

of the flexor pedis perforans. The fibres of the tendon are very apt to be lacerated at this part, inflammation sets in, which is transmitted to the joint, and in many cases gives rise to severe lameness,—this disease is known as Navicularthrites, and is of most common occurrence in horses with short, upright pasterns, and out-turned toes, as in them the distance between the insertion of the tendons and the navicular bone is so short, and the angle formed so acute, that the tendon is exceedingly liable to be ruptured. Covering the sensible structure is the Hoof (X). The hoof of the horse represents a sort of box or casement, which envelops the inferior extremity of the digit applied in a very exact manner to the sensible foot, and united to it by elevations and depressions which fit into each other. By maceration the hoof is divisible into three parts, viz.: the wall, sole and frog. The wall, also called the crust, is the part visible when the foot is on the ground, highest anteriorly at toe, decreasing as it proceeds backward. At the posterior part the wall takes a sudden inflection inwards, at an acute angle, continued to the centre of the foot, where it unites with the sole the angle of reflection receives the name of heel, the portion inflected is called the bars. The external surface of the wall is smooth, and consists of a cuticular covering continuous with the coronary frog band. The internal surface of the wall presents throughout its whole extent parallel plates or laminae, between which are received plates of a similar form.

The superior or coronary surface of the wall of the hoof presents a groove sloped downwards and inwards, forming a gutter in which is lodged the coronary ligament or substance. The inferior surface of the wall is in contact with the ground, and is the part to which the shoe is attached.

The sole is the thick plate of horn between the inner circumference of the wall and bars, occupying the inferior portion of the foot—the external surface of the sole forms a sort of vault more or less concave—the internal surface is smooth, presenting numerous minute orifices, into which are inserted the vascular papillae of the sensible sole.

The Frog is a mass of horn of a somewhat triangular shape, placed between the bars. The inferior surface presents a triangular cavity called the cleft of the frog: the superior surface, like the sole, presents numerous orifices into which are received the vascular portions of the fatty frog. Passing round the superior surface of the wall from the heel is a broad thin band called the coronary frog band; this band serves to unite the cuticular covering of the wall with the coronary substance. The coronary substance or ligament occupies the concavity on superior surface of the wall. This substance is made up of a fibro cartilaginous band united to the coffin bone by dense cellular tissue. Resting on this cartilaginous band is

a plexus of bloodvessels, the whole being covered by a cuticular coat covered with small pores which enter into pores in the superior surface of the wall. In continuation of this substance are the sensible laminae, which are united to the coffin bone through the intervention of dense fibrous membrane in which ramify the bloodvessels. The laminae consist of about five hundred parallel folds, and cover the whole circumference of the pedal bone. Each of the sensitive laminae is received between and firmly attached to two of the horny laminae situated on the internal side of the wall of the hoof.

The laminae are continuous at the toe with the sensible sole, which is made up of a very elastic vascular membrane and covered with a cuticular coat possessing villi which penetrate the sole of Os Pedis.

Occupying the posterior and centre part the foot is the fatty or sensible frog, which is bounded superiorly by the tendon perforated laterally by the lateral cartilages, inferiorly by the horny frog, and in continuation with the sensible sole and coronary substance. The frog is made up of, first of a thick layer of greenish, elastic substance above, which is a plexus of bloodvessels, and also fibro cartilage and lastly the cuticular covering with its vascular villi.

The horn constituting the hoof presents fibrous appearance, most distinct in the wall. This substance is made up of minute tubes united together by an intertubular substance composed of cells; these tubes are secreted from the vascular villi of coronary substance of the sensible sole, and frog.

THE IMPROPRIETY OF PURGATIVES IN SOME CASES OF ABDOMINAL INFLAMMATION.

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There is an abdominal inflammation in which purgatives render the symptoms much more aggravated, and frequently induce death in cases which would recover under an opposite mode of treatment. The affection alluded to is peritonitis, or inflammation of the lining membrane of the abdomen, the outer covering of the stomach intestines, liver, spleen, and other contents of the cavity. It is frequently mistaken for colic or gripes, perhaps for constipation, or for ordinary inflammation of the bowels. Purgatives are administered; instead of getting better, the case gets worse. The reason it does so, as an effect from purgative medicine, is very simple, though it has hitherto escaped the notice of veterinarians. The affected membrane in its healthy state is very smooth on its surface, which is lubricated with a moisture. This, by diminishing friction between the different parts coming in contact with and gliding past each other,