

Veterinary.

REAL VET. MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Montreal Veterinary Medical Association regular fortnightly meeting, on Thursday 28th, in the Lecture Hall of the University, the President, Prof. D. McEachran, in the chair. The library of the Association was opened by the presentation of some valuable books by Dr. Oaler, on the Microscope, by Dr. Buller, on the Eye; one by Dr. Loe on the Rinderpest, and by Dr. Gressy, a copy of the Annual Reports of the Vermont Veterinary Association. There was also, in addition to these, a number of volumes, a purchase with a portion of a sum donated by the Medical Society. The first essayist of the evening was Mr. Wm. McEachran, who read a paper on the "Pathology of the Digestive System," a paper full of interesting matter, and which was well received. The various points suggested by it were then embodied in a lengthy discussion, which was both interesting and instructive. The termination of the debate, Mr. Lovesque, of Berthier (en haut), read a comprehensive paper on Glanders and Farcy. His presentation of these terrible maladies showed that the subject had been carefully studied, and was as well as scientifically handled. The speaker particularly emphasized the danger and highly contagious character of the disease, which, when contracted, invariably leads to the most fatal and deadly. He called attention to the censurable defectiveness of the law in regard to it, by which the use of proper means for its prevention and extermination was rendered impossible. One of the most common causes for its contraction was by contagion and contact with ill-ventilated stables. The disease presents itself in two forms designated as acute and chronic. Almost every drug in Pharmacopoeia has been tried for its remedy, but nothing attempted has proved ineffectual more than, perhaps, prolong life for a time. That this is lamentable cannot be denied when its fatality, loathsomeness and inability to be communicated to man is remembered. Not only are these facts to be regretted, but the knowledge that, in the vicinity of the River, Berthier and even in our city, prevalence and extent are assuming alarming proportions. A large company incorporated for its relief has suffered considerable loss from its spread, and has also been the means of spreading to some degree by bartering off affected animals, thus materially and criminally aiding its prevalence.

The Chairman intimated that he had been requested to introduce the important subject of the inspection for discussion by the Association, and that he would do so at a special meeting to be held on Thursday evening, 7th March, which he hoped to see not only the members, but also the Health Committee and others interested in this important sanitary measure.

OMACE, BLIND, OR MAD STAGGERS.

BY PROF. J. A. GOING, M. R. C. V. S. E.

The definition of staggers is an unnatural morbid condition of the encephalon (the brain, its members, etc.), there is present congestion of the vessels, effusion into the arteries and spaces, with an exudation of lymph between the membranes. The two principal kinds of staggers we have are what is known as mad and stomach. In the former the brain is sympathetically affected, and is affected by what is known as reflex action. In the former it may be the result of concussion, a direct injury, etc. What is called sleepy staggers is merely a peculiar phase of that mentioned as stomach staggers. There are many pathological conditions of the cerebral substance which give rise to a frenzied condition—tumors, some recognizable morbid poison, the retention of uræmic acid, or the irritation due to the presence of melanic deposits—but inflammation gives rise to loss of function, and instead of the excited condition, we have stupor, stupor, coma, or general paralysis. The most common form of congestion of the brain we have is that ushered in by mucus, sleepy, grass, or mad staggers. It is not confined to the horse alone, as maddened cattle also are subject to it.

Symptoms.

The first symptom observed is a dull, listless, untidy, drowsy appearance; the animal is lazy, disinclined to move, and it does so voluntarily, it will be at a slow deliberate gait, as each motion of the body causes pain; he eats without any apparent

tack occurs while the horse is at pasture, he roams around aimlessly, fixes his head to a rail or post, and keeps his limbs moving uneasily and continuously. Where animals are under the groom's eye, he may not unfrequently observe, as the premonitory symptoms, slight attacks of rigor and shivering. The symptoms thus described will not be expected to be found in every case; some will be absent, while there will be sufficient present to assist in a diagnosis, and make it comparatively easy. The secretions are usually diminished, costiveness and retention of water are observed, the latter being of a port wine color. This is accounted for by the action of the liver being impeded, and the bile permeates the system. As the disease becomes fully developed, the coma becomes more profound, and the fits of greater intensity and frequency, but of shorter duration. The pulse in this latter stage is small and quick, and the breathing more labored and difficult; the nerves of relation, which preside over the sphincters, are called into action, and those of the anus and bladder become relaxed, and should it terminate fatally, a fit of convulsions will close the scene.

Ætiology, or Cause.

When the disease occurs while the animal is on grass, it is believed to be due to some narcotic principles contained in the grass. In England cases of staggers frequently occur where the animals feed on rye, particularly if it should be over ripe, when it has arrived at that period when it is neither grass nor hay, that the toxic or poisonous qualities are most dangerous.

Prof. Williams gives it as his opinion that the seat of staggers is the brain and spinal cord, and their meninges or fringes, and that owing to the quality of the food a degree of narcotism is first produced, speedily succeeded by congestion and other changes discovered in the morbid anatomy of an animal thus destroyed, and that owing to derangement of the great nerve centres paralysis of the digestive apparatus is the result, and the stomach becomes sometimes engorged, from the fact that the animal continues to feed. When the digestive as well as other functions are in abeyance, Gamgee is of opinion that the disease may arise from gastric derangement brought about by eating grain or bran in large quantities. From this Prof. Williams dissents, but we must say we have so often observed staggers result from overeating, that we are rather inclined to agree with Mr. Gamgee, and come to the conclusion that over distention and impaction of the stomach will originate staggers, and that the disease may manifest the complications above enumerated. We have on numberless occasions found animals that have broken loose at night and engorged themselves at the oat-bin, become subject to staggers, the disease of course originating in this organ, and the brain, through reflex action, or sympathy, participating. Indigestion, no doubt, occasions it in many cases; hence by proper precaution it may be either aborted or prevented. This is proven, we believe satisfactorily, from the fact that animals exhibiting unmistakable symptoms of staggers have frequently been cured by regulating their diet, administering tonics, and giving an occasional dose of physic.

That it originates in the brain at times is also true, as on post-mortem that organ is frequently found congested, as are the lungs, also the stomach of such animals being found to contain either no food, or very little. But while admitting this, we hold the majority of cases of staggers, if not due to tumors, etc., are due to impaction of the stomach, indigestion, and the animals being fed matter which disagrees with them, or which they are unable to digest. And it is here that our readers can benefit by the information afforded by this article, for should they govern themselves according to the following advice, they may avert fatal results.

Prevention and Treatment.

Do not wait until you have a well developed case of staggers to grapple with, but be beforehand, and as soon as you observe your horse off his feed, see if he is costive, suffering from indigestion, if the faeces be coated with mucus, and the food ejected in an unmastered condition; have his teeth examined. But if you cannot avert the danger, and your animal exhibits

symptoms increase in intensity or severity, give two drachms of solid extract of belladonna; or you may, in order to have immediate effect, inject with an hypodermic syringe, two grains of atropine twice a day, but several hours apart. Should the purgative not have the desired effect, after the expiration of the above-mentioned period, and you have decided not to have recourse to the belladonna or atropine, then give, on the third day, a pint of linseed oil, which repeat after about four or five hours. After the acute symptoms have subsided, apply either a strong stimulating liniment to the back and loins and poll, or apply to the poll and loins a liquid fly blister. But you should on no account stimulate or blister while the animal is frenzied, as you would probably, by thus adding to the excitement, throw the patient into a fit of convulsions, which might terminate fatally. Iodide of potassium may be given in drachm doses, once a day, for three or four weeks, in order to stimulate the absorbents to renewed energy and activity. If the bowels have not regained their normal tone and activity, give thirty grains of nux vomica, twice a day, for three days. Should the pulse be weak, give a stimulant, but it should be of a mild character. After the fit has been subdued, and the animal has entirely recovered, a repetition of the attack may be prevented by adopting the precautionary measures above suggested. Slow work only should be given, and great care taken to see the animal is not permitted to become costive, and so remain for any length of time.—*Spirit of the Times.*

THE WIMBLEDON TEAM.

There has for some time past been a good deal of discussion regarding the method of selection adopted in the composition of the team of marksmen who annually represent the Dominion of Canada at Wimbledon. The fact that only one representative from Ontario will go with the team next summer leads to an inquiry into the principle on which the selection is based.

We believe the system that has for years been adopted is to allow the various provinces to hold competitions on their own ground, in which those who participate are required to shoot a certain number of rounds under certain regulations, these regulations being the same for all the provinces. The results are then collated at Ottawa by the Rifle Association and the marksmen making the highest twenty scores are nominated as the team. To the inexperienced this method might appear both reasonable and fair, but in reality, as in the case this year, it is liable to lead to absurd results. Each Provincial Association is at liberty to select the two days for competition best suiting its own convenience, and the contests are not expected to be and never have been simultaneous. We believe the shooting for places in the team has generally taken place during or at the conclusion of the Provincial matches in each Province, but not necessarily on these occasions. The competition for Ontario marksmen took place at the conclusion of the O. R. A. matches, last September, and those who took part therein had to contend with a heavy rain storm and a boisterous and unsteady gale of wind. Garrison Commor at Toronto, is at best a trying range, but with the further disadvantage of unusually inclement weather, brilliant scoring was impossible. Many shots of Dominion and even Wimbledon reputation, including not a few from our own city, retired in disgust from a contest in which skill seemed to form but a very minute ingredient. As between the volunteers of any particular Province, possibly such weather might be most desirable in getting at the best men, but when the scores from the different Provinces are compared, what is the result? New Brunswick has ten out of the twenty, Quebec has five or six and Ontario has a solitary one. In the nature of things, such an unfairly inadequate representation from the largest Province of the Dominion could only result from an absurd system. From enquiry we learn that the competition at Montreal for the Province of Quebec was held during two days of weather finer and more favorable than which, for shooting, could not be desired. The New Brunswickers seem to have had the advantage of not only good weather, but other favoring circumstances which shooting men well know how to appreciate, and they certainly did, as might be expected, take the full benefit of their opportunities.

The Ontario men also complain that in addition to the difficulties of the weather and range, they had to shoot under the superintendence of a staff officer named by the Dominion Rifle Association, whose ridiculous notions of compelling strict compliance with the letter of the regulations, without any regard to their spirit

KILLED BY A RAT'S BITE.

THE STRANGE MALADY OF A BIG CART HORSE THAT THREE SURGEONS TRIED TO CURE.

Mr. George Maturin, of Bergen, has just had a valuable horse killed by a rat. Mr. Maturin tells the following story about it: "A week ago Sunday morning, as I went out to feed the horse, I found a scratch on his upper lip, from which a little blood was trickling. I wiped it off and didn't think any more about it until that same afternoon I noticed that his lip was badly swollen, and his left cheek all puffed out. Then I sent for a veterinary surgeon, and he said that it was a rat bite. He told me to wash it with salt and vinegar, and gave me a bottle of medicine; I don't know what it was. On the next day a sore broke out on the lip, and from that on they broke out all around his nose and some on his cheek. They also formed inside his mouth and nose. The horse kept on eating hay oats and until Thursday and then had to give them up. After that he ate only a little warm mash, but drank a great deal of water. I put oatmeal in the water to strengthen him. By this time I had had three doctors, and they all gave different medicines. About all we could do for him, though, was to keep on flaxseed poultices, and keep the sores as clean as we could with the wash of salt and vinegar.

"On Saturday he seemed to get crazy, and threw himself against the sides of the stall, dashed his head against the boards, and kicked at everything. He had always been very gentle before, only I could never tie him. I had him in a box stall, and tried to tie him so as to keep him from hurting himself; but he broke every halter and bridle I had. On Sunday his brain was badly affected, and he was very wild. Still I had hopes of saving him, for he appeared strong, and drank plenty of the oatmeal water. He drank two pailfuls ten minutes before he died. In the afternoon I left him, on his feet, and went into the house to fix a new poultice. I was gone only a few minutes, but as I returned he was dead.

"He was a large cart horse, standing seven-teens hands high, and was nearly 17 years of age. No, I never before heard of a horse dying from a rat bite, but that's what killed him, sure, for he had always been perfectly well and healthy before that. The doctors didn't think he would die. They had never known a horse to die from such a cause."

FAITHFUL OLD ARGUS.

Argus was an old watch dog, and belonged to a farmer's family in Albany, N.H. Having long outlived his usefulness (as it was presumed), his owners had determined to put him out of the way, and had several times disposed of him, as they thought, but he had always returned to them again alive and well. Finally a neighbor called one day, with his rifle in his hand. He had been out after a fox. One of the boys laid in with him to take Argus out into the woods and shoot him. The old dog was always crazy to follow a gun. He lay in the shed and heard the conversation, and when, finally, the rifleman called to him, he got up and followed him out—followed him around to the rear of the barn and there disappeared. It would seem that he had understood exactly the meaning of the compact which had been framed against his life. At all events, he disappeared, and for six days we saw him not, though two or three times we fancied we could detect his tracks, where he had been at the well-tub during the night. The seventh night of the dog's absence was the night of Saturday. During the day soap had been made and boiled down and a heavy baking done in a great old oven. Somewhere past midnight all hands were aroused by the barking and howling, and whining, and scratching of old Argus. We knew the voice, but we were determined not to let him in. He redoubled his cries, and his scratching upon the door. At length the head of the family, in his wrath, took down a loaded musket—loaded for a hawk—and threw up a window of the sitting room. No sooner was the sash raised than the old dog came in at a bound, and without stopping to see what his reception was to be, he leaped through the door opening from the great kitchen out into the wash-room and wood-shed, where he howled and scratched like one possessed. John and I knew that something must be wrong outside, so we unfastened the door, and as we opened it the dog bounded out to the shed where was a great wooden box half filled with ashes. But we had no need to go further to learn what was the matter. The shed was filled

with her go; the craft going at about four knots; but as we were sailing to leeward I let her go with a free wind and all sails flying, keeping an eye to windward at the anchor. 'Twas hard work to keep her in her course. First she would warp to the right and then to the left. Then I braced up and squaring myself at the helm gave her a taste of the flying jib, when she dashed off at the rate of 40 knots. The wind was blowing fresh from the north-west, when I saw a gale was brewing and thought to take in a reef or two. You see the channel was narrow and I couldn't tack to any point, so had to steer ahead. The strain on the tiller was terrible and the crazy craft, like a man three sheets in the wind, became unmanageable. Now was the time to bring her to her bearings, so I called to my shipmate to let go the anchor, which caught firmly at the bottom, and the craft was brought to, and in the struggle the mast went by the board. She struck heavily, and before you could say Jack Robinson we were wrecked and lay floundering on the beach. That was my last trip with that craft."

Lacrosse.

LACROSSE IN NEW YORK.

The First International Tournament between the Lacrosse Clubs of Canada and the United States, was inaugurated on Friday evening, 5th inst., at Gilmore's Garden, New York, in the presence of quite a large assemblage, and it proved to be quite a successful meeting and a very interesting exhibition. The contestants included the most expert players of the game among the Indian tribes of Canada and the State of New York, and the best players of the amateur clubs of the United States, the Indian players comprising the team of Iroquois Indians from Canada who played before Queen Victoria in England, in 1876, and the Onondago team from Syracuse, N.Y. The amateurs who have entered the lists for the prize cup offered by Mr. Tilston, of the Country, include the teams of Ravenswood Club, of Long Island; the New York University Club, the Elmira Club, the Manhattan Club and the No Name Club of Brooklyn. Last night the first contestants to enter the lists in the cup contest were the teams of the Ravenswood and University clubs, the players of which were as follows:

New York University—Messrs. Atwater, Barremore, Capwell, Dunning, Eddy, Gillette, Maivener, Swann, Webster and Zubrisko.

Ravenswood—Messrs. Calder, Cluff, A. Biddle, W. Kitchey, Wheeler, Graham, Hopkins, J. Wilson, J. Wilson, H. Wilson and Smith.

The entertainment began with a match of best two out of three games between the Indian teams and in a very short time the Iroquois team from Canada had won the first goal. The second game occupied about fifteen minutes, and resulted, as before, in the success of the Canadian Indians, who were evidently better up in the strategic points of the game and faster runners than their New York opponents. At 9 p.m. the amateurs took their places for the first game of the prize cup series, the Indian contests being merely exhibition affairs. The contest proved to be quite interesting, and after a well played game of twelve minutes duration the New York University team won the first goal, by a well timed throw by Mr. Barremore. Before the second game took place there was a snow-shoe race by the Canadian Indians, which was won by "Thawenagata," one of the Iroquois. This over, the amateurs resumed play and changing goals the University players soon found that they were put on their defence by the gentlemen from Ravenswood. After a contest of eleven minutes a lucky throw in by Mr. Kitchey gave the game to the Ravenswood team, and now the match became especially interesting. The third game began at 9:45 p.m., and after a tough fight of fifteen minutes duration, Mr. Cluff by some fine play, sent a ball through the University goal and thereby won the match. The Indians then played another match, which also resulted in favor of the Canadians, after which a war dance closed the exhibition.

A PACK OF WEASELS OUT HUNTING.

Weasels frequently hunt in couples, and sometimes more than two will work together. We once saw five, and have heard of eight. The five we saw were working a sandy bank drilled with holes, from which the rabbits in wild alarm were darting in all directions. The weasels raced from hole to hole and along the sides of the bank exactly like a pack of hounds, and so mad intensely excited. Their manner of hunting was the motions of ants, then, as they ran a little way very swiftly, they stop, turn to the right and left, make a short dash, and off forward again in a straight line. A pack of weasels darted forward.