied bandage, which by easy compression effects a given required purpose: these are of great importance. Then, again, in the management of race-horses and hunters, bandages are of use when applied so as not to constitute an abuse; for instance, when such horses return to their stable from hard work, nothing is so effective and refreshing as the process of cleaning them, by properly washing the legs over knees and hocks, as is done by placing the horses' foot in a pail; after which the sponge should be assiduously applied to remove the water. Then they should be rubbed with a wash-leather or clean straw, and afterwards woollen serge bandages should be even and not tightly applied from the feet to knees and hocks. This is sound practice. Thus the horse is put into comfortable—viz., a salutary state. The groom then proceeds to finish dressing him over his head and body—which will take from twenty minutes to an hour—when the bandages should be taken off, and the legs rubbed with dry straw, linen cloths, hand, or alternately of all these; and if the stable be clean and properly ventilated, the animal will be in the best possible state to speedily recover from the fatigue, and to be fit for work again.

Whilst pointing to this use of the bandages we are not sanguine of its being preferable to rubbing the legs dry, only that time is economised, which is an object gained, favourable to the groom of some otherwise required labour. We agree in all the uses of the bandage, both as an agent in the hands of the veterinary surgeon and for the contemporary application, as above shown, in stable management; but would not

more allow horses to stand muffled up during the whole night, or any considerable part of a day, than we would go to bed with worsted stockings on our feet and legs.

It should be needless to say much more about knee-caps; it might be thought, looking at the bolstering-up customs, that the horse was the most infirm and unsafe of all quadrupeds, or even bipeds, instead of being the most agile, powerful, and beautifully formed, as he is.

A late friend of ours used to say, "You may tell the measure of a man's brains by looking at his boots. Now, if we try the test by the way people manage their horses, their feet and legs especially, the results will be startling; some apply leather soles and tar to the bottom of their horse's feet, and then jam and nail the whole down under an iron shoe; then they begin and bandage, which process consists of flannel passed several times round from the horses' knee to the hoof; and then, as before said, on frequent occasions, above all these the knee caps are strapped round, acting like an imperfect tourniquet.

Oh! if the poor horse could speak, what would he not exclaim against his tormentors? It never enters the mind, or at least the subject has not been recognised, so as to lead people to understand that a horse's feet perspire, that legs also, like the whole surface of his body, exhale and breathe every instant during life; and yet he is treated somewhat analogous to the placing of his legs in boots impervious of canvas, with a pitch plaster for the sole, and an ill-adapted iron rim to tread upon. All the rest is left to chance, and when the horse becomes lame or sick that goes to the chapter of accidents.

One thing against immediate amendement in these evils is that they are young compared to some others, and may be considered as yet on trial. In the meantime, these observations will be in readiness to receive consideration.—*Cor. of Scottish Farmer.*

CURE FOR SCOURS IN CALVES.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—A few weeks since I noticed in the *Co. Gent.* an article on "Curing Scours in Calves," in which the writer argued that the correct way to cure the complaint was to doctor the cow instead of the calf, as the milk being in an unhealthy or unsuitable state, caused the difficulty, and that certain ingredients given to the cow would correct and regulate the condition of the milk, and cure the complaint in the calf. Now this theory may be true, and the reasoning correct, but it appears to me that the difficulty is more likely to be in the unhealthy state of the digestive organs of the calf than in the cow, and that suitable remedies given to the calf would be more likely to effect a cure than if given to the cow.

At the time I saw the article referred to, I had a calf that I was fattening, but it would