

and appear to prevent the eruption of their permanent successors, should be removed with the fingers, or with a pair of pliers. Whilst the gums are tender, and the teeth both in front and behind are irregular, it is very important that the young horses should have their food supplied to them in a soft and easily masticated condition. It is desirable that the oats or other grains be given bruised; that the bulk of the fodder be cut or softened by soaking or steeping, and that well-prepared mashes and cut roots be given more frequently and freely than usual.

The process of teething in all animals is attended with some amount of risk and trouble. Ordinary food is seldom eaten in sufficient quantity to sustain the powers of life in full vigour. The irritation and pain prove, moreover, reducing; the sensitive state of the mouth is apt to be propagated to adjacent and similarly constituted textures, and hence among young horses troubled with teething, disordered digestion and annoying colds frequently occur. Occasionally when the teething is difficult and tedious febrile symptoms supervene, and unless the animal is carefully nursed and exempted from work, dangerous debility will follow. Agriculturists and other horse-owners should, especially during the spring months, notice from time to time the state of the mouth and teeth of their horses between two and five years old, and by soft and digestible food, lighter labour, and the lancing of the swollen gums where that is required, they may greatly mitigate the pain and prevent the untoward results of teething.

### Injuries to the Horse's Foot.

The foot is often severely injured from punctured wounds, produced by picking up a nail whilst travelling, or from treading upon some other sharp substance. The sole is penetrated, and the sensitive parts injured. The part most liable to puncture is the frog, and the line of union between the bars and the frog. A short time since we had an opportunity of seeing a case of puncture, where a nail entered close to the side of the frog and passed through the tendon, and grazed the edge of the coffin bone. The inflammatory action, following such a serious wound, caused death the fifth day after the accident.

The danger to be apprehended will greatly depend on the situation of the puncture. If near to the coffin joint, acute inflammation of that important structure is very likely to supervene, and in some cases the joint is punctured, allowing the synovia to escape. Horses are also frequently injured in shoeing, from the nails through accident or carelessness being driven too far up and injuring the sensitive laminae, or even when the nail does not actually touch the sensitive part, it may come in close contact with it, and when the horse puts his foot forcibly on the ground, the highly vascular parts are bruised, and inflam-

mation is set up, which soon terminates in suppuration.

In the treatment of these injuries the offending agent must be removed, and in most cases the sole should be thinned, and when matter has formed, a free opening must be given through the sole. The foot may be placed in a bucket of hot water several times a day, when the pain is great, and immediately afterwards apply a poultice. In cases where the constitutional fever is great, a good dose of purgative medicine should be given. When the pain is removed, the horse may be shod, and great benefit will be derived from the use of a stout leather sole, with a dressing of tar and tow.

### Abscess in the Side.

*To the Editor.*

SIR,—Will you please give me your opinion of a disease that some of my cattle have been afflicted with? About Christmas last, I noticed one of my cows very much swollen on one side under the belly. About the middle of January the tumour broke, and discharged a sickly white matter, the smell of which was very offensive. At two different times I took out of her side a core about six inches long, which left on each occasion a hole large enough to put in a substance half an inch thick, and when I pressed the swelling upward, a stream of thin matter would come out, about a pint at a time. The cow is in good condition, but not entirely well yet. The place would scab over, and break out again, and there still remain lumps in the skin, as though there was congealed matter that wanted an outlet. I have a steer three years old that had been affected very much in the same manner as the cow; I opened the swelling twice with my knife; it afterwards broke, and is now better. None of my other cattle, fourteen in number, have shown any symptoms of the disease. Is it the rinderpest? YORK.

NOTE.—The enlargement in the side of the cow was probably due to some injury resulting from a penetrating wound, or some irritant becoming lodged, which produced an abscess. Poulticing would be the proper treatment for a time. After the discharge of matter, if healing was protracted, a freer opening might be required. You need not feel alarmed, as such an occurrence bears no resemblance whatever to the rinderpest.

### Stringhalt in Horses.

Stringhalt in horses is, we believe, identical with chorea (St. Vitus' dance) in the human subject or in dogs. It appears to depend upon a similarly irritable condition of the spinal chord. As with analogous nervous diseases, the symptoms of stringhalt are most noticeable when the patient first begins to move, or when he is excited. The precise

structural faults which produce the peculiar catching known as stringhalt are not as yet sufficiently understood. In the large proportion of stringhalt cases in which a post-mortem examination has been made, nothing unusual has been discovered either about the brain, spinal cord, or large nerves of the extremities. In a few cases, especially where stringhalt has occurred in both hind limbs, tumours have been found in the brain. With more accurate means of discovering deviations from healthy nervous structure, some softening or other change of texture would doubtless be discovered, either in the brain or spinal cord, sufficient to explain the symptoms which are now so perplexing. The ordinary forms of stringhalt are perfectly incurable. Dragging of the limbs and awkwardness of gait which occasionally follow attacks of indigestion and staggers, are apt to be confounded with stringhalt, and are usually abated or removed by mineral tonics, stimulants applied to the spine, and reasonable rest. In the later editions of Percivall and Blaine the similarity of stringhalt with chorea is indicated. The same view is propounded by Professor Gamgee in his work on the Domestic Animals in Health and Disease, and also by most French and German veterinary authorities.

### Lymphatitis.

*To the Editor.*

SIR,—In your veterinary department, recently, you give the symptoms of acute laminitis, or founder. The horse in this country is subject to a disease very similar, which must be peculiar to the place, as I have never seen it mentioned in any veterinary publication. I have seen it both here and in the vicinity of Toronto, and it is often very annoying to farmers, as it always attacks horses in the spring, about the time they ought to be commencing the season's work. It generally attacks only one foot at a time, either hind or fore, and very often attacks another as soon as the first is well. The symptoms are similar to the symptoms you give of laminitis; acute pain, burning heat, and tension of the muscles up the inside of the leg extending up to the body. In a few hours the leg swells, and the pain seems to decrease. As a remedy I have tried both hot and cold water; I think the cold is best. Wrap the limb with a straw rope, then pour on a pail of cold water, and let the animal stand until a reaction takes place, and the limb is well sweated; then, when the limb becomes dry, pour on more water. I have also tried bleeding, but whether my treatment is proper or not, I do not know. The animal is generally better in a week. If you can give a description of the disease, its cause and treatment, I think you will benefit the public. J. BURGESS.

Durham, Co. Grey.

REPLY.—The disease referred to appears to be inflammation of the lymphatic or absorbent vessels of the limbs. It is a disease