

the Chairman intimated that he had been requested to introduce the important subject of inspection for discussion by the Association, and that he would do so at a special meeting to be held on Thursday evening, 7th March, which he hoped to see not only the members, also the Health Committee and others interested in this important sanitary measure.

STOMACH, BLIND, OR MAD STAGGERS.

BY PROF. J. A. GOING, M. R. C. V. S. E.

The definition of staggers is an unnatural morbid condition of the encephalon (the brain, its members, etc.), there is present congestion of the vessels, effusion into the arteries and spaces, with an exudation of lymph between the membranes. The two principal kinds of staggers we have are what is known as mad and stomach. In the former the brain is sympathetically affected, and is affected by what is known as reflex action. In the former it may be the result of concussion, a direct injury, etc. What is called sleepy staggers is merely a peculiarity of phase of that mentioned as stomach staggers. There are many pathological conditions of the cerebral substance which give rise to a frenzied condition—tumors, some recognizable morbid poison, the retention of uramic acid, or the irritation due to the presence of melonotic deposits—but inflammation gives rise to loss of function, and instead of the exalted condition, we have cerebralitis, stupor, coma, or general paralysis. The most common form of congestion of the brain we have is that ushered in by stomach, sleepy, grass, or mad staggers. It is not confined to the horse alone, as ruminant cattle also are subject to it.

Symptoms.

The first symptom observed is a dull, listless, unthrifty, drowsy appearance; the animal is lazy, disinclined to move, and it does so voluntarily, it will be at a slow deliberate gait, as each motion of the body causes pain; he eats without any apparent relish, and stops and commences again frequently. The breathing is slower than normal, as a rule, though we have at times observed it become accelerated. It is characterized, however, by its stertorous character, the pulse is slow and full. If the animal is suddenly approached and roused out of his lethargic, or somnolent state, he is greatly excited, and shivers violently, but soon becomes calm again, and may remain so for a short time, particularly if the stable be dark. We find, when the disease appears suddenly, the animal will shake his head, toss it in the air, shiver, roll his eyes, and sometimes fall. He moves mechanically, ears, plunges, and frequently pulls on his halter, so as to break it, and often hurts himself. The visible mucus membranes are of a yellowish color, this is generally a prominent symptom. As the disease advances the extremities become alternately hot and cold, and the body becomes bedewed with perspiration. There may be observed spasmodic twitchings of the muscles of the neck, breast, and haunches. Convulsions will probably succeed this. The body becomes rigid as the disease advances, and breathing labored. The water will be excreted by a spasmodic effort. When the rigidity of the muscles pass, it will be succeeded by lassitude and debility, the legs seem weak, and the patient with difficulty stands. The consciousness returns slowly, the animal may now commence to feed for a few moments, stop suddenly, and fall to sleep, perhaps without swallowing the food in his mouth. When he wakes it will be with a start, and he will look frightened, and greatly excited, stares vacantly, and walks about his stall as if in a somnambulant condition, not caring to avoid coming in contact with the walls or any obstacle that may present itself. The lips hang loosely, and are more or less paralyzed; the tongue protrudes from the mouth, or spasmodic twitching of the lips and facial muscles may occur. If the at-

tainment brought about by eating grain of bran in large quantities. From this Prof. Williams dissents, but we must say we have so often observed staggers result from over-eating, that we are rather inclined to agree with Mr. Gamgee, and come to the conclusion that over distention and impaction of the stomach will originate staggers, and that the disease may manifest the complications above enumerated. We have on numberless occasions found animals that have broken loose at night and engorged themselves at the oat-bin, become subject to staggers, the disease of course originating in this organ, and the brain, through reflex action, or sympathy, participating. Indigestion, no doubt, occasions it in many cases; hence by proper precaution it may be either aborted or prevented. This is proven, we believe satisfactorily, from the fact that animals exhibiting unmistakable symptoms of staggers have frequently been cured by regulating their diet, administering tonics, and giving an occasional dose of physic.

That it originates in the brain at times is also true, as on post-mortem that organ is frequently found congested, as are the lungs, also the stomach of such animals being found to contain either no food, or very little. But while admitting this, we hold the majority of cases of staggers, if not due to tumors, etc., are due to impaction of the stomach, indigestion, and the animals being fed matter which disagrees with them, or which they are unable to digest. And it is here that our readers can benefit by the information afforded by this article, for should they govern themselves according to the following advice, they may avert fatal results.

Prevention and Treatment.

Do not wait until you have a well developed case of staggers to grapple with, but be beforehand, and as soon as you observe your horse off find out the cause, see if he is costive, suffering from indigestion, if the feces be coated with mucus, and the food ejected in an unmastered condition; have his teeth examined. But if you cannot avert the danger, and your animal exhibits the disease, then, in the early stage, when you have a high, full pulse, which has tone, bleeding will have a beneficial effect, by diminishing the flow of blood in the brain. From four to eight quarts may be taken with advantage from the jugular vein, or by bleeding from the palatine artery, of which we do not approve, as many animals have died from hemorrhage when bled in this manner, the operator being unable to arrest the flow of blood, which could not occur had the jugular been selected. When you bleed from the palate you draw arterial blood, which is not advisable, as you are then directly sapping the animal's strength, but should you decide on bleeding here the quantity must be small, never exceeding in amount eight to ten ounces. Should the pulse be feeble, accelerate it, as when the disease is drawing toward its termination it then would be extremely inadvisable and unwise to bleed, as the adoption of such a course would only hasten death, and make such a termination doubly certain. You can and should administer a cathartic, either aloes or linseed oil. A full dose should be given, as in such instances superpurgation rarely follows. If aloes, give about six drachms, combined with from forty-five to sixty grains of calomel. Give all the water the patient will take, and the injection of an occasional enema will have a beneficial effect. Also have cold water poured upon the head, or better, if convenient, powder some ice, enclose it in a sack, and place it on the animal's poll. Give no food for twelve or fourteen hours, and then simply a mash. As little disturbance as possible should be permitted. Keep the stable perfectly quiet. The bowels, being in a partially paralyzed condition, are therefore very difficult to be brought under the influence of a cathartic, owing to the unsusceptibility of the intestinal track. The intestines may fail to respond to the action of the medicine for from thirty-six to forty-eight hours. Should the

certain number of rounds under certain regulations, these regulations being the same for all the Provinces. The results are then collected at Ottawa by the Rifle Association and the marksmen making the highest twenty scores are nominated as the team. To the inexperienced this method might appear both reasonable and fair, but in reality, as in the case this year, it is liable to lead to absurd results. Each Provincial Association is at liberty to select the two days for competition best suited to its own convenience, and the contests are not expected to be and never have been simultaneous. We believe the shooting for places in the team has generally taken place during or at the conclusion of the Provincial matches in each Province, but not necessarily on these occasions. The competition for Ontario marksmen took place at the conclusion of the O. R. A. matches, last September, and those who took part therein had to contend with a heavy rain storm and a boisterous and unsteady gale of wind. Garrison Common, at Toronto, is at best a trying range, but with the further disadvantage of unusually inclement weather, brilliant scoring was impossible. Many shots of Dominion and even Wimbledon reputation, including not a few from our own city, retired in disgust from a contest in which skill seemed to form but a very minute ingredient. As between the volunteers of any particular Province, possibly such weather might be most desirable in getting at the best men; but when the scores from the different Provinces are compared, what is the result? New Brunswick has ten out of the twenty, Quebec has five or six and Ontario has a solitary one. In the nature of things, such an unfairly inadequate representation from the largest Province of the Dominion could only result from an absurd system. From enquiry we learn that the competition at Montreal for the Province of Quebec was held during two days of weather finer and more favorable than which, for shooting, could not be desired. The New Brunswickers seem to have had the advantage of not only good weather, but other favoring circumstances which shooting men well know how to appreciate, and they certainly did, as might be expected, take the full benefit of their opportunities.

The Ontario men also complain that in addition to the difficulties of the weather and ranges, they had to shoot under the superintendence of a staff-officer named by the Dominion Rifle Association, whose ridiculous notions of compelling strict compliance with the letter of the regulations, without any regard to their spirit, would have been laughed at in any of the other Provinces. For the first time since 1871, when the first team was sent to Wimbledon, the 13th Battalion, of this city, is without a representative; and when only one marksman from the whole Province gets a place on the team, it is quite reasonable to conclude that the system is radically wrong. It is impossible to hold competitions on different ranges, and under different states of weather, and at the same time avoid the risk of arriving at most unfair results. If a meeting of competitors from all parts of the Dominion could be held on neutral ground, and the crucial test of a week's competition adopted, in theory, at least, the best system, and the one as a rule open to the least fault-finding, would be found. But where the distances are so great as between the remote Provinces of the Dominion, this plan could never be expected to afford anything like general satisfaction.

The true solution of the difficulty will be found in the allotment to each Province of a certain number on the proportion the active militia of such Province bears to the whole of the active militia of the Dominion, and the allowing of each Provincial Association to adopt its own method of selecting its best men to compose the quota from such Province. We are informed that this basis of representation was two or three years ago recommended by the Ontario Rifle Association to the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association as being, on the whole, the least objectionable, but, for what reason we are unaware, the suggestion has never been entertained. It is very evident, at all events, that the haphazard method of selection, which gives Ontario only one-twentieth of the team, must give way to some other method which cannot work out consequences of so anomalous a nature.—*Hamilton Times*.

An exchange says: "It is written that Truth lies at the bottom of a well." We have often verified this by looking down into a well and seeing Truth's honest countenance in the smooth water."

sure, for he had always been perfectly well and healthy before that. The doctors didn't think he would die. They had never known a horse to die from such a cause."

FAITHFUL OLD ARGUS

Argus was an old watch dog, and belonged to a farmer's family in Albany, N. H. Having long outlived his usefulness (as it was presumed), his owners had determined to put him out of the way, and had several times disposed of him, as they thought, but he had always returned to them again alive and well. Finally a neighbor called one day, with his rifle in his hand. He had been out after a fox. One of the boys laid it with him to take Argus out into the woods and shoot him. The old dog was always crazy to follow a gun. He lay in the shed and heard the conversation, and when, finally, the rifleman called to him, he got up and followed him out followed him around to the rear of the barn and there disappeared. It would seem that he had understood exactly the meaning of the compact which had been framed against his life. At all events, he disappeared, and for six days we saw him not, though two or three times we fancied we could detect his tracks, where he had been at the willow during the night. The seventh night of the dog's absence was the night of Saturday. During the day a sap had been made and boiled down and a heavy baki done in a great old oven. Somewhere past midnight all hands were aroused by the barking and howling, and whining, and scratching of old Argus. We knew the voice, but we were determined not to let him in. He redoubled his cries, and his scratching upon the door. At length the head of the family, in his wrath, took down a loaded musket—loaded for a hawk—and threw up a window of the sitting room. No sooner was the sash raised than the old dog came in at a bound, and without stopping to see what his reception was to be, he leaped through the door opening from the great kitchen out into the wash-room and wood-shed, where he howled and scratched like one possessed. John and I knew that something must be wrong outside, so we unfastened the door, and as we opened it the dog bounded out to the shed, where was a great wooden box half filled with ashes. But we had no need to go further to learn what was the matter. The shed was filled with smoke, and a sharp crackling broke upon our ears. The ash-box was on fire, from coals which had been carelessly thrown in during the afternoon before, and the fire had taken to the dry pine partition between the shed and wash-room, and had made its way almost to the roof. Wind was blowing, and in ten minutes more the fire would have been entirely beyond our control, and those ten minutes and more would have been given to the enemy but for the dog. As it was, having water handy, we put out the fire with only the loss of the ash-box and a part of the partition; but the experience gained was worth more than that. Grand old dog? He had crept to the house to satisfy his hunger from the poor swill-bucket, fearing death if he were discovered; but when he found danger to the family—a danger which he must have comprehended instantly and completely—he thought no more of self; to save those whom he had loved became his sole object, and how he did it we have seen. Be sure there were no more thoughts of killing that dog, nor of giving him away.

BROUGHT TO AN ANCHOR.

They tell a good story on an old mariner who keeps a little hotel down here, writes a correspondent from Coney Island. His wife was very anxious to have a horse, an animal in which the old gentleman took but little stock, and the old lady finally won her point and got her horse. The steed was of an erratic and playful disposition and used, on the least provocation, to tear madly along the beach, and succeeded in spilling the old lady out several times. At last the Captain, who had never driven the beast, volunteered to break him of his vicious habit, so getting another old salt to assist him, he procured a kedge anchor with a stout line attached, fastening the end of the line around the axle and putting the anchor into the wagon, the fiery animal was hitched up and the two old gents started out for a drive along the shore. The Captain tells the balance of the story himself. "You see the craft was kind o' cranky and we set sail under a reef. I manned the tiller and

The entertainment began with a match between two out of three games between the Indian team and in a very short time the Indians won from Canada had won the first goal. The second game occupied about fifteen minutes, and resulted, as before, in the success of the Canadian Indians, who were evidently better up in the strategic points of the game and faster runners than their New York opponents. At 9 p.m. the amateurs took their places for the first game of the prize cup series, the Indian contests being merely exhibition affairs. The contest proved to be quite interesting, and after a well played game of twelve minutes duration the New York University team won the first goal, by a well timed throw by Mr. Barreire. Before the second game took place there was a snow-shoe race by the Canadian Indians, which was won by Kuawatawa, one of the Indians. This over, the amateurs resumed play and changing goals two University players soon found that they were put upon their feet by the gentlemen from Ravenswood. After a contest of eleven minutes a lucky throw in by Mr. Richby gave the game to the Ravenswood team, and now the match became specially interesting. The third game began at 9:45 p.m., and after a tough fight of fifteen minutes duration, Mr. Cluff, by some fine play, sent his ball through the University goal and thereby won the match. The Indians then played another match, which again resulted in favor of the University, after which a war dance closed the exhibition.

A PACK OF WEASELS OUT HUNTING

Weasels frequently hunt in couples, and sometimes more than two will work together. We once saw five, and have heard of eight. The five we saw were working a sandy bank drilled with holes, from which the rabbits in wild alarm were darting in all directions. The weasels raced from hole to hole and along the sides of the bank exactly like a pack of hounds, and seemed intensely excited. Their manner of hunting resembles the motions of ants; they insects run a little way very swiftly, then stop, turn to the right and left, make a short detour, and afterward on again in a straight line. So the pack of weasels darted forward, stopped, went from side to side, and then on a yard or two, and repeated the process. To see their reddish heads thrust for a moment from the holes, then withdrawn to reappear at another would have been amusing had it not been for the reflection that their frisky tricks would assuredly end in death. They ran their quarry out of the bank and into the wood, where we lost sight of them. The pack of eight was seen by a laborer returning down a woodland lane from work one afternoon. He told us he got into the ditch, half from curiosity to watch them and half from fear—laughable as that might seem—for he had heard the old people tell stories of men in the days when the corn was kept for years in barns, and so bred hundreds of rats, being attacked by these vicious brutes. He said they made some noise, crying to each other short, sharp, snappy sounds; but the pack of five we ourselves saw hunted in silence.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE RULE OF THE ROAD.

A case of some interest was tried in Hamilton Police Court a few days ago. As the driver of the stage between Hamilton and Strabane was near the city, he overlooked the wagon of a teamster, and turned his team to the right with the intention of passing. The teamster, to prevent his passing, also turned to the right and crowded the stage of the road, upsetting it over an embankment, seriously injuring a horse, and breaking the vehicle. The stage driver had the teamster tried before the magistrate for the purpose of making him pay costs. The teamster admitted the offence, but urged that the stage driver was attempting to pass on the wrong side. The magistrate decided that the teamster was right and dismissed the case. The statute distinctly provides that a team in passing another on the road must pass on the left side. It would be well for parties driving with vehicles to bear this important fact in mind.