

## Veterinary.

### Diseases of the Osseous System.

#### Sore Shins—Commonly called Buckskin.

Sore shins is a form of disease by no means uncommon amongst young race-horses, affecting the cannon or shaft bones of the forelimb.

It usually affects both limbs, although the limb with which the horse 'loads off' in the gallop is usually first affected. Inflammation is set up in the periosteum, a fibrous covering of the bone, which becomes slackened and also an exudation takes place between the periosteum and the bone itself, and frequently there is also effusion into the tissue external to the periosteum. This is especially the case when the disease is quickly produced, and the swelling great.

Sore shins are most common in young horses, because the bones being in a state of growth and development, and also more vascular than in the more adult animal, cannot so well withstand the violent and continual concussion to which they are subjected in the course of severe trotting upon hard or heavy ground. If the horse is somewhat in a gross or plethoric condition when put into training, the disease is very easily brought on.

The symptoms of sore shins in an early stage, in some cases, are rather obscure, but soon become prominent. The horse is, perhaps, noticed to go a little lame, but the lameness speedily disappears when he is put to work. When standing, he may be noticed to favor or point the foot forwards, and, if both limbs are alike affected, he appears restless, and shifting his weight from one leg to the other. These symptoms may last for a few days, without any visible alteration in the outward appearance of the limb. Another early symptom is the horse showing lameness in the trot, whilst his walk is apparently sound.

If the exciting cause is kept up, a swelling soon appears on the front of the bone which is hot and extremely painful if pressed; and, in very acute and severe cases, there is general fever, shown by the quickened breathing and accelerated pulse. The horse's action is now greatly impaired, and, if he is still kept in training, it is painful to notice his efforts to extend himself. In very acute cases, the pain appears to be intense. We have frequently met with cases, where the limb had been somewhat roughly handled, where the poor sufferer would at once rear or run backwards if you pointed your hand towards the affected parts.

In the treatment of sore shins, the horse should be kept perfectly quiet, and when the pain is severe, warm water applications are preferable to cold. In milder cases, the affected parts should be kept cool and moist by means of cold water and refrigerant applications; as nitrate of potash one ounce; stillingtonia, one ounce; water, one quart; to be applied several times a day. Showering the limb with cold water has also an excellent effect.

Great relief will be afforded in painful cases by the use of an anodyne mixture, as—two ounces each of laudanum and tincture of arsenic, and tincture of camphor. When the heat and tenderness are removed, the judicious application of a blister tends to reduce the enlargement.

Occasionally, it is necessary to make subcutaneous incisions through the periosteum, but this mode of treatment should only be undertaken by some one conversant with the structure of the parts.

Sore shins, in many cases, could be easily prevented if trainers were a little more careful in not working young and growing horses too hard. Many a fine young horse is completely ruined from this cause.

Toronto.

A. SMITH, V.S.

**DRY FOOT-ROT IN SWINE.**—This complaint is mainly due to filth, though various other causes are known to produce the same effect. As soon as the soles are discovered to be in a dry cheesy and scaly condition, the animals should be removed to well-littered quarters. The decayed parts should be carefully pared and scraped off with a knife not to hurt, as it is necessary to avoid wounding the sensitive part of the foot. The feet should be examined daily, or every other day, according to their condition, and a small portion of the following mixture should be applied—Creosote, half an ounce; spirits of turpentine, one ounce; olive oil, four ounces. Shake before using, and apply with a small brush.

### Heat as a Disinfectant.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Robert Angus Smith, Ph.D. R.S., F.C.S., in his work on Disinfectants and Disinfection, page 57, says:—"A Veterinary Surgeon of Germany, W.E.A. Erbt, of Cöslin, in a Pamphlet on Die Veterinär-Polizei, classifies infectious diseases into 'Volatile at all temperatures,' 'slightly volatile' and 'fixed.' So, one disease may be propagated by the air at one temperature, and only by contact at another. 112° F. to 140° destroys most, so that hot-water destroys nearly all. Glanders is destroyed at 131° F.; Hydrophobia about the same; none are destroyed below blood heat, but some are reduced only at a lower temperature, for example that of dead bodies. The cold cannot destroy contagion, it can only bind it, lay it, or render it inactive. So, in the north, the infectious diseases are milder or disappear, and contagious are more active, whilst in polar regions the two are destroyed."

This suggests the value of the hot air (Turkish) bath as a curative agent. At 140° F. Vaccine matter lost its power, the heat being continued for three hours. At this point something peculiar happens to animal matter, and, amongst others, it begins to be cooked. Dr. Henery found it needful to heat the clothes of fever patients to 200° F. in order to produce disinfection. Heat "promotes putrefaction and its consequences, especially between 54° and 100°," but this must be in the presence of water. If it is dry heat, it arrests at all temperatures."

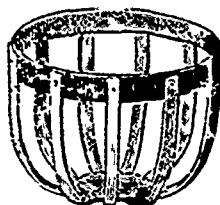
Probably many valuable horses that have been attacked by Glanders, may be restored to health by keeping them for two or three hours in a room in which the air is gradually raised to 140° F.

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### A Muzzle for Biting Horses.

It is not nearly so easy to cure a horse of the habit of biting, as to prevent it. This dangerous habit is taught by thoughtless owners or drivers, by teasing the animal when full-grown, or by playing with it when it is a colt. Sometimes it may be cured by giving the horse a smart cut with a switch, across the muzzle, when he attempts it. For incurably tricky, or vicious horses, there is no remedy



but muzzling them. The muzzles may be made of leather, or of strips of light hoop iron. A band of leather is made to encircle the muzzle, and to this are attached straps by which it is buckled to the headstall; the leather or iron strips are riveted with ordinary copper rivets. The strips are about 9 inches long, and are riveted at the bottom, where the ends meet on to a round piece of leather two or three inches in diameter. When the horse is fed, the muzzle must be removed. This muzzle will meet the difficulty experienced by several of our readers, who have asked for a remedy for this dangerous vice.—*American Agriculturist*.

### Stretches in Sheep.

Stretches is the animal's instinctive remedy for a disease (or displacement) of the intestines, termed in veterinary science *intussusception*, which is the insertion of a portion of the intestines into another portion, producing inflammation, putrefaction and sometimes rupture of the intestines; or the latter there is no remedy. This disease is produced by too long continued feeding on dry fodder which produces constipation of the bowels, causing *volvulus* (rolling up) of the intestinal tube, and usually occurs in the small intestines. Take a glove finger, commence in the middle, turn it partially wrong side out, and you have a perfect sample of the case we are treating of.

Nauseants sufficient to produce vomiting are sometimes used with success, but injections are the safest and surest remedy that can be used. Take three or four gills of warm water, one large spoonful of soft soap, mix well, and

with a common black-tin syringe inject this into the rectum; repeat if necessary. Never give powerful doses of physic in case of stoppage, which is often done to the human subject, which only makes a bad case worse. Nauseants, lubricants and injections are the only safe medicinal remedies.

If the shepherd discovers a sheep stretching and has no medicinal remedies at hand, he must resort to the following mechanical operation to relieve the animal, which often proves successful:—Lay the sheep carefully on its back, holding the fore end with one hand, and with the other rub the belly, allowing him to kick and struggle with the hind legs. This operation will also assist much in relieving the animal if resorted to in about ten minutes after administering clysters. Preventive.—When you begin to feed on dry fodder, commence feeding roots once per day, carrots are the best, turnips will do, and here I will give a general rule to be always regarded in feeding any kind of roots to any and all kinds of stock. Begin with small quantities, and as the animal becomes accustomed to eating them, increase to the desired amount. Why? Because some roots are slightly cathartic, others slightly diuretic, and over-feeding may prove injurious and thus prejudice the mind against these valuable crops, which every man that keeps stock ought to raise.—*American Farm Journal*.

**FOOT-ROT IN SHEEP.**—To treat this malady, take a box, 16 feet long, and 3 feet wide, about, put in dry, fresh-slacked lime, and run the sheep through it every other day for two weeks, or until a cure is effected. It is a never-failing cure.

**FOR SPASMODIC COLIC IN HORSES, &c.**—With a sharp-pointed penknife pierce the ear of the animal, and the spasm will be instantly relaxed, and the poor sufferer relieved from pain. The knife should be inserted lengthways, not across the ear. I have known this to be effectual in many instances and never knew it fail. J. F. W.

**FOR WORMS IN PIGS.**—Take sulphate of iron, (sepi-peras), half ounce; spirits turpentine, half ounce. Mix and give in greasy, thickened slop, which diminishes the irritating effect of the turpentine. Repeat the dose about twice a week till the pigs are well. The above is a dose for one; increase according to the number.

**RINGWORM IN YOUNG CATTLE.**—The vegetable parasite infesting the skin of young animals and constituting ringworm is readily destroyed by various astringent dressings. A solution of 20 grains of sulphate of iron to the ounce of water removes it. The dry bare spots are often lightly run over with nitrate of silver. Some stockowners prefer a light application of mercurial or of citrine ointment. Many cattle men rub the spots with salt and then with oil, but this homely treatment is not usually very effectual in destroying the parasitic growth.—*North British Agriculturist*.

**INFLUENZA IN HORSES.**—A correspondent of the *Michigan Farmer* says:—It may not be out of place, as a severe epidemic is prevailing among our horses, to give a hint that may save many of them from the loss of animals. I have had two already attacked with the prevailing influenza, and one of them was so bad that the water which he attempted to drink would run back through his nostrils, the throat being so choked up by the mucous matter which had gathered in the passage that he could not swallow. I gave this horse a bran mash as hot as I could bear my hand in it, in a pail set on the ground, so that the steam from it might pass up and loosen the matter which hindered him from eating or drinking. It is the steaming that does this, as well as the warm, moist, soft food, of which the horse eats all he can. I then took a half pound of black antimony, and two pounds of ground flax seed, and mixed them well, and gave a tablespoonful every other day till the horse was better, then twice a week only till he was fully recovered. With me this treatment cured the distemper of a year or two ago.

**BOT-FLIES.**—I have never seen the *Strutia* (or *Gastrophilus*) *veterinus* lay its eggs on the breast, which is done by the *A. equi*; but it invariably lays its eggs on the throat, and along the intra-maxillary space nearly to the chin. This variety is darker than red, being nearly black. It is one of the greatest pests familiar to teamsters. It will circle around under a horse, when at work, until the rate of motion is exactly ascertained, and then it flies swiftly forward between the forelegs and upward along the neck, striking the horse between the jaws, laying the egg almost at the instant of striking, and then passing sideways out of harm's way. The blow evidently gives pain to the horse, sometimes lifting him from his feet as quickly as would the attack of a wasp. When horses are running in the pasture, they will stand for hours with their heads and necks across each other's backs, as when horses are in this position this bot cannot lay her eggs. Whether the larvae crawl along the jaw to the mouth and thus reach the horse's stomach, or whether they penetrate the skin, and become those often found hanging at the roots of the tongue, has never been ascertained so far as I know. To prevent their attacks a piece of cloth can be fastened to the bridle at the bits and the "throat latch," so as to cover the lower jaw; or a quick-motioned teamster can catch the bot just as she strikes the jaw. One or the other must be done in order to use a mowing machine in comfort.—*Cor. Country Gentleman*.