

HORSES.

Common Ailments in Horses.

During the Provincial Winter Fair, at Guelph, "Some Common Ailments of Horses" was the subject of profitable discussion. Dr. J. Standish, of Walkerton, claimed that the horses of Ontario were valued at \$80,000,000. This showed how important it was that such questions should be discussed.

Acute indigestion commonly was caused by excessive quantities of food. Digestion being aided by secreted fluids, the excess of food prevented these fluids performing their function. The lack of proper digestion gave the horse distress. Chronic indigestion was due to derangement of the mouth, preventing complete mastication, or to derangement of glands in the mouth, stomach and intestines. It could also be produced by excesses of non-nutritious food. It was not the quantity of food consumed, but rather the quantity assimilated, that kept the horse in condition. The food given should be regulated by existing conditions. If a horse had been ill for a time, smaller quantities were advisable until he regained his appetite. Animals should not be fed excessively when not working. Hay should not be left in the manger in front of a horse all the time.

Flatulent and spasmodic colic were due to much the same causes. The ailments could be prevented by following practices in feeding similar to those mentioned under indigestion.

Heaves were due to overfeeding, the stomach being distended. Timothy hay overripe, or clover hay overcured, would cause this ailment. Moderate feeding on balanced rations, with regular watering and sufficient exercise, would avoid it.

Lymphangitis, a disease in which the small vessels accompanying the veins are affected, sometimes known as "Monday-morning" disease, could be prevented by moderate feeding and reduction of nutritive food when the animal was not at regular work. Bran mash on Saturday night, and again on Sunday, and perhaps Monday morning, was a preventive. If the case became habitual, 4 drams saltpetre could be put in the Saturday night's mash.

Azoturia could be prevented by plenty of exercise. A grain of prevention was worth a ton of cure. Lack of exercise was the cause of this disease. The exercise stimulated the heart, liver, stomach and other organs, and thus removed the cause.

A disease common in foals, known as joint-ill, was due to a germ that entered the navel in early life. These germs accumulated in a joint or in soft tissues. Prevention lay in keeping the surroundings of the foal in clean condition. Lime in the stall, and the application of antiseptics to the navel, was good practice.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF DISCUSSION.

Q. Is it possible for a foal to contract the disease before being born?

A. I have never known of such case, but it would be possible immediately after delivery of the foal, and might occur during delivery if the germ be present on the tail or quarters of the dam.

Q. How is it that horses do not contract heaves on the prairie?

A. They do not gorge themselves on the prairie. They are always out nibbling at the grass, and prairie hay seems to be succulent and tender. During the time they are not busy, they usually are out on grass.

Q. What would you consider a reasonable supply of grain for an ordinary horse?

A. It is impossible to give a definite answer. About three gallons a day, divided into three feeds, at reasonable labor, should suffice for a 1,400-pound horse. In addition, hay, as much as would be eaten in one hour at breakfast, 35 minutes at noon, and one hour at night; and roots twice a week should be fed. In idle periods the oat supply should be reduced to one-half gallon twice a day, and only a small quantity of hay at noon.

Q. Do not many so-called horse-tooth doctors ruin good horses?

A. I am glad that point has been brought up. I believe much harm is done to good animals in this way. It is always best to go to a recognized, reliable veterinarian. The charge might be higher, but the ultimate cost, in most cases, is lower.

Q. Is impure air in stables the cause of digestive derangements?

A.—Yes. Impure air gives a depressing influence on the heart and other organs, and may result in indigestion.

Q. Would ten pounds silage night and morning be too much for a horse. Some say it injures the teeth, because of the acid present.

A. I would consider that heavy feeding. Twice a week should be enough.

Q. Can heaves be cured?

A. No. The symptoms may be alleviated, but the disease cannot be cured.

Q. What have you to say regarding diphtheria in horses?

A. I suppose it is the disease called cerebro-spinal meningitis, or it may be influenza. No doubt, it is due to something in the water supply. Stabling in unventilated places and in vitiated air frequently causes such diseases.

Q. Is there any cure for lockjaw?

A. Yes, in many cases special treatment with a serum (antitoxic serum) will effect a cure.

Q. Would you prefer alfalfa to clovers?

A. Yes, in conjunction with other foods. It requires intelligence in feeding, and must not be given in excess, particularly if damaged by frost or poorly cured.

STUDY DISEASES AND PREVENTION.

A lengthy and costly experience with horses led Wm. Smith, of Columbus, Ont., to state that the horse-breeder should know horse diseases and measures that would result in avoiding them. Farmers know that horses should be regularly watered and fed, and that they should get palatable and nutritious food, but too often they did not put into practice what they knew. Another mistake farmers make was in testing a home remedy, and when the horse was beyond recovery, rushing for a veterinarian, and then saying he was incompetent when the animal died.

An attempt to fatten a horse in 24 hours, or at least to fit him for next week's work by liberal feeding on Sunday, generally caused lymphangitis. Joint-ill was said to have caused the loss of more money value in horses than any other one disease. In former years he had lost several foals, but he had listened to a practical talk on this disease several years ago, and since then lost but one. He did not think a colt could contract the ailment before birth—not before the cord was broken. The use of antiseptics and cleanliness in the stalls prevented it.

Heaves, though not curable, could be alle-

Q. What medicine can not be given to pregnant mares?

A. Give no medicine to pregnant mares unless absolutely necessary. Aloes or any drastic purgative should be withheld.

Treatment of lymphangitis consisted in administering a purgative of 8 to 10 drams of aloes and 2 drams of ginger, followed by 4 drams nitrate of potash night and morning. Application of heat to the swollen part was good. Regular exercise and precautions as to prevention should result in permanent cure.

For Azoturia, the best treatment lay in absolute rest and comfort as soon as the symptoms were noticed. The administration of a purgative was good practice.

Q. How often should a horse be watered?

A. My theory is that when a horse is thirsty he wants a drink. If he is not excessively hot, he can be allowed to take water comparatively freely. As a rule, it is best to water before meals, and not after. Custom and regularity has much to do with a horse's habits.

Profit from Handling Horses.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

When working on the farm with my father—I think it was in the fall of 1877 or 1878—I went to a farm sale one afternoon, and bought a sucking foal for thirty-one dollars; that was the beginning of my career as a horseman. Since that, I try to have a team to sell every year. I have sold some very good horses, and buried just as good. I kept the filly referred to until she was rising three years old, and then sold her for one hundred dollars.

I always like to have two colts run together the first winter of their lives, as I think they do better. I run them loose in a box stall. I had one colt two years ago in a box stall; fed it two

quarts of oats three times a day, also a quart of bran at each meal, and all the good hay it could eat. It did not do well, so I bought another, and put the two together on the feed the one had been getting, and they both gained in flesh. Two can be attended to almost as easily as one. The draft and Standard breeds are what I have been handling. I like a good road mare, but I like a good horse in any class. If I cannot breed colts, I buy them, and prefer to buy them as weanlings. I never seem to miss the feed and care of them until they are ready to sell. I can always sell them at three or four years old. I sold a three-year-old to go to Toronto to do heavy work. If you can get the size, it goes a long way to make up for age.

I have bought weanling colts from twenty dollars to as high as one hundred and ten dollars, and made as much out of the twenty-dollar colt as the one at one hundred and ten dollars. I usually mate them.

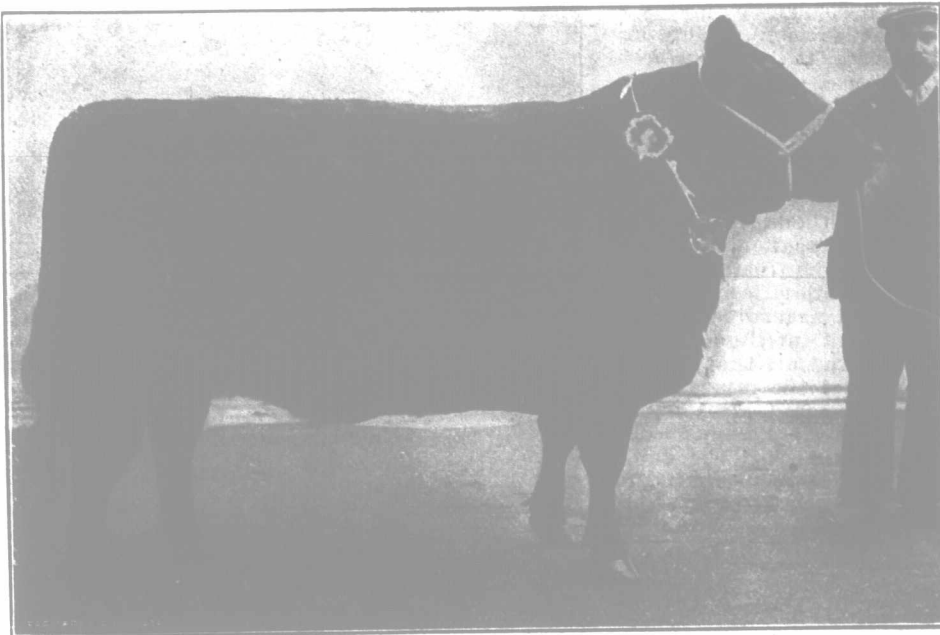
On one occasion I bought a colt which I had never seen, though I knew how it was bred. Horses were a little flat at the time. I paid thirty-five dollars, and sold it and its mate when rising four years old for four hundred and forty-five dollars. On another occasion I paid eighty dollars for a pair of two-year-old colts. That was in the fall, and the following spring I sold one of them for what I gave for both. They were heavy colts; I never buy anything else. In all my experience, I have bought only one light colt, although I try to breed light ones, as well as heavy.

I never have any trouble disposing of horses. When I buy a colt or a horse which I want to sell, I am not long in selling. I always sell on the farm. I do not get any fancy prices. The highest price I ever received was \$275, that being for a two-year-old colt. I have been offered more, and taken less.

In all my experience in breaking colts, I have never had any trouble. I have worked them at two years old. I find it a good plan, if you have two two-year-old colts, to work them half a day about. I farm only one hundred and eight acres, but, to give you all my experience, would make a little book.

ROBT. RIDDELL.

York Co., Ont.



Her-Majesty 5th of Cullen.

Pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus heifer, two years old. Winner at the Smithfield Fat-stock Show, 1908. First and silver cup for best heifer, and champion plate of 100 guineas for the best beast in the show. Exhibited by the Countess Dowager of Seafield.

viated by judicious feeding. Dusty hay, or, in fact, liberal supplies of hay or other bulky dry food, should be withheld.

TREATMENT OF AILMENTS.

How common ailments can best be treated, was dealt with by Dr. J. Hugo Reed, of the Ontario Agricultural College. Chronic indigestion could be treated best by having the mouth attended to by a competent man, administering a purgative, and perhaps a tonic. Acute indigestion and flatulent and spasmodic colic were difficult to distinguish in the early stages. For the first, raw linseed oil 1 pint, and turpentine 2 to 4 ounces, was a good dose. It might also be necessary to give belladonna, or to repeat the dose. Spasmodic colic, in most cases, required no treatment; the trouble passed off in short time. If it was found necessary to treat, a dose of tincture of belladonna, tincture of opium and sweet nitre, about 1 to 1½ ounces of each, would suit. Aconite was an unreliable remedy. Large doses killed quickly, while small doses hastened death, unless the heart be strong. However, when this drug had stood for a time it lost its strength, and had little more effect than water.

Q. What causes spasmodic colic?

A. Some horses are subject to the ailment. Cases are known where horses become affected with it on changes of feed, or when watered after eating.

Q. How does the pulse act in spasmodic colic?

A. During the spasm, up to 50 or 60 beats, while the normal is 36 to 40.