

## Veterinary Department.

### Diseases of the Horse's Eye.

#### Amaurosis

Amaurosis is a disease which is occasionally noticed amongst our Canadian horses, and consists in diminution or complete loss of vision without any visible alteration in the organization of the eye, and is due to either partial or complete paralysis of the optic nerve, or its terminal expansion, the retina.

Amaurosis is sometimes seen as symptomatic of other diseases, as in parturient apoplexy in cows, disease of the digestive organs, and it not infrequently exists with cataract. It may also proceed from injury to the brain interfering with the special nerve of sight. The action of the optic nerve is also impaired by allowing horses to stand for a lengthened period in very dark stables. We have met with several cases of the disease in this city attributable to this injurious practice.

When amaurosis is independent of any other disease, the pupil is dilated and loses its elliptical form, and the eye has a glassy appearance; hence the term "glass eye," which is often applied to this impaired condition of the optic nerve. The animal carries his head high, moves his ears quickly, and ste is with high action.

If a strong light is brought to bear upon the eye, the pupil remains dilated, thus showing that the nervous influence is lost. Treatment is generally of little avail if the disease has existed for a length of time.

#### Bleeding Fungus (Fungus Hæmatodes.)

This formidable and malignant disease of the eye is happily of rare occurrence in the horse. These tumours are generally rapidly developed and are exceedingly vascular. In some cases they may result from injury, but usually proceed from constitutional disease.

In an early stage of the disease the pupil is dilated, and the interior of the eye has a yellowish appearance, caused by the growth of the tumor in the posterior part of the eye; the growth extends and presses upon the cornea, rupturing that membrane, and very soon attains an enormous size. We have met with cases where the fungoid growth extended half-way down the cheek, giving the poor sufferer a most ungainly and loathsome appearance. In the treatment of these cases it is necessary to use the knife freely; the whole tumor and eyeball must be carefully removed and the parts afterwards dressed with caustic. In some cases the hemorrhage is very great, and it may be necessary to apply the actual cautery which, as well as arresting the bleeding, also tends to destroy the malignant growth.

#### The new Epizootic.

Last Friday Mr. James Harkness and Veterinary Surgeon Swift visited President Grant's farm, near Kirkwood, for the purpose of examining and treating some horses belonging to the President, several of which have died. The following description of one of these cases was furnished for publication:—

A young filly, nine or ten weeks old, she was found lying down with the near hind leg swollen to an incredible size, the swelling extending from the stifle upward. There was complete loss of sensation in the limb, and mortification had actually taken place from the hock down. The case being hopeless, the little one was soon dispatched, and the post mortem examination commenced. To any one unaccustomed to such sights this would have been one of marvel and disgust. The abdomen being laid open, nothing very unusual presented itself, except that the peritoneum evinced evidence of constitutional derangement.

Another long incision brought the scalpel to a large abscess (we will call it antrax) lying under and immediately to the left of the vagina. This antrax contained over one quart of the most purulent pus, and was, or seemed to be, about the size of a large

breakfast cup. A probe was now brought into requisition and passed along a sinus extending downward; this sinus being laid open to the end, another antrax was discovered larger than the first, and like the first containing a large amount of matter. The case becoming interesting, although filthy, it was determined for the benefit of science and the community to pursue the investigations as long as any new feature arose. The different layers of muscles were most carefully dissected, and as regularly as these layers of muscles did occur, so did these interstices of pus. We are now speaking of the internal muscles of the thigh. Among the external muscles small antraxes were occasionally discovered, but the real seat of the disease, if we may judge from local phenomena, was from the inside of the stifle to the pelvic region. Here the periosteum bone and marrow were evidently locally involved in the poisonous nature of the disease. One feature which should not be omitted, was that twenty minutes after death the blood and serum had both separated and coagulated with their respective properties, so that there was no blood flowing throughout any part of the operation. That this disease is antrax fever of vermin the above gentlemen have no doubt. As to its fatality there is ample evidence; and that it is of a most malignant type, we have the opinion of Drs. Kueckelmann, Van Studdiford, and F. G. Porter, who are all of opinion that inoculation with matter from one of these cases, would be, beyond a shadow of a doubt, fatal in the human species.

Mr. Harkness has a distinct recollection of a former outbreaking of this disease, when not only were horses affected, but also cattle. He also states that the two men who were engaged in skinning these horses both died from the effects of inoculation.

[We clip the above extract from the *St. Louis Times*. The post mortem appearances mentioned show that intense inflammatory action had taken place in the parts affected; but without (judging from the description), we cannot see any reason why the disease should be called an epizootic. The appearances presented in all probability were the result of some local influence, and we do not consider there is any danger of such an affection spreading. A few isolated cases of various diseases are frequently very much exaggerated, and therefore have a tendency to create an unnecessary alarm.—VET. ED.]

A YANKEE paper has discovered that hogskin and cowhide bags hold ten times as much corn as canvas bags do, and cost only about one-tenth as much to get to market. The corn should be put into the bags before the skins are taken off the animals.

THE BRAIN OF A HORSE.—We find the following in the *Scientific American*:—The brain of a horse seems to entertain but one thought at a time; for this reason continued whipping is out of the question, and only confirms his stubborn resolve. But if you can by any means change the direction of his mind, giving him a new subject to think of, nine times out of ten you will have no further trouble in starting him. As simple a trick as a little pepper, aloes, or the like, thrown back on his tongue will often succeed in turning attention to the state of his mouth.

THE *Quebec Herald* states that a new and some what novel danger has appeared in the Lennoxville district, against which farmers and cattle breeders should be warned. A young quoy which had been grazing on the farm of Baiglass died suddenly under mysterious circumstances. A post mortem examination revealed the fact that the animal had been feeding extensively on the fragments of rifle bullets, and had actually been poisoned by the action of the lead, a dozen pounds of which were found in its stomach. The unfortunate beast had been grazing near the ground where the butts of the 4th and 7th Stirlingshire Rifle Volunteers are erected.

FEVER OF HORSES.—The *Journal of Chemistry* gives the following simple recipe for the prevention of fever on horses:—Take two or three small handfuls of walnut leaves, upon which pour two or three quarts of cold water; let it infuse one night, and next morning pour the whole into a kettle and let it boil for a quarter of an hour. When cold it will be fit for use. No more is required than to moisten a sponge, and before the horse goes out of the stable let those parts which are most irritable be smeared over with the liquid, namely, between and upon the ears, the neck, the flanks, etc. Not only the lady and gentleman who rules out for pleasure will be benefited by this, but the coachman, the wagoner, and all others who use horses during hot months.

## Correspondence.

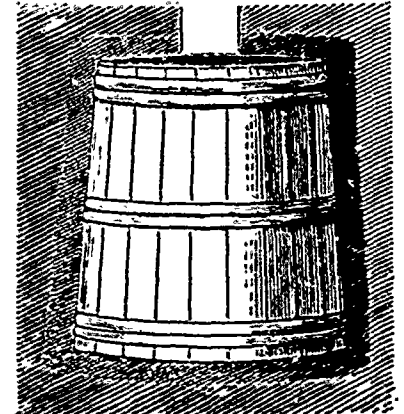
### The Hydraulic Ram.—Rain-Water Cistern.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

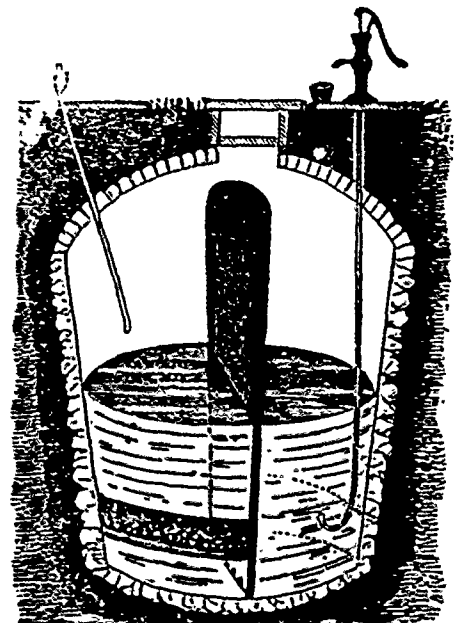
SIR:—Your prompt reply to "A new Subscriber" in the last number of the CANADA FARMER encourages me to ask your advice as to the best method of constructing a rain-water cistern. I have a large wooden tank—or "stand" as it is sometimes called—of sufficient capacity to hold about thirty-five barrels, with the hole dug and ready to receive it, but I am told by some that it should be "set" in cement or mortar, whilst others maintain that a bedding of clay is quite sufficient. I have read somewhere of a filter constructed inside the cistern which struck me at the time as being an excellent idea, but I have not now the slightest recollection where I saw it. Any information you may give on the subject will be thankfully received.—Yours, &c., M. McL.

Peel, August 20th, 1874.

[The hole for the reception of the tub should be made a few inches deeper and wider than the dimensions of the tub itself, to admit of a three or four inch layer of clay-mortar at the bottom, into which the tub should be firmly bedded. The space round the sides may be packed with clay, clay-mortar or cement, as represented by the dark shading in fig. 1.



A simple and efficient method of constructing a filter within a cistern was explained and illustrated on page 285 of the CANADA FARMER for 1867. It is as follows:—



A single brick wall is built up the middle of the cistern, dividing it into two compartments,—fig. 2. Spaces are left between the bricks at the bottom of the partition, to allow the water to flow from one side into the other. Close to the bottom of one compartment a filter is constructed by laying over a