

HORSE

Switching and Kicking

A writer in *The Farmer's Advocate*, London, says: "I have a young mare that used to switch and kick. When a three-year-old she began to switch very badly, and if she got her tail over the line would kick over the pole and traces, which makes matters much worse. So I bred her, and still kept working her, thinking she would become quieter, but could do nothing with her, unless her tail was tied. She would switch it over the line and kick in spite of everything. She went on in this way for two years; raised two colts but got no better. Last spring as a last resort, I had her docked short (she was not in foal). Today she has a nice bushy tail, and does not switch nor hug the line, even if she should by chance get it over. She gave up switching completely after having been docked about two or three weeks, and is right in her place, no matter what she is hitched to. I have not now a more admired or nicer-working horse on the farm."

Breast Boil

DR. J. FIELDING COTTRILL.

Abscesses are circumscribed collections of pus. They may usually be divided into two classes: acute, chronic or cold. The acute form is the more common, and a good example of this is seen under the jaws in strangles or "colt distemper."

Breast boils may be taken as examples of the second class, the chronic or cold abscess. We have all seen them, probably to our sorrow. Just where the collar comes, we find a fairly hard lump or tumor, surrounded on all sides by a somewhat doughy swelling. After giving the horse a rest, for a longer or shorter period, this swelling gradually disappears, and we have only the hard lump remaining. But one day's work is sufficient to bring up a vast mass as large perhaps as a football. This again gradually becomes less, as we rest the horse, until it all disappears except the tumor, which never goes away. This we may regard as its leading characteristic. In fact, we may say that the tendency is for the tumor to slowly increase in size. The horse is now practically useless. One day's work will throw him out of commission for weeks again. It is true we can ride him, or use him with a breast strap, but not with a collar, and as nine times out of ten he is a heavy draught horse, we may say he is useless to us.

We must understand the cause of this breast boil, before we can say anything more about it. We may say at once that it is the result of a badly fitting collar. This causes an inflammatory process to go on, the result of which is the formation of a quantity of pus or matter. This pus is enclosed by thick fibrous walls and the whole feels to us like a tumor or lump. It is apparently cold (hence its name, a cold abscess). It is not sore. It has no tendency to go away, nor to increase if not irritated. But upon working the horse with a collar, this lump acts almost like a stone would in a similar position, bruising all the neighboring muscles, and producing great pain, inflammation and swelling, which however pass away gradually, when work is discontinued, leaving matters as they were before. Slowly, however, a change takes place and in the course of time the pus becomes organized, and the abscess becomes transformed into a hard solid fibrous tumor.

With regard to treatment we may say that if the walls are well defined we have probably a fibrous tumor to deal with, and its removal with the knife is the only cure. In such cases I have often seen that immediately the skin has been cut the tumor jumps out suddenly, leaving merely a few fibres to be cut and the operation is over. In such cases the healing process will be rapid and there will be no tendency for it to recur. In other cases it has to be cut out little by little. Here, I would advise that great care be taken to remove all of it, or it will not be a success. Even if a morsel of flesh be removed with it, it will readily heal.

But we may possibly find that the walls are not well defined, but gradually become lost in the surrounding flesh. Upon feeling it we may

probably find, if we are careful, that one part is slightly softer than the rest. This is because there is some pus or matter inside it.

In the case of acute (or say ordinary) abscesses we should try to bring them to a "head" by warm fomentations, poultices and blisters. But in the present instance we should most likely fail by such measures, or if we did succeed it would take too long a time. Besides if we do apparently succeed by such means no sooner do we put the animal to work than the trouble reappears.

Yet this pus or matter must be liberated, and to do this we must cut into where we feel the softer spot. We may have to cut deeply in, and then, having liberated the pus, little though it may be, we must try to remove the thick walls, and this we can accomplish by causing acute inflammation to break down these walls and liberate or dissolve them, thus bringing them away in the form of a discharge of pus—that is by suppuration.

Probably the easiest, quickest and least painful way would be to heat a piece of iron to redness and push it into the opening, and sear it to the bottom. In a few days the seared parts will come away in the form of a slough, and if the walls are still thick and hard we must repeat this. By fomenting with hot water, and using hot poultices, we may encourage the formation and discharge of matter, and if properly done this will heal without a blemish being left. Instead of using the hot iron we can accomplish the same by wrapping up a few grains of corrosive sublimate or bichloride of mercury in a cigarette paper and inserting this.

It is necessary that well fitting collar be used afterwards. There is, however, one point to be noticed in connection with the treatment. On no account must the opening be allowed to close before the tumor inside has quite gone, and this can be accomplished by inserting a "tent" or plug of oakum or cotton into the opening and leaving a small portion protruding through. Many would saturate this oakum or cotton with turpentine or tincture of iodine.

Shoeing Interfering Horses

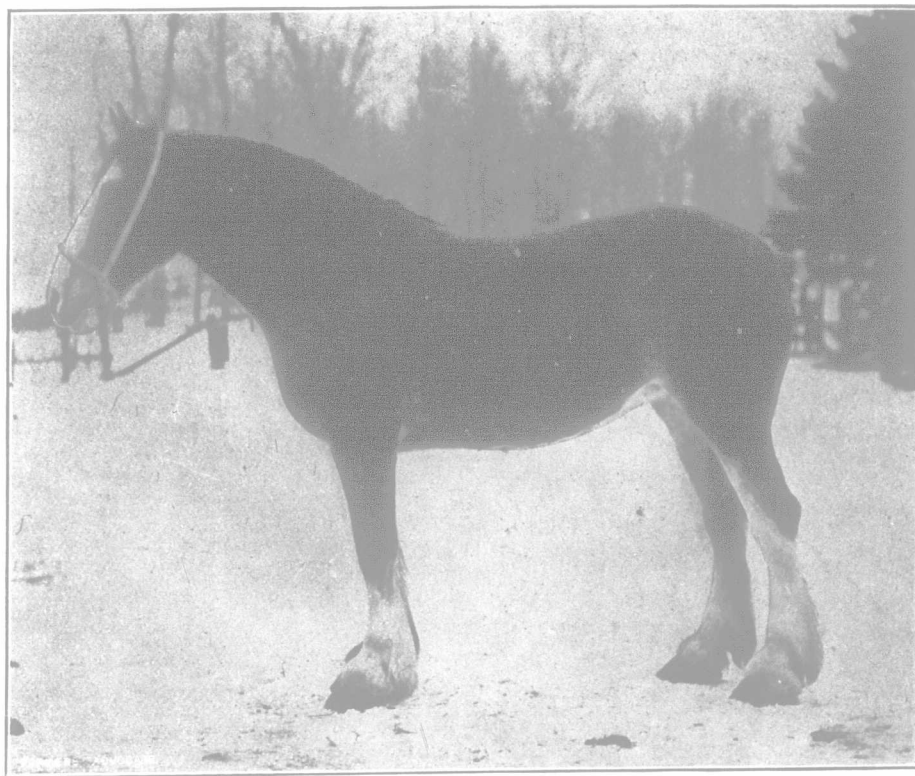
There are many kinds of interfering, but knee-hitting, shin and ankle-hitting are the principal ones. You can take a horse from pasture and leave his feet alone with all the wings on them, not leveling them up to suit the eye, and drive on your shoes, and I have never seen one of them that would hit after he was shod. But when the horse-shoer begins to rasp and make the feet smaller, and then change the action of the feet, this is when the trouble commences. Nine out of ten horses that interfere wear their shoes away on the outside portions, which indicates clearly that the horse's foot is not balanced on its leg, and shows further that the part of the foot that comes in contact with the ground is the first side that wears away. That is the

high side; for if the foot were balanced it would wear both sides alike, although standing with the foot on the floor. Blacksmiths as a rule, cannot balance the foot correctly because of the way that they hold it when dressing it. Instead of beveling the foot to suit the joints by picking it up and holding the metacarpal bone and letting it hang in a proper position, they catch it between their knees and twist it to suit their eye and not the joints.

Most horses that interfere are the toe-wide or base-wide, sometimes called "nigger heel." Nigger heel horses are, as a rule, bad interferers and generally hard to cure. The toe-wide kind will be found wearing their shoes on the outside, where the greatest body of the foot is found to be. When you get a horse standing in the correct position, which is, to have his foot equal on both sides, he is very seldom found to interfere; he will break over the toe straight on the shoe. In shoeing interferers I generally put on a straight toed shoe, which assists in this square breaking over movement of the foot. This in itself has a tendency to cause the horse to carry the foot and limbs more correctly in line with the body. In shoeing the toe-wide foot it is necessary to try to turn the toe in, making it of the pigeon-toed variety; or the reverse of this is the rule to follow in case of the horse that toes in, thus giving the foot a chance to break straight at the toe.

In shoeing a faulty-gaited horse of the interfering type, the shoer must always see him in action before he starts to shoe him. A view should be taken of the horse both going from you and coming towards you. Another point of great value is to drive the horse on moist ground, so as to see the prints of the shoe and learn how he breaks over, and if he breaks or rocks over the inside, the toe may be extended over the shoe so that it will force him to break over more squarely. If calks are being used, the toe calk can be extended over that portion. I would suggest, in shoeing the pigeon-toed variety, that you work directly opposite to the way that you would on one of the toe-wide position, by taking away the inside toe of the foot and extending the shoe over the outside, with the outside heel of the shoe filled close to the inside, and sometimes filled full and extended over. As a rule the pigeon-toed do not interfere, and if they do, it will be found that they hit generally with the inside toe. The driving helps out a good deal; if a horse is driven properly and is not jerked to one or the other side, pulled round corners or pulled up too quickly; as it deprives him of the use of his head, and has a bad influence on his trouble. Weakness is another cause of interfering in horses, by their not having strength to carry their limbs, no matter how lightly they are shod; and the tendency is that they are likely to interfere when overdriven.

AMERICAN VETERINARIAN.



QUEEN MINNIE (IMP.) [16679]

Three-year-old Clydesdale, filly by Baron Solway. First and reserve champion female at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1909. First and champion at the Winter Fairs, Guelph, 1909, and Ottawa, 1910. Imported by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont., and sold to Senator Douglas, Tantallon, Sask.