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patient scarcely knows what is done, but when we see the poor brute attacked by flies and his only natural protection taken from him, and very few of the men who practice docking will even go to the expense of putting a sheet on the docked animal to protect him from insects, we can see the folly of the practice. I do not advocate legislation to make the practice illegal, for there are cases where it is permissible but in probably ninety-five per cent. of the cases, there is absolutely no necessity for it, and I believe we can do a great deal towards making the docked horse a back number by taking it up in our veterinary association and have each practitioner discourage it in his own territory. The agricultural papers, especially "The Farmer's Advocate", which I believe leads in Ontario as an agricultural paper, can be a big factor to help us eliminate this ridiculous practice by publishing from time to time articles which will deal with the matter in a sensible manner and the public will become convinced that docking is a detriment to the horse and not an improvement.

Oxford Co., Ont.

G. P. M., V. S.

**Diseases of the Feet—IV.**

**Laminitis—Inflammation in the Feet—Founder.**

Laminitis, commonly called *founder*, consists in inflammation of the sensitive laminae which surmount the walls of the bone of the foot, and are attached to the horny or insensitive wall by small, leaf-like processes, which are very numerous and correspond in number and depth to the insensitive laminae found on the inner surface of the wall, the leaves of the one fitting into and being firmly united to those of the other. The disease appears in two forms, viz., inflammation primarily limited to the sensitive laminae and sensitive sole; and *ostitis*, or inflammation involving the bone of the foot from the first. The causes and tractability of the two forms differ, but the first if not subdued promptly, may develop into the second.

Laminitis is one of the most painful diseases to which the horse is subject. It is caused by over-exertion, inordinate feeding, drinking cold water when overheated, long voyages, from the horse being compelled to stand for a long time in a constrained position, hard driving on hard roads, a sudden chill, etc. It is often communicated to the feet from internal organs. The manner in which irritation to a mucous membrane, as from engorgement with grain, or other forms of indigestion, drinking freely of cold water when overheated, irritation to the mucous membrane of the womb during parturition, etc., occurs is hard to explain. Some claim that it is the extending of the inflammation or irritation along the mucous membrane to the skin, and thence to the feet; while others favor the theory that in such cases toxins are formed, become absorbed, enter the circulation, and having an affinity for the feet have a specific action on the sensitive laminae.

Laminitis caused by over-exertion, concussion from travelling on hard roads, standing during long journeys by rail or boat, or standing for a long time on one foot on account of disease of its fellow, etc., is much more intractable than when it appears during or following irritation to a mucous membrane, when, if promptly and intelligently treated, it yields readily to treatment and passes off without leaving any structural change; while the form caused by concussion, etc., is more liable to be complicated by inflammation of the bone, does not yield so readily to treatment and is very painful, at the same time, if promptly treated it usually results in a complete cure, but if its cause be not arrested until after there is a partial or complete separation of the

sensitive and insensitive laminae, a complete cure cannot be effected. The symptoms of the two forms are identical, except in their severity. The pain is agonizing and persistent because the sensitive foot is invested with an unyielding, horny box pressing upon the engorged blood vessels, preventing free exudation and swelling, thus proving a barrier to the method by which congested blood vessels are relieved. In most cases the disease is confined to the fore feet, especially when caused by concussion, but it is not unusual to find all four feet involved, sometimes the hind feet only, and, in rare cases one fore and one hind.

**Symptoms.**—When both fore feet are affected the horse is very lame, almost immovable, especially at starting; he acts as though the whole body were cramped, stands with hind feet well under body and the fore feet well advanced, in order to relieve them of weight as much as possible; occasionally he may be noticed to sway backwards, elevating the toes, throw his weight upon the heels of the fore feet for a short time, and then assume the original position. If compelled to move he elevates his feet with difficulty, as he requires them all on the ground to bear the weight of the body. If forced to back he will drag the fore feet backwards, with the heels bearing upon the ground and the toes elevated. He will often groan from pain, while sweats bedew the body. The pulse is full, strong and frequent, and the general temperature usually above normal. In some cases the patient lies down on his side, with his legs outstretched for hours at a time, evidently getting great relief by relieving the feet from pressure. In other cases, especially in earlier periods of the disease, he will persist in standing. When the hind feet only are affected the patient stands with all four feet well under the body, and the general distress is well marked. When compelled to move, as soon as the toes of the hind feet are pressed to the ground, he takes a somewhat jumping motion forward. He is usually inclined to lie, and he experiences almost immediate relief when recumbent. The pulse often becomes rapidly reduced, both in number and force after he has assumed this position. When all four feet are affected, the symptoms consist in a combination of the fore-going, with a local heat in all feet.

**Treatment.**—Constitutional treatment consists in the administration of a moderate purgative, as six to eight drams of aloes and two drams of ginger. This to be followed with two to three drams nitrate of potassium twice daily for two or three days. The advisability of blood-letting is debatable. In the early stages, when the pulse is full, frequent and bounding, the extraction of two to three quarts of blood from the jugular vein is practiced by some practitioners, while others favor controlling the pulse and temperature by the administration of twelve to fifteen drops of Fleming's tincture of aconite in a little cold water every two to three hours for two or three doses. When pain is excessive it is well to relieve it by the administration of anodynes, as two drams of the solid extract of belladonna, or about six drams of chloral hydrate. The result depends greatly upon local treatment. The shoes should be removed, the heels pared well down, and heat applied. Some favor cold, but our experience has been in favor of heat. If the patient can be induced to lie a good part of the time, it favors successful treatment. The heat can be applied by standing the patient in a tub containing hot water, or by applying hot poultices. In either case the water or poultices should be kept hot for twenty-four to forty-eight hours, or in some cases longer. So soon as the acute pain and soreness have been allayed, cold may be substituted for heat. Some tie the patient in a stream of running water for a few hours daily for a few days. If

local treatment be promptly applied, a perfect recovery usually follows, but if treatment be neglected until there is partial separation of the sensitive and insensitive laminae and more or less descent of the bone of foot, a perfect cure cannot result. If the patient continues a little tender after lameness practically ceases, it is good practice to blister the coronet. It is also good practice to wear bar shoes with good frog pressure for a couple of months after he is put to work.

WHIP.

**Percherons For England.**

An importation of 50 more Percherons has just been made into England under the sanction of the Board of Agriculture. They include 15 stallions and 35 mares, and Lord Lonsdale, Henry Overman, Sir Merrick Burrell, and Captain T. L. Wickham-Boynton are the chief buyers concerned. Several Paris and Nogent-le-Rotrou winners have been secured. A new society is to be established on novel lines to England and to Canada. The breed has made thousands of admirers among English army men. They realize that it has many uses to which other horses cannot possibly be put.

ALBION.

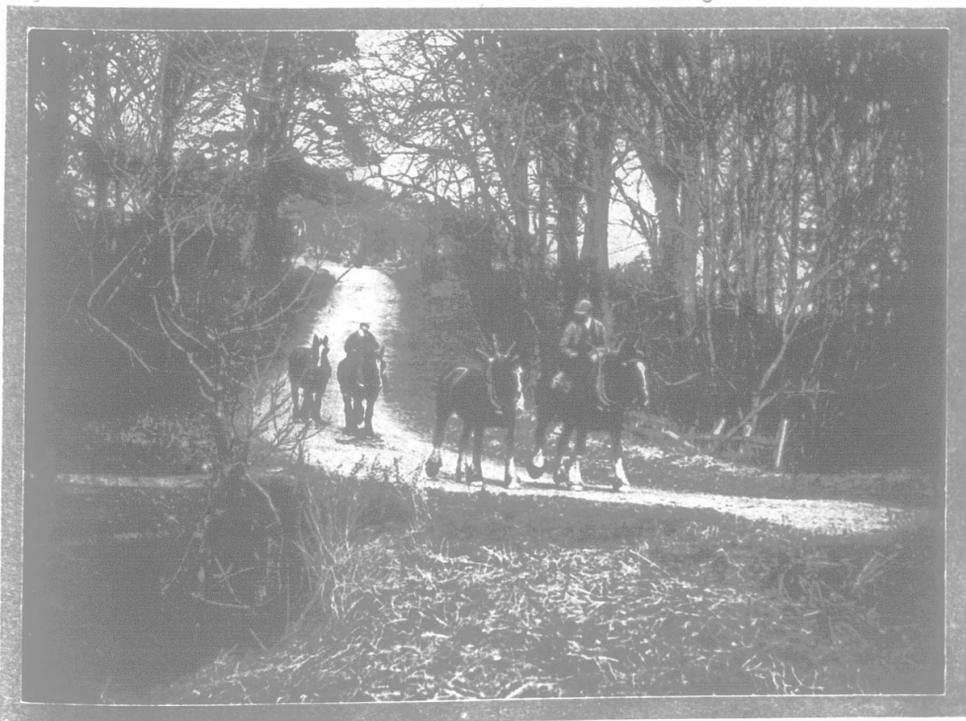
**LIVE STOCK.**

**Our Scottish Letter.**

For nine weeks I have been laid aside from active duty with a severe illness, and, although during the past three weeks I have done more or less journalistic work, the machine is not working full power. I find that my last letter was written on September 8, or over two months ago. Much has happened since then and comment on all the events of these three months would be an old song now. In general, they have been eventful enough. The phenomenal sheep sales culminated in the record price of £300 being paid for a Black-face shearing ram, at the Perth sales in September. This was followed by a record sale of Clydesdales at the same centre, when a three-year-old filly sold for £1,029. In October the Aberdeen Shorthorn sales eclipsed all records, and one of Mr. Duthie's bull calves sold for £2,835. All other classes of pure-bred stock have been selling at prices in sympathy with these extreme figures. Clydesdale horses were never as high in price. At the Lanark October sales, which lasted four days, 80 three-year-old geldings made an average of £114 2s. 9d., as compared with £69 4s. 6d. for the same class last year; 53 mares, over three years old, made an average of £99 0s. 9d., as against £67 6s. 5d.; 76 brood mares made £116 18s. 9d., as against £83 7s. 1d.; 94 yearling fillies made £73 13s., as against £58 3s. 1d., and 247 two-year-old fillies made £95 0s. 2d., as against £66 13s. 4d.

The Ayrshire pure-bred bull and heifer calf sales are being held in these later weeks. This week the Lessnessock sale of Adam W. Montgomerie's calves took place when 23 bull calves made an average of £85 2s. 10d., as against £26 14s. 9d. last year, and 13 two-year-old heifers made an average of £85 12s. 3d., as against £42 for the same class last year. The top price of the sale was £273 paid for the bull calf, Lessnessock Kerensky, out of a cow with the fine record of 892 gallons at 4.22 per cent. butter-fat in 54 weeks. The next best figure was £152 5s. for Lessnessock Merry Thought, out of a cow with a 958-gallon record in 42 weeks. Ayrshires are sharing in the boom in live stock, and in spite of the strong opposition of the British Holstein, which breed is being superbly handled, it is evident that the Scottish dairy breed is to hold its own. As a matter of fact, under certain conditions of soil and climate, no breed can approach the Ayrshire. Given a poor, thin soil, and a moist climate, the Ayrshire will return a higher percentage of profit per acre than any other class of cattle. At the present time when milk is selling in Glasgow at 2s. 8d. per gallon, or one penny per gill, a herd of Ayrshires with a high milk yield is very nearly a gold mine. Unfortunately, most expenses have increased to an abnormal degree and the profit overhead is not so great as it appears. The Government has put a premium on grain growing, and almost weekly we hear of dairy stocks being dispersed. Quite naturally a farmer will not continue the slavish work of dairying when he can derive much greater profits from the easier business of cereal growing.

This naturally leads one to offer some comments on the ever-recurring problem of Food Control. The situation is likely to become intensified during the next few weeks, or perhaps days. Lord Northcliffe, who has been for about five months on the other side of the Atlantic with the British Mission, has written an open letter to the Prime Minister which is well fitted to make many people in this country "sit up". He contrasts the thoroughness of the war policy in Canada and the United States with the slackness discernible in certain departments in this country. The letter forms a startling and confirmatory sequel to Mr. Lloyd-George's own arresting speech in Paris. There is a Food Economy crusade being organized and mass meetings are being held throughout the country, at which we are being urged to eat less bread, less meat, less sugar, less lard; to be sparing in the use of wheat and grain of every kind for food. All this is well, and the people of this country generally are willing to respond. But what baffles the sober, middle-class community is the silence of these apostles on the drink question. We are to eat less and waste nothing. The only edible for which a ration has not been ordained is potatoes. This is an abundant crop, and we are urged to eat plenty



Clydesdales Coming Home from Work in Scotland.