

to be treated successfully the patient requires great care and attention. A strong dose of purgative medicine should be given, as one pound of Epsom salts, to which may be added two or three croton beans, powdered. It is also advisable to give them gruel, and encourage the patient to take plenty of liquids. Great advantage is sometimes obtained by giving aloes along with the Epsom salts—about one pound of the salts and one of aloes, dissolved in a large quantity of water. Stimulants or vesicants applied to the abdomen, are of benefit; and if head symptoms are developing, they may be relieved by the application of cold water or ice to the head. When the bowels are got to move moderately, recovery is likely to follow, and the strength must be supported by gruel, beer, or any nourishing diet.

Disease of the Brain in a Colt.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I am a constant reader of your valuable paper, and I find a great amount of information in it respecting the treatment of stock, both sick and well. I have at present a very peculiar case, which I wish to bring before you for advice, and before your subscribers for information, as it puzzles the people in this locality.

The case is this: About the first of October my hired man informed me that one of my yearling colts appeared to be unwell. He took fits of running about the field, after which he would stand as if sleeping. I immediately went to him, and found him standing very stupid-looking. I saw at once something serious was the matter, so I went for my neighbour, who has had a good deal to do with horses. The strange way in which he acted puzzled him; however, he gave him some nitre, rosin, &c., saying it would do him no harm, any way. I kept him shut up so that I might nurse him, for he had failed greatly in flesh since the last time I had seen him. I observed he had no inclination to eat, and never lay down, and appeared to be very weak, especially in the hind parts. On the fourth day I went for a veterinary surgeon. He pronounced the disease influenza. He did not appear to doubt his recovery, gave him medicine, and left a quantity for him. He came to see him four times during about four weeks; in that time he got medicine morning and evening. The medicine had no effect upon him; he was getting weaker every day, so much so that he could not lift his hind legs, but merely dragging them as he walked. I accordingly told the surgeon not to come any more, as his case seemed to be hopeless. The disease had now gone to such a degree that the animal could not stand still one moment. At times he would reel about as if drunk, reeling very heavily, and appeared so weak that one dare not go near him for fear of his falling. The surgeon said I was to let him out, as there was no danger of other animals catching it from him. When he gets out of the stable he starts off at a wonderful pace, over stumps, against fences, buildings, or anything that may happen to be in his way. He is so disfigured and emaciated that he has the appearance of a horse twenty years old.

He is not blind, but the disease appears to be all in his head now. He has a great desire to push his head forward, and when he gets his head against anything pushes with all his might. When food is placed before him, he eats a few mouthfuls very greedily, then leaves it. He has taken two fits, the second more violent than the first; in them he foamed at the mouth, could neither see nor hear, could not stand still, would have fallen forward had he stood for one moment, breathing as heavily, and his flanks heaving, as if he had the heaves. I would have killed him in the fit but I had no gun, and I did not like to hit him with an axe. I got him into the stable, hoping by morning he would be dead. By ten o'clock he had the lining of the stable covered with blood, and was going at a furious rate, staggering as he went along. I concluded from his appearance that death would soon close the scene; but next morning, to my extreme astonishment, he was nibbling at the hay. This happened two weeks ago. In fine weather I let him out so that he may get fair scope to travel. When he is closed up he is always untied, as he could not stand any length of time without moving. I tied him to see what he would do, but his head swung about in such a way that he would soon strangle himself. He has only lain down twice to my knowledge since he became ill. Some of my neighbours advise me to kill him, others say let him live, he will come all right. I have described his case minutely. There are no swellings upon him. What is your opinion? or can any of your numerous readers throw light on the case?

By answering this through your paper you will greatly oblige

DAVID ALLAN.

Egremont, Co. Grey.

REPLY.—Judging from your very explicit description of symptoms, it is our opinion your colt is affected with some cerebral complaint. Very possibly the symptoms are due to one or more tumors in the lateral ventricles of the brain, and if they increase in size they are likely to produce death. We cannot hold out any great hopes of a cure being effected, but would recommend you to try the effects of the Bromide of Potassium in one drachm doses daily, to be given in a pint of water. The colt should be kept in a large, warm, and well ventilated box, and the food should consist of such as is nutritious and easily digested.

Swelling on Fetlock Joint.

Mr. T. Brown wishes to know what is the best treatment for a hard swelling on the outside of the fetlock joint, caused probably by a kick or blow. He had tried several remedies to reduce it, but without effect. The horse is a two-year old colt, and has been running in the bush; it is not lame, but a little stiff.

REPLY.—Cut the hair off the enlargement, and apply about two drachms of ointment made of biniodide of mercury, one part to six parts of lard. The ointment must be applied with smart friction. The second day after blistering dress the part with sweet oil, and on the fourth day wash off with soap and water, and continue to wash every second day afterwards until the scurf peels off; then again apply more ointment, and use as before.

Diseases of Cattle.

DIARRHOEA.

Diarrhoea is the name applied to an undue quantity of liquid feces, and may proceed from various conditions of the system, and in many instances it can scarcely in itself be regarded as a disease, because it is the effect of nature to purify the system by carrying off some irritant or offending agent, which, if retained, would give rise to worse conditions. Therefore, in its simplest form, diarrhoea results from a changed condition of the mucous membrane lining the intestinal canal, resulting from a sudden change of food, or from an irritant directly applied to its surface. It is frequently brought on by eating a large quantity of rich succulent food, or drinking freely of impure or stagnant water—a frequent cause in certain seasons. It may also be produced by eating of obnoxious herbs and coarse and indigestible grasses. In young animals it occurs from disordered digestion proceeding from the nature of the food, and is known as the flux or white scour. In these cases the milk upon which the animal subsists is the cause; it is either too rich or too poor in quality, and perverts the functions of the stomach. It is not assimilated in a proper manner, but remains as an irritant, exciting the mucous membrane to an unnatural secretion. It occurs also in connection with other diseases, as in functional or organic disease of the liver, and also in connection with blood poisons attendant upon several affections of an epizootic character.

The symptoms are a copious discharge of fluid excrement, accompanied, when long continued, by abdominal pains and arching of the back; the ears and extremities become cold, and the circulation is feeble. In young calves the excrement is very light coloured, and the evacuations cause great pain and straining; the belly is tucked up, and if no relief is given there is very soon great nervous depression and emaciation, resulting from the excessive discharges.

In the treatment of this complaint simple remedies are generally the most effectual, care being taken at the same time to regulate the diet. If an irritant is supposed to be the cause, astringent remedies should not be resorted to in an early stage, as they would tend to increase the disease; but a gentle laxative should be given, as half a pint to a pint of raw linseed oil; and when griping pains are present, it is well to add about half an ounce of laudanum. The patient should be kept quiet, and only allowed a moderate supply of water. Where the animal is very weak, a quart of warm ale, with two drachms of powdered ginger, is a convenient and useful remedy.

In young calves this affection requires to be carefully treated. It is advisable in all cases where it is practicable to do so, to give the calf a moderate supply of the milk of its own mother; and when pains are exhibited, give two ounces of castor oil, with forty drops of laudanum, and repeat the dose in the course of ten hours if no relief is given. At the same time place the patient in a comfortable and well littered pen.