Veterinary.

Diseases of the Hock.

Professor Walley recently delivered a lecture on "The Principal Diseases of the Hock," to the members of the Midland Counties of England Veterinary Medical Association. The subject of hock diseases was of very great importance. It was a subject which had led, perhaps, to more controversy amongst veterinary surgeons than any other, and for that reason, if not no other, he thought it a good one to bring before them. They were perfectly well aware that of all the diseases of the hock, the so-called bone spavin was the most important; and he referred very briefly to the anatomy of the joint, in order to point out that they had in the peculiar arrangement of the bones a very good reason for the formation of bony deposits on the internal aspect of the joint. But while he desired to point out particularly, with reference to the formation of these bones, the existence of a very marked predisposing cause for spavin, he mentioned hereditary predisposition as another very strong cause, remarking that of all animals with which they had to deal, the horse was the most predisposed to bony deposits, and especially of the hock. He considered also that one of the great predisposing

CAUSES OE SPAVIN

was the peculiar manner in which the weight was thrown upon the small cuneiform bones on the inside of the hock, the articulation here differing very materially from that of the outside of the joint. The pathology of the disease might be summed up in one word—inflammatien of the bone involved, resulting in the throwing out of a large quantity of bony matter upon the outside of the joint. The symptoms of spavin were, he supposed, quite familiar to all. In most cases there was lameness, marked by one or two peculiarities. The first of these was that it disappeared with exercise; then the horse was most lame on turning on to the sound leg. Then they usually found the toe of the shoe more or less worn, and frequently the outside more than the inside, caused by the animal endeavouring to throw the weight upon the outside of the foot. The disease, however, frequently developed itself without lameness or other symptoms by which the attendant could become acquainted with its existence, and this led him to say a word about the examination of the hock for

THE DETECTION OF SPAVIN.

He pointed out the rules observed in manipulating the joint for that purpose, observing that some twenty-one or twenty-two years ago Edward Stanley demonstrated to them the best method, founded upon the anatomical arrangement of the bones to which he had referred. Notwithstanding that it might, perhaps, be considered "tailorified," he thought they would sometimes be quite justified during their examination in taking a mould of the hocks. There was a difference between spavin and what was known as coarse hocks, and his rule in dealing with them was to contrast them one with the other, and take all the bones and the age of the horse into calculation. If they found all the bones in keeping, and the horse perfectly free from lameness, he thought they were justified in passing the animal sound; but, on the other hand, if they found one joint bigger than the other, even if the horse were apparently perfectly sound, they were not justified in passing him without a remark. In regard to a comparatively aged or an adult horse, the length of the guarantee he recommended in such case might be much less than in the case of a young one. With regard to the treatment of the disease, it always came to one thing—the application of counter-irritation in some form or other. In firing he always took particular care to force the point of the iron well into the bony structure itself. Some people thought there was a likelihood of opening the joint, but it was extremely small, and practically it was annihilated, and they never need trouble about such a contingency. Tenotomy he considered perfectly useless, except for certain special cases. After speaking of the difficulty which attended

THE TREATMENT OF SPAVIN

when it affected the subtarsal ligament, Professor Walley went on to describe the characteristics of occult spavin. Although the cause of this disease was somewhat doubtful, he attributed its origin to the peculiar motion of the joint, and the consequent material interference with the blood supply in the region. They were aware that in regard to this form of the disease the lameness did not pass off with exercise. However they might manipulate, the animal would go perhaps more lame at the close of his journey than at the beginning. There was no enlargement of the joint, though there might be a certain amount of heat, and there must be pain on concussion, the symptoms of which might be produced by striking the bone or the bottom of the foot with a hammer. The treatment of occult spavin was the most difficult thing they had to deal with, firing, blistering, setoning, or plugging being alike unavailing in curing the lameness, until they brought about anchylosis, which they were unable to do in all cases. From examination and investigation he was disposed to think that there was such a thing as gouty disease of the hock, and, naturally, heavy cart horses employed in town work were the animals most subject to it. As a possible means of arresting the ailment, he recommended change of food and an application of iodine to the region affected. He next proceeded to deal with

BOG SPAVIN AND THOROUGH-PIN,

pointing out that they were distinct and separate diseases, and dwelling upon the importance of satisfying themselves, before they proceeded to treat for bog spavin, that they had really to do with the disease, and not with thorough-pin. Bog spavin was frequently seen in very young horses, sometimes almost in foals. There were dozens of colts which were found to be so affected at twelve months old, numbers at two years, and it was of very frequent occurrence at three years. They had, therefore, hereditary tendencies to think of in their treatment. It did not neccessarily produce lameness in all cases, and the animal might last for years; but as in a legal point of view, he was undoubtedly unsound, and was, in severe work, liable to fall lame at a sooner or later period. In the treatment of thorough-pin, as in the other cases he had named, counter irritation formed their great stock in trade, although there were several other methods of dealing with it, such as the application of pressure, the injection of iodine, or the use of the seton. In his own practice he had been more successful with the last named method than with any other means of cure. With regard to the seton, however, they must not expect any immediate result. Frequently months would elapse before they obtained any results. In the case of capped hock, the use of the seton would, in his opinion, be more often found beneficial than any other method of treatment they might adopt. In ordinary cases it was enough to open the part and deal with it as an ordinary wound. The last disease he referred to was

CURB,

In the great majority of cases curb was due to nothing more nor less than a thickening of the ligament, which of all others, from its position, was the least liable to strain of any kind. He pointed out the characteristics of the disease, maintaining that they were not to take as curb every little enlargement which occurred in the same region. Cases had come under his notice in which the injury from the horse striking the joint, or where there had been a little loose excresce, which could have been removed with a stroke of the knife, had been attributed to curb. Its treatment was not difficult, and the disease might be cured in a comparatively short space of time. As to the passing of a horse with curb for trading purposes, he mentioned a case in which a horse shown at an agricultural show in Shropshire was refused the prize for the best stock getter because he had been fired, and the official veterinary surgeon would not pass him, although the owner said the injury had been due to an accident. The result proved that the veterinary surgeon was right; for afterwards twenty colts by the horse might have been found all with curby hocks. In conclusion, he directed their attention to a number of interesting specimens of diseased hock met with in the course of his practice, and on resuming his seat was warmly applauded.

When a horse gets past his twelfth or thirteenth year he is not usually profitable to keep. He may do a good deal of work after that date, but it will require more care and better feed to keep him in the best condition for work. Each year will also detract something from his value, and this must be deducted from the apparent profit on his labor.

SIR,—I have a young foal which has a hard lump on all its four limbs, just above the fetlocks, about an inch square. It is hard, just feels like bone. It was never lame, or in the least bit stiff. It took first prize at Guelph, but when taken to an adjoining fair was thrown out. Please answer through your ever interesting paper what it is, and what sort of treatment it should receive, and oblige an old subscriber.

B. W., Ponsonby, P. O., Ont.

[From your description we are of the opinion that the thickening is caused by the foal travelling on hard ground. We often find foals affected in a similar way when the mare is worked and the foal allowed to follow her, setting up an inflammation of the periosteum or covering of the bone, causing it to thicken, often extending to the bone itself. Treatment—at first use cooling applications until you reduce the inflammation; then you might apply a stimulating liniment once a day, after bathing with cold water and salt; after using this treatment for a time, if the enlargements are not reduced, you might apply a mild blister.]

SIR,—We had a cow and oxen broke loose and got into growing grain just about ripe one night; the oxen got all right without any doctoring, the cow died first day, she was all right next morning, could not stand, gave her a pint linseed oil, but she got no better, by night; about three in the afternoon gave her salts and a cup of yeast. The next morning she was dead. Could you kindly tell me the reason of death? Before giving the medicine and after she passed grain quite freely. Please answer through your paper, and oblige,

F. R., Richmond P. O., Man.

[Your description of the case is not sufficient for us to say what was the matter with your cow. Kindly state how she was affected during the different stages of this disease, from the time she eat the grain until she died.]

The Farmer's Tool-House.

We have often spoken of the convenience and value of a small tool-house, which should be found upon the premises of every farmer, in which on rainy days, or whenever there may be a day or part of a day when there is nothing particular on hand to go at, implements and machinery out of repair may be mended and made ready for use. Or, in the event of anything happening when in operation, and at times too when the work is hurrying, which would cause delay, we can always have at hand the necessary tools to mend it immediately and go on with the work without much delay, and thus accomplish what there is to do in the specified time. We have often heard a farmer say that he fully expected to have done a certain field or allotted plowing or mowing, &c., if it had not been for that stone, stump or root breaking some portion of the machinery, to repair which he had to send two miles off, when it ought to have been done by himself on his own premises in half an hour or so. That very implement had shown weakness the preceding autumn, but having no little tool-house or workshop of his own and the few necessary tools, it was put off altogether; and now, in the midst of the season, when he depended on his finishing this particular piece of work to go on with getting in the crop, the very thing happens that he was afraid several months before would happen, and which he fully intended should be prepared for in time for the season's work. A shop and tools would have saved all this and as much money as would about have supplied the tools. Sometimes very small things effect valuable purposes which have a great deal to do in carrying on systematically and at the right time the indispensable operations of the farm.

Now, as it is really next to impossible to conduct a farm in all its parts as it should be without such a shop, in which so many things can be done at leisure times, especially during inclement weather, allow us to urge upon every one who lacks this important annex to every well-regulated farm, to arrange such a shop, filled out with all the necessary tools by the end of next November, in order that the requisite repairing may be done, and even various new things made that would be useful on the farm and in the garden by the time the season again opens. Once establish such a convenience and the wonder will soon be how it was possible to manage the farm thoroughly and with the best results so long without the little workshop.—[The Gemantown Telegraph.