

THE HORSE.

Wounds and Their Results.—II.

INCISED WOUNDS CON.

When bleeding has been arrested, as discussed in a former issue, or in cases where bleeding has not been excessive, and required no special treatment or control, the hair should be clipped closely for at least an inch from the lips of the wound all around. It is well to clip before washing the wound, as if not done until after the wound has been cleansed, some of the hair clipped off will enter the wound and necessitate more work. All blood clots, dirt, hair and foreign matter of all kinds should now be removed by syringing with hot water containing about 3 or 4 per cent. of carbolic acid, one of the coal-tar antiseptics or other good disinfectant. In syringing a wound care should be taken to not injure its surface by undue pressure. It is quite sufficient to squeeze the water out of the syringe and allow it to flow over the wound, the syringe, in most cases, not coming in direct contact with the tissues. If any foreign particles be firmly imbedded they should be removed by the use of forceps, or the fingers, which should be disinfected before coming in contact with the flesh. Cleaning a wound by the use of a brush cannot be too highly condemned. The wound should be carefully examined, and, if the instrument that inflicted it has penetrated the muscular tissue to a lower point than that to which the skin is severed, thereby forming a sac or pocket from which serum or pus cannot escape, the opening in the skin must be enlarged to the lowest point of the wound in the muscles; or, if the difference in depth be considerable, a counter and independent opening should be made through the skin and underlying tissues to connect the lowest point of the wound in order to afford effective drainage. It is seldom that this condition exists in incised wounds.

Having observed the above preparations, the wound is now ready to be sutured or stitched. The materials used for sutures are many; carbolized silk or catgut is the best. This can be purchased in different sizes, ready for use, from dealers in veterinary supplies, or from druggists, but for suturing the skin a few strands of ordinary shoe-makers' or saddlers' hemp slightly twisted and slightly waxed with bees-wax answers the purpose well. A suture requires to be strong and at the same time rather soft, as fine, hard sutures more readily cut through the tissues and skin if there be considerable tension. The needle should be a curved suture needle, but where one of these cannot be procured a large darning needle can be used with reasonable satisfaction.

Various forms of sutures are used, as the interrupted, the interrupted and the quilled. The first-named, as the word indicates, is that in which the whole wound is stitched without the suture thread being severed; the stitches are continuous, as a person would stitch a rent in a garment. This form is not used except in cases where there is absolutely no tension, or in some cases in suturing an internal organ. The interrupted suture is generally used. This is where each stitch is tied and the thread severed, thus rendering each stitch independent of the others. This is the favorite suture from the fact that a stitch may be severed, broken or torn out and the others not thereby interfered with. When the wound is a transverse one, and the gaping considerable, the tension upon the sutures will be in proportion, and in some cases so great that there is danger of the sutures tearing through the tissues quickly. In such cases the "quilled suture" is often employed. This consists in a double thread being used; they are tied together, the skin pierced by the needle about an inch from the edge on each side, and when the suture is pulled up, a piece of cane, whalebone or wood is passed through the loop made by the two ends being tied together. The suture is then cut, leaving sufficient length to allow another quill being tied firmly against the skin. Each stitch is used in this manner. A quill may be used for two or more stitches, but most operators prefer separate quills for each. This causes the tension to be greatly exerted upon the quills, rather than upon the suture thread, hence the stitches are more likely to withstand the tension without cutting through the tissue.

Having decided upon the form of suture to use, the operator will proceed to close the wound. It is necessary to have an antiseptic solution (such as recommended for cleansing the wound) to disinfect the hands of the operator, the suture, needle and all instruments used.

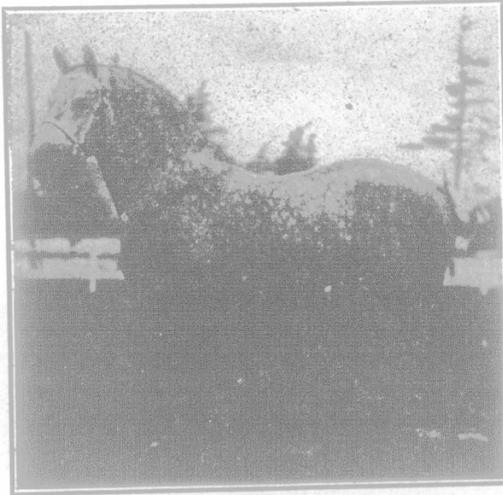
Precaution to secure the safety of the operator must be observed. This is probably the most essential point to be observed in veterinary surgery. The patient must be secured in such a manner that he cannot injure the operator or his assistants, and at the same time not injure himself. In some cases it is necessary to cast and secure the patient in order to dress and stitch a wound, but in most cases if a twitch be applied to the upper lip, and a strap with a long, strong rope attached, is buckled around one hind pastern, the rope passed between the fore legs, then over the neck and drawn until the hind foot is brought forwards and upwards until it cannot reach the ground, and the rope tied, it is all that is necessary. When the hind foot is in this position the patient can neither kick, strike with the fore feet nor rear. He may throw himself, and if so he can be secured when down, and the operation proceeded with. When one fore foot is held up or tied up, it exerts some restraint, but the patient can rear, strike or kick, hence the operator is not safe. Having secured the animal and having clipped the hair off closely on each side of the wound in order to prevent any of it being pulled through the tissues and

retarding the healing process, the wound is then sutured, a stitch being inserted about every three-quarters of an inch. A portion at the lowest part of the wound must be left open for drainage, except where a "counter-opening" has been made, in which case the whole wound is stitched. The sutures are drawn sufficiently tight to fetch the lips of the wound into contact, but over-lapping must be avoided.

The patient should then be placed in a comfortable stall and tied so that he cannot bite or rub the wound, which must be kept clean and aseptic by frequently sponging with a warm antiseptic lotion, care being taken to not cause friction upon the sutures. If the sutures hold, they should be removed in ten to fourteen days.

Constitutional treatment consists in administering a laxative and feeding lightly on hay or grass and bran. If proud flesh forms, it can be detected by the lips of the wound assuming a dark reddish color, and refusing to heal. In such cases the parts should be dressed once daily as long as necessary with equal parts of the tincture of myrrh and butter of antimony applied with a feather.

W.H.P.



Jaslo.

First aged Percheron stallion and champion at the Western Fair. Exhibited by the Lafayette Stock Farm Company of Canada, Limited, London, Ont.

LIVE STOCK.

Those holes in the mangers or stable floor should be fixed before the cattle are stabled.

A Border Leicester ram recently sold in England for £1,100. How long will it be before Canadian sheep command a similar price?

What have you done to assist in starting a calf, pig or sheep club or to boost the one already organized? Interesting the boys and girls in the right kind of stock pays good dividends later on.

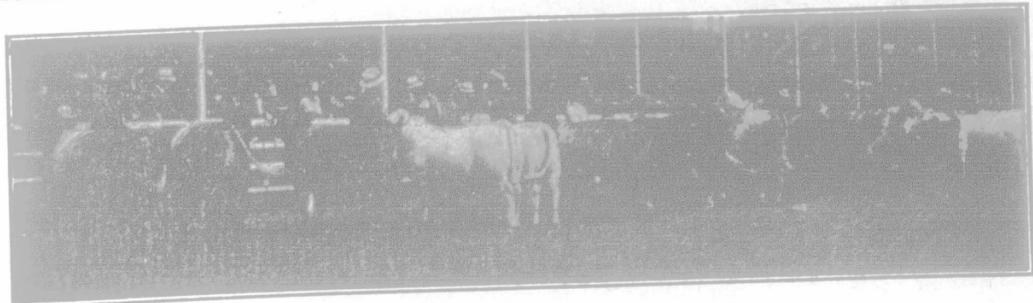
In most districts corn is a good crop and the stockman has a silo full of palatable feed to commence the winter with. Silage has proven the most economic feed for the production of stock and stock products.

There is much less trouble selling thrifty, breedy looking feeders at a satisfactory price than it is getting a non-script lot. There are too many of the latter on the market. Experience has shown that they do not handle the feed economically.

Prices for registered and commercial live stock is at a high level in Great Britain. The top has evidently not yet been reached as new price records are made from week to week. The market for good stuff will doubtless remain high the world over.

The man who keeps good cows, raises the progeny and fits them largely on the home-grown feeds gets all there is in the business with the minimum of risk. It pays in the long run to market the crops, through live stock, but the animals should possess the right quality.

Many stockmen are apparently reluctant to purchase feeders at the prevailing price, to winter over. One prominent cattle man remarked recently that he



Line-up of Senior Bull Calves at Toronto C. N. E.

would not care to risk paying a big price this fall owing to the uncertainty of markets. Others, however, are optimistic regarding the future of the cattle market.

At United States fairs, and at several exhibitions in the western provinces, liberal prizes are offered for fat stock shown by boys and girls. That an interest is taken in the showing by the rising generation is in evidence by the large number of entries brought out. Ontario shows might advisedly cater more than they do to the boy and girl exhibitors.

The live stock commissioner writes as follows regarding marketing of sheep: "Sheep receipts for late summer and fall show that there is a tendency on the part of Eastern farmers to market an excess of good light ewes many of which are suitable for either breeding or fattening purposes. At present the market for sheep is low and a few flocks of desirable breeding ewes could be selected at a very moderate cost. As a feeding proposition, a carload of well selected ewes at present prices would look like a safe buy. Ewes can be held longer than lambs, are not so difficult to feed and will make heavier gains on cheaper and rougher feed. During late fall and winter months, the market for finished sheep invariably recovers as is the case with lambs."

Getting the Stables Ready for the Stock

In a few weeks the cattle will have to be stabled permanently for the next six months. Once they are in it is difficult to make the needed repairs, and to put the stable in a sanitary condition. If possible, a little time should be taken to fix those mangers that were out of repair last spring, but which were let go during the rush of other work in the hope that they would be attended to during the summer while the cattle were on grass. Each day brought its own work, and now when the mangers are to be used they are still out of repair. Wooden mangers soon rot out at the bottom. The front and back planks may be sound, and if a person has a couple of loads of gravel and two or three barrels of cement permanent bottoms may be put in the mangers. It is well to round the cement up on the plank a little, as it will give less chance for feed to become lodged and sour.

Some stable floors are very hard to keep clean, as some of the boards or cedar blocks have decayed, leaving depressions for the accumulation of dirt. Where it is not possible to put in a new floor, the old one should be put in as good repair as possible.

During the summer it is quite common for windows to become broken. These need to be replaced as a cold wind in October is oftentimes felt about as much as a January wind. Some of the old stables could be greatly improved by knocking out a portion of the walls facing south and west and putting in larger windows. It is true that some of the best stock the country has produced have wintered in dark, low stables, but that is no excuse for laboring under the handicap of lack of sunlight in the stable in the present age. The very fact that good light facilitates the doing of chores should be reason enough for putting in plenty of windows. A handy man can make the change without engaging the service of a mechanic. The new window frame may be set in cement and almost anyone is mechanic enough to build concrete in around a frame. If time will permit, the cobwebs and dust should be swept from the ceiling and walls, and a coat of whitewash put on. A little carbolic or other commercial disinfectant added to the whitewash will aid in destroying vermin which may be hibernating in the cracks and crevices of the building.

By putting in an extra chop bin, a feed truck, and possibly a litter carrier, a good many steps and considerable hard work can be saved. Convenience in and around the stable greatly facilitate the doing of the work, and make it possible for one to do the chores where formerly two were engaged a good portion of the time. Some object to water basins, but many have found that when the cattle can drink whenever they want to they do better than when forced to drink ice water once, or at most twice, a day in a temperature bordering on the zero point. A good water supply is as essential to success in feeding stock as is good feed. Some argue that there is a danger of spreading disease where the water basins are used, but there should be no more danger of this than where the entire herd drinks from a common trough in the yard. The cattle need exercise, but having the water before them all the time is no reason why they should not be turned out for an hour or two on fine days. Plan on a day or two to clean up around the stables and make the necessary repairs. It may save you trouble during the winter months.