

MALADIE DU COIT.

This disease which has long been known in the old world was introduced to this continent in 1882 by a Percheron stallion imported from France, and used for service in Illinois. Unfortunately the nature of the affection was not discovered until several years had elapsed, during which period a considerable number of stallions and mares had become infected. Some of these infected animals were removed from the district before quarantine was imposed, with the result that a number of disease centres have been established in various parts of the United States. The large influx of American horses is undoubtedly responsible for the introduction of this loathsome malady to western Canada, where its existence was first reported from the Lethbridge district in March, 1904.

Since that time active measures have been adopted for its repression, but owing to the nature of the malady and the loose conditions under which horses are handled in the range country, it is a matter of great difficulty to deal with it effectually. A copy of the regulations now in force is printed herewith, and the hearty co-operation of horse owners in enforcing the same is earnestly solicited. Compensation on a most liberal scale, when the intrinsic value of a diseased animal is considered, is paid for all animals slaughtered by order of an authorized inspector, except when the owner has been guilty of an infraction of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, or of the regulations passed under the authority of the said Act.

Maladie du Coit, wherever it exists, paralyzes horse-breeding operations and ruins those engaged in the horse-breeding industry. It is, therefore, the plain duty of all interested in horses or horse-breeding to second in every possible way the efforts of the inspectors of this department to stamp it out wherever found. As its eradication is a matter of public and not private interest, every breeder is urged to report immediately any suspicious case of the existence of which he may become aware, whether among his own animals or those of others.

Maladie du Coit (Dourine) is a malignant, insidious, incurable disease peculiar to the horse, supposed to be due to the entrance into the system of a micro-organism, known as the *Trypanosoma Equiperdum*.

This disease, as its name implies, is essentially one of coition, being transmitted during the act of service, from stallion to mare, and vice versa. Some authorities report however, that they have succeeded in inducing it, by experimental inoculation, in the horse and in several other animals of different species.

The symptoms, as in other contagious diseases, differ considerably according to the susceptibility of the animal, the nature of its surroundings, and the vitality of the virus. Some cases, therefore, are acute, the various stages of the disease following each other rapidly, and these generally reach a fatal termination within a very short time. Unfortunately, however, this is rarely the case, the disease generally following a chronic, insidious and semi-latent course, making it, in view of the constant danger of infection, a most serious menace to the horse-breeding industry.

In reading the following description of the symptoms as presented in the three stages of the malady, it will be well to bear in mind the great liability to variation, such as the appearance of characteristic symptoms in one animal, and their total, or partial, absence in another. The stages are not ushered in uniformly, neither are they of regular duration, as in many cases almost all evidence of disease will occasionally disappear for a time, only to recur later and with renewed virulence.

The duration of the disease varies, and may extend from a month to several years, the average time, however, being about eighteen months. After copulation with an infected animal, the germ, having been transmitted during this act, commences to multiply rapidly or tardily, according to its vitality, the susceptibility of the infected