

set at rest; this feature, accompanied by others, which I shall allude to, complete the chain of evidence.

In some cases the gas goes on accumulating in the large intestines until the abdomen resembles that of an ox, said to be "*horen*," or "*blasted*;" this is a state called *tympanites*, (windy distension.) When the gas generates very suddenly, and the abdomen immediately acquires immense volume, the case is termed *meteorization*.*

It is very distressing to witness the sufferings of an animal in this condition; and the only chance of relieving him is by puncturing the colon, and unless this operation be performed early, it will prove fruitless.

Symptoms of Colic.—It may be well to bear in mind that whatever form of colic occurs, it is always sudden in its attack; and horses are liable to it at all times; in the stable, on the road, or at grass. In the early stage very little occurs to attract attention. The animal, all at once, becomes uneasy from pain, and commences to paw with his fore-feet; soon gets down, and if he be in space sufficient, will commence to roll from side to side, often remaining a few moments on his back, in which posture he seems to obtain temporary relief; sometimes, as quick as thought, he is on his legs again: gives his body a shake, anxiously regards the flanks by turning the head in that direction; when down, again, he goes to perform the same rolling feat. Now and then the patient remains quiet, in a crouching attitude; the limbs being gathered under the body until the distension is so great, or the pains so severe, that he must shift his position, when again we find him rolling, or else standing with the hind extremities stretched backwards, † the fore advanced; thus representing the attitude of a horse when urinating. Supposing at this period that there be no flatulency present, yet the respirations are hurried, the pulse wirey, the eyes glassy, and the patient excessively nervous and uncontrollable; the case is then of a spasmodic character.

Should the animal pass flatus, or the abdomen increase in volume, the case is one of flatulency. Then again, in spasmodic colic, the patient has periods of ease, which gradually grow shorter, until he either gets relief or becomes delirious, and soon dies. Either form of the disease may, however, terminate in inflammation of the bowels. The bladder often becomes sympathetically affected, and retention of urine is the result; this can be ascertained by introducing the hand into the *rectum*.

These are some of the principle features of colic. I might go on and describe the symptoms more fully, but time will not permit.

CAUSE OF COLIC.

I shall now offer some brief remarks on the *cause* of colic. If we could only stretch the imagination, so as to take for granted, all the popular causes assigned for the production of colic, then their name would be legion. Some writers inform us that a drink of cold water, when the animal is heated, is the most potent cause; then we must infer that the horses ridden by the Russian Cossacks, (fast fellows,) in a country where cold water is abundant, should be the subjects of colic; but the very reverse is the case; the disease is almost unknown among them.

Previous to the introduction of Cochituate water into the City of Boston, colic occurring among horses, was partly attributed to the *cold, well* water then used; but now they all drink the former, yet colic is just as prevalent, and indeed more so, than at the time referred to.

There are no people that pay more attention to the watering of horses than the English grooms, and it is customary when a horse is taken from his home to a distant race-course, to remain away only a few days, sufficient water is transported with him to last during his stay. Such a dread have English grooms of "*strange water*," as they term it. Now, it is a notorious fact, that the English horse is more subject to bowel affections than those of this country. From this circumstance I infer that bowel affections are hereditary, or in other words a predisposition to such is transmitted from parents to offspring.

I can well remember the time when physicians would not allow a fever patient to taste

* *Meteorization*—a windy state of the abdomen, which takes place suddenly and unexpectedly, as doth the appearance of a meteor in the Heavens.—*Percivall*.

† When a horse assumes this attitude, people are apt to conclude that the subject is laboring under suppression of urine, and then down goes the nitre, gin and rosin. But the fact is, he puts himself in this position for the purpose of pressing on the abdomen, and thus giving it support by means of the rectus muscles.