

321. *Maladie Du Coit* is a germ disease, and is propagated by the act of copulation. It is not unlike syphilis in the human subject, and is highly contagious, affecting both stallions and mares. It has depopulated a few herds in the western states, and as there is no satisfactory treatment of the malady, it should be stamped out by castration or death.

322. *Anthrax* is a germ disease, and until within very recent years the horse had always been considered immune. In the valleys of the upper Missouri river and some of its tributaries, it has made the horse breeding industry unprofitable. The disease is never present in the high lands of the west so far as the horse is concerned. The virus of diseased animals is disseminated in the excrement, which is often mixed with blood, and therefore with the microbes. The anthrax bacillus is shown in figure 84.



Figure 85. Bacilli of tetanus (lockjaw)

They are straight cylindrical rods, usually associated in twos and threes, but sometimes in chains. The formation of spores does not usually take place until after the death of the animal. They multiply most rapidly under mean temperatures, yet when dry the spores will resist boiling water for some time. The bacilli are taken into the system with the herbage.

The disease shows itself by a fever, with more or less stupor of the patient. The blood is much changed, sometimes visible hemorrhages occur. The intestinal lesions in the horse often give rise to more or less violent symptoms of colic. This complication, considered too exclusively, frequently interferes with the correct diagnosis of the essential disease. After death the blood is found to be de-oxygenated, viscid, the corpuscles altered, and the plasma colored red. The spleen is much enlarged. The