

looked upon by horsemen as local affections, and the only question with them is as to which of the various lotions and ointments in use are best adapted for the purpose of curing them.

All the phases of disease referred to are continually occurring, and every owner of a horse, and certainly every man engaged in attending upon animals, is familiar with them, and is armed with specifics, which he is inclined to estimate at very high value as curative agents.

It must however be evident that as the symptoms described are often due to defective nutrition, they can only be effectually dealt with by a course of treatment, which is directed to the cure of the derangement of the organs concerned in the process of nutrition, and therefore the very common disorders, loss of condition, hidebound, constipation, diarrhoe, surfeit, and other disorders of the skin and its appendages, are not to be treated empirically as temporary local disturbances, but demand a careful inquiry as to their origin before any attempt at cure is made.

An expert would naturally commence an investigation by an examination of the sick animal, and it is possible that he might at once detect symptoms which would enable him to determine the nature of the disease, and the part of the digestive system which was implicated. Certain signs—for example, a yellow tint on the surface of the skin, and the visible mucous membrane—would suggest disorder of the liver, and the physical character of the dung and the urine would afford further evidence of value.

An irritable state of the skin, either with or without eruptions, dry cough, irregular appetite, with a predilection for indigestible food, are signs which indicate general derangement of the mucous membrane of the digestive system. Hidebound is a state which suggests defective action of the secreting organs.

In seeking for the causes of any form of indigestion, the inquirer can hardly avoid suspecting the food or water, or both; and in this matter the experienced man is careful not to trust to statements made to him by the attendant, nor even by the owner, as both may, in perfect good faith, make remarks which, if accepted without question, may lead to a false conclusion. It is not at all unlikely that an inquiry as to the food which is given, will be met by the positive statement that all the horses have been fed on the same provender for months past, and that all the rest are doing

well; whereas a critical investigation might lead to the discovery of the fact that, while all were fed on oats, hay, and bran, the sick horses had been fed on a particular lot of provender which may be found to be of very different quality to the rest.

A very remarkable case, which occurred many years ago, on a breeding farm of repute, will illustrate this proposition. A number of valuable Shorthorns belonging to a well known breeder died in quick succession with symptoms which indicated acute disease of the stomach and intestines. No solution of the mystery was apparent. It was roundly asserted by the breeder and his men that the food and water could have nothing to do with the matter, as all the cattle were fed in exactly the same way, and no fresh oil-cake or other article of food had been brought to the farm for some time. At length, on an analysis of the rumen of one of the cattle which died being made, mustard seeds in large quantities were found; and on this evidence the whole system of feeding was subjected to a careful scrutiny, and it was at once discovered that a special parcel of oil-cake, which had been brought on the farm with the general store, had been put into a particular shed, and had been exclusively used for feeding the lot of cattle which had died. An analysis of a sample of the cake which remained proved that it was adulterated with mustard seed, and, after the use of the adulterated cake was discontinued, no further cases appeared. This example is interesting, as an instance of accepting a verbal statement of the persons who are engaged about the sick animal, instead of instituting a careful inquiry into the whole system of management, and a close inspection of every article of food.

The character of the water is always a matter of importance, but no useful information can as a rule be gained by merely looking at the fluid. Perfectly bright water may contain poisonous ingredients, and a somewhat dirty fluid may be quite harmless, so, that the aid of the analytical chemist is necessary to determine whether it is good or bad.

To remove the cause of disease as soon as it is detected is a reasonable precaution, which can generally be adopted when a horse is concerned. In the case of cattle and sheep on pasture, it is not always an easy matter to provide a totally new food supply, even when it is known that the animals are suffering from the quality of the