

Veterinary Department.

Disease of Joints.

THE KNEE JOINTS.

The knee joint is very large and important, and is liable to many injuries, as sprain, which is immediately followed by extensive inflammation, the symptoms of which are tolerably well marked, but as a matter of course, vary somewhat, according to the extent of the injury. When severe, there is considerable swelling around the joint, the horse is lame, and when trotted the lameness is greatly increased, which is a marked peculiarity of knee joint lameness. The horse when standing, slightly bends the knee, and if the joint is quickly flexed or given a rotatory motion he evinces great pain, which is immediately shown by his instantly rearing up. In the walk he brings the leg forward with a swinging motion. Inflammation of the knee is very apt to result in partial or complete stiffness of the joint. In slight sprains of the knee there is very little swelling, and the symptoms are not so well marked, and considerable difficulty is sometimes experienced as to the precise seat of the lameness, especially by people who are not aware of the structure of this beautiful but complex articulation. In the treatment of injuries in this situation, however trivial, it is of the utmost importance that the patient should be allowed perfect rest. It is often desirable that he should be kept standing in his stall, and the leg carefully bandaged with a properly applied flannel bandage. The following liniment may also be used several times a day: equal parts of laudanum, tincture of arnica and tincture of camphor. In prolonged cases it is generally necessary to use a powerful counter irritant, as cantharidine ointment or tincture of cantharides, which should be applied around the whole joint.

Disease of the Joints in Foals.

This disease is very common in Canada and causes a very serious loss to breeders of horses every year. The disease appears to be of a rheumatic tendency, involving the joints of the extremities, and is due to some constitutional derangement or disturbance, and is probably induced in some cases by well marked exciting causes.

The disease usually appears shortly after birth, and it is rare that a foal becomes afflicted after two months old. It is most likely to occur in weakly foals, that have difficulty in standing, and therefore without very great attention such weak little animals generally fail to obtain a proper supply of nourishment. It may also be induced by exposure to cold, or any sudden changes in temperature, or from the injurious effects of cold damp stables or boxes.

We believe that a very great predisposing and prolific cause, and one which appears to be on the increase, is that of allowing valuable horses to serve too many mares during the season. No doubt owners of entire horses are desirous of having great returns, and breeders are naturally anxious to procure the best horses, and therefore some valuable animals are very much abused, and their progeny instead of being strong and healthy, are weak, sickly animals, and a large percentage die a few days after birth.

The symptoms of this common complaint are very plain and well marked. The foal is observed to be weak, and slight swelling appears about the fetlocks, knee or hock; these swellings are soft puffy and tender; a few days they increase in size and become exceedingly painful; the little sufferer is almost unable to move, his mouth is hot and dry, the pulse weak, and quick, and the body tacked up. The enlargement of the joints will burst and freely discharge a purulent matter; very often extensive sloughings are the result, exposing the ligaments and tendons and even the bones; rendering the patient a most pitiable object. When the disease assumes this stage, it is utterly incurable, and it becomes an act of mercy to destroy the suffering animal. In cases however where the swelling does not end in the sup-

purative process they may be treated with success. The foal should be kept in a warm place, warm and well bedded with good clean straw, great attention should also be paid to the condition of the mother, so as to insure a proper and regular supply of milk.

The limbs are occasionally benefited by being gently stimulated with a mild liniment, a equal parts of tincture of camphor and tincture of arnica, and to a moderately strong foal two grains of the iodide of potassium may be given twice a day, dissolved in two ounces of water.

As the animal gains strength he may be allowed to run out a few hours daily, but every care must be taken neither to expose the patient to a very hot sun, nor to a cold temperature. We believe that young foals, when weak, are often seriously injured from the effects of a hot summer sun.

Clacking and Over-Reaching in Horses.

Clacking, or, as it is sometimes called, "forging," is the name given to the sound produced by the hind shoe striking the fore one in progression. It is usually heard at the trot, and seldom noticed in adult horses. It is most common in young horses out of the mill, and especially noticed when they are bred. The noise is produced by the hind shoe striking the under surface of the fore one just behind the toe, not at the heels. When the blow has been repeated so as to leave an impression, the marks are found on the inner edge of the fore shoe. This is important, as it shows that the length of the hind shoe is not at fault, and it suggests the removal of the part where striking occurs. Removal of this edge is equal to making a shoe convex instead of flat on the ground surface, and such a shoe is found to effectually prevent a recurrence of this objectionable noise.

The ordinary hunting shoe, especially the narrow one made in a "cross," is the best possible for harness horses, where more substantial shoes are required for wear, the ordinary shoe seated on the outside instead of the inside is usually sufficient. A case may be met with in which this alteration is not effective. We must then alter the hind shoes, making them square at the toe, with two clips—one on either side—and set back a little on the foot. The wall at the toe should not be pared off, but allowed to protrude a little.

Too often the hind shoes or the feet suffer alteration, sometimes of a very objectionable kind; for instance, we have seen the toe of a hind shoe made oblique and curved, and from such a shoe in contact with the sole of the fore shoe, the shoe. This is a most objectionable and dangerous experiment. It leaves the offending part of the fore shoe untouched, and favors the direction of injury to the foot. Even when the hind shoe is only made short and placed on the foot, there is a risk of the horn at the toe being rapidly worn, and there is a shortening of the lever of the foot which must tend to less and less the power of progression.

If a horse "clacks," it is a sign that the hind shoe is altering the fore shoe as we have described; improve his condition, and take him to the bit, but not just yet. The hind shoe is a dangerous thing to the foot of the fore shoe. It is a most objectionable and dangerous experiment. It leaves the offending part of the fore shoe untouched, and favors the direction of injury to the foot. Even when the hind shoe is only made short and placed on the foot, there is a risk of the horn at the toe being rapidly worn, and there is a shortening of the lever of the foot which must tend to less and less the power of progression.

As in "clacking," the indication for prevention is to remove the offending edge. This cannot be thoroughly done with a file, but when the shoe is hot the edge behind the toe can be cut out with the "filer," so as to leave the shoe concave. On over-reaching is an accident peculiar to the hind shoe, well always to shoe hunters, and to horses of the occurrence. The nearest and best hind shoe for a hunter is made, like a bare one, in a "cross," and presents a concave ground surface, and rounded edges.

When a heel is injured, it is always well to save the pieces of skin. It should not be cut off until it is certain that it will not reunite to the tissue beneath. One good fomenting on reaching the stable is enough; after that use the simple dressing, and under no circumstances use any position which only increase the chances of a slough and retard the healing process. In all cases of over-reaching apply a mild stimulant, such as a mixture of butyric acid with a mixture of carbolic acid one part to glycerine, twenty parts;—*Scientific American*.

Correspondence.

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The Canada Farmer.

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Steam Ploughing and Farm Locomotives.

We give on another page illustrations of a recent invention, patented by Mr. Parvin, of Farmington, Ill. From what we have seen of it we believe it is a step in the right direction, and the best success due to the enterprising originator. But whilst on the one hand there is much to admire in its originality of design, there are on the other grave prospective dangers of its failure. Its great weight must first be considered as injurious and not altogether necessary. If steam motors were placed on the wet lands of early spring or fall, the "feet" on which it rests, and to which it owes its originality, must clog with mud, and become unmanageable, while the weight of the machine, would prove injurious to the land, and very difficult to manage. The number of joints, also, that are constantly exposed to wear from attrition of mud and gravel constantly surrounding these parts, must prove a serious objection. The cost of the machine is necessarily high, principally owing to its great weight, and although in future, demand and the numbers manufactured may lower the price, still it is a very expensive machine, and must always be liable to wear and become injured when worked constantly.

It has been their weight, with the consequent cost, and want of power to move about on the farm, that has proved so destructive to the usefulness of all the "locomotives for common roads" that have been imported into the Dominion. The weight of these machines took an active part in introducing the first implement of the kind into Canada, and has since that time constantly retarded with every step, the progress and utility of those cumbersome machines. It is not only the difficulties of the machine, but the cause of failure.

The first imported "farm locomotive," was made by Avelling & Porter, and was worked on the River St. Lawrence. The next two that came were made by Garrett & Son, and were similar to the first except in minor particulars. Both makers are men of renown in Britain. English farmers use