

THE HORSE.

Joint-Ill, Navel-Ill or Septic Arthritis.

Many theories have been advanced re the cause and nature of navel or joint-ill in foals. Some claim that it is simply another name for what is commonly called "leaking navel." Those who have had experience know that this is not the case. They are two distinct pathological conditions. In some cases they co-exist, but in most cases either condition is noticed without being accompanied by the other; hence there is not necessarily a connection. Some claim that "joint-ill" is a disease of weakly foals; others that it affects only foals that receive too much milk; others that it is caused by the nature of the dam's milk; others that it is due to exposure to cold or dampness. Some claim that it is congenital, being contracted during foetal life. All these theories have been proved false by the light of modern veterinary science.

That the disease is due to a specific germ or virus that gains entrance to the blood has been proved beyond reasonable doubt. The germ gains entrance through a raw surface, generally, if not always, the navel opening. It has an affinity for the joints, lodges in them, multiplies very rapidly, causing severe irritation, heat, swelling, and often suppuration—hence the name "joint-ill." While scientists now generally admit that the disease is due to a germ, some claim that it enters the circulation during foetal life, hence the disease is congenital. This view is not supported by evidence and is held by few.

The germ exists in the soil, in dust, in stable floors, and doubtless, in some cases, on the hair of pregnant mares that are stabled or grazed in quarters where it exists. The last fact accounts for the occasional very early symptoms of the disease that are sometimes noticed in foals, the germ having entered the circulation during birth. The trouble is much more frequently seen in foals that are born in the stable than in those that are born in a pasture field. In some seasons the disease is much more prevalent than in others; and more frequently seen in some localities than in others. Owing to these facts we must admit that certain climatic and certain geographical conditions favor the presence of the germ, but just what these conditions are has not been definitely determined.

Symptoms.—The symptoms may become apparent soon after the infection enters the system. From a few hours to a few days, and in rare cases a few weeks after birth, the foal is noticed to be dull, lies a great deal, and manifests lameness or stiffness in one or more limbs. An examination usually reveals a swelling, heat and tenderness of one or more joints, often in the hocks or knees, but it may be the stifle, hip, elbow, shoulder, fetlock or pastern. Any joint or joints may be affected. The trouble is often thought to have been caused by the dam treading upon the foal, or by injury in other ways. The symptoms increase in intensity, sometimes quickly, in others more slowly. The swellings increase in size and soreness, the patient becomes weaker, less able to move, and lies most of the time. If helped to his feet he goes lame and sore, but in some cases will nurse fairly well, but soon lies down again. As the symptoms increase in intensity the general debility also increases, and the desire for or the ability to take nourishment diminishes. The joint or joints involved become puffy, and if they burst or are lanced a muddy-colored liquid escapes. In many cases the articular cartilages of the joint become destroyed. In these cases manipulation of the joint reveals a grating sound, caused by the ends of the bones rubbing against each other. When this stage has been reached it is a humane act to destroy the patient, as, though it is possible in some cases to preserve life by careful nursing and attention, the animal will always be a cripple.

Curative Treatment is often effective when given early. The use of serums and anti-toxins especially prepared for the purpose, and which can be administered only by a veterinarian, has been reasonably successful both as a preventive and cure, hence it is wise for a breeder to employ a veterinarian as soon as possible after the first symptoms are noticed. Even amateur treatment may occasionally be successful. It consists in bathing the joints long and often with hot water, and after bathing rubbing well with a camphorated liniment as one made of ½ oz. tincture of iodine, 2 drams gum camphor, 4 oz. extract of witch hazel and alcohol to make a pint. The foal should be given 5 to 10 grains (according to class and size) of iodide of potassium in a little of the dam's milk three times daily, and it should be helped to nurse at least every hour if not able to nurse without help. The mare should be well fed on milk-producing food, as bran, rolled oats, good hay, raw roots or grass if procurable, and should be given 1 to 1½ drams iodide of potassium 3 times daily. Such treatment may be successful in arresting the ravages of the germ and destroying those present. When the disease has reached that stage where abscesses are formed they should be lanced, and cavities flushed out well three times daily with a 5-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid. When the articular cartilages have been destroyed and the bones can be heard or felt grating against each other, the patient should be destroyed.

Preventive Treatment.—If we admit the theory advanced as to the cause of the disease it can plainly be seen that prevention consists in preventing the entrance of the germ into the system. This can be done (where the germ exists) only by cleanliness and antiseptic measures. All dust, cobwebs, etc., should be swept out of the stable, and the stall in which the prospective foal is to

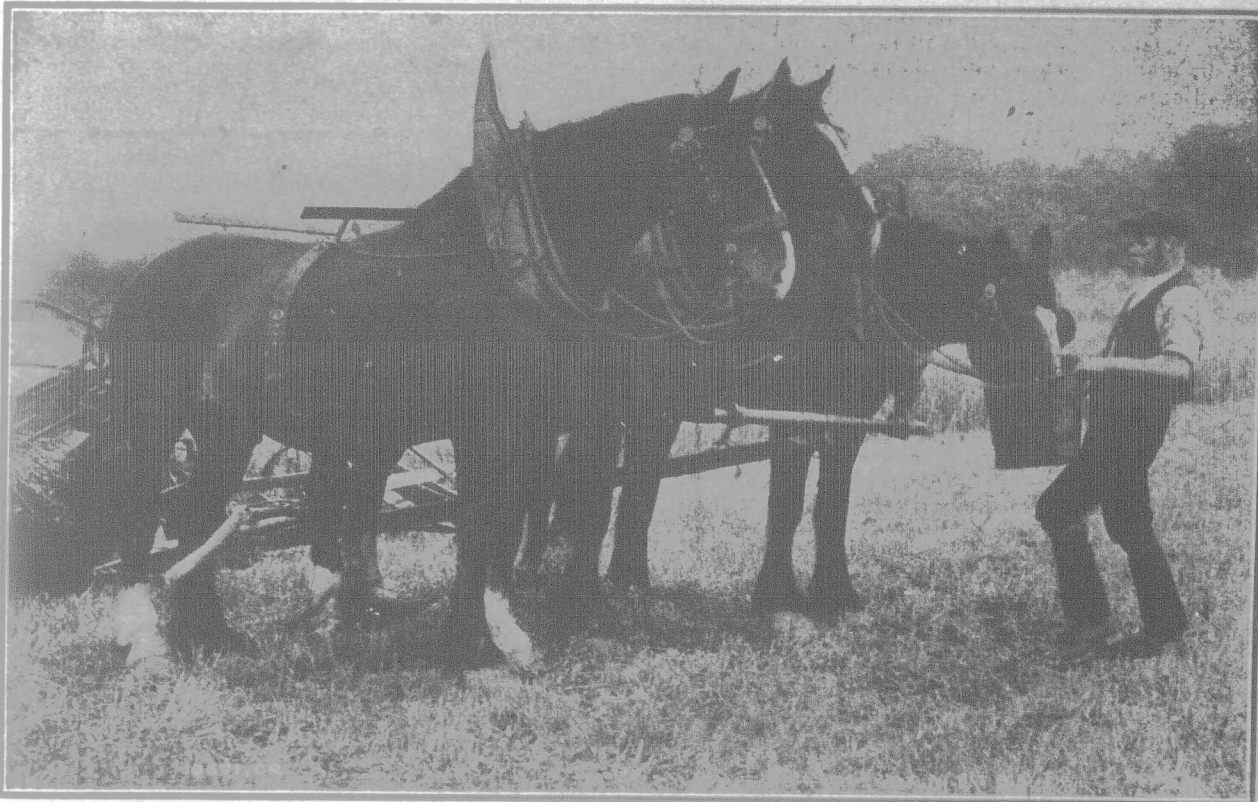
be born, should be thoroughly and regularly cleaned, and it is good practice to scatter slaked lime on the floor each morning before providing fresh bedding. It is good practice to give the stall a thorough coat of hot lime wash with about 5 per cent. carbolic acid, or, if whitewash be objectionable, give it a thorough scrubbing with hot water containing 5 per cent. of the acid. It is also good practice to wash the external genital organs, tail and hind quarters of the mare occasionally with an antiseptic and germicide, as a 5-per-cent. solution of one of the coal-tar antiseptics or carbolic acid. When the mare is to foal on grass, of course, all these precautions cannot be taken, but there is little danger of the germ existing on grass, but it may be found in sand or clay devoid of grass. The most essential preventive measures that can be observed in all cases is local attention to the navel as soon as possible after birth, and several times daily afterwards until it dries up and is thoroughly healed. The breeder should have on hand a supply of a strong antiseptic and germicide when his mare is about to foal. This may be a 10-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid or one of the coal-tar antiseptics, tincture of iodine, or a solution of corrosive sublimate 30 to 40 grains to a pint of water. Whatever is used should be applied as soon as possible after birth and every few hours until the navel opening has healed.

WHIP.

Percherons Come to Canada.

The Secretary of the Percheron Society of America, Wayne Dinsmore, sends us the following information concerning the movement of Percherons from the United States into Canada.

"During the last 19 months the Percheron breeders of the United States have sold more than 1,000 Percherons to Canadian buyers; 611 of these were purchased during the last 7 months by 91 different Canadian buyers. Thirty-two purchasers were located in Alberta; 4 in British Columbia; 12 in Manitoba; 1 in New Bruns-



A Hot Weather Suggestion.

wick; 7 in Ontario; and 35 in Saskatchewan. Two hundred and thirty-nine out of the 611 sold this past season were mares. It is believed that this constitutes a record for the exportation of any kind of pure-bred live stock to Canada. These very heavy exportations are significant of the growing popularity of Percherons in all parts of the Dominion, and of Canadians' firm belief in the prosperity in store for breeders of good draft horses."

The Secretary also writes that Percherons in America are reared by average farmers who use the mares in regular farm work. Most of the colts recorded are registered by men who raise only one or two foals per year. This fact is revealed in the registrations which amounted to 10,508 in the last fiscal year, and these were made by 5,198 separate breeders.

What the Horse Would Say in July.

If a horse could talk he would have many things to say when summer comes.

He would tell his driver that he feels the heat on a very warm day quite as much as if he could read a thermometer.

He would say,—"Give me a little water many times a day, when the heat is intense, but not much at a time if I am warm; if you want me to keep well don't water me too soon after I have eaten."

He would say,—"When the sun is hot and I am working let me breathe once in a while in the shade of some house or tree; if you have to leave me on the street leave me in the shade if possible. Anything upon my head, between my ears, to keep off the sun is bad for me if the air cannot circulate freely underneath it."

He would talk of slippery streets, and the sensations of falling on cruel city cobblestones—the pressure of

the load pushing him to the fall, the bruised knees and wrenched joints, and the feel of the driver's lash.

He would tell of the luxury of a fly net when at work and of a fly blanket when standing still in fly season, and of the boon to him of screens in the stable to keep out the insects that bite and sting.

He would plead for as cool and comfortable a stable as possible in which to rest at night after a day's work under the hot sun.

He would suggest that living through a warm night in a narrow stall neither properly cleaned nor bedded is suffering for him and poor economy for the owner.

He would say that turning the hose on him is altogether too risky a thing to do unless you are looking for a sick horse. Spraying the legs and feet when he is not too warm on a hot day he would find agreeable.

He would say,—"Please sponge out my eyes and nose and dock when I come in tired and dusty at night, and also sponge me with clean cool water under the collar and saddle of the harness."—Our Dumb Animals.

LIVE STOCK.

It will not be long before the fall exhibitions will be in full swing. Are you getting your stock in condition to win in keen competition?

It is a good plan to stable the calves and even the mature stock during the heat of the day when flies are most bothersome. A little attention along this line usually brings returns.

Even with grain at the present high price it may pay well to use it to supplement the pasture when it becomes short and dry in midsummer. It is less expensive to hold the flesh on the animals than to put it on after it has been lost, due to shortage of feed.

A number of Shorthorn auction sales were held in Chicago the second last week in June, and 288 head changed hands at an average price of \$1,290. Kennedy Shorthorns averaged \$1,121, the top figure being \$2,600, which was paid for Beauty Lassie, a five-year-old cow. Sixty-seven Shorthorns sold by F. R. Edwards averaged \$945.

At the Carpenter & Ross Shorthorn sale 122 head went under the hammer in less than five hours. Record prices were received; 16 bulls averaging \$2,800, and 106 females \$1,386. The top price was \$20,000 for the bull calf Imp. Rodney. Several head from this offering were purchased by W. C. Sutherland, of Saskatchewan, among which was the two-year-old bull Imp. Edgecote Broadhocks at \$4,000.

In response to representations made by the various agricultural and breed societies, the War Trade Department of England has intimated that it has decided to abandon the proposal of restricting the export of pure-bred stock to the average of the past three years. While it is deemed advisable to place some restriction on the export of pedigreed stock, applications from exporters will be considered on their merits and without regard to average exports, by an individual and to a particular country.

In talking about the present price of pork, a Perth County farmer remarked that twenty-four years ago he teamed hogs 13 miles to market for 3¼ cents a pound. There is a big difference between 3¼ and 17 or 18 cents a pound, but we doubt if the higher price of this spring netted the feeder any more than the price of 24 years ago. At that time oats were 15 cents a bushel, and barley less than half a cent a pound. The profit a