

Veterinary Department.

Injuries of the Horse's Mouth.

Injuries to the horse's mouth are of frequent occurrence, and often prove very troublesome and annoying. In aged horses the teeth are unevenly worn, and become very sharp and projecting, thus injuring the cheeks and gums, and interfering with the process of mastication. The tongue is frequently injured from the bit in hard-pulling horses, and in some cases it is nearly cut in two. The fold of mucous membrane (*frenum lingua*) which attaches the lower part of the tongue to the floor of the mouth, is occasionally injured by the tongue being violently pulled to one side in the administering of medicines, by careless people; and foreign substances now and again become lodged in the muscular substance of the tongue, towards the base. We recollect a case where a small needle had penetrated the tongue and become embedded there, giving rise to excessive swelling and irritation. The symptoms produced by these injuries are increased discharge of saliva, difficulty in masticating the food, and in severe cases the horse will altogether refuse his food. This is especially the case when either the *frenum lingua* or the root of the tongue is the seat of injury. The tongue is occasionally swollen and protruding from the mouth, and the secretion has an offensive odour. When the irritation is the result of sharp and projecting teeth, the first symptom often noticed is the horse cudgling his hay, which will accumulate between the grinders and the cheeks, in some instances to such an extent that it is necessary to remove it by the hand. As a consequence of this impaired mastication, and also an increased discharge of saliva from the mouth, the horse soon falls off in condition.

When these symptoms are presented, the mouth should be carefully examined, and in order to do so properly it is necessary to use the balling iron. When the ailment is the result of uneven wearing of the teeth, the remedy consists in the free use of the tooth rasp. If any irritant is lodged in the tongue, it should be removed, and the mouth should be gargled several times a day with tepid water, and a solution of alum, about one drachm to the pint of water. The horse should be fed on bran mash for a few days, until the healing process sets in.

Occasionally the mouth is affected with an eruptive disease, called Aphtha or Thrush, which attacks the lips, the cheeks and gums. This disorder generally results from impaired digestion, or a debilitated state of the system, and is frequently brought on by eating hay or oats of an inferior quality. There is swelling of the mucous membrane lining the cavity of the mouth, and turning

out of the lips. In a day or two after the first appearance of the swelling, small red spots appear, which finally become filled with pus, and turn to a yellowish tinge, then burst and discharge matter. This irritation of the mouth gives rise to an increased discharge of saliva, and the horse refuses his food.

In the treatment of aphtha a change of food is desirable, and a mild dose of laxative medicine may be given, as two or three drachms of aloes with one drachm of ginger. The mouth should also be gargled once a day with alum water, and the general comfort of the patient well attended to.

Diseases of the Digestive Organs of the Horse.

The pharynx is sometimes the seat of inflammation, in connection with sore throat or inflammation of the larynx, and it is occasionally injured by the careless administration of medicines. Some people are in the habit of giving balls to horses by means of a sharp pointed stick, and not unfrequently the pharynx is punctured, an accident which is speedily followed by acute inflammatory action, and often terminates fatally. The symptoms of this injury are alarming and well marked. The horse is quite unable to swallow either food or water, he suffers great pain, and is very much fevered, the pulse running high: the disease extends to the respiratory tract, and the breathing becomes distressing and laborious. There is also slight swelling externally, and the parts are very tender when pressed. The treatment should be such as to allay the fever and irritation, and this is best done by applying fomentations of hot water externally, which should be applied for hours to afford relief. Demulcents may also be given, and the throat and mouth gargled with a gargle composed of water eight ounces, laudanum half an ounce. The tincture of aconite should be given in doses of ten drops every three or four hours, according to the severity of the attack. We cannot too strongly condemn the practice of giving balls in the manner described, as many valuable horses have been destroyed by that means. Not long ago, one of the finest horses in the United States received injuries in the administering of medicines that proved fatal in the course of a few days.

The oesophagus or gullet is liable to become obstructed, which gives rise to choking. This occurrence is not quite so common in horses as it is in cattle. The obstruction may consist of a piece of carrot, turnip, or an apple, or it may be produced by chopped hay or straw, or by giving too hard balls. Choking may occur in any part of the oesophagus, but the obstruction is oftener situated in the cervical than in the thoracic portion. The symptoms of choking, in most instances,

are very alarming. There is active suffocation, and if the animal tries to drink, the water is returned partly through the nostrils: there is spasmodic action of the muscles of the larynx and also of the muscles of the neck, and a discharge of saliva from the mouth, which is greatest when the obstruction is situated in the cervical portion.

In the treatment of choking, endeavours must be made to remove the obstruction: and in some cases, by giving small quantities of oil in gruel, the offending agent may become displaced. The bland fluid lubricates the part, and, in the endeavours to swallow, the foreign body will often slip down. Manipulation from the outside may also cause its dislodgement. In all cases, great care should be taken not to injure the pharynx. If these means fail, the probang must be used. In cattle the probang is easily passed, but in horses it is well to be very careful in passing it. If the probang is used incautiously, the walls of the oesophagus may be ruptured; and when such an accident occurs it invariably proves fatal.

Lice on Cattle.

In compliance with a request from a subscriber for further information on this subject, we once more bring it before the notice of our readers.

There are two species of lice which are said to affect cattle: First, the *Hematopinus Euryternus*. This species is often met with about the head and neck, and, according to Denny, the young ones are more agile than the old. The second species is the *Hematopinus ani et uteræ*, which are found principally on the thighs and under the tail.

Lice appear to be generally in greatest numbers on animals that are in poor and filthy condition; therefore, to remove them, great attention should be paid to cleanliness. Many different remedies may be used which will effectually destroy these insects. A decoction of tobacco, about two drachms to a pint of water, may be used with advantage. Mercurial dressings are also beneficial, but must be used with caution, and only a small surface rubbed at one time. The following formula is also recommended as a safe and effectual remedy:

Stavesacre seeds, 4 oz.

White hellebore, 1 oz

To be boiled in a gallon of water until only two quarts remain, and applied with a brush to those parts where the lice are seen.

The following note on the subject, from a correspondent, also gives a good suggestion, and with the cautions he prescribes the remedy may be safely tried. Red precipitate is a mercurial preparation:—

Should your prescription fail, I would recommend a trial of red precipitate well mixed in hog's lard, a teaspoonful of the former to a pound of the latter, applied by dipping the finger lightly in the mixture, rubbing it on the shoulders and back in no more than five