

Veterinary.

Bone Spavin.

From a paper by Mr James McLaughlan on the above subject, which was read before the Montreal Veterinary Medical Association, we make the following extracts:—

Bone spavin as a rule produces lameness, sooner or later. Although so few cases have come under my observation, where one or both hocks bore thoroughly developed spavins, and yet for a number of years showed no lameness therefrom, I cannot but maintain that when we have such direct interference with this most important and complicated joint, it will some day cause lameness; and whether the lameness attends its early formation or subsequent growth, once bone is thrown out, the disease becomes established, and the animal is rendered unsound through life. The lameness attendant on this disease is very remarkable, and easily distinguished from any other. The animal, on starting, draws the limb up with a quick, sudden motion, and yet there is an evident dragging of the leg, indicative of pain, and a loss of action in the joint. As the horse proceeds on his journey, a perceptible reduction of the lameness ensues, and when quite a distance is travelled, it very often disappears entirely; but allow the animal to again rest, and on starting anew, a recurrence of the lameness takes place. The departure of the lameness depends not only on the amount of exercise, but principally on the extent of growth in the spavin; if it be newly forming, the lameness may cease after a few miles have been travelled, but if it has acquired considerable growth, exercise will but slightly abate it. The degree of interference with the action of the joint by the bony deposit determines the extent of the lameness, which is further aggravated by the difficulty experienced by the periosteum, in accommodating itself to the bony growth beneath it. Veterinary practice in the treatment of this disease presents a wide field for differences of opinion to arise, and this difference is based solely on one fact. They all agree upon the necessity of reducing the inflammation as far as possible as a primary step, also upon the advantage derived from elevating the calkings, whereby tension is removed from the joint, and further the ultimate and unavoidable application of counter-irritants to destroy the lameness; but in the latter they seem to disagree to a great extent. Individually each one claiming an advantage for his treatment over all others. Some deem repeated blisters as sufficient, and leave a comparatively slight blemish.

Others introduce a seton and thereby keep up an incessant counter-irritation, and from this also but little blemish accrues. Farmers and quacks can even at this day be found who resort to the application of acids, and their success is generally characterised by the destruction of the entire limb. But we find a number who most sensibly consider a still severer counter-irritant necessary, and with repeated success use the actual cautery, and I consider it a serious mistake on the part of those who try to discontinue its use in this respect. What we wish to produce by counter irritation in the spavin, is an increased effusion of lymph by exciting extreme inflammation, and as the effused lymph is quickly converted into bone, and a complete union of the joint effected, the sooner this is accomplished, the sooner is the lameness removed; and the celerity with which this result is attained by the use of the firing iron, compensates for the pain of the operation and resulting blemishes.

Lameness in Horses.

Seedy toe is a form of defective hoof which is more common than is usually apprehended; the diseased state of the structure, not being indicated by any external marks, commonly escapes notice until lameness results from extension of the diseased condition to the sensitive parts of the foot, when an examination leads to the discovery of the nature of the affection.

Opinions differ as to the actual cause of seedy toe; some contending that the defective state of the hoof arises from some imperfection in its texture, owing to derangement of the secreting structures from which it is formed; others looking upon as a mere consequence of the mechanical separation of the horny fibres from each other by the presence of dirt introduced from below. Between these conflicting views the facts remain unaltered. Seedy toe is in reality the separation of the outer part of the hoof horn from the inner layers, forming a cavity which is filled with dirt introduced from below. Whether the dirt is the cause of the condition, or merely associated with it is a point for further inquiry. The fact is undoubted that the space between the external and internal layers of hoof is always filled up with gritty material derived from the

surface of the animal has been in the habit of moving.

The injury to the wall is most marked at the ground surface, on which the entrance to the cavity was shown by a light colored spot of oval form, about an inch in the long diameter. On making a clean section through the centre of the spot up to the coronary surface, it was found that the cavity extended to within an inch of the coronet, as shown in the drawing, which is taken from a thin slice of the diseased hoof rendered transparent. An examination of the section will show how lameness is caused. As long as the walls of the cavity remain of sufficient thickness to resist the pressure of the accumulated dirt which is constantly being pressed in from below, no pain is felt by the animal, but as the substance of the hoof is more completely excavated, the walls of the cavity yield, and the internal part of the wall being most pliable, soon presses inward to the sensitive parts of the foot, and causes lameness.

In neglected cases the inner wall of the cavity may be broken through and the dirt come into actual contact with the secretion tissues. This condition of seedy toe is difficult to treat, and, in fact, can only be effectually dealt with by surgical means.—*Ag. Gazette.*

TICKS ON SHEEP. Sheep well kept in winter rarely suffer much from ticks. At shearing time the ticks gather on the lambs, whose growing wool affords better protection than that of the newly clipped older sheep. Dipping the lambs in a solution of tobacco water will kill the ticks. Take the coarse stems of the tobacco plant for cheapness, steep in water, and immerse the lambs, excepting their heads, wetting the wool to the skin. This will speedily kill the ticks. By having the lamb stand on an inclined platform connecting with the tub, the tobacco juice can be squeezed from the wool and used for a large flock. While cold weather lasts, feed the sheep liberally and the ticks will do little injury.

SCOUR IN LAMBS.—This disease, which frequently attacks lambs in the summer months, may be effectually met by an experienced flockmaster who is acquainted with the symptoms. A day or two before the complaint breaks out, the lambs lose their liveliness and their coats become staring. The scour partakes of a dark green color, but not unfrequently it is quite black; and when such is the case the disease should be at once treated. The dose which ought to be administered to the animals is as follows:—1 oz. of castor oil, and thirty-six drops of oil of turpentine. The disease, it may be remarked, is almost invariably found to be produced by the lambs eating young and over-succulent grasses; but sometimes it is traced to unwholesomeness of the ewe's milk. The disease must be quickly treated, and it will be found that a dose of the mixture indicated will tend to greatly relieve the suffering animal. It will be found a good plan also to vary the food of the ewes a little, so that the causes which bring on the defectiveness of the milk may be removed.—*Eng. L. S. Journal.*

CURE FOR SWEENEY.—Take 2 of a pound of fat pork and fry the grease into a salve; stir 3 handfuls of salt into the grease when warm, until it is perfectly dissolved; then bruise well three eggs, shells and all, and thoroughly mix with the first two ingredients, after they have become sufficiently cool to not cook the eggs. Apply the salve to the part affected, at intervals of three days each, rubbing the part thoroughly, then warm in with a hot iron, holding it as near the part affected as possible, so that it may be well warmed, but not burned. Three applications will generally cure; but if the sweeny is bad, more applications will perhaps be needed. The following is another cure: Take oil origanum and spirits of turpentine, each one part; wet the part affected sufficiently to irritate or partly blister. This also I have never known to fail. It is also the best remedy for corns I have ever known, only needing to wet the corn frequently, and as fast as the surface becomes soft, scrape off with a knife, then wet again, and in a short time it will be gone. I have known it to cure some of the worst corns.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

HORSES INTERFERING.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* had a valuable mare that interfered so as to be worthless as a roadster, and tried a plan to cure her which he describes thus: "I took an old boot leg, and cutting out the seam, I fitted an ankle, about six inches long, reaching below the joint, as well as I could when dry; then soaked, stretched and worked it, till it fitted like the natural skin, and lacing it up behind with shoe string (one below the fetlock), I left it on to dry. After marking and cutting out an oval hole about two and one-quarter inches long horizontally, and one and one-half inches vertically, over the wound, I cut a piece of tin a little larger than the hole, and shaped it with a tinman's round-faced hammer, in a concave block, about like a longitudinal third of a hen's egg. I soldered No. 14 tinned wire around the edge, and a second thickness of tin across the centre, to strengthen it; punched thread holes one-fourth of an inch apart inside the wire, and sowed it to the leather. The wound was thus entirely guarded, and the leather fitted so perfectly that there was no tarring around or moving up and down to cause chafing. I could ever after drive days or weeks with impunity, and as the hair and leather were alike in color, hardly any one would notice the protector, which was the most perfect thing for the purpose I have ever seen. I doubt its being materially improved. The guard may be cast iron."

AN EXCHANGE, remarking on the chafing of the breasts of horses, says:—The common practice of using pads of sheepskin under the collar is objectionable, especially in warm weather, because it accumulates heat and makes the breast tender. A better way is to take a piece of thick and smooth leather, cut it out just the size of the collar, or a little wider, and let it lie flat on the neck and shoulders of the horse, while the collar itself moves about, and so it will prevent chafing. In addition to this, let the breasts of working horses be washed off every night with clean water.

CURE FOR WORMS.—The simplest remedy for worms in cattle, sheep and pigs, is turpentine mixed with a little feed, or given in linseed oil or gruel; two ounces for a cow or ox, and one-fourth or less for smaller animals, according to the size. Clater gives the following for adult bovines:

Linseed oil.....	1 pint.
Turpentine.....	2 ounces.
Infusion of quassia.....	1 pint.

The symptoms of the worms being present are: General weakness and inaction, falling off in flesh, capricious appetite and appearing "hide-bound."—*Scientific Farmer.*

NAIL IN A HORSE'S FOOT.—A neighbor of mine recently informed me that he had lost a most valuable horse by a casualty by no means uncommon. A knowledge of a simple remedy would have prevented this loss. The horse trod upon a nail which entered his foot. Lameness followed, the nail was extracted, but lockjaw supervened, resulting in death. An unfailing remedy in such cases is muriatic acid. If, when a nail is withdrawn from a horse's foot, the foot should be held up and some muriatic acid be poured into the wound, neither lameness nor lockjaw need be feared. Why the iron should have the effect which it frequently has, and the rationale of the above remedy, I am unable to explain; but of the certainty of the counteraction of disease by this perfectly safe application, I am well convinced.—*Rural Home.*

SORE FEET IN SHEEP.—Get some calomel, have a little sack made of thin flannel, say three inches long by half an inch wide, place some of the calomel in this, and tie shut. Clean out the sheep's feet thoroughly with a soft cloth, and then spread open the cleft as far as possible, without injuring the foot, and dust the affected parts by gently striking them with the sack containing the calomel. I presume it would be better to have a dry time to perform the cure, or to keep the sheep under cover for some hours after the application. I do not pare unless the case is a very bad one. It is very convenient of application, and is much less painful than the application of blue vitriol. The cure is much speedier and more certain. I have kept Merino sheep for many years, and after trying many things, have never found anything equal to this for the above, and also for collar and saddle galls on horses, while there is not a particle of danger in its application in my experience.—*Country Gentleman.*

SCROTAL HERNIA IN A FOAL.—A large number of foals—probably one in four—are born with more or less amount of inguinal or scrotal hernia, but so soon as the little animals begin to grow and thrive, the loose textures of the canal are braced up, the cremaster muscle is contracted, and the protruding portion of gut is gradually withdrawn and retained within the abdominal walls. If your foal continues vigorous and growing, this natural result will certainly occur. Endeavour, therefore, by the liberal feeding of mother and offspring to secure this healthy growth. If, however, the swelling does not gradually disappear, which it generally does before the foal is six months old, or if the protruding fold of intestine drags down more after it, or is liable to get strangulated, and cause colic pains, your veterinarian will cast the colt, remove the testicle, which probably can be got at, and by adopting what is called the covered operation, will close up the canal and prevent any further descent of the bowels. Occasionally, when the canal is unusually open or relaxed, the operator requires to bring its edges together with a wire suture.

MILK FEVER.—Dr. Noah Cressy, before the Vermont Dairymen's Association, in speaking of milk fever, said: There are several kinds of fever called milk fever. The one most to be dreaded attacks the cow within the first two days after calving, usually within twelve hours. The best cow is most likely to be attacked, and usually at the third calving. If she fails to notice her calf, is listless, does not rise, and staggers at the attempt, if the eyes are glassy, and they cannot wink, head hot, and apparently in great pain, the case is one of milk fever. The treatment must be immediate, for the disease runs its course in a few hours. He would bleed freely, and physic thoroughly. Give from a half pound to a pound and a half of epsom salts, and repeat the dose in an hour or two if necessary. Give enemas of castile soapuds to help relieve the bowels and meet the physic. Put ice on the head and give a half pint of gin, or a quart of cider, with ginger and pepper. In desperate cases, as a last resort, would give a drachm of calomel. This form of fever might properly be called brain fever, and the treatment should aim to relieve the head from the rush of blood. Other fevers may be caused by mechanical injury. Many cows are killed every year by harsh and cruel treatment at this critical period. When the fever is seated in the abdomen, ice must not be used on the head. The two kinds of milk fever are entirely distinct, and require entirely different treatment. It is only the ignorant quack who prescribes a single remedy for all diseases.