

COMMON DISEASES OF HORSES.

ABORTION.

Symptoms.—According to age of fetus, under three months mare is scarcely sick at all, after that period may show colicky symptoms and have bloody discharge. Temperature rises and pulse generally higher.

Causes.—May be contagious or due to accident, other disease (as inflammation of bowels or lungs), strain or overwork. Feeding musty grain or oat sheaves, or hay containing ergot. Giving too much cold water when mare is heated.

Treatment.—Keep mare quiet. Give $\frac{1}{2}$ pint linseed oil two or three times a day until bowels move freely. Give table-spoonful saltpetre in hot bran mash morning and night for three days. Wash out once or twice daily with antiseptics, such as permanganate of potash 1 ounce to 3 gallons of soft boiled water. Isolate mares that have aborted, disinfect stall, wash hind quarters of other pregnant mares in stable with disinfectant.

AZOTURIA.

Cause.—High feeding of rich foods when animal is idle.

Symptoms—Mild Form.—Lameness in one limb from no apparent cause succeeding some sudden exertion. Dusky brown colour of mucous membrane of eye and nose. Urine brown coloured.

Severe Form.—Usually appears after animal stands two or three days in stable on full rations. Animal usually works for a short time ere showing symptoms. Muscles of loins become swollen and rigid. Animal moves stiffly and unsteadily. Crouches behind, seems to lose control of hind quarters. Animal may drop and be unable to rise. Pulse and breathing accelerated. Eyes red with tinge of brown. Urine reddish brown or coffee colour.

Treatment.—Must be applied immediately:

Physic ball eight drams aloes or pint to pint and a half raw linseed oil. Apply blanket, which has been wrung out of very hot water, to loins or apply mustard plaster (thin paste of mustard covered with newspaper then blanket). If animal down over 24 hours better to put in slings.

Prevention.—Cut down rations of all idle horses to one half. Give light exercise if possible. Disease is never seen in pasture or if horses worked every day.

ACUTE INDIGESTION—Common and Fatal.

Cause.—Overfeeding, sudden exertion after heavy feed. Feeding large feed of grain on empty stomach. Feeding musty feed. Sudden change of feed. Barley is especially dangerous.

Symptoms.—Animal dull, shows pain, abdomen distended. Animal sweats, rolls on back, paws and shows great pain, may be slight diarrhoea—rectum protrudes.

Treatment.—Must be prompt. Give physic, also stimulant, dose consisting of:

Sulphuric ether, one ounce.
Tincture of opium, one ounce.
Raw linseed oil, one pint.

Turpentine may be given in place of the ether. Repeat in from one to two hours if pain has not subsided, giving $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of oil. Give rectal injections of soap (or linseed oil) and water. Mustard plaster or liniment may be applied to the abdomen.

Prevention.—Careful feeding—wholesome grain in not too large quantities. Do not water immediately after heavy feed, especially of grain.

SWAMP FEVER.

Symptoms.—Horse falls but eats ravenously. Temperature rises and falls intermittently. Tires very easily. Average temperature rises as disease advances. Eye bright, glassy stare. Pulse increases up to 60 or 70 pulsations. Coat dry and harsh.

Duration.—Two to four months. Death rate about 75 per cent. Has permanent effect even in case of recovery. Death usually due to exhaustion.

Infection.—Feeding on low, marshy land. Feeding marsh hay. Drinking slough water in late summer and fall. Always increases in wet years.