

*Bleeding.*

This operation is performed either by a fleam or a lancet: a fleam is best in the hands of persons not acquainted with the use of the lancet, which latter is preferred by professional veterinary surgeons. A small piece of hard wood, something like a round ruler, is requisite to strike the fleam. Some people, in bleeding a horse, cord the neck tightly to cause the swelling of the vein; this is objectionable, for the stoppage of the return of blood from the head through both jugular veins, produces congestion of blood in the brain of the animal, and in some instances might do much mischief. The vein selected for bleeding passes along the neck on the upper margin of the windpipe, and is called the jugular vein. Previously to opening it, cut the hair off close to the skin over the intended opening, press the finger on the vein until it swells, or let an assistant press it; place the fleam over it, and then strike it firmly with the stick—the blow should not be violent, least it drive the fleam through the lower coat of the vein, which has occurred, and caused inflammation of the vessel. A large fleam is always preferable to a small one, as the blood flows to most advantage through a large opening, especially in all inflammatory affections. A handkerchief should be thrown over the eyes of the horse when the vein is struck, to prevent him from starting at the sight of the stick. The finger should be kept below the orifice on the vein to keep it distended, and the head slightly turned to the opposite side. It is sometimes of service to put something in the mouth of the horse to make him work the jaws, which increases the flow of blood by the pressure and working of the muscles. The jugular vein divides into two branches,

about two inches from the angle of the jaw, the best place for opening it is about two inches below this, or four from the jaw bone. Veterinary surgeons direct that the fleam should be placed in a straight line, directly over the centre of the vein, but not exactly touching it, so that the point may enter more readily when struck; but all veins bleed more freely if the fleam or lancet is placed in a slightly slanting direction. When a sufficient quantity of blood is drawn, a sharp pin should be passed through the skin, so as to bring the edges of the orifice in their natural and exact position, a thread or hair may then be passed around the pin in a figure of 8 manner. In thus tying up the vein, care should be taken that the skin is not pulled too far from the vein, whereby the blood escaping between would make an awkward, and sometimes troublesome swelling. The operator should guard against piercing the vein with the pin, an accident which might cause inflammation in it. After bleeding, the horse should be tied up for a few hours, to prevent him from rubbing the wound. The blood should be received in a vessel of known measurement, so as to regulate the quantity drawn, although in severe inflammations, the quantity drawn must be regulated by the pulse, and the effects produced by it. The blood should flow into the centre of the vessel, for if it strikes the side it alters the appearance of the blood, after standing, and prevents it, in some degree, from showing its true inflammatory character. Mr. Weiss, of the Strand in London, has lately invented an excellent spring lancet for bleeding horses, which every farmer and horse-owner should possess. After bleeding, the point of the fleam or lancet should be carefully wiped and dried, as the least moisture from blood would