

Give the Scrubs No Quarter.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—Long may the JOURNAL wage war among the scrubs. I thought so much of the pure Canadian cow Scrubess that I cut her picture out of the JOURNAL and put her in a nice frame with a suitable glass in front, and hung her up in my room alongside of Lady Fragrant, the Booth Shorthorn cow. I wish I had the whole herd of the natives that were exhibited at Sherbrooke, 1886. I would have had them all framed. I show Scrubess to every scrub man that comes to see me, and I say to him, "Look at the contrast." They answer, "There is lots of milk in Scrubess." I tell them, "The milk will stay there, it will never be milked out." I wish I could send every scrub in the world to Chicago and let the anarchists blow them up with dynamite, which would surely be the last of them.

WISCONSIN.

Veterinary.

Strangles or Distemper.

BY F. C. GRENSIDE, V. S., GUELPH, ONT.

This is an affection peculiar to the horse tribe. It has been looked upon by some as a necessary disease—that is, that every horse is certain to have it during some time of his life. Certainly a very large majority of them are subjects of it, but undoubtedly some escape its attack.

Another popular impression is, that it is a disease of youth, but although most horses suffer from it before the process of dentition is completed, still we see in practice many instances in which not only middle aged, but old horses, develop the disorder.

It is not a common experience for it to attack an animal more than once, but a second and even a third attack has been noticed.

For a concise definition of the disease, it is hard to improve on the old one, viz.—that it is an eruptive fever.

Only one horse in the stable may take it, but as a rule first one, then another, and often a number at the same time, contract the disorder, until it goes all through the inhabitants of a stable. It is seldom when it is well established that it ever misses a colt, in an establishment at any rate.

It is a disease that in many instances develops somewhat slowly; a colt as a rule shows a more or less lengthened period of unthriftiness; the bloom of health seems to be lost. There is generally a dryness of the coat, the belly is tucked up on account of the animal feeding daintily, and there is a loss of flesh. The urine voided seems small in quantity and of a milky appearance and consistence. The solid droppings although perhaps not unduly dry, have an unnaturally foul odor.

The feature that strikes the casual observer most strongly is want of thrift, and it may be the only symptom that attracts his attention until the subject begins to cough and it may be discharge at the nose. At the period at which the cough makes its appearance, it may not be an easy matter to say definitely whether it is a case of sore throat or strangles, unless the premonitory symptoms have been pronounced. But if there has been a preceding unthriftiness, it is generally safe to decide that it is strangles in its incipient stage.

After several days coughing, the characteristic symptom of the disease shows itself by the appearance of a swelling of varying size, but evident soreness, between the branches of the lower jaw. It is a hard, tender, well defined swelling, which increases in size as a rule, until it becomes soft in the centre, and the hair falls off the soft portion.

This softening and falling off of the hair, indicates that matter is present in the interior, which the breaking of the skin and its discharge spontaneously renders evident.

In some instances there is a tardiness in the formation of matter, and the swelling may even disappear without it forming.

Although the abscess in the jaw is the distinctive sign of distemper in the horse, it is not it alone that gives the animal discomfort; in fact, in most cases, the inflammation in connection with the throat causes most suffering. The inflammation and resultant swelling narrow the canal for the passage of air, and often give rise to distressed, labored and noisy breathing. The noise made in breathing can sometimes be heard from twenty-five to fifty yards away.

Not only is breathing interfered with, but the act of swallowing is rendered impossible in some instances. A small quantity of solid food may be taken, but it is seldom swallowed, and water may be partially swallowed, then returned through the nose. The water emitted from the nose varies from a small quantity to one of great profuseness, according as the attack is a mild or violent one. The difficulty in swallowing and breathing gives rise to the appellative, strangles. Unless the throat symptoms attain great severity, this form of the trouble is seldom serious; in fact, it often runs its course in ten days or a fortnight, and the animal is convalescent, beginning to pick up in condition rapidly.

In addition to the symptoms already mentioned or associated with them, or following them, we may have some others of a more serious nature. The symptoms already described are those of what is called simple or regular strangles, or the usual manifestation of the disease. But as has been said, another form of this ailment occurs, which is of a more serious character, and is usually designated irregular strangles. In this phase of the trouble, the swellings or abscesses present themselves in more unfavorable situations, unfavorable, inasmuch as the tissues or organs which they involve are more important as regards their offices, and more difficult of satisfactory treatment on account of their position in the animal economy.

In addition to the abscess between the branches of the lower jaw, or without its occurrence, we frequently find them forming further back near the throat, but a favorite situation is below the root of the ear behind the border of the lower jaw; in fact, involving the salivary gland situated there.

Sometimes the swellings occur in the cheeks, and very occasionally on the poll. They may be independent of the head altogether and present themselves at the shoulder, between the base of the neck and the shoulder joint. In this situation the swelling is usually very large, and no evidence of pointing shows itself, the walls of the abscess being very thick.

There is nothing particularly dangerous about the abscess locating in this situation, but the local treatment necessitates a certain amount of knowledge and care, and is likely to call for attention for some time. Not very unfrequently the eruption occurs in the chest or belly, in connection with vital organs, and then such a case is almost certain to terminate fatally, for it is seldom that the indications are sufficiently definite as to the exact location of the abscess as to justify surgical interference, or render any likelihood of it being successful.

Occasionally the groin has been observed to be the seat of the abscess.

Undoubtedly the most serious complications of the disorder are to be found in the severity of the throat symptoms and the involvement of important organs in

the local swellings. The morbid condition of the blood although serious and causing marked constitutional disturbance, is not found practically to be so much a source of danger as the untoward complications mentioned.

(To be Continued.)

Swollen Jaw.

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SIR,—Will you please tell me in your next issue what is the matter with this steer. It had a big lump on the back end of its lower jaw in the summer, which was very sore. We tried to get iodine on it, but it was so tender we could not do much with it. Last winter we had a cow afflicted with the same complaint. It fills up with matter, and after awhile bursts; then after awhile it dries up, but takes a long while. If you could find some room in your next issue to tell me the cause, name, and treatment of this complaint, I would be much obliged, as it makes them lose flesh very considerably.

EDWARD. H. DE GEX.

Walford, Feb. 7, 1888.

ANSWER BY F. C. GRENSIDE, V. S., GUELPH.

Recent investigations have thrown some light upon the nature of these swellings, so frequently present in the region of the lower jaw of the ox, and sometimes on the upper jaw. In some instances the bone of either the upper or lower jaw is primarily the seat of the trouble. The disease of the bone extends, and involves considerable of that structure, and also the soft tissue immediately surrounding the diseased bone; finally the skin and subcutaneous structures immediately over the swollen bone burst, and discharge a bloody-like material, from a raw, ragged-edged wound. The teeth in the diseased jaw usually become loosened, and the animal can only masticate imperfectly, consequently falls off in condition.

This form of the trouble is usually incurable, but I have seen blistering in the first stages occasionally do good. Removal of the diseased bone is recommended by some authorities, but it is seldom practicable.

There is another phase of the same disease, of which the case described in the question, is, I think, an example.

A round swelling occurs sometimes between the branches of the lower jaw, but usually in the region of the throat, it may be up toward the root of the ear. It increases slowly in size, but is always more or less painful, and hard to the touch, for a considerable time, but may subsequently fluctuate on pressure, indicating the presence of matter. It will usually burst of its own accord, but whether this occurs, or it is opened by the knife, there will be a discharge of white, flaky, clotted matter. Matter will be present as a rule, for a considerable time before fluctuation is perceptible, but in the first stages when the growth is small, none may be present. Before matter has formed a blister has been found to dissipate the swelling in some instances, but if matter is present, it is better to open the sac and give it exit. If proper measures are not adopted, the healing process is very tardy.

I have found the following treatment very successful. After the sac is thoroughly cleansed of matter by syringing out with water, take a solution of corrosive sublimate, in the proportion of one drachm to four ounces of water. Syringe some of this in with a glass syringe once a day, and prevent it from escaping by stopping up the opening with cotton batting. Repeat this once a day for several days, or until the interior of the sac begins to assume a healthy aspect; it will then heal rapidly as a rule.

That form of the disease in which the bone is involved was until recently considered to be of a cancerous nature, while the other growths were generally considered to be tuberculous, and it is likely that some of them are, but it is pretty certain that a good many of them are not.

Dr. John, of Dresden, found in these growths small vegetable organisms—actinomyces. These fungi have also been found by other observers, but their true importance was not determined until John produced the disease, by inoculating healthy subjects in various parts with the vegetable parasites, from a tumor of the jaw. He also produced the disease by injecting the parasites suspended in water into the veins of cattle. Other investigators have confirmed his observations.