

Veterinary.

DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

ESSAY READ BY R. A. HARDING, KINGSTON, JAMAICA, VETERINARY STUDENT, AT THE WEEKLY MEETING OF THE VETERINARY SOCIETY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE, DEC. 7.

Diseases of the digestive organs are in most cases due to errors in feeding. The immense length and volume of the intestines in the horse make them much more liable to disease than the stomach. This may be understood when we remember that true digestion takes place in the intestines. The stomach of the horse is relatively small, very much smaller than the stomach of the ox and sheep (comparatively). The food is but a very short time detained in the stomach, and this only to dilute and liquify it, that is, to convert it into a pulaceous mass to permit of its passage through the Pylorus. This done it is passed on to the intestines. Now, if proper food be given, it is well masticated and mixed with saliva; on reaching the stomach it there excites the churning motion, is further broken down and softened by the secretions it has stimulated, and then passed on to the Duodenum. But, if on the other hand an over-liberal quantum of improper food be given, such as is artificially prepared, it is rapidly taken into the mouth and passed on to the stomach, which is filled and distended before the organ can get to work: or, even a moderate quantity will effect the same result by generating gas faster than the stomach can prepare the food for onward passage. Is it then any wonder that so many horses suffer from Acute Indigestion?

What is Acute Indigestion?

Acute Indigestion is a distention of the stomach from food, or from gas the result of fermentation of food; as for instance, a horse liberally fed and immediately put to work; the exertion under digestion, fermentation is set up, gas is generated, and the stomach distended.

If there be one class of horse more subject to this disease more than another, it is the horse that has fitful work to do, and old rather than young horses. Experience teaches that farmers' horses are very liable to it; also, that it is more fatal in old horses; this may perhaps be accounted for by the superior strength and elasticity of the walls of the stomach in the young, as likewise by the fact that in old horses the secretions of the stomach are somewhat impaired.

Professor Williams, in his work on Veterinary Medicine, says that "Distention of the stomach may arise from repletion with solid food, or from the evolution of gases arising from solids or liquids contained within it undergoing the process of fermentation, or disengaged from the gastric walls when the stomach is empty, as occurring in conditions of great prostration." Therefore, if this be true, we may have acute indigestion caused by the fermentation of the gastric secretions only.

The most common causes of this disease are: Feeding food that the animal is not accustomed to, in large quantity; boiled food, as oats, peas, &c. Chopped food, when horses are doing fast work; feeding a horse incautiously when exhausted by work; very nutritious food of certain kinds, as wheat; sudden changes of food.

The symptoms are very alarming. The animal feeling discomfort from an overloaded or distended stomach, begins to paw, in a few minutes he gives a nervous twitch or two, moves about uneasily in his stall, looks round at his sides, his countenance the while wearing a most anxious expression; ere long he lies down—and this in anything but a careful manner—and rolls, and will then start to his feet almost at a bound; sweats, will by this, if not already, be seen to break out profusely behind the ear and shoulder, and generally bedewing the body, twitching of the superficial muscles in the region of the shoulders, particularly of the left, is to be noticed sometimes. The pulse is from the first faster, but will run as high as 70 or 80 per minute, as the disease increases in intensity; there is usually a slight diarrhoeal discharge in the early stage of the disease. Erections of gas too may be observed, which is not an unfavorable symptom. The anus is sometimes protruded and reddened. Imagine a case, a party has a journey to

plenty of room for him to roll about, then administer laudanum, spirits nitros ether, sulphuric ether, turpentine and linseed oil, powdered opium, ammonia, a cathartic, according to the symptoms and causes of the disease. The use of enemata simple or medicated will be found of great benefit. Brisk rubbing with a whisk of straw to the abdomen will often be of material service in giving relief to pain.

Should there be inflammatory symptoms never exhibit purgatives, but give powdered opium, using counter irritants to the abdomen and keeping the animal warm and comfortable as possible.

In the hypothetical case just above related, we should attend to the immediate comfort of the animal, and give a dose of linseed oil, 1 pint, turpentine, 1 ounce to 1½, and laudanum, ½ ounce to 1. Give a clyster of a little more than half a bucket of warm water with an ounce of turpentine. In fifteen or twenty minutes the clyster may be repeated, and afterwards at similar intervals without the turpentine till relief is obtained. In about an hour after the exhibition of the drench, if the symptoms are not abating, repeat it, or if abating, but not satisfactorily, give a smaller drench, possibly omitting the laudanum if thought unnecessary; or, in place of repeating this dose give ammonia, of the carbonate 3 drams, in bolus made up with a little linseed meal and water, if the liquor be used give 3 or 4 drams, and this latter may be advantageously conjoined with aloes in solution 6 drams. Rub the abdomen with a wisp of straw till it is dry and comfortable to the touch.

After recovery the animal must be carefully fed and worked for a week or two.

The usual terminations of this disease are ruptures of the stomach, or bowels; or asphyxia, or gastro-enteritis.

There is another type of this disease which has been named Chronic Indigestion. A party brings a horse to our surgery and tells us that he does not know what ails the animal, he gets plenty of food and eats it all, yet it seems to do him no good, much of it, particularly the oats, are passed out undigested. On looking at the animal you at once see he is in an unthrifty condition, eye dull and heavy, coat sticking to the ribs, pulse weak and sluggish. This state is due to general constitutional debility and impaired condition of the digestive organs. The causes are numerous, feeding on one kind of food too long, over-ripe food, improper food, ravenous feeding, food given irregularly and injudiciously, in short, errors in feeding. There are other causes, too, such as dentition, diseases of the teeth; it may be the result of other diseases, an over-secretion of gastric juice will produce it, or it may be from constitutional predisposition resulting in debility of the stomach.

Stomach—The horse is dull, and if we may use the term, out of sorts. On being put to work he sweats easily, and is soon tired out. A depraved appetite is sometimes developed, the animal licking walls, eating dirt, clay, etc.; the feces are of a light color, and there may be a slight diarrhoea, but a constipated state of the bowels is more general. In addition to these symptoms, Prof. Williams says there is "Sourness of the mouth, and usually increased thirst; the animal soon becomes headbound, has a dry scurfy skin. There is irregularity of the bowels, and frequent escape of flatus by the anus. If caused by imperfectly masticated food, such as whole oats or coarse hay, these may be found in the feces. In addition to the above diagnostic symptoms, there may be a dry cough, or irregularity of the pulse, which may be slower or faster than natural; colicky pains may also be present in some cases, occurring more particularly in an hour or two after the animal has partaken of food; whilst in others fits of giddiness, megrins, and even paralysis occur."

For the successful treatment of this type of indigestion we cannot too carefully enquire for the causes, history, feeding, etc., of our patient—for to treat symptoms in this disease instead of causes is not to ensure success. Therefore, having found the cause, endeavor to remove it; a change of feed will be beneficial; give a mild purgative, as aloes 4 drams, and calomel 1 dram, soda carbonate 1 dram, and gentian 1 dram, two or three times a day. Stimulants may be tried, such as good ale; mineral acids will be very beneficial sometimes. In summing up the treatment, allow me to do so in Prof. Williams' own words, viz.: "It is almost needless to observe that the dieting of the animal is to be carefully conducted, and that pure air, moderate exercise, and good grooming are essentials to good digestion. Occurring in the winter, if the animal be clothed thickly with hair, clipping will act almost magically, restoring the digestion and appetite, which may have been long impaired, notwithstanding remedies, in the course of a few hours."

Prof. Williams draws attention to the fact that young animals, as foals, are liable to indigestion, "induced by draughts of cold

nightly meeting on 7th inst., the President, Prof. D. McEachran, in the chair.

Mr. C. Herbert read a French essay on "Punctured Foot." This paper was the first ever read before the Association in the French language, and at the close of the reading the French members present took an active part in the discussion.

A most interesting paper, by Mr. W. P. Hall, student, on "Inflammation of the Lungs" followed, and the frequency of the disease, and the diversity of opinion concerning its treatment, necessarily make the subject one of great importance and interest to the profession. The paper was productive of quite a lengthy debate, which was brought to a close by some very instructive remarks from the President.

At the next regular meeting, 21st inst., Mr. C. Herbert, student, will read a French paper on "Skin Diseases," and Mr. J. A. Courure, V.S., a communication on "Furunculosis."

Billiards.

A CHALLENGE FROM JOHN HICKEY.

MONTREAL, Dec. 9th, 1876.

To the Editor of Sporting Times.

SIR,—Please insert the following in your next.

"I, John Hickey, challenge any resident of Canada or Vermont, to play me a three-ball American game of Billiards on a Colander, or Riley & May 5x10 table, for \$250 or \$500 a side, within thirty days from date.

"A forfeit and articles to SPORTING TIMES will meet with my prompt attention.

"Yours &c.,
"JOHN HICKEY."

W. JAKES WILL PLAY HICKEY.

TORONTO, Dec. 18, 1876.

To the Editor of the Sporting Times:

SIR,—Your kindness in showing me the above challenge enables me to answer it without delay, which will probably be acceptable to Mr. Hickey, as he appears anxious to have the game come off at an early date.

I will play Mr. Hickey a game of French caroms, 500 points, on a Riley & May 5x10 table, for \$250 a side, in Toronto, any time on a week's notice. Herewith I deposit in your hands the sum of \$25 as a forfeit, and an acceptance addressed to your office will be promptly attended to.

Yours,
W. JAKES,
Champion of Canada.

HUGGARD vs KIDD.

The second game between Thos. Huggard and Sandy Kidd was played in the Belchamber House Billiard room, Ft. Sarina, on Monday night, 4th inst., and this time was handsomely won by Mr. Kidd, he beating his opponent nearly 800 points. The game was 600 points, four ball carom, and was very close up to 800, when Kidd let out and made some splendid play, making runs of 108, 198, and 90 in succession. The winner's average was about 48, which is very large.

PHELAN vs DAVIS.

The concluding game at the Hamilton Tournament was played at the International Hotel in that city, between Messrs. J. P. Phelan and Sam Davis. At the commencement of the game the pools sold about even. Phelan for choice. Unfortunately the table was dead, and rapid scoring impossible. From the very first, however, Davis was out of it and was not playing at all in his proper form. When the game was called at the interval, Phelan was some 70 points ahead, and pools now sold at 2 to 1 that Phelan would not win by 50. After the interval, Davis' play improved, and by some good play he made a run of 18, which was applauded. He could, however, never catch Phelan, who eventually won by 44 points, thus winning the first prize in the tournament. Phelan's highest run was 18, Davis' 18.

The Hamilton Times says of the tournament: "Looking at the play during the tournament, there is no doubt that the best man won, and we congratulate him on his victory, not only for his play but for his firmness, he being the originator of the tournament, in putting down any attempts at (to use a mild term) deceiving the public. We have no hesitation in saying that it was

181 in public, even if in private. During his return in New Orleans; 8 xton has played with all the experts thereaway, giving long odds and invariably winning.

FRANK DI'N vs JOHN HICKEY.

John Hickey was again beaten by Frank Dion on the 6th ult., in the three ball match game of caroms, for \$150 a side, 500 points, 20 per cent. of which was allowed Dion. The game was played in Brand's Hall, Montreal, on a Colander table. On the 17th innings the score stood; Hickey, 64; Dion, 60. On the 60th innings the score stood, the former, 267; the latter, 224. The 70th innings showed Hickey to be 309; Dion, 267. They continued in this way, playing pretty evenly, and at the 103rd and last innings Dion stood 400 to Hickey's 388. Dion thus won by 12 points even, and 112 including discount allowed.

FOR SECOND CLASS.—A tournament for second class players commenced at Hamilton, on Monday evening last.

AN EXPLANATION.—Mr. Phelan, of Hamilton, writes us a letter in explanation of a paragraph in last week's paper. He assures us the pool seller had nothing to do with the fraud spoken of, and says "that the success of the tournament was partially owing to the lively interest taken in it by that official and the very able manner in which he conducted the whole affair." Our information in the matter was wholly derived from the Hamilton papers.

PROBABLE.—There is talk of a couple of tournaments in this city this winter. So far they have advanced no farther than talk, but when they assume a definite shape, we will probably hear more of them.

NEW TABLES.—Mr. Whalen of the White Rose Billiard Room and Bowling Alley, Jarvis street, has enlarged his room and will put in four new tables this week.

THE MANUFACTURE OF "THE WEED."

WHAT MESSRS. JOAB SCALES, & CO., MAKE.

A few days ago we had the pleasure of visiting this well arranged factory, which is without doubt one of the most complete establishments of the kind in existence; a full description of which appeared in these columns last February.

We were shown many new and beautiful styles which were undergoing the processes of manufacture. Space will not permit us to enter into a lengthened description of the various brands and the different process of manipulation which they undergo, but a brief mention of the best lines is a tribute due to the enterprise and success of this model firm.

"The Old Man's Favorite" is probably the most popular smoking tobacco to-day in the Dominion. It is what is termed "soft-pressed," and the stock used in its production is selected with great care from the best tobacco growing sections of Virginia and North Carolina. This is a pet brand with the firm, and its quality can always be relied on.

"The Southern Beauty," put up in half pound and quarter pound plugs, is a beautiful style of goods, bright yellow in color, waxy in consistency, and glossy in appearance.

"The Little Queen," is a very popular brand, made from the pure golden leaf. It appears to be very rich, and since its introduction has had a constantly increasing demand.

The new 12-inch twist is claimed to be the finest ever manufactured in the Dominion. The material in this brand is the cream of the fine bright Tobacco of the best producing regions in America, selected without regard to expense. Its appearance is certainly indicative of its quality.

The finer grades of "bright pounds" were suggestive of comfort and pleasure combined, and in appearance would satisfy the most fastidious devotees of the weed, while its quality it is assumed could be safely gauged from its looks.

"Pine Apple" is a new style of bright soft pressed, made in convenient size for retailing without cutting.

"Solace Pocket Piece" is likewise a bright tobacco of convenient size, the workmanship of which is noticeable.

"Perfection" is a very convenient article of tobacco for smokers. It is granulated in the leaf, and then pressed into a plug, and covered with tin-foil. A knife is not required to prepare this for the pipe. A piece of suitable size is broken off the plug, and is rubbed into proper shape for filling. Among cigarette smokers, Perfection is in great demand.

Amusements.

The Grand Opera House on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening was in the hands of the stock. On Monday and Tuesday the bill was The Corsican Brothers, and the Widow and the Victim. Wednesday, Green Bashes; Thursday and this Friday evening, Prof. Baktwin in his exposure of Spiritualism. Usual matinee and Saturday evening performance by the regular company. Monday evening of next week complimentary benefit to Mrs. Morrison. On Tuesday, Daly's 5th Avenue Company commenced a season, opening in Pique. The Christmas piece at the house promises to be something in keeping with its name.—Grand.

Monte Christo, a five act spectacular drama, is holding the boards at the Royal Opera House all this week. It is strongly cast, the leading parts being in the hands of Misses Miles and Wakeman and Messrs. Warner, Coudock and Ketchum. Much of the scenery is now and portions of it elegant. The various dances, marches, songs, &c., in the piece have proved attractive. Great preparations are being made for the Christmas spectacle, which is promised to eclipse anything ever produced in this city.

GENERAL.

MONTREAL.—On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mr. McDowell gave three grand benefits at the Academy of Music, for the sufferers by the Bro. Levi Fire; the Two Orphans on the first two evenings, and Married in Haste for Wednesday; Adrien Ogo is underlined for early production. The London Lyceum English Opera Company are at the Academy of Music, on Thursday, 14th, Martha, 15th, Maritana, 16th, Bohemian Girl. Cal Wagner's Minstrels put in two nights at Mechanics' Hall on 11th and 12th.

HAMILTON.—Last night (Thursday), Little in Uncle Tom's Cabin. This Friday evening, Tom Allen and John L. Scholtes, and Mons. Bauer and Fr. Muller, sparring and wrestling. Royal Opera House Company from Toronto, 18th, Othello; 19th, Ingomar; 20th, Richard III; Messrs. Neil Warner, Coudock, and Miss Sophie Miles in leading roles. 20th, War to the Knife, and the Miller and his Men, by the Garrick Club. All above at the Mechanics' Hall. On Monday a variety company will open at St. James, Hall for a season.

OTTAWA.—This Friday, Ottawa Amateur Dramatic Club, at Gowan's Opera House, programme, Barrick Room, A Blighted Being, and The First Night.

LONDON.—The Holman Opera Company have been here the past week resting, and on Sunday left for Cleveland, Ohio. Tom Thumb at Holman Opera House, 11th.

BRIDGEMAN.—Ada Gray with her company opens here next week.

INVERSOOT.—Tom Thumb at Town Hall, 9th. Big business.

Six of the thirty-eight horses taken to England by Mr. Spiers, of this city, have been sold to a London dealer for \$850 each.

Mr. C. Perkins, of Rochester, N. Y., is at present at Ottawa, waiting for the winter trotting campaign. He will have a couple of horses.

The Montreal Horse Market continues very dull. Mr. Elwyn sold a lot of milking animals at from \$20 to \$50 each, and a good pair of carriage horses at \$300. The old trotter, Brandy, was sold for \$105.

A grand fox hunt took place at Brantford on Thursday. It was under the management of Mr. George Ash, of the Commercial Billiard Parlor.

See Advertisement of War Huletts for Sale, on Seventh Page.