

Veterinary.

Galls and Bruises by the Collar.

BY PROF. JAMES LAW, ITHACA, N. Y.

At the present season, when farm horses are pushed through the spring's work, though their skins are sensitive and their systems depressed by the shedding of their coats and the changing season, they are especially susceptible to injuries from the collar, and many an animal is condemned to idleness for weeks when his services are most valuable, or if his owner is more necessitous or less compassionate, is forced to work under much and constant suffering. To obviate this a little timely care will often go far, and even when a slight injury has been sustained the parts may often be restored and a more dangerous result warded off.

GALLS—CHAFING.—The most common injuries are such as affect the sensitive skin only. The continuous and unwonted pressure, together with the accumulation of perspiration, dandruff and sebaceous matter, sets up a local inflammation, and the exudation of a liquid from the vessels into the substance of the integument. This may raise the scurf skin in the form of minute blisters, which burst and leave small raw sores, that are increasingly sensitive to renewed contact with the collar. These may still further inflame, scab over, break, bulge out in proud flesh, or become excavated deeper and deeper, while their margins become thick, angry and irregular. Or the exudation may be mainly into the deeper parts of the skin, causing circumscribed painful swellings or lumps, which in certain systems or under the stimulus of renewed irritation, advance to the formation of pustules or small collections of white, creamy pus, which burst, leaving extremely tender and sometimes intractable sores.

Such chafing and inflammation cannot in all cases be prevented, yet in all much may be done by care. Horses should be brought into the best condition possible before the more severe labors of spring are demanded of them. If from a long period of idleness, neglect, irregular feeding or watering, the functions of digestion, nutrition and the removal of waste materials are imperfectly performed, the skin will show a special lack of resistance, and a susceptibility to slight disturbing causes. If to this is added the profuse perspiration from the skins of animals out of condition, the increased circulation which this implies, and the relaxed, water-soaked condition of the surface, we find an ample explanation of the special liability to injury. Horses, therefore, by liberal feeding, exercise and grooming, should be kept in fair condition up to the time of the commencement of spring's work. This counsel must not, however, be construed into an advice to fatten such horses, to make them plethoric, nor to feed agents that are in themselves specially heating. The fat and the plethoric horse will perspire most freely and prove most obnoxious to chafing, while the horse fed mainly on Indian corn and other heating agents will prove equally sensitive. While on this subject of feeding, it is well to state that musty hay or grain, irregular feeding, watering to excess on very cold water when heated or fatigued, and watering just after a feed of grain, are each liable to derange the digestive organs and to induce a special tenderness and susceptibility of the skin.

The next consideration is the fit of the collar. This should be perfectly adapted to the size and form of the neck, and ought not to be too large when the horse is thin and too small when he is fat. It should be smooth and even, and should have the draught taken from proper points, neither too high nor too low. When a horse shows the slightest heat, tenderness or swelling of the skin

of the shoulder, it should be sponged with warm water on returning from work, and when clean a little tincture of arnica, having a drachm of sugar of lead added to every four ounces of the tincture, may be applied. This may be repeated frequently in the intervals of work. When the injury is more severe, so as to cause blisters, undular swellings or sores, the animal must be laid off work; or if this cannot be done, the part of the collar which presses on the sore must be carefully marked out and an incision having been made with a knife a full inch on each side of it, the padding corresponding to the injured part must be pulled out and the lining of the collar then beaten down so as to make a distinct concavity and avoid all further pressure. The arnica and lead lotion may be used for these as for the other case, unless there is an open sore, when a drachm each of alum and carbolic acid in a pint of water may be used instead.

BRUISES—SWELLINGS.—Large swellings of the shoulder occurring in the parts beneath the skin, and varying from the size of a hickory nut to that of a human head, are the direct results of bruises, and may be caused by uneven, badly-fitting collars, by plunging irritably into the collar to start a heavy load, by jars connected with unexpected stepping into a hole or furrow, or from violent contact with other horses, with pole, manger, posts, &c. These swellings are usually not only beneath the skin, but under the superficial muscles as well, and are at first very hard, hot and tender, but *pit* when pressed with the tips of the fingers. Later this *pit* on pressure is no longer seen, and the mass is intensely hard, with, in rare cases, obscure and uncertain fluctuation from contained liquid. Their prevention will demand all those precautions advised to ward off chafing, and a gentle control and care of young, untrained and irritable animals. In treating such swellings it may be taken for granted that each contains a collection of matter in the centre, which must be allowed to escape before a recovery can be secured. This is at first simple semi-solid lymph, which in part speedily degenerates into pus in the centre, while the outer portion, developed into a fibrous covering and surrounded by strong, resistant fibrous structures, acquires great thickness and effectually and permanently imprisons the pus. The object should be to allay the early inflammation and hasten the formation of matter by continuous warm fomentations; or if that is inexpedient, by keeping the shoulder constantly covered by four or five thicknesses of woolen blanket wet with water. When this has been kept up from four to six days, so that the swelling no longer *pits* on pressure, it is ready to open, even if no softening can be detected. According to the size of the swelling, the matter may be found an inch from the surface, or it may be found six, but in any case it should be reached and evacuated. After this, keep the wound clean and daily inject a little of the last named lotion for the sores until the cavity heals from the bottom outward.

Thick Wind or Broken Wind.

They are distinct diseases, and differ widely in their nature and symptoms. Thick wind, called roaring in the eastern States and in Europe, consists in breathing with a loud unnatural sound on violent exertion, heard particularly when a horse is galloping or pulling a heavy load up an incline; also in fast trotting. It is also known under the following terms, viz.:—whistling, wheezing, and piping, which are only different degrees or modifications of the same disease, and are due to chronic disease of the head of the windpipe, (larynx), consisting of a paralysis and wasting of the muscles of that organ. It is often a sequel of severe attacks of distemper, laryngitis or bronchitis, which cause a diminution of the calibre of the larynx and and bronchial tubes, from a permanent thickening of the mucous membrane lining them. [Any of

its forms are incurable, constitute unsoundness, and unfit the animal, except when affected in a slight degree, for fast work. Broken wind or heaves is a peculiar, difficult form of breathing in the horse, in some respects resembling asthma in the human being: It results from a dilatation and rupture of the large air cells of the lungs and smaller bronchia, complicated with a disordered condition of the digestive organs, all dependent on an impaired state of an important nerve, which supplies the heart, lungs and stomach with nervous influence, viz., the pneumogastric. The characteristics are a well-defined and double expiration seen at the flank, and performed during each respiration, that is much increased by exertion. The term heavy is given to this double action, and when once seen it is apt to be remembered—the horse has a low, suppressed cough, which occurs in paroxysms, especially after drinking, or while eating dry hay; he has a depraved, ravenous appetite, and often becomes pot-bellied. This class of horses, when worked steadily, are hard to keep looking well, and when put to fast work or heavy draught are much distressed in their breathing; but with proper feeding and care they can be made useful horses for slow work. Any degree of broken wind or heaves constitutes unsoundness, and has a tendency to increase with age.

Ontario School of Agriculture—Closing Exercises 1877-78.

The closing exercises of the examinations, held at Easter, of the Ontario School of Agriculture, were held on March 29th, at the College Lecture room. The college is to meet again after an intermission of a fortnight, when it is expected, the majority of the first-course pupils will complete their course; and it is to be hoped that some of the seniors will attend the courses to complete their course of instruction. There was a generally expressed wish that the accommodation for pupils be increased. And there are rumours that other improvements must be made. A preparatory English class, and, also, a finishing class are spoken of as necessities for the future.

Among the visitors present were the Hon. Prov. Treasurer, Hon. A. McKellar, Hon. P. Gow, Professors Croft, Buckland, Smith, Messrs. Klotz, Whitton, Howard, Elliott, Goldie, Clark, Anderson, Laidlaw, Torrance, Bathgate, Chadwick, Hobson, Mahon, Scott, Hamel, McFarlane, McCraig, and others.

There were appropriate addresses from Mr. Johnston, Prof. Buckland, Hon. Mr. Wood, Prof. Smith, Prof. Croft, Hon. A. McKellar, Mr. McCraig, Mr. Boyle, Rev. Mr. Torrence, Messrs. Peterson, Whitton, Hamel, and Waddell.

Space forbids giving the full list of successful candidates.

Second year Agr.—First Honours, Warven, Naismith, Logan, Crompton and Farlinger.

Vet. Pathology—Warren, Naismith, Earlinger, Logan.

Vet. Materia Medica—Naismith, Logan, Stewart, Graham.

Organic and Animal Chemistry—Warren, Crompton, Naismith.

Agr. Chemistry—Warren, Naismith, Logan.

Ec. Botany and Entomology—Naismith, Warren, Graham, Stewart.

Meteorology—Warren and Naismith, Crompton, Logan and Stewart, Graham.

Pol. Economy and English Lit.—Naismith, Warren, Earlinger.

Surveying and Levelling—Warren and Logan, Naismith, Crompton, Stewart.

Mensuration—Logan, Warren, Crompton, Naismith.

First Year 1 & 2 Agr.—Brocker, Randall; Chemistry—Randall, Lawton; Zoology—Lawson, Gillespie; Botany—Nichol, Dunkin; Geology—Nichol, Dunkin; Vet. Anatomy—Jopling, Nichol; Vet. Materia Medica—Clark, Lackman; English—Barclay, Lawson; Mathematics—Lawson, Gillespie; Agriculture—Stover, Dunkin.