

should have rest, the shoe be removed, the sole moderately thinned down, and the toe shortened; then poultice the foot, or stand the horse in moistened clay, or a water bath. This treatment should be continued for several hours daily, and the horse afterwards be put into a stall or roomy horse box. After a time, blisters around the coronet are also beneficial, and even frog setons; and in horses that are incurably lame, the operation of neurotomy may be performed, but should only be attempted by a person conversant with the structure of the foot and limb, and only resorted to in inveterate and incurable cases.

Symptoms of Acute Laminitis.

This severe disease is indicated by the excruciating pain exhibited by the suffering patient. The animal is almost unable to move, and when forced to walk, he progresses in a very peculiar manner, by placing his hind legs well forward under the body, in order to relieve the fore feet. The breathing is increased greatly in some cases to such an extent that on a casual glance the animal might be supposed to be affected with an acute attack of pleurisy. The circulation is very much quickened, the pulse beating sixty to eighty per minute, the temperature of the feet is raised, and the pastern arteries are throbbing. The muscles of the shoulder and flank are quivering, and in some instances the horse perspires freely. The bowels are usually costive. If you take the horse by the head, and attempt to force him backwards, he draws the fore feet along the ground. If you attempt to turn him around, the effort to do so will almost cause him to fall. When standing, he keeps his fore legs well out, throwing the weight upon the heels, and the hind legs are brought far under the body, giving to the loins a somewhat arched appearance. This symptom frequently misleads as to the seat of the disease, and the horse is supposed to be affected in the region of the kidneys, when he may be suffering from an acute attack of laminitis or founder.

Inversion of the Womb.

Mr. Richard Serson, of Fulgrove, enquires what is the proper treatment to be adopted when cows "put out the calf bed," and mentions also that he has noticed "cows, and especially heifers, in high condition, swell very much about the navel for a considerable time before they calve.

Inversion of the womb frequently follows the convulsive efforts in the expulsion of the foetus. The treatment in such cases is to return it as quickly as possible. It should

be washed with a little tepid water, and in cases where the placenta or afterbirth is not detached, this should be carefully removed; then support the womb by means of a strong towel, and endeavour to return it by gentle pressure. When the womb is swollen, it might be advisable to scarify it lightly and freely before attempting to return it, but this should be done with caution, and had better be entrusted to a competent veterinary surgeon. Having succeeded in returning the womb into its proper situation, the next object is to retain it there. This is best done by elevating the hind quarters, and applying a pad to the vulva for some little time, which may be secured to a surcingle placed around the abdomen, and behind the shoulder.

Swellings under the belly are often the signs of a good milker, and rarely do much harm. By giving a less quantity of food, and a few doses of the iodide of potassium, their removal will be facilitated.

The writer of the above communication complains that he has written before without receiving any reply. We can only assure him that his previous communications have not reached us. We would, moreover, particularly request our correspondents in general to send communications to the editor distinct, and on different paper from letters enclosing money or treating merely of matters of business.

Hydatids in Sheep's Brains.

To the Editor.

SIR.—I have recently lost two good ewes within a week of lambing. In each of them were found two fine lambs. The sheep both died on the fourth day after the first indications of disease, and the symptoms being peculiar and precisely similar in both cases, my foreman very carefully examined the last one, to find out, if possible, the cause of death.

I send for your inspection a large grub, which was found close to the brain, and which, I have no doubt, caused death.

The symptoms were, first, a nodding movement of the head, and grinding of the teeth, as if in great pain, then a trembling of the fore legs, and finally, loss of strength in the hind legs, the sheep falling on its haunches, and being quite unable to stand.

They continued to eat, as usual, the first, second, and third day, but took nothing the fourth day, when they died. S. G.

REPLY.—The grub shown us appears to be of the kind frequently met with in the brain of sheep that are affected with the disease known as "sturdy," or "gid." It is called the *Conurus cerebri*, and it is believed to be produced from the ova or larvæ of the tape worms which are dropped from dogs. The minute ova or larvæ may be taken into the mouth from off the pasture or other food, and so taken into the stomach. They are exceedingly minute, enter the circulation with the chyle, and thus gain access to the brain

by means of the blood. The soft, loose texture of the brain is favourable to their further development. In the brain they usually become enclosed in a membranous sac. From their situation, they give rise to various symptoms, often such as stated above, whilst in other cases the head symptoms are more alarming and severe—the animal reels about, wanders from the rest of the flock, and in some instances keeps continually turning round and round, plainly showing that the brain is the seat of disease. The hydatid frequently causes partial absorption of part of the skull bone, immediately over its situation.

The remedy in such cases is to remove the hydatid, which is often successfully accomplished by the use of a small trochar and canula. In operating, the head must be carefully examined, to find the seat of the hydatid, which is frequently indicated by a softening of the bone, as already stated. The skin is dissected back, and the trochar and canula introduced; and it is also necessary in some cases to use a small syringe to draw out the hydatid. The after treatment consists in bringing the edges of the wound together, and using any simple dressing. In many parts of Britain the shepherds perform this operation in a very dexterous manner, but we would scarcely recommend it in totally inexperienced hands.

There is a disease known as "grub in the head," of which the seat is not the brain, but the nostril, or nasal sinuses, and which is caused by the larvæ of the gadfly. The irritation consequent on the presence of this parasite is very great, but is not usually attended with cerebral symptoms, nor is the complaint commonly fatal.

Singular Local Disease.

To the Editor.

SIR.—There are a couple of farms in my neighbourhood on which every horse that is employed on them any length of time dies through the effects of a disease, stated by veterinary surgeons and others to be the "yellow water." Now, since there is a great diversity of opinion respecting the cause of the disease on these farms, many asserting that it is owing to the nature of the water, I wish you would give your opinion through the columns of your valuable journal respecting the causes of it, and state if it is infectious. What means would you recommend to pursue as a preventive, and how would you treat the disease on the appearance of the first symptoms of attack? A SUBSCRIBER.

Nottawa, March 9th, 1870.

REPLY.—The disease is produced, in all probability, from some obnoxious herb, or possibly impure water. We cannot think that the disease is infectious. "Yellow water" is such a vague term that it is impossible for us to form an opinion as to the nature of the malady. Perhaps fallowing, or green-cropping the land, and also dressing with lime, might improve the quality of the grasses, etc.