

## VETERINARY SURGERY.

In this country, where Veterinary Surgeons cannot readily be obtained to give advice regarding diseased and injured animals, it is necessary that the farmer should recognize the more ordinary diseases of the domestic animals under his charge, so as to be able to apply the necessary remedies. It is proposed, therefore, to give occasional articles on the various maladies and injuries to which our neat stock, horses, sheep, pigs, dogs, fowls, &c., are liable. On the present occasion, the following cases are selected from an able Report of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, published in the Highland Society's Journal, from the pen of the veteran Veterinarian, Professor Dick

## BROKEN KNEES IN HORSES.

The great majority of these occurred in cab-horses, and can readily be accounted for as follows:—During the summer months the periodical influx of strangers visiting our city takes place; these commonly are most anxious to husband their time to the best advantage, and to see in as short a period as possible the varied romantic beauties, for the possession of which Edinburgh has been long and deservedly known. For this purpose a cab is engaged, and the poor horse, with a heavy load, not infrequently amounting to as many as five grown-up people in addition to the driver, is driven about for a protracted period. The poor tired animal, when ascending the steep streets with which the city abounds, and in consequence of the slippery state of the causeway, occasioned in a great measure by the late wet season, slips and comes down upon its knees. The result of this is an abrasion or laceration of the skin, in many cases the cuts being so severe as to penetrate and lay open the joint. The treatment to be adopted in such cases depends in a great measure on the extent of the injury. In the first place, it is absolutely necessary to remove carefully any dirt which may be adhering to the part. This is best done by the application of a poultice. In case of simple abrasion or laceration, without penetration into the joint, all that is required is rest, with a dose of laxative or purgative medicine; the application of cold water or white lotion being the best local remedy. After the part has been properly cleansed, should synovia be found making its escape, then we conclude the wound has penetrated either into the joint or into the sheath of the large tendon which passes over the front of the knee; the injury then is of a more serious nature, and the treatment much more difficult. If the wound in the joint be small, with very little synovia escaping, the horse's head should be tied up, so as to prevent him walking about; but if very extensive, then I would have him placed in slings. In either case, cold-water cloths should be applied to the part. Should these not have the desired effect in stopping the flow of synovia, then recourse must be had to some styptic, of which I prefer new-slaked lime, flour (to which is added a sulphate of copper), or the tincture of myrrh and aloes. In some cases the actual cautery to the part will be found beneficial, at the same time

giving the animal a dose of laxative medicine. Should febrile symptoms make their appearance, then I would advise the administration of saltpetre or other febrifuge.

## COLIC OR GRIPES IN HORSES.

During the quarter ending 30th June, it appears that upwards of 60 cases, depending either directly or indirectly upon derangement of the digestive organs, have come under treatment in the Edinburgh Veterinary College, of which number not fewer than 41 were cases of colic or gripes. The great majority of these occurred amongst farm and draught horses. Colic is well known to be a disorder almost entirely occasioned by irregularity in feeding and accompanying mismanagement; and that it should be found to prevail to such an extent among our work horses indicates, in my opinion, a want of superintendence and attention, as well as neglect of duty, by no means creditable to those intrusted with their charge. That carelessness, or mismanagement, or both combined, is the chief cause of this disorder, is no longer a matter of doubt, but, on the contrary, is well known, and very generally acknowledged. Take, for instance, the case of a farm horse. How common an occurrence it is to find this class of horses attacked with colic on a Monday; in fact, how rarely do we find them attacked with it, excepting on a Monday; and why? The explanation is very simple. Sunday being a day of rest, the horse is confined to the stable during the whole day from Saturday night to Monday morning, a period of about 36 hours. The driver, partly through mistaken kindness and partly to save himself labour, keeps the rack full, and the animal's whole occupation is to empty it; and cramming into his stomach food beyond satiety, he greatly overfeeds himself. As a consequence, on Monday when put to work, his bowels, overburdened with a quantity of crude and half-digested condiment, have their functions arrested, the mucous membrane lining them becomes irritated, and the natural result is violent contractions of the muscular coat, producing the too well-known spasmodic pains. The natural process of digestion being thus arrested, the food undergoes a process of fermentation; gas is evolved, and we have distension. The question next arises, How is the increase of such cases during the spring and early summer months to be accounted for? It may be thus solved. During winter, cart and farm horses are fed chiefly on hay and straw, or dry chopped food; but these articles of food in the latter end of spring and beginning of summer becoming scarce, their use is substituted by succulent grasses. Now nothing tends so much to cause indigestion and consequent colic, as a sudden change of food to which the stomach has not been accustomed, more particularly when the change is from a dry one to one of a soft juicy nature; the latter being more palatable, the animal eats rapidly and ravenously, and thus overloads his stomach and bowels. Much has been said and written about the treatment of colic, and many plans of treatment have been recommended; but in my practice I have found nothing better than the administration of a draught composed of linseed oil, laudanum, and some stimulant. And as regards stimulants, I find that the best are those which are generally at hand, or most readily procured—viz., turpentine, whisky, or ether. I certainly pre-

fer, and almost invariably use, turpentine, simply because it is the cheapest, and I find it answers all the purposes required. In addition to the draught, I always follow up its administration with repeated glisters of warm water and soap, and where there is evident constipation, a dose of aloes. I think it generally advisable to give a laxative, to prevent any tendency the opium might have to bring on constipation. In addition to medicine and glisters, hand-rubbing the abdomen will be advantageous, with slow walking-exercise at intervals.\* In many cases, more especially those of simple flatulent colic, I have found that exercise was all that was necessary to relieve the animal. As a preventive of colic, I would strongly urge upon horse-owners the necessity of regular feeding, and during Sundays, or other rest days, a decrease instead of an increase in the quantity. I would also suggest, during these days, an hour or two's gentle exercise during the middle of the day, or the turning out of the animals for a short time into a convenient paddock or park, where there is little grass.

\*In bad cases I have found great benefits resulting from the repeated application of hot water or stimulants to the surfaces.

## REMARKS ON BREEDING DAIRY STOCK.

We condense from a recent number of the *Albany Country Gentleman*, the following suggestive article on the Breeding of Dairy Stock, which is worthy of attentive perusal by the farmers of Nova Scotia. It is from the pen of Mr. D. Lee, who had charge of the Agricultural Department at Washington some years ago:—

"Statements made at a meeting of dairy-men in Rochester, held during the late State Fair, lead me to offer a few suggestions on the breeding of dairy stock for the consideration of your readers. It was stated on the occasion referred to, that there are small dairies in Herkimer county, or one at least, which yield an average of over 800 pounds of cheese to the cow in a year. If there was any way by which cheese could be adulterated, and its weight largely augmented, and yet pass for a good article, I should suspect something of the kind where cows are said to turn out over eight hundred pounds of cheese each in twelve consecutive months.—Assuming this statement to be near the truth, what would be the gain if all cows in the United States should have their milking qualities developed in the same degree, and be able to transfer them to their offspring in all after time?

It was to bring the public mind to the calm and abiding consideration of suggestions of this character that led me to get the census returns of 1850, relating to neat cattle, so arranged as to show in one column all the "milk cows;" in another, all the "working oxen" and in a third, all the "other cattle." It may well be supposed that I desired every farmer or other person to state the number of milk cows he owned or kept for a purpose, and they have accommodated me by returning 6,683,094 in 1850, and 8,728,862 in 1860. The close study of these bovine mothers, whose inherent milk-forming powers have no rivals among all the mammalia,