

individual and the favourable or unfavourable condition of its surroundings in the generative organs. This constitutes the incubative period, which may last from one to two weeks or much longer.

THE PRIMARY STAGE is ushered in after the germs have developed sufficient activity to produce irritation in the adjacent tissues, whether observable or not. In the stallion the mucous membrane of the urethral canal (passage through which urine is voided) exhibits the first sign of irritation; its external opening at the end of the penis (*Meatus Urinarius*) assumes a bright red colour, accompanied by swelling, which may cause it to bulge out prominently, followed by a discharge, at first almost imperceptible, but increasing in quantity as the disease progresses.

The above mentioned symptoms are often very meagre, and frequently overlooked, especially so with the unsuspecting. During this period, however, the stallion is a positive infective agent, his desire for serving mares being greatly increased and his ability to perform this function not seriously impaired.

The possibility of widespread infection, if such a case is not detected and immediately placed under restraint, can be readily appreciated.

As the disease advances the irritation of the generative organs increase, frequent erections of the penis follow, this organ often attaining unusual proportions, and occasionally swelling to such an extent as to prevent its complete return to the sheath. Urination is performed often and incompletely, the urine being mixed with a mucous discharge varying in quantity, and the act is often accompanied by switching of the tail or stamping of the feet, due to the irritable condition of the parts.

Red spots may appear on the penis and adjacent parts; these may disappear rapidly with a tendency to return, or they may increase in virulence, forming discharging sores.

White spots, due to loss of pigment (colouring matter of the skin), may indicate previous eruptions on the penis, sheath and surrounding tissues. This condition is often well marked, in some cases the spots forming large patches, which may involve the major portion of the penis, changing it to a dirty yellowish white, rough and unhealthy looking organ, while in others, they are only slightly perceptible or altogether absent.

A gradual swelling of the sheath becomes noticeable, and is frequently the first symptom observed; this swelling often involves the scrotum and testicles, and may extend to the abdomen and limbs. The character of the swelling is generally cold, doughy and passive, and it may obstinately persist, disappear rapidly, remain absent, or return frequently. Occasionally it is hot, tender and painful and shows a tendency to the formation of vesicles and erosions of the tissues, accompanied by a purulent discharge.

The penis, in many cases, becomes protruded from the sheath continually, the animal being unable to retract it, owing to the loss of such power, or to the excessive amount of swelling present. The appetite still remains unimpaired, and no serious constitutional disturbances are yet observable.

In the mare the symptoms are somewhat similar, differing only in accordance with the anatomical and physiological structures of the generative organs. The same variable incubative period follows infection as in the male. The preliminary symptoms are also of a very imperfect type, and difficult to detect, unless suspicions have been previously aroused. They are most frequently insidious, and consequently very dangerous, necessitating, as in the stallion, every precaution, where the slightest cause for suspicion exists.

On close observation, however, a discharge may be noticed from the vulva (external opening), the mucous membrane lining it and the vagina (canal from external opening to the womb) gradually assumes a discoloured, thickened and rough appearance, giving evidence of increasing irritation and the consequent inflammatory results. Red spots may make their appearance on the vaginal membrane, and when present, are especially noticeable in the region of the already thickened and erect clitoris (the part commonly

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