

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

THE VETERINARY PROFESSION.

North Street, London.

MR. EDITOR:—In closing my last communication to your paper, I there stated that I would make a few remarks upon a disease, closely allied to the one I was then writing upon, but previous to commencing my subject, I was to make a few remarks upon Technical or Medical Terms. I trust that the general class of readers will pardon me for making use of the professional terms laid down and as taught to us Veterinary Surgeons at our respective Colleges from which we may have graduated; but nevertheless I intend to quote the separate terms in English, so that even the most racy reader cannot but understand the little which he is perusing. Again, there are a certain class who read your instructive paper and who are professional men, and from the fact of their being such, they alike look for professional terms from he who is citing Disease. The class who I allude to are qualifical Veterinary Surgeons, and of whom I am sorry there are as yet very few.

Hydrothorax or water in the chest, or effusion serum into one or both cavities of the Thorax or Chest, is a disease which invariably terminates fatally, but there are a few cases on record which have been treated with success. The one grand maxim which must always be born in mind, is not to allow Pleureitis or inflammation of the lining membrane of the chest to run into the above named disease, but check it by prompt and active treatment, at the same time carefully watching your case. Where there is insidious inflammation going on within the chest, though in a mild form, and is not removed, and is indicated by febrile symptoms, or fever still remaining in the system. The patient not coming around as you would expect, feeding sparingly, looking dispirited, or spirting up at the approach of any person or at the sight of food, to be again listless the next minute. Then I say there is every reason to apprehend that this much dreaded disease is setting in.

SYMPTOMS.—It is usually ushered in by a quick and labored respiration. Sometimes the horse lays down, which, however, is seldom. Generally speaking, the side upon which he lays contains the most water. The pulse is small and quick, and as the disease advances, becomes quicker, and at last the pulse at the jaw cannot be felt. He stands with his fore legs wide apart, sometimes resting the lower jaw that is supporting the head, upon the manger.

The Breast, Belly, Sheath and legs, or extremities, become Dropsical. The membranes of the eye are of a yellowish tinge,

and occasionally I have observed a discharge from one or both nostrils, in the last stage just previous to death. On placing your ear or the Stethoscope to the chest, nothing can be heard, but to be sure that dropsy of the chest has taken place, you have only to place a man on one side of the chest, and tell him to strike it gently, while you attentively listen with your ear applied on the other side, when a peculiar splashing or gurgling sound will be perfectly audible, which if you hear you may be satisfied in your mind that dropsy of the chest has taken place.

TREATMENT.—Paracentesis or tapping the chest, must invariably be resorted to in this disease. But it were better that it should be performed by the hands of a qualified Veterinary Surgeon, than by the EMPIRIC or QUACK who are likely to do a vast amount of injury, from the fact of his being grossly ignorant of the anatomy or structural conformation of the parts that he is about to try to operate upon.

Feed the horse upon nutritious diet and green meat, providing the season allows of it. Bandage the legs and clothe the body. Bed well down with clean straw, and above all things, have the stable well ventilated. Give a ball night and morning, composed of R. Iodide of iron, one drachm, Strychnia two grains; Sulphate Zinc, two scruples; Powdered Cantharides or Spanish Fly, two grains; Powdered Digitalis or Foxglove, one scruple; Extract of Gentian, two scruples; to be mixed with a little common lard. It is frequently advisable to give port wine or malt liquor in this disease, but more especially after the operation of tapping has been performed.

Diuretic Medicine, or those which act upon the kidneys by increasing the urinary discharge, and Tonics which improve the appetite and give tonicity to the muscular fibre, must also be administered in properly regulated doses, as the symptoms of the disease indicate their use. The fatal termination of this disease is denoted by neighing, partial sweats, dropsical enlargements of the chest, and a distressed breathing which nothing can relieve, when death very soon closes the scene.

MR. EDITOR—Having attended a very interesting case lately, and not having seen one of the same kind before, I am induced to pen it down for the benefit of those to whom it may prove interesting.

On Saturday, the 3rd of April, 1869, A Mr. Hale, a farmer residing upon the Governor's Road, came to our office and stated that he had a horse with his throat cut, and wished that I would go out and examine the case. Upon questioning him as to the history of the case, he gave me to understand that a farrier in this town had attended his horse nine days previous to my being called in. On making a minute examination of the parts, both by man-

ipulation and the speculum, I found a deep sloughing wound about three inches below the parotid gland, and between the Levator Humeri and Sterno Maxillaris muscles or muscle of the neck. The orifice of the wound was about the size of a half dollar coin, with jagged and unhealthy edges. Food was escaping out of the wound as fast as it had undergone the process of mastication. Water or any other fluid that was presented to the horse, would also freely escape out of the wound. The animal was fearfully emaciated and very weak.

Previous to the horse being operated upon by the farrier, he ate his oats and drank water without any difficulty.

Mr. Hale also observed that upon his arrival home the same day, he saw food making its escape from the wound that had been made by prodding a straight lance into the neck three times in succession.

The treatment adopted in this case was of the simplest nature, constitutionally as well as locally.

The primary object being to close the wound and secondly to support nature, which was accordingly done.

EXPLANATION.—Now the oesophagus, commonly called the food pipe, had been cut or penetrated by the lance, the food escaping between the muscles and acting as a foreign body; nature forms an abscess to rid herself of the superfluous food, the abscess having a good dependant orifice; thus the free escape of food from the wound.

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To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

FARMER'S BOYS.

MR. EDITOR:—We find in the wide world, there is no more important things than farmer's boys. They are not so important for what they are, as for what they will be. At present they are of but little consequence too often. But farmer's boys always have been, and we presume Mr. Editor, always will be, the material out of which the noblest men are made. They have health and strength, they have bone and muscle, they have heart and will, they have nerve and patience, they have ambition and endurance, and these are materials that make men. Not buckrams and broadcloth, and patent leather and beaver fur, and kid gloves and watch seals, are the materials of which men are made. It takes better stuff to make a man. It is not fat and flesh, and swagger and self-conceit, nor yet smartness, nor flippancy, nor foppery, nor fastness. These make fools, but not men, not men such as the world wants, nor such as it will honor and bless. It is not long hair, nor much beard, nor a pipe, nor a glass of beer or brandy, nor yet a cigar or a quid of tobacco, nor an oath or a pack of cards, nor a novel, nor a vulgar book of love and murder, nor a tale of adventures, that make a man or has anything to do with making a man. Farmer's boys ought to keep clean of all these idle, foolish things. They should be employed with noble objects. They have yet to be men of clear grit, honest, intelligent, industrious, ambitious men, who shall love their country and their kind. With the means they possess, how easy for them to be in fact the first class men. They have land, and stock and tools, they have health, time and mind; they have schools and churches, and papers, they have books and perseverance, and the