

water; but now they act more in accordance with reason, and allow the sick just what they crave for.

It is not good policy, however, to allow a horse, when performing a journey, a bountiful supply of water, because active exercise somewhat suspends the digestive function, and therefore the water may remain in a portion of the large intestines without undergoing the usual transformation; it then occupies space, and being weighty, may, in the rapid movements of the animal, operate unfavorably in various ways, more particularly on the gut itself; it being pendulous from the spine.

A horse is often brought into the stable in a state of profuse perspiration, and, of course, is somewhat exhausted. Now, it would be decidedly wrong to either feed or water him, until he be rubbed dry, and has rested awhile; for at such times food is just as likely, and I think more so, than water, to operate unfavorably on an exhausted animal.

Many horses, however, even when in this exhausted state, will fill their stomachs with food and water, and yet enjoy immunity from colic. Therefore, should colic occur in a horse after he has had a hard drive, he having partaken of a draught of water, it is rather difficult to decide which of the two, if either, was the cause of the malady. One fact is certain, and that is, the stomach is deranged, and therefore fermentation precedes digestion, hence the gas.

Notwithstanding our best efforts to prevent it, colic will occasionally occur. Green grass, clover, carrots, and turnips, are said to occasion it. Then, again, it appears in stables, where nothing but corn, oats and hay are used. One horse is attacked immediately after a draught of cold water, another has the chill taken off his, yet he is often found in the same predicament. Warm water is the most insipid and nauseating drink that you can offer a horse; and many would prefer to continue thirsty for some time ere they would imbibe it.

Time will not allow me to notice other popular theories regarding the cause of colic, but I shall, in a brief manner, offer a more rational view of the subject.

It is well known by physiologists, and I presume many of you must have observed, that both men and animals inherit peculiar idiocyncrasys: each are predisposed, either through parental defect, temperament, or conformation, to certain forms of disease. This peculiarity, or predisposition is said to lurk in breed, and those conversant with the horse's structure and temperament, can readily determine whether he be predisposed to certain forms of disease or not; for example, a horse predisposed to flatulent colic is often observed to have a capacious belly, voracious appetite, and does not properly masticate his food, and he is not over particular as to the kind of diet, for we often find him devouring, with apparent relish, the filthy straw that has served as bedding. Often he proves to be a "*crib-biter*, (*cribbing* is a defect, either inherited or acquired.)

Ordinarily the salivial fluid is augmented, yet it does not look healthy, it is more like soap-suds, and of a dirty color; the tongue is also foul, and the breath somewhat foetid. One or more of these peculiarities generally predominate in colicky horses.

I contend, therefore, that some horses are predisposed to colic, and this explains the reason why, the ordinary exciting causes; such as cold water, exposure, fatigue, irritating food and medicine are operative on the system of one horse, and inoperative on that of another. Colic is the heritage of some of the best horses in the world.

Now should you ask, What are the causes of colic? I answer, It is occasioned by predisposing direct and indirect causes, operating conjointly or not. Should you also desire to know, what is the state of the digestive organs at the commencement. I would inform you that their function is either disturbed, or partly suspended.

I shall now speak of the *treatment* of colic.

*Treatment of Spasmodic Colic.*—Supposing the case to be of purely spasmodic origin, we infer that there is some derangement in the nervous system; for, from the motor nerves muscular action is supposed to emanate. The state of spasm, however, is brought about, through the nerves, of involuntary motion. To act on the nervous system is our first object; because, through it, we operate on the muscular, and hear is the seat of spasm. The remedies are various, among them. I select the following: (*antispasmodic*)—Sulphuric ether, half an ounce; tincture of assafoetida, one ounce; to be given in thin gruel or mucilage. Next, I gave a ball, composed of Barbadoes aloes, four drachms; lobelia seeds, powdered, one drachm; nitrate of potassa, two drachms. An aloetic enema may be given; then immerse a blanket in hot water; wring out a portion of the fluid, and encircle the lions, and secure the blanket there by circingles, or other means.